More Poetry Please

The issues of the Colour Magazine that carry poems and short stories are read with avid interest by a number of us. Please ensure that the magazine carries the two columns more frequently.
Braja Chattopadhyay,
Calcutta

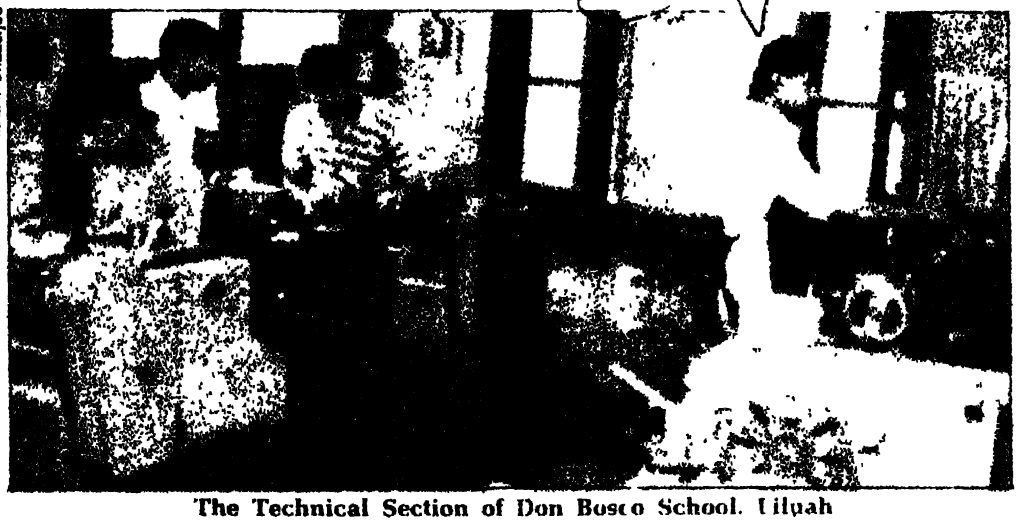
'Bad' Review

I was shocked to read the review of Michael Jackson's *Bad* (November 15) and was surprised at the degree of criticism against one of the most famous singers in the world. "Puerile" "sugary" and "inconsequential" were one of the words used.

It was also amazing that you did not mention anything about *I Just Can't Stop Loving You*, the duet with Siedah Garrett, which is currently a chartbuster all over the world, as is the album itself!
Dibyendu Ghosh,
Silchar

Thanks

Thank you on behalf of my fellow students for the timely and animated article which highlighted the activities of my school, Don Bosco, Liluah, ('Golden Gate', December 13).
Soeb Lokhandwalla,
Class XII B


Gautam Chatterjee

The Technical Section of Don Bosco School, Liluah

Colour Magazine?

After flipping through the December 6 issue, I found it hard to believe that it was called the Colour Magazine. Most of the articles, including the cover story, 'The Geller Effect,' Heritage and the comic strips, were not in colour.

A few colour pages do not make it a truly "colour" magazine. However if one says that black and white are colours too, then the magazine is undoubtedly a colour one.
Tanveer Singh,
Calcutta

Fighting Spirit

Tennis lovers in the country have a very high opinion of Ramesh Krishnan's abilities especially after India's semifinal win in Australia. The cover story, 'Can He Do The Impossible?' (December 13) amply describes his spirit, skill and strong determination. It would not be far from the truth if one attributed Ramesh's success to a large extent on his father, Ramanathan Krishnan's encouragement and advice.
Bhupen Bose,
Jamshedpur

No Humour

It is unfortunate that very few humorous articles appear in the magazine. After "One More Sunday" by Sanjib Chatterjee (September 27) no articles with a humorous slant have appeared.
Rashid Eqbal,
Patna

Cover Story: The Indian Soldier is THE TELEGRAPH'S Man of the Year. A tribute


Aloke Mitra

13
Nostalgia: 1987 was the centenary year of Marc Chagall. An assessment of his work

16
Rainbow: A photofeature of the Eastern India Equestrian Championship that was held last fortnight

Uttarpara Jaykrishna
Acc No. 2-14

The Telegraph

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a 24.7.98

Cover: Aloke Mitra

THE INDIAN SOLDIER



A TRIBUTE TO
THE TELEGRAPH'S
MAN OF THE YEAR



Indian troops inspect a cache of explosives recovered from LTTE rebels in Jaffna

There are about one million of them. Defending, and psychologically boosting, over 700 million of their countrymen They constitute the world's largest voluntary army and fifth largest standing army, after the Chinese, the Soviet, the Vietnamese and the US. They are, indeed, a lot of soldiers. The country spends over Rs 17 crores on them each day during peacetime, and an additional Rs 3 crores daily when a limited war, like the one currently being fought in Sri Lanka, occurs. That is, indeed, a lot of money.

But if you ask the citizen of Batticaloa or the widow of Meerut, and if you ask the flood victim of Bihar or the policy maker in New Delhi, they will all tell you the men and the money are worth it Even the denizen of Jaffna, the peasant of Punjab and the tribal of Nagaland, who might have a different opinion, will agree that the soldier himself is not at fault

The Indian soldier has done in a single year what perhaps none of his counterparts elsewhere in the world has done in a decade During 1987, India's smart, proud and trustworthy jawan has smashed an urban guerrilla stronghold while keeping the town intact for civilian habitation; he has fought bravely, and so far successfully, a bitter, enervating battle over a desolate glacier at dizzying heights in freezing temperatures, he has quelled riots, stalked terrorists and rescued disaster victims; and he has even provided emergency telephone and water supply services when his colleagues elsewhere in the government have gone on strike

The Indian soldier has never protested. He has never struck work He has never refused an assignment. Yet, he is no simpering yes-man. He is, in fact, strong, proud, decisive, disciplined. Excellence, they say, is its own reward. So also, one could add, is a sense of self-worth and honest achievement India's jawan epitomises these fundamental qualities Not for him delusions of grandeur

Which is why we ordinary civilians, though often in bitter disagreement with his orders, cannot help but admire his resolution and marvel at his performance.

Take, for example, Jaffna. However controversial the decision to send him there, there is no doubt that he has done a brilliant job, even at tragic cost to himself He was asked to beard a pack of fanatical, well-trained, entrenched and virtually invisible lions who called themselves Tigers, in their own den He did it - without blasting the den so that the ordinary doves and lambs could live as before Jaffna is no war-destroyed shell of a town, as the films on Vietnam and World War Two might have caused us to imagine This, simply put, is an outstanding military feat

But India's soldiers have paid a price This writer witnessed 13 of them being gunned down near the Jaffna University And they died, it was obvious, because they were not provided armoured support, because they did not know terrain and because they could not see their enemy But, nevertheless, they had advanced, in the call of duty, and enabled their colleagues to subsequently capture the town

I also saw civilians die and Tigers die But nothing moved me as much as the mowing down of those 13 heroic soldiers The Tigers had died for a cause, however misguided, the civilians to assess it clinically, were the unavoidable victims of war But India's soldiers had died bereft of any such romance or rationale They had died simply because they were brave and honest men who had done their duty They were good human beings who paid for the frailties and imperfections of others



A lonely sentry on the bleak Himalayas

BY SUMIR LAL

INDIAN ARMY CHIEFS

1.	Sir Roy Bucher	1.1.48-14.1.49
2.	K.M. Cariappa	15.1 49-14.1 53
3.	Maharaja Rajendra Sinhji	15.1.53-14.5.55
4.	S.M. Srinagesh	15.5.55-7.5.57
5.	K.S Thimayya	8.5.57-7.5.61
6.	P.N. Thapar	8.5.61-19.11.62
7.	J.N. Chaudhury	20.11.62-7.6.66
8.	P.P. Kumaramangalam	8.6.66-7.6.69
9.	S.H.F.J. Manekshaw	8.6.69-15.1.73
10.	G.G. Bewoor	15.1.73-31.5.75
11.	T.N. Raina	1.6.75-31.5 78
12.	O.P. Malhotra	1.6.78-31.5.81
13.	K.V. Krishna Rao	1.6.81-31.7.83
14.	A.S. Vaidya	1.8.83-31.1.86
15.	K. Sundarji	1.2.86-till date



General K. Sundarji

Far from the dust of Jaffna, in a remorseless, frozen version of hell, India's soldiers have been fighting over a desolate, awesome expanse of ice, labelled Siachen. They have faced bullets and shells—and pulmonary oedema, mountain sickness, chilblains, frostbite, snow blindness, sunburn and trenchfoot—amid chest-deep snow, subzero temperatures, torrential, chilly rain, searing winds, blizzards and fog. And all this so that we, far below, can continue our peaceful, comfortable, yoyo-like routines without hindrance or fear.

All through the year, along the bleak Himalayan border, lonely sentries have patrolled the borders, braving heights of 18,000 feet, temperatures of 50°C below zero, and winds of 90 kmph. Some border posts are more than two days by foot from the nearest battalion headquarters. In the monsoon these areas are treacherous, in the winter they are absolutely inhospitable. But our boys, nevertheless, are there. They are also in the plains of Punjab, the deserts of Rajasthan, the marshes of Kutch, the jungles of the northeast, and the rivers and creeks of the eastern border. In fact, their experience of fighting in virtually every terrain, added to their recent lessons in urban warfare, makes India's soldiers among the most versatile in the world. Even their Soviet counterparts, with their marathon boundary and resources, are geared to fighting only in tank-oriented terrain.

India's soldier has rarely, if ever, displayed cowardice It has been a long saga of gallantry, starting with the country's first Param Vir Chakra winner, Major Somnath Sharma. Leading a patrol, he engaged advancing Pakistani troops at Badgaon in November 1947, and despite being heavily outnumbered and outgunned, delayed the enemy long enough to prevent the fall of Srinagar and the Kashmir Valley. If it were not for his leadership and the heroism of his men, today the map, the history and the power equations of the subcontinent would have been quite different.

And what about Major Dhan Singh Thapa who, during the debacle of

INDIA'S BRAVE SONS

Recipients of the Param Vir Chakra

1. Maj. Somnath Sharma (P)	Kumaon Regiment	1947	Kashmir
2. 2nd Lt R.R. Rane	Engineers	1948	Kashmir
3. Coy Havildar Maj. Biru Singh(P)	6 Rajputana Rifles	1948	Kashmir
4. L/Naik Karam Singh	1st Sikh	1948	Kashmir
5 Naik Jadunath Singh (P)	1st Rajput	1948	Kashmir
6. Capt. Gurbachan Singh Salaria (P)	3/1 Gorkha Rifles	1961	Congo
7. Major Dhan Singh Thapa	Gorkha Rifles	1962	Ladakh
8. Major Shaitan Singh (P)	Kumaon Regiment	1962	Ladakh
9. Coy/Qtrmaster Hav. Abdul Hamid(P)	4 Grenadiers	1965	Pakistan
10. Sub. Joginder Singh(P)	Sikh Regiment	1962	NEFA
11. Lt Col. A.B. Tarapore(P)	Poona House	1965	Pakistan
12. Maj. Hoshiar Singh	Grenadiers	1971	Pakistan
13. 2/Lt Arun Khetarpal(P)	17 Horse	1971	Pakistan
14. L/Naik Albert Ekka(P)	Brigade of Guards	1971	Pakistan
15. Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon (P)	IAF	1971	Pakistan

(P) stands for posthumous

1962, was commanding an outpost in Ladakh which was overrun by the Chinese supported by tanks? He rushed out of his trench and killed several of the enemy in hand-to-hand combat before being overpowered.

And then there was Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid who, in the 1965 conflict, exposed himself and singlehandedly destroyed three advancing enemy tanks before being riddled with machinegun bullets. And who can forget young Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal who, in the vital Shakargarh battle in 1971, ignored his superior's orders to withdraw and singlehandedly blocked an enemy advance with a crippled tank, laying down his life in the process.

The Indian Army met its Waterloo in 1962 when strategic blunders, politicking and poor equipment resulted in the country's worst humiliation of modern times. But the amazing—and revealing—aspect of the disaster was that the public never lost faith in the Indian soldier. It never made him a target of its wrath, it never even blamed him. And that speaks volumes for the image of valour and integrity he had established.

Thereafter, there has been the heady moment of victory in 1971, but there have also been traumatic operations in the northeast, Punjab and now, Sri Lanka. But through all the ups and downs of the Army as an institution, the jawan has remained a durable hero. And deservedly so. He has no political ambitions. He is not communal. He is not corrupt. He has not degenerated like the rest of Indian society.

The Army is indeed a phenomenon. It was the most colonial of all the colonial institutions we inherited. Even today, it insistently retains all its colonial pomp and bluster. Yet, it is the most popular of all those institutions today. Ask any envious police officer or bureaucrat.

One reason is that the Indian Army is the only one in the Third World to have steadfastly remained apolitical. Even the Soviet and US Armies play a bigger political role. And this is not because of any beneficial colonial inheritance (for the extremely political Pakistani Army is as much a child of colonialism) but because of some unique Indian quality which, perhaps, only sociologists can discern.

Second, the Indian soldier has not fallen prey to the virus of communalism. When he is sent in to quell a riot, he is welcomed by all the communities. In Sri Lanka, commanders bearing names like Singh, Kahlon,



Soldiers being trained in jungle conditions. One of their 'delicacies' is in the foreground

Mahmud and Kalkat have most matter-of-factly handled various aspects of the operations. And in the roll of honour, Somnath Sharma and Arun Khetarpal rub shoulders with Abdul Hamid, Joginder Singh, Ardeshir Tarapore and Albert Ekka.

Of course, the Indian soldier is not purely a romantic hero. Teenaged boys queue up at the rural recruiting centres lured more by the Rs 1,000 per month they will earn immediately on entry as sepoys (besides other benefits) and by the security of pensions and insurance, rather than by any call of patriotism. In Punjab in fact, one of the original Akali demands was greater recruitment quotas. A military career is the most lucrative for an Indian village boy, and nobody makes any bones about it.

Similarly, among officers, an army career is no more an elitist family tradition or an idealistic calling. It is simply a professional career with its attractions and frustrations. And right now, there seem to be more of the latter. There are tremendous promotion bottlenecks (particularly at the levels of major and colonel), the present command structure of battalion-brigade-division-corp-command-headquarters is bureaucratic and time-consuming (and certainly a liability in modern warfare), and, at the higher levels, a rigid stress on seniority means that not necessarily the best man reaches the top.

This frustration is reflected in the increasing number of officers who are seeking redress in civil courts. When the present chief, Gen. K. Sundarji, took over in 1986, he was even constrained to write to his "brother officers" not to "sell your soul for a good confidential report."

But the point is, whatever his grievances or frustrations, when it comes to the crunch, the Indian soldier has risen to the occasion. Whether this is the result of something inborn or of good training, or both, one cannot tell, but the fact is that Abdul Hamid or Albert Ekka or those 13 soldiers slain on a Jaffna street certainly did not



A gunner during exercises and (right) a jungle patrol at the Manipur-Burma border





The armoured might of the Indian Army

volunteer to die because they were paid Rs 1,000 or whatever per month. Similarly, 2/Lt Khetarpal or Lt Col Tarapore did not give up their lives because they had a promotion in mind. It is to those higher qualities of commitment to duty and valour that we pay tribute.

And these qualities are not displayed in the war theatre alone. As a reporter, one has seen the awe-inspiring and salutary presence of soldiers immediately bring peace to a Delhi torn by communal rioting. One has seen them operate in flood-ravaged Orissa, braving both the choppy waters as well as the anger of marooned villagers who vent their ire against the civic administration on them, the first representatives of government whom they saw.

One has also witnessed the indomitable spirit of the soldier. In Orissa, the equanimity, energy and cheer with which a young captain and his platoon, the camaraderie among them evident, faced irate crowds, a dangerously stormy sea of flood water, and a dismally inept civic back-up, over a stretch of 16 hours. In Delhi, the manner in which a young second lieutenant and his grizzled subedar administered a refugee camp during the traumatic days after Indira Gandhi's assassination, coping, apart from the logistics of the camp, with hysterical inmates, well-meaning but busybody social organisations and impatient reporters. And in Jaffna, the determination and stoicism with which 18 Indian soldiers held captive by the Tigers bore their ordeal.

The Indian soldier today is far ahead of his friends in industry in the application and knowledge of computers and other aspects of modern engineering. He is a better trained leader administrator and manager. He has a work ethic and sense of discipline far superior to any other Indian's. And he is also willing to die so that we other Indians can live our dreams and fight for our promotions and earn our monthly packets.

To our Man of the Year, we say *salaam*. ■

QUIZ Neil O'Brien



Gopal Chokhani reports from Guwahati

The inter institutional Bhargav Kumar Memorial Sports Quiz competition was held in Guwahati The venue was quite far from the main city and only genuine quiz enthusiasts turned up From the 21 teams eight were selected for the finals The quizmasters Dilip Barua and Amarjyoti Choudhury, devoted one of the six rounds to questions pertaining to the Reliance Cup Finally, there was a tie both for first and second place as well as for third and fourth place Guwahati Commerce College and Rising Stars, tied for first place and eventually Guwahati Commerce College emerged as the winners and the junior boys of Faculty High School were the runners up "

Rose Thomas Calcutta 16 wants to know something about Good King Wenceslas the famous Christmas carol

Wenceslas (Wenzel) (907 29) was duke of Bohemia and is today venerated as a Christian martyr The son of Duke Wratislaw, Wenceslas was educated mainly by his grandmother Ludmilla a devoted Christian, and became duke in 922 He followed the advice of the clergy and worked for the religious and educational uplift of his people This implied greater contact with the rest of the Christian world, particularly the German Empire, whose king Henry the Fowler Wenceslas recognised both as the successor of Charlemagne and as his own overlord

This policy, together with a pagan reaction against a determined Christian king led to Wenceslas death at the hands of his brother Boleslav s followers who murdered him as he was going to mass Boleslav,who was implicated in the murder, nevertheless had the relics of Wenceslas sent to the church of St Vitus in Prague where they became the centre of a cult and a place of pilgrimage His feast was celebrated from 985 on wards Within another 30 years he became Bohemia s patron saint and his picture was engraved on coins and his crown was regarded as a symbol of Czech nationalism and independence J M Neale s famous carol *Good King Wenceslas* made him a household word, but its contents are not based on any known incident in the saint s life His feast is observed on September 28

P S Krishnan writes from Jamshedpur

'An inter-school general knowledge quiz competition was organised by the local Telco Club in the club hall Though all teams put up a good show, Loyola School emerged as winners and won the rolling shield They were followed by Gulmohur and Little Flower schools respectively The members of the winning team were Kanchan Ghoshal, Shamik Nag, Surajit Chakravarty and Vinod Nair The quizmaster was Mr P K Ganguly "

I wish you all a happy and properous New Year

CBS

11th Question: **Why is Margaret Thatcher nicknamed "Tina"? (Sutanu Mukherjee, B-2-1 M.S. Flats, Sec. 13, R.K. Puram, New Delhi 66)**
Ans: **Tina stands for "There is No Alternative," so the obvious nickname.**

QUESTIONS

1. What is a young kangaroo called? (Tanmoy Dutta Calcutta 6)

2 What is the currency of Burma? (Rohit Relan Jamshedpur 1)

3 The city of Moscow is named after the river Moscow True or false? (Sr M Pushpa, s n d De Nobili School Dhanbad)

4 What is "fool's gold ? (Soma Banerjee, Jamshedpur 1)

5 How is the chemical compound chloroethyl sulphide better known ? (G Rajeev Pillai Calcutta 25)

6 Why have certain schools in the UK and the US banned Tarzan books? (Anindya Das Gupta, Calcutta 45)

7 The largest fan mail ever received was by a rodent called Mickey Mouse But which living person has received the largest fan mail? (Anish Alexander Calcutta 17)

8 On whom did John Arlott once comment He has got a very crouching stance—almost as if someone has pulled the stool away from him ? (Omkar Bhattacharya Calcutta 45)

9 The Isle of Wight is an island but whenever apiary owners speak of the Isle of Wight they do so in hushed, fearful tones why? (Shiharan Das, Ranchi 2)

10 Sherlock Holmes introduced his brother Mycroft in three stones What are they? (Anika Roy Calcutta 9)

ANSWERS

1 A joey
2 Kyat
3. True
4. Iron disulphide is known as fool's gold Its appearance is so similar to gold that some people were fooled into believing that they had found gold
5 Mustard gas
6 Because Tarzan and Jane lived together without marrying!
7 Shirley Temple
8 G R Vishwanath of India
9 The Isle of Wight is a disease among bees which is caused by a mite
10 *The Greek Interpreter* *The Bruce Partington Plans* and *The Final Problem*

PUJA QUIZ WINNERS

1ST: IPSITA MITRA, 2 Neogy Ghat Street, Calcutta 3, (four mistakes)

2ND: ABHIJIT MITRA, 5B Shankar Ghosh Lane, Calcutta 6, (five mistakes)

3RD: ANINDYA DASGUPTA, 296, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Calcutta 45, (six mistakes)

4TH: SANDEEP TALUKDAR, BJ-379 Salt Lake City, Calcutta 91, (seven mistakes)

5TH: RAKHI SIRCAR, 114 Elliot Road, Calcutta, (seven mistakes).

ANSWERS TO THE PUJA QUIZ

The Puja Quiz attracted 175 entries. But this time the number of mistakes was high. Believe it or not,the sole winning entry had as many as 4 errors!

1. The title given to the person who has swum across the English Channel the most times is **King of the Channel.**
2. English playwright Harold Pinter acted under the name **David Baron.**
3. The **Sydney Harbour Bridge** spans from Dawes Point to Milson Point.
4. His real name was Guido di Pietro, but this master painter was known as **Fra Angelico.**
5. The auspicious jewel which Vishnu wears around his neck is called **Kastubha.**
6. The words "You dirty rat" are attributed to **James Cagney** (though it is very unlikely that he ever said this).
7. "Vir Bhogya Vasundhara" (Only the brave shall enjoy the fruits of the earth) is the motto of the **Rajputana Rifles.**
8. The first country to join the original Axis powers of Germany, Japan and Italy was **Bulgaria** (March 1, 1941).
9. **Hercule Poirot** lived at The Larches, in the village of King's Abbot.
10. The first four-engined plane was built by **Igor Sikorsky**(He called it Bolshoi).
11. The Nobel Prize winner for literature who looked like Humphrey Bogart, trench coat, cigarette and all was **Albert Camus.**
12. The pop group to start the craze for pop art clothes and whose music is the Pop Art Sound is **The Who.**
13. In Greek mythology **Chiron,** the Centaur,became the constellation Sagittarius.
14. **Manipur** has been called 'Land of Gems' and "Little Paradise."
15. **The Maharaja of Porbundar** stepped down at Lords in 1936 to allow C K. Nayudu to become India's first Test captain.
16. The young of a shark is called a **pup** or **puppy.**
17. **Susruta** was the 4th century Indian who is referred to as "the father of surgery."
18. The land of the Humming Bird is **Trinidad.**
19. Sabry Khalil Bana is better known as **Abu Nidal,** the PLO terrorist leader
20. The winged creatures featured on the coat of arms of Napoleon were **bees.**

Answers to the photographs:

21. **Peter Paul Reubens. ("The most learned painter in the world")**



22. **Michael Holding. (Cricket's Rolls Royce)**

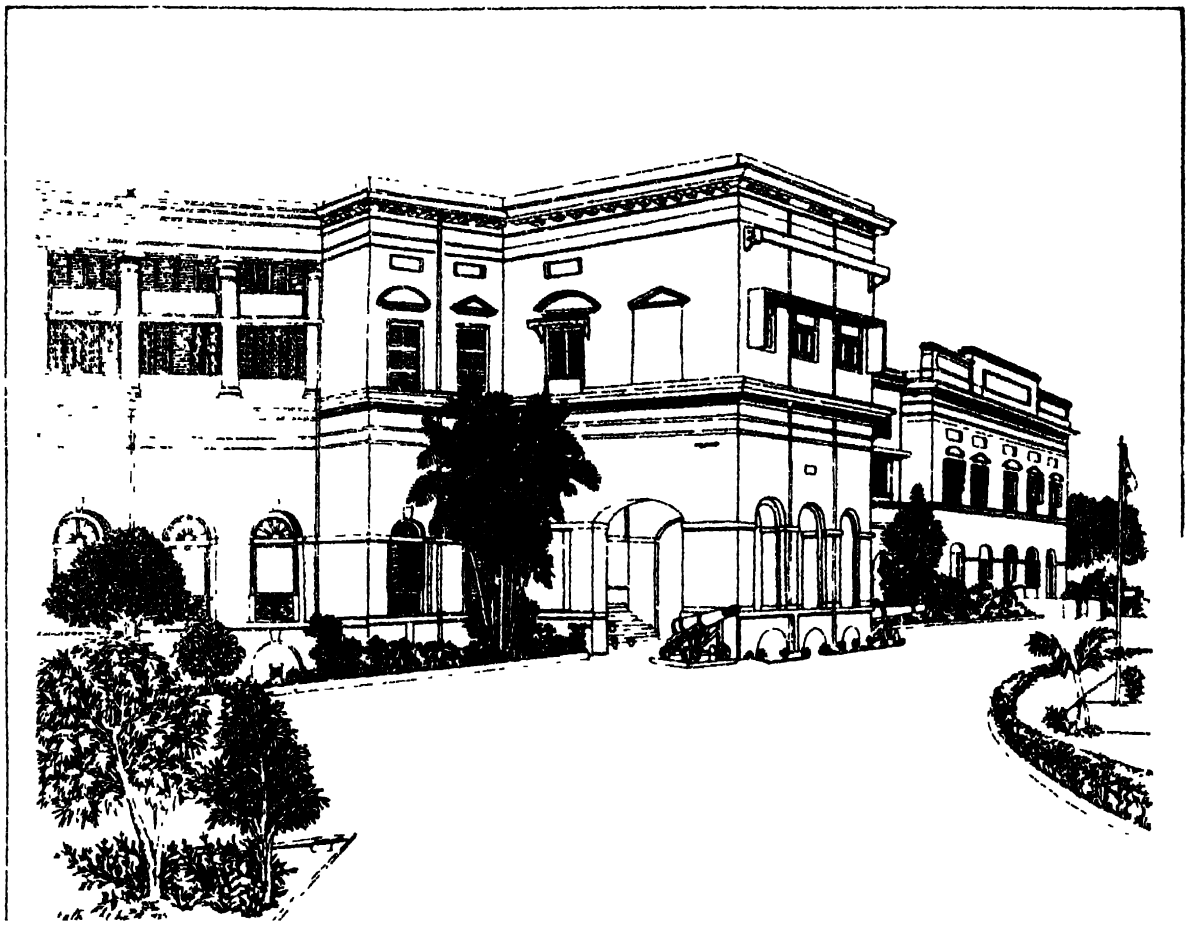
23. **Dorothy Sayers. (Murder is my business)**
25. **Mae West. (Go west, young man!)**
26. **Win Chadha. (Plays for big stakes)**
27 **P.G. Wodehouse. (His empress is a pig)**



24. **Ajitabh Bachchan.** (Big brother is watching)

All winners are requested to collect their prize coupons from THE TELEGRAPH betwen 10 am and 5 pm on any working day They should come with proper identification

SADAR DIWANI ADALAT



The Sadar Diwani Adalat and Sadar Nizamat Adalat were the highest courts of civil and criminal justice established by the East India Company after Moghul emperor Shah Alam II's grant of the diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, on August 12, 1765. Sadar courts were the Company's courts, independent of the Supreme Court which was a Crown court. Initially, the Sadar Diwani Adalat was presided over by the governor-general with two of his council members. But due to his other preoccupations, the governor-general was not always in a position to sit on the Bench. So, in 1801, it was decided that the Sadar Diwani Adalat should comprise three judges, a chief justice, who should be a member of the governor-general's council, and two puisne judges selected from the Company's covenanted civil servants.

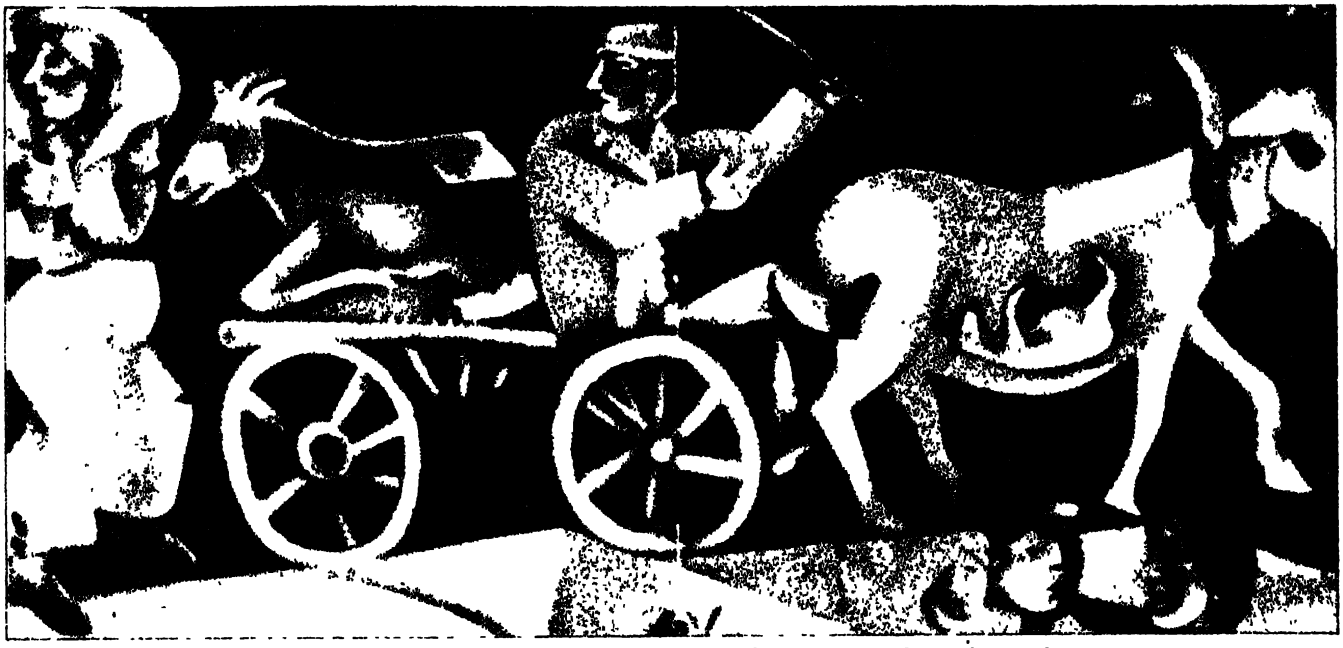
The Sadar Diwani Adalat and Sadar Nizamat Adalat functioned from Ford Street, renamed Speke Street (now Sudder Street). The Sadar courts were subsequently shifted to a fine building "with a colonnaded frontage and of great length," next to Presidency General Hospital. The building, sketched above, was built for the Fort's hospital, but immediately after its completion, Lord Bentinck appropriated it for the Sadar Court.

The Sadar Diwani Adalat and Sadar Nizamat Adalat ceased to function from June 30, 1862. The high court of judicature was inaugurated on July 1, 1862 by amalgamating the Supreme Court, Sadar Diwani Adalat and Sadar Nizamat Adalat. The building occupied by the Sadar courts was restored to its original purpose. The Army hospital functioned from this building for over a century till it shifted to its present location at Alipore. The old Sadar Court building (24b, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road) now houses Indian Army's Calcutta sub-area headquarters, Station headquarters, Embarkation headquarters, chief public relations office, and the like.

THE BLUE SOUL

THE CENTENARY YEAR OF RUSSIAN ARTIST MARC CHAGALL HAS DRAWN TO A CLOSE. **SEBANTI SARKAR** ASSESSES THE WORK OF THE INDIVIDUALISTIC MASTER

On July, 7, 1887 "in a little house near the street that leads straight to the prison, on the outskirts of Vitebsk (Russia) where the poor Jews live" was born one of the greatest artists of modern times Marc Chagall the man whom Sir Herbert Read called "a lyricist in paint" and who Picasso said was "the last painter left who understands what colour really is"



The Horse and Cattle Dealer

Critics have repeatedly tried to "interpret" Chagall and to group him with artists of different schools But his paintings have always eluded definition The reason perhaps was that the critics ignored "the visual effect of the composition which, according to Chagall, "is what is paramount

In an era dominated by Cubism and a myriad other movements Marc Chagall stood apart His drawings initially may seem puzzling and even absurd The recurring images of flying lovers fantastic animals, fiddlers, massive bouquets, prophets, winged clocks onion-shaped domes and little huts seem to have been not grouped but gathered at random into the frames But the fluid forms the unusual colours holds one's attention And even before one realises it, Chagall has won one's heart by what he called the "chemistry" of painting

The images cannot be interpreted nor should they be labelled as "fantasy" As Chagall once remarked "I want to introduce into my pictures a psychic shock a fourth dimension therefore let people cease talking about fairytales, of the fantastic of Chagall the flying painter, when they speak of me"

Chagall lived through the two World Wars, and moved from place to place his multifarious experiences enriching his art His career records a steady rise to fame and prosperity It represents an artist's untiring quest for perfection which enabled his full development

The little world of Vitebsk formed the base of his mental and pictorial make-up In his autobiography Chagall wrote of his father who worked in a herring depot "a sad, worn out cattle man" and of his mother "who was the inexhaustible energy incarnate" who kept a shop to support her large family of eight daughters and two sons

The Jewish community the low wooden house the old women the churches the cats that slunk along the roofs, the hens that strutted in the wooden verandas of their houses from where he gazed at the sun tinged at the start and the little local Jewish school where he was taught to preach and where the circles rectangles and triangles [illegible] 'off to fascinating worlds' nourished his imagination

Chagall was always [illegible] excellence undeterred by [illegible] handicaps his [illegible] and

above [illegible] at a time when [illegible]

After [illegible] Marc [illegible] to Izhuda [illegible] a good portrait. Even as early [illegible] his pictures were individual [illegible] the slightly bizarre colours [illegible] and deep interpretation of [illegible] saw them. The fine [illegible] sketch *Love*, belongs to this period.

But in 1907, Marc left Pen for St Petersburg. There he went through great difficulties in the first few months, having only a handful of roubles to live on. Moreover St Petersburg was unwilling to accept him. He even took to painting shop signs to beat starvation.

Unable to join any of the more reputed institutions, Marc took admission at the Imperial Society for the Encouragement of the Arts. Dissatisfied with the teaching he joined a school directed by Elizabeth Svarsev and also found his way to the studio of Bakst, the theatrical designer. In his liberal atmosphere, Chagall's art flourished. The decorative research in Bakst's studio taught him the expressive value of colour and the distortion of the line. This is found in the *Red Nude* of 1908. He now developed a style of his own [illegible] sombre and heavy, but with [illegible] s of light.

It was during this time that he met Bella Rosenfeld and in the summer of 1909 he painted the first of a series of paintings dedicated to her. He entitled this *My Fiancee in Black Gloves*.

In August, 1910 Chagall left Bella and Russia for Paris, patronised by Vinaver, the deputy of the Douma, who gave him enough funds to last for four years. After spending some time at the Impasse du Maine Chagall moved to the famous settlement for Bohemian artists, La Ruche (the Beehive). Here he developed close ties with [illegible] poets Blaise Cendrars, Max Jacob and Apollinaire and painters La Fresnaye, Delaunay, Modigliani and Soutine.

Face to face with the works of the Fauvists, Van Gogh, Matisse and Vlaminck, Chagall was seized with a joyous passion for colour. To use his own expression, in Paris, he washed his eyes and learnt what "no academy could have taught". He also came in contact with Cubism that gave him a persistent "will to construct".

Happy in this setting and bubbling with energy, Chagall painted on almost everything that he could lay his hands on, often working late hours in the night. He moved rapidly towards perfection. Beginning with such pieces as the *Yellow Room L'Atelier* and *To My wife* he went on to more complex compositions. He used methodical organisation to describe elements of reality from his imagination or memory. His work unfolded on several planes, with an eye on every minute detail. He went on to create *The Village and I*, *Self Portrait with Seven Fingers*, *Drinking Soldier*, and *To Donkey and Others*.



Self Portrait with Seven Fingers

In May, 1914, Chagall went to Berlin, with most of these paintings on an invitation from a dealer-critic, Walden. He had contributed to the 1912 and 1913 exhibitions at the Independents, but the exhibition at Der Sturm Gallery, his first one man show, created a sensation. It had a marked influence on the Expressionist movement after the War.

When World War I broke out, Chagall returned to St Petersburg, where in 1915, he married Bella. He was most enthusiastic about the October Revolution and he returned to Vitebsk as commissar for the the fine arts of the district. He later went to Moscow and was commissioned to paint murals for the auditorium and foyer of the Yiddish Theatre. He also wrote with Bella's help *My Life* in French, and

Whitemud Creek Public Library



My Fiancee in Black Gloves

taught painting to war orphans in the Moscow suburb

In 1922, Chagall returned to France He was commissioned by a publisher, Vollard, to make a series of etchings to illustrate Gogol's *Dead Souls*, the *Fables of La Fontaine* and later The *Bible*

He turned down the offer to join the surrealist movement and turned his attention to landscapes of southern France

War left a deep impression on Chagall's mind His paintings of 1930 onwards are of a more sombre note with the introduction of dramatic, social and religious elements He painted numerous crucifixions In the 1934 portrait *Bella in Green* the lost, sad and faraway expressions on Bella's face perhaps came from his own emotions Chagall acquired French citizenship and was awarded the Carnegie prize



Holiday

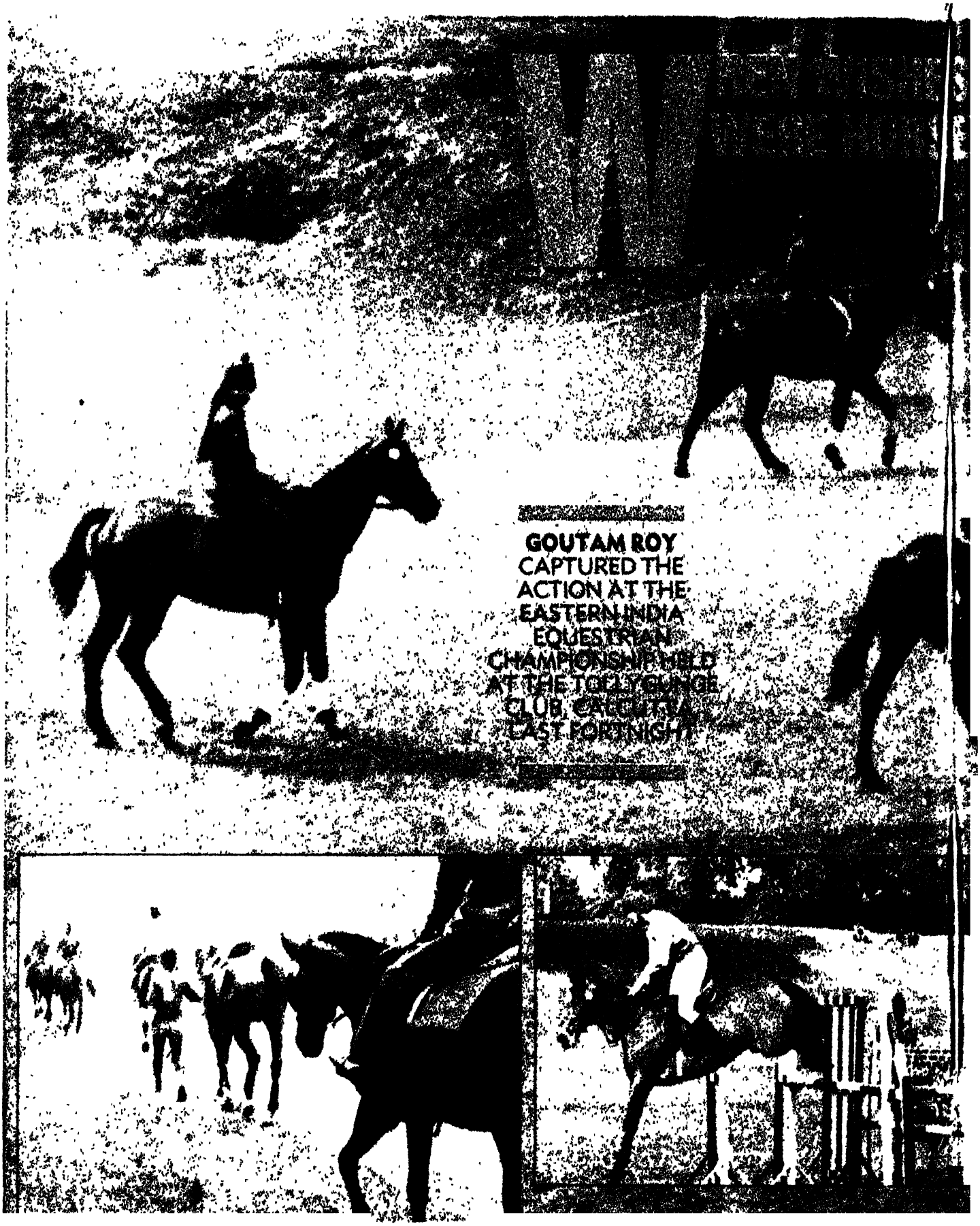
In 1941 [illegible] artist accepted an invitation [illegible] Museum of Modern Art in New York and left for the US [illegible] book [illegible] for the Ballet Russe [illegible] Gogol [illegible] Museum of Modern Art [illegible] Kandinsky

Belle's death in 1944 was a [illegible] attack [illegible] Chagall [illegible] painting of Bella [illegible] title *Lighted Candles* [illegible] Stravinsky [illegible] wall [illegible] Venice [illegible]

Sculpture [illegible] Chagall [illegible] sculptures and [illegible] he made [illegible] Vence [illegible] Chagall [illegible] gallery [illegible] world

After [illegible] French [illegible] and Metz [illegible] stained glass [illegible] Hadassah Hospital [illegible] to 1967, Chagall painted [illegible] opera ceilings in Paris and [illegible] Centre New York He [illegible] tapestries for the Parliament [illegible]

Chagall's creative [illegible] bounds He had once [illegible] worked all his life [illegible] occupation Chagall [illegible] 29, 1985 at his home [illegible] Riviera, aged 97 Yet [illegible] artists, Chagall [illegible] through [illegible] paintings [illegible] stained glass [illegible] soul still [illegible]



GOUTAM ROY CAPTURED THE ACTION AT THE EASTERN INDIA EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIP HELD AT THE TOLLYGUNGE CLUB, CALCUTTA LAST FORTNIGHT





The feathers are dried after being rinsed in soapy water

FLYING FEATHERS



The feathers are cut to size and (below) the base of the shuttlecocks are covered with goat skin

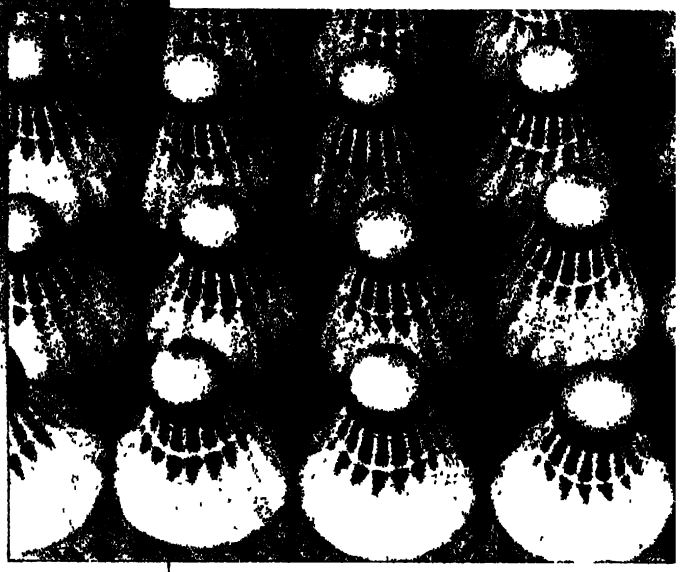


WINTER IS UPON US, AND BADMINTON ENTHUSIASTS ARE VISIBLE AT EVERY STREET CORNER. BUT HOW MANY KNOW OF THE COUNTRY'S OLDEST SHUTTLECOCK INDUSTRY IN ULUBERIA?

Photographs:

Madhurita Ghosh





The finished product

The roots of feathers are gelatinised and (below) coloured bands are tied around the completed shuttlecocks



Come winter and the gentle swish of the shuttle cocks assails the ears. But rarely do we ever try to delve into the origin of the shuttle.

Surprisingly, the shuttlecock industry in India was first started by Jnanendra Bose, a local of Uluberia. In 1922, 16-year-old Jnanendra was employed by Kar and Mahalanobis, a sports goods shop jointly owned by Nilratan Sarkar and Probodh Chandra Mahalanobis.

When Jnanendra fell ill, he lost his job but this setback proved to be a boon in disguise. He found a used English shuttlecock which he tried to copy. His first attempt, where he used crane feathers, turned out to be a failure. Though disheartened, he tried again with duck feathers which was a complete success. Thus started the first indigenous shuttle cock industry in the country.

The feathers are first rinsed in soapy foam, then dried and sorted according to their quality. They are then cut according to specifications. Finally, they are attached to goat-skin covered corks of specified weights before being gelatined and ribboned. Shuttlecocks for indoor and outdoor games have different weight specifications. While the indoor variety weighs 72 grains, the outdoor ones weigh 84 grains, and normally have 16 feathers.

Raw material like cork is still imported from Portugal, Denmark and Spain. While there are shuttlecock factories in Jalandhar and Ludhiana in Punjab, the best still come from Uluberia.

Anurita Ghosh

7 DAYS

ALL THE INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Insaf Ki Pukar** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue 272473) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 344262), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 341522) Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474103), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Madhuban (Regent Park)

A film by T Rama Rao, starring Dharmendra, Jeetendra Bhanupriya, Anita Raaj, Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Anupam Kher The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Kaash** : Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)- 4 shows, Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108) - all noon show

Jackie Shroff Dimple Kapadia and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this Mahesh Bhatt film, whose music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Pushpak** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515) - 4 shows, Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)--noon

A silent film by director Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, starring Kamalahasan, Amala Mukherjee Tinu Anand and Samir Khakhar



Anup Kumar and Sandhya Roy in *Dolon Champa*

• **Baazi** Opera (Lenin Sarani), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)

A re-release of this Raj N Sippy film, starring Dharmendra, Rekha, Mithun Chakraborty and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Khilona.** Society (Corporation Place, 241002) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 343339), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)

Sanjeev Kumar is the chief attraction in this film, directed by Chander Vohra The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Sindoor.** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)- noon

A film, directed by K Ravi, starring Jaya Prada Shashi Kapoor Govinda, Neelam, Kader Khan, Prem Chopra Shakti Kapoor, with Jeetendra and Rishi Kapoor in speical appearances



Natasha Sinha and Sanil Khosla in *Jawaani Ki Lahren*

BENGALI FILMS

• **Amar Sangee** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)- 2 30, 5 30, 8 15 Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)--2, 5 7 45 Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)--2 30, 5 30, 8 30

Vijayeta Pandit and Prasenjit are the lead pair in this film, directed by Sujit Guha and with misic by Bappi Lahiri Others in the cast are Subhendu Chatterjee, Shakuntala Barua, Ruma Guhathakurta Ishani Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh and Soumitra Banerjee

• **Dolon Champa** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)— 3, 5 45, 8 30

Sandhya Roy, Ranjit Mullick, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Aruna Irani, Prasenjit, Sandhyarani, Dilip Roy, Gita Dey, Bankim Ghosh, Satya Banerjee, Chimmoy Roy and Anup Kumar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Sujit Guha The music is by Kanu Bhattacharya

• **Gurudakshina** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686) - 1, 4, 7

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Kali Banerjee, Ishani Banerjee, Nimu Bhowmick and Ranjit Mullick comprise the cast of this film, directed by Anjan Choudhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

FOREIGN FILMS

• **Amin, the Rise and Fall (A)** Globe (Lindsay Street 231769)—12 3 5 45 8 30

• **Big Zapper (A)** Jamuna (Marquis Street 243715)—4 shows Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417)—noon

• **Staying Alive** Lighthouse (Humayun Place 291299)—4 shows

John Travolta is the chief attraction in this film

• **Deadlier than the Male (A)** Minerva (Chowringhee Place 241052)—4 shows

• **Operation Daybreak** New Empire (Humayun Place 291051)—4 shows

• **Terminal Express (A)** Metro (Chowringhee Road 280141) Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270)—3 shows

NEW RELEASES

HINDI FILMS

• **Dharti** Society (Corporation Place 241002) & Kalika (Sadananda Road 478141) 4 shows

Rajendra Kumar and Waheeda Rehman are the lead pair in this film directed by Sridhar and music by Shankar Jaikishan

• **Judaai** Paradise (Bentinck Street 235442) Moonlight (TC Dutta Street 254956) Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133)—4 shows Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417) Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108) Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 351382) Malancha (Regent Park)—3 shows

A re release of this T Rama Rao film starring Rekha Jeetendra and Ashok Kumar The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Roti Kapada Aur Makaan** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266) Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road 311090) Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552932) Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue 553046) Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road 277273)

A re release of this Manoj Kumar hit starring Amitabh Bachchan Zeenat Aman and Manoj Kumar

VIDEOS

The following are the latest video cassettes available in Calcutta

HINDI

(1) Insaf Ki Pukar
(2) Kudrat Ka Kanoon
(3) Himmat Aur Mehanat
(4) Pushpak
(5) Kaash

ENGLISH

(1) Amin the Rise and Fall
(2) Night at Dinner
(3) Silent Madness
(4) The Wind
(5) Instant Justice



A scene from *Operation Daybreak*

SPECIAL EVENTS

3 January onwards

Alternative Book Fair with short films cultural programmes poster exhibitions and crafts stalls till January 10

At Classic Books (10 Middleton Street)

3 January 6 30 pm

Rangakarmee presents its latest play *Lok Katha* directed by Usha Ganguli

At Kala Mandir (B) (Shakespeare Sarani 449086)

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade-Calcutta Beijing Arr (1) JU 588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU 588 at 1105

Beijing Calcutta Belgrade Arr (1) JU 589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU 589 at 0050

Calcutta Bombay Dubai London-New York Dep (1) AI 103 at 2330

Tokyo-Osaka Bangkok Calcutta-Bombay Arr (3) AI 307 at 2005 Dep (3) AI 307 at 2105

Hong Kong-Calcutta--Delhi Arr (4) AI 325 at 2320 Dep (5) AI 325 at 0030

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI 324 at 1150 Dep (4) AI 324 at 1250

Bombay Calcutta Bangkok Tokyo Arr (2) AI 316 at 1830 Dep (2) AI 316 at 1930

Calcutta Moscow Arr (4) SU 537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1955

Calcutta Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0925

Calcutta Kathmandu Dep (1) RA 214 at 1040 Dep (3) RA 214 at 1100 Dep (2 4 7) IC 247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC 247 at 151 Arr (1 3) RA 213 at 0940 Arr (2 4 7) IC 248 at 1525 Arr (3 6) IC 248 at 1425

Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1215 IC 223 at 1340 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG 694 at 1745 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1115 IC 224 at 1540 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1645

Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG 698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC 225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG 697 at 1220 Arr (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (1 3 6) TG 313 at 1240 Arr (2 4 7) IC 232 at 1640 Dep (1 3 6) TG 314 at 1355 Dep (2 4 7) IC 231 at 1050

Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 3 5 6) GQ 102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ 101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta Delhi Dep (daily) IC 402 at 1710 and IC—263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210

Calcuta Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1855

Calcutta Madras Dep (daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta Kanpur Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC 295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC 296 at 1635

Calcutta Patna Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4 6) IC 295 at 1640 Arr (2 4 6) IC 296 at 2105

Calcutta Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC 287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC 288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi Patna-Lucknow Delhi Dep (daily) IC 410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400

Calcutta Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 541 at 1240

Calcutta Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2235

Calcutta Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC 278 at 2215 Arr (4 5) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Nagpur Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Nagpur Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC 270 at 2150

Calcutta Varanasi Gorakhpur Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta Guwahati Dep (daily) IC 229 at 1320 and IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 and IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045

Calcutta Guwahati Tezpur Jorhat--Guwahati Calcutta Dep (daily) ICC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6 7) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (2 4 6 7) C 202 at 040

Calcutta Silchar Imphal Dep (daily)) IC 255 at 0530 Arr (2 4 6 7) IC 256 at 1000 Arr (1 3 5) IC 256 at 1230

Calcutta Bagdogra Dep daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405

Calcutta Agartala Dep daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC 241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC 242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala Silchar Dep

(1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5) IC 238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3 5) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (1 3 5) IC 202 at 0910

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2 4 6) PF 733 at 1600 Arr (2 4 6) PF 734 at 1855
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat Dep (1 3 5) PF 731 at 0555 Arr (1 3 5) PF 732 at 1000
Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (1 3 5) PF 717 at 0600 and PF-717A at 1600 Arr (1 3 5) PF 718 at 0800 and PF 718A at 1755
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (2 4 6) PF 725 at 0600 Arr (2 4 6) PF 726 at 1100
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar Dep (daily) PF 701 at 0830 Arr (daily) PF 702 at 1550
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep (1 3 5) PF 727 at 0940 Arr (1 3 5) PF 728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5 7) PF 707 at 0610 Arr (1 3 5 7) PF 708 at 0910
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar Dep (2 4 6) PF 729 at 1130 Arr (2 4 6) PF 730 at 1610
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2 4 6) PF 715 at 0555 Arr (2 4 6) PF 716 at 1010
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar Dep (daily) PF 705 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF 706 at 1525
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo Dep (1 3 5) PF 721 at 0800 Arr (1 3 5) PF 722 at 1645
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along Dep (2 4 6) PF 723 at 0800 Arr (2 4 6) PF 724 at 1715
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh Dep (1 4 5 7) PF 735 at 0530 Arr (1 4 5 7) PF 736 at 1545
Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu Dep (2 3 6) PF 735 at 0530 Arr (2 3 6) PF 736 at 1650

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8 30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12 55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Tri Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	17 50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon & Fri	17 50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10 55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri Wkly Dep —Tues Fri & Sat Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4 15	948
9	21 10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 30	8
49	13 30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20 50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21 35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 45	20
21	16 05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon Wed Fri Arri —Tues Thurs Sat	20 35	58
59	17 35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12 30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13 35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	308
309	17 15	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	310
305	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8 45	306
31	21 00	**Danapur Express**	6 35	32
105	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4 15	106
171	22 30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9 55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arri —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7 30	960

SEALDAH

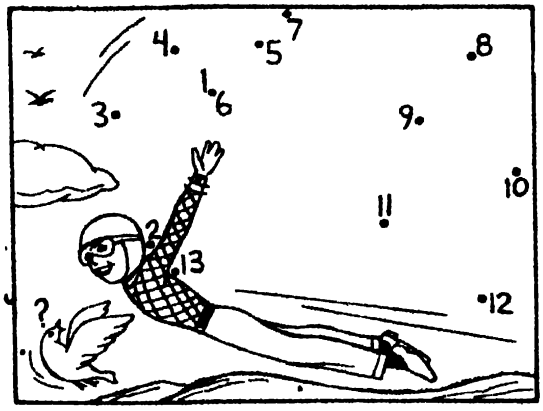
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19 00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20 10	**Gaur Express**	6 10	54
51	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16 10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 35	34
303	18 15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20 35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20 25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13 50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arri —Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sat	14 15	59
134	20 50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed Fri & Sun	4 10	133
30	12 15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11 15	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express**	4 00	38
13	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21 50	12
5	21 25	**Sambalpur Express**	5 30	6
15	21 15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8 15	10
45	11 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14 15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11 30	318
902	22 35	**Guwahati-Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22 35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22 15	940
952	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

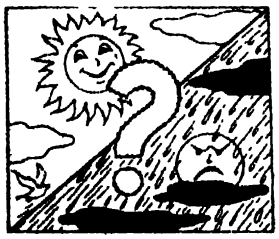
ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



WINGING IT! What can you draw to complete the dot picture above? To find out, add lines 1 to 2, 3, etc.

• **MINI-TEST!** Double your age, add 18, divide by two. Subtract your age, multiply by 79. See if your answer checks with the one given below.

Answer is seven hundred and eleven



WEATHER SPLOTCH

On the day before yesterday, the weatherman reported "Today's weather in our area is the opposite of yesterday's. If tomorrow's weather is the same as yesterday's, it is likely to rain the day after tomorrow."

Now then, the weatherman was correct. It rained in the area on the day before yesterday, and it is raining there today.

Question: What was the weather yesterday?

Don't take this too seriously, folks. If it isn't clear, blame it on the weather.

Yesterday was clear

• **WORD PLAY!** Two six-letter words are in place in the word square below. You are asked to insert the rest.

Definitions (top down): 1. Signal light. 2. Card game. 3. Agree to. 4. Used gum. 5. Tease with words.

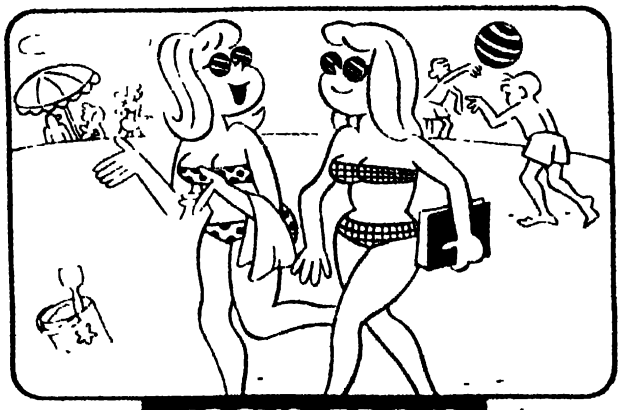
Remember, words in word square formations read the same across and down.

No fair peeking below.

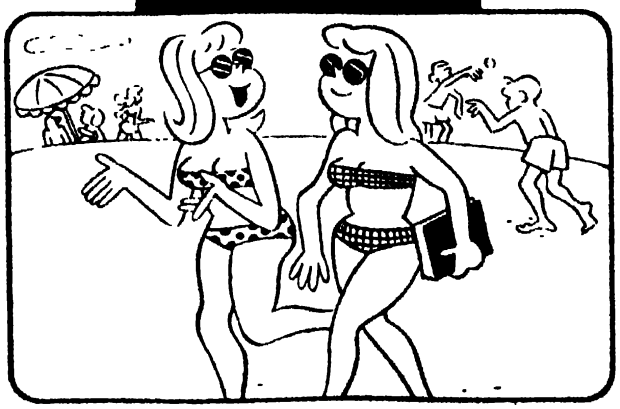
1 Beacon 2 Euchre 3 Accede 4 Chewed 5 Ordeal

B	E	A	C	O	N
E					E
A					E
C					D
O					L
N	E	E	D	L	E

HOCUS-FOCUS



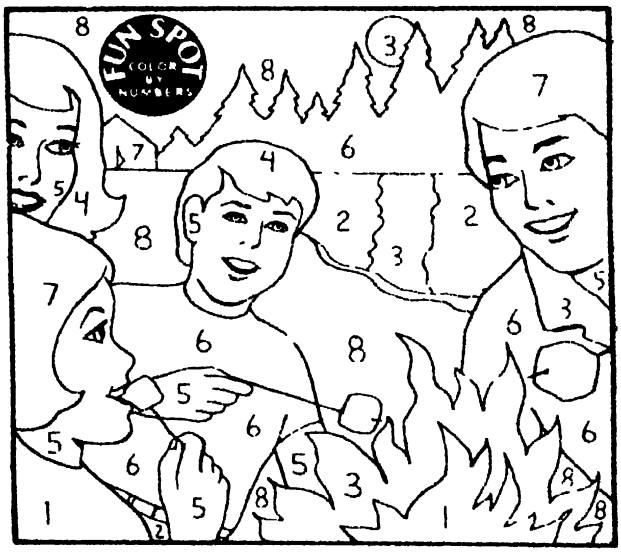
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with these below.

Differences 1. Cloud is smaller. 2. Pail is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Towel is missing. 5. Book is moved. 6. Ball is different.

FUNSPOT



AFTER GLOW! Apply the following colors neatly to the campfire scene above. 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

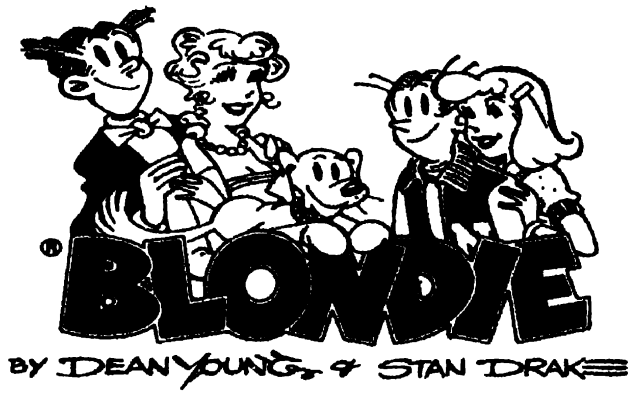
ULTIMATE

- - - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

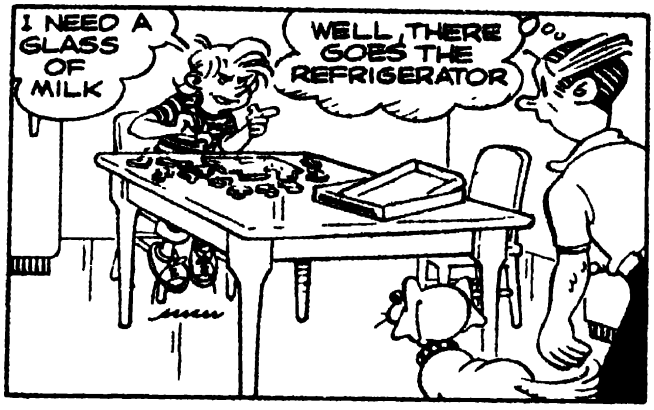
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram: Mate, Tail


BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


LIBBY NEEDS A BABY-SITTER SO WE CAN GO SHOPPING
I HEAR THAT KID IS MURDER INCORPORATED

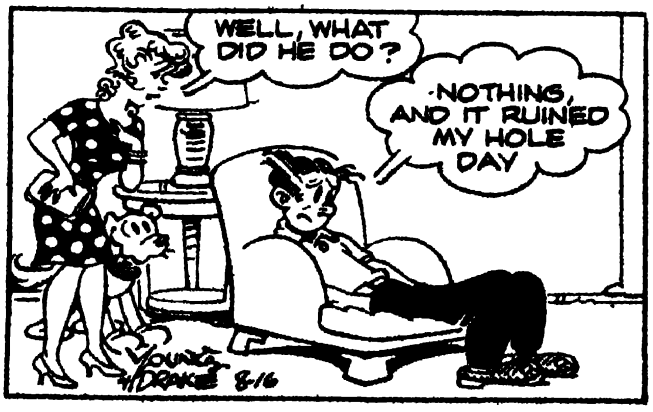

I'M SURE YOU AND RALPHIE WILL GET ALONG FINE
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT


I NEED A GLASS OF MILK
WELL, THERE GOES THE REFRIGERATOR

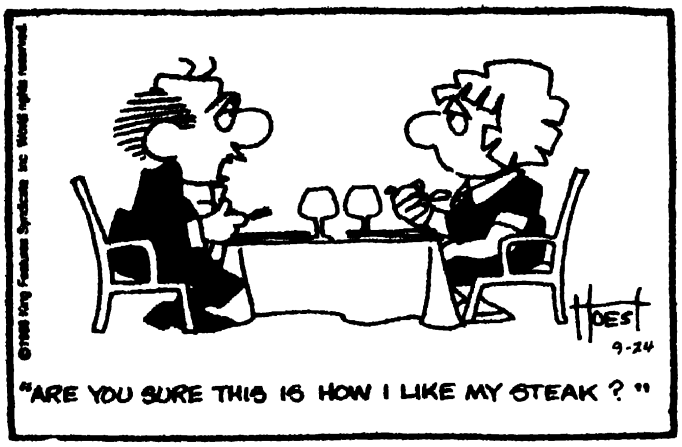

AMAZING, HE DIDN'T RUIN ANYTHING
MAY I READ ONE OF YOUR BOOKS?


HERE IT COMES MY BOOKCASE IS ABOUT TO BE TERMINATED

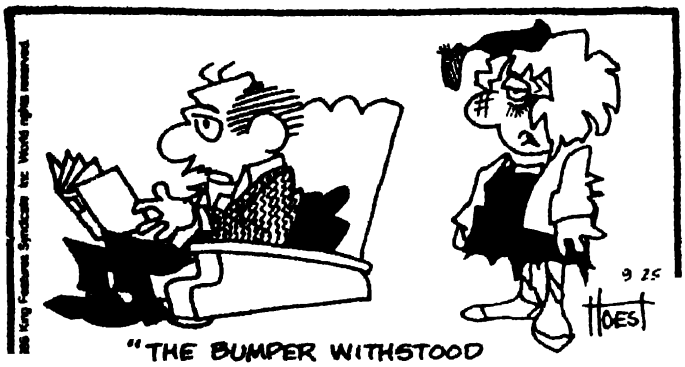

HE MUST BE SAVING UP FOR A REAL BIGGIE
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WELL, WHAT DID HE DO?
NOTHING, AND IT RUINED MY HOLE DAY
YOUNG & DRAKE 8-16

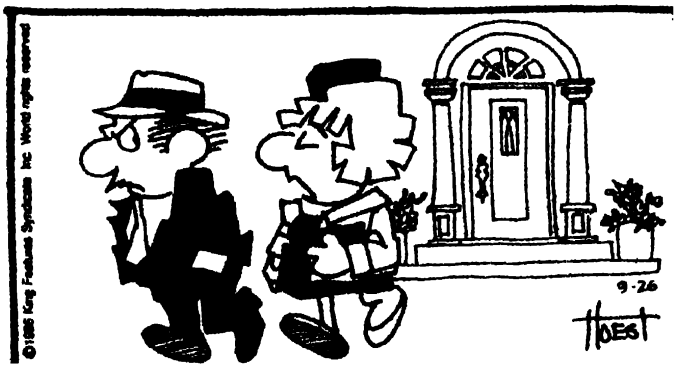
THE FOCKHORNS



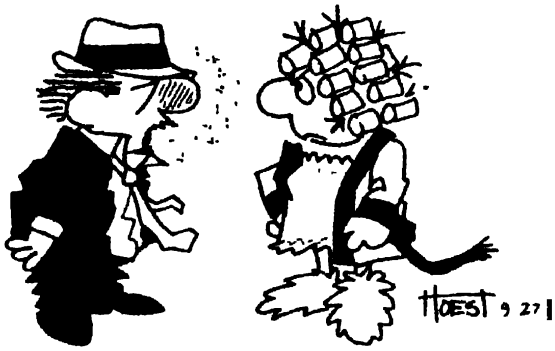
"ARE YOU SURE THIS IS HOW I LIKE MY STEAK ?"



"THE BUMPER WITHSTOOD A TWENTY MILE-PER-HOUR IMPACT BUT NOTHING ELSE DID."



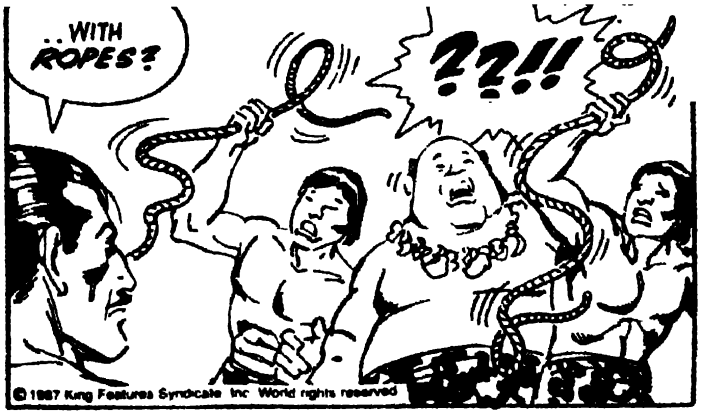
"I KNOW YOU FANCIED YOURSELF A WIT TONIGHT. WELL, YOU WERE HALF RIGHT.

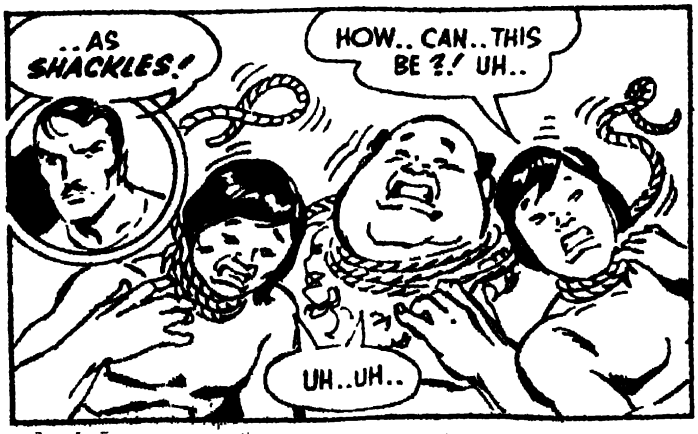


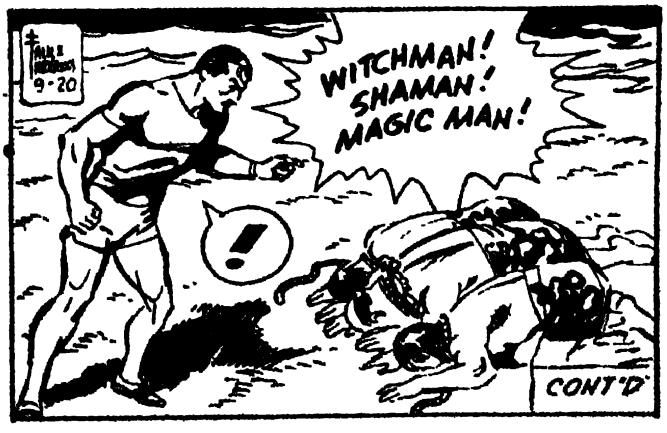
"YOU'RE LOOKING KINDA WEIRD, ARTHUR. BETTER SWITCH ME TO THE CHEAP STUFF."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk





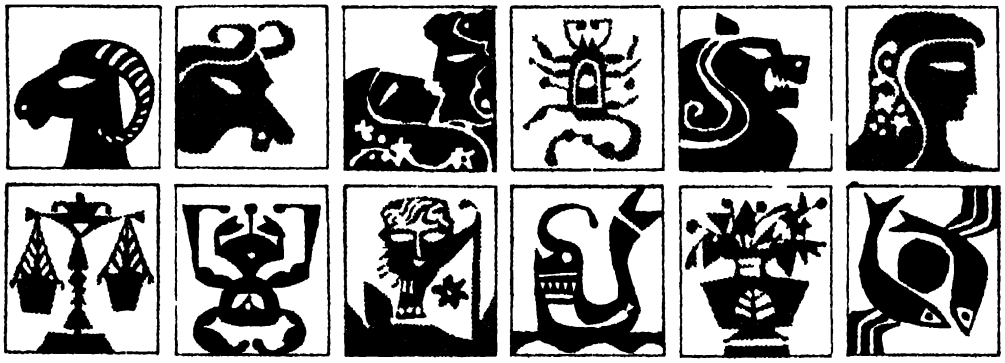




THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP




YOU'RE GOING TO THAT CONCERT? IT'S GOING TO BE JAMMED AND UNRULY!
I KNOW! BUT I HAD A TENSE WEEK!
I NEED A PLACE TO RELAX AND UNWIND!
IT'S AMAZING HOW WORKED UP TEENAGERS GET OVER ROCK STARS!
ROCK CONCERT
THEY ACT SO SILLY!
6-21
SCREAMING! YELLING! BEGGING FOR AUTOGRAPHS!
WHY THEY DO IT, I'LL NEVER KNOW!
I GUESS IT'S THE UNDIGNIFIED ATMOSPHERE!
AT A CERTAIN AGE YOU GET AN AIR OF SOPHISTI-CATION!
MARY! LOOK! ... IN THAT LIMO! IT'S HIM... JOHNNY!!
EEK!! IT IS!
I FEEL FAINT!!
HEY, JOHNNY! I WATCH YOU ON TV ALL THE TIME! SIGN THIS, OKAY?!
© 1987 King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved
GEE, FRED! IT'S NOT HIM AFTER ALL!
I'M SO EMBARRASSED!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR AIR OF SOPHISTICATION?
SOME UNEXPECTED TURBULENCE JUST PASSED THROUGH OUR DIGNIFIED ATMOSPHERE!



ARIES
March 21—April 20

Domestic affairs are highlighted as the full moon falls in your sign Matters pertaining to property parents children renovation decoration and refurbishing will demand attention Entertainment however is not ruled out Buying selling trading and collaborations are also highlighted

TAURUS
April 21 May 20

Catch up with all pending correspondence Family affairs home and entertainment will be on the top of your list this week The time is also ideal to pay attention to creative pursuits hobbies children and cooking Visits to foreign countries are not ruled out Success is assured in interviews

GEMINI
May 21—June 20

The moon Jupiter Saturn trine indicates an inflow of money A job is assured for the unemployed or those seeking a change A promotion with increased responsibilities and perks is also on the cards Relatives and friends will drop in unexpectedly Good news will now reach you

CANCER
June 21—July 20

The full moon in your sign will help you in buying selling and business transactions Pay attention to the views and opinions of colleagues and subordinates This is the time to make your presence felt Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way

LEO
July 21 August 21

The Venus sextile Jupiter conjunction indicates an increase in expenses strong attachments and brief separations Attention now is focused on home and property affairs A reunion is on the cards Children research educational pursuits and socialising are on the cards

VIRGO
August 22—Sept 22

This is the time to let your feelings take reign Your popularity will reach new heights and success is assured in any ventures that you may have in mind You will shine at both parties and meetings Long standing payments will now come through Do not be guarded in your reactions

LIBRA
Sept 23—Oct 22

You may be over burdened with work this week but take it in your stride as the rewards that will accrue will more than make up This is the right time to socialise and entertain Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible Friends will come forward with all the support that you need

SCORPIO
Oct 23—Nov 22

Financial matters will demand attention as moon trines Jupiter Collaborations and partnerships are also on the cards Elders and parents will rally around You will shine at work The weekend is the ideal time to start a new project or venture Success is assured in all you do

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 Dec 20

Buying selling investments loans funds and property affairs will keep you busy Rites rituals and ceremonies are also foretold Matters pertaining to legacies gifts taxes insurances and endowments will now have to be sorted out A shift or transfer is on the cards Romance is in the air

CAPRICORN
Dec 2 Jan 19

This is the time to relive old associations and contacts Be prepared to go on an unexpected journey Collaborations and negotiations are on the cards Socialising and entertainment are foretold specially towards the weekend Do not take people at face value and learn to be guarded in your reactions

AQUARIUS
Jan 20 Feb 8

Health could cause concern now as pressures mount The time is right for meetings transactions group activity social functions and installation of new machinery and gadgets in your factory Expenses will increase You might strike a secret deal with someone Romance is on the cards

PISCES
Feb 19— March 20

Love children hobbies and creative pursuits will demand attention A chance to augment your income will now present itself Reserve the weekend for affairs of the heart collaborations and deals Catch up with all pending correspondence Long awaited news will now reach you

BIRTHDAYS

January 3

Sun trine Pluto Romance and collaborations are on the cards Trips are likely Your success in the coming year will depend on how well you learn to manage your affairs Renovation and refurbishing of your home are also likely

January 4

Full moon Cancer Your success this year will depend on how well you can handle your colleagues at work and your relationship with your parents in laws and friends Learn to look beyond appearances Legal issues may crop up

January 5

Moon trine Mars The zest and cheer of Mars will help you to sail through the year with flying colours Contacts collaborations and joint ventures are indicated Socialising and entertainment will be the highlights of the year ahead

January 6

Moon square Pluto Health problems and financial muddles will be the two worries of the year ahead Circumstances beyond your control could prove to be the minor irritants this year Learn to give your best to the job at hand

January 7

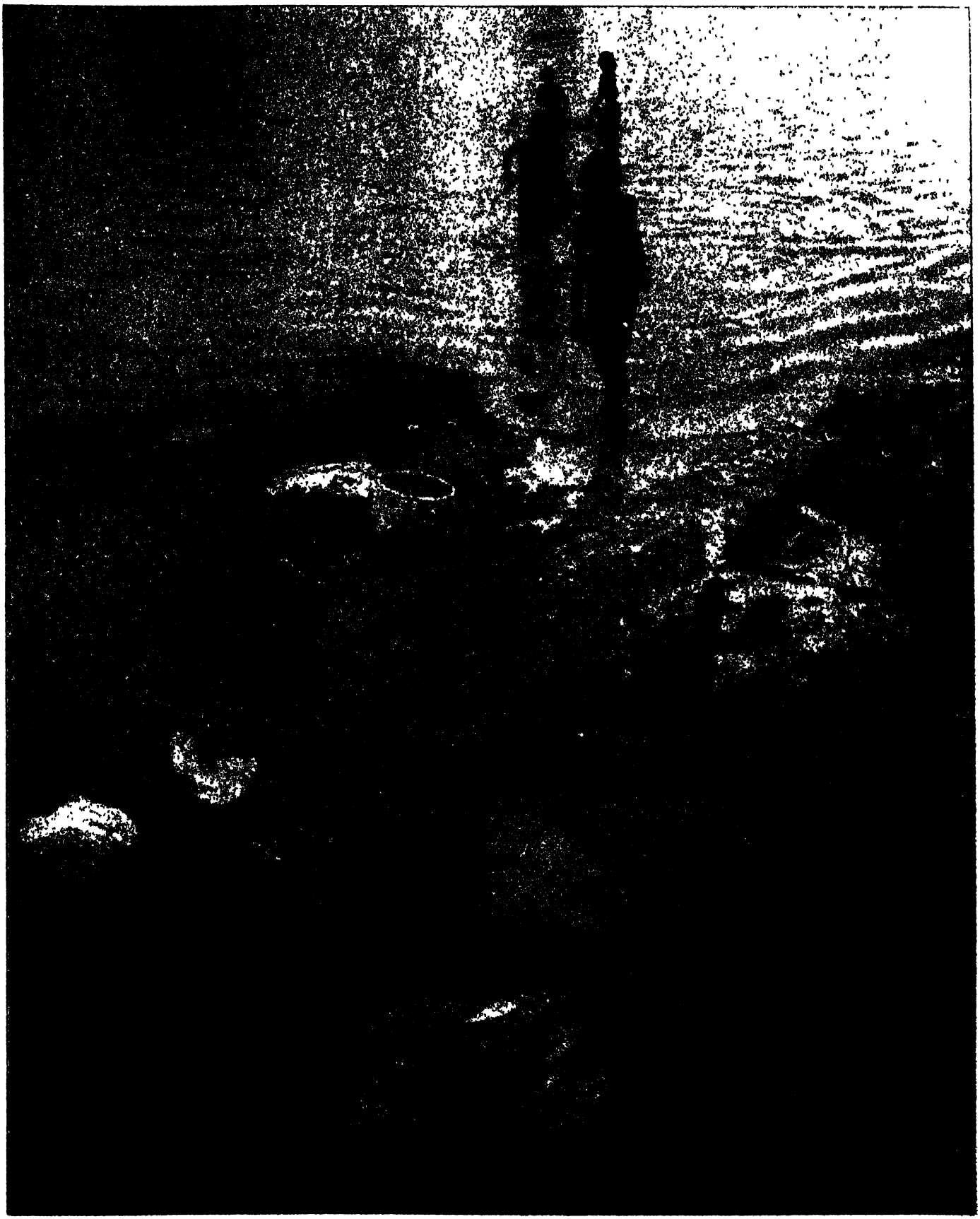
Moon trine Jupiter Saturn Uranus Investments buying selling trading cars and funds will be highlighted this year A job transfer or promotion is on the cards There is the possibility of travel too Those in government services will do exceedingly well

January 8

Venus sextile Jupiter An excellent year with respect to both affairs of the heart and career prospects Sales publicity collaborations and journeys are on the cards Money will now come in from several sources Give generously to charitable causes

January 9

Sun trine moon A year for advancements and enjoyment People will be cooperative and at work you will shine This is the time to take the initiative and forge ahead A year full of gains and gaiety



Photograph: **Golok Sarkar**

Whatever the reason, **Amrita Singh** has never been seriously considered star material (by the press or public) leave alone an actress of any calibre.

However today she has managed to give a fitting answer to all her critics with her performance in *Wearis*. It is believed that her performance is likely to make even her severest critic sit up and take notice of her at last.



Jayant Das

Amrita: Unrecognised talent

Ever since **Chunky Pandey** burst on the scene with his macho and hunky image he has been cutting into **Govinda**'s career. On his part Govinda has put up quite a spunky fight all along.

Recently Chunky almost scored yet another point against Govinda when he all but had him replaced in yet another film. Kunky Anand's *Action*. The producers understandably lost their cool when Govinda failed to turn up for the shooting one day. But when they threatened to replace him with Chunky, Govinda made amends to stay in Kunky Anand's good books.

One of the men in tinsel town who seems down on luck is **R.D. Burman**.



Kalyan Chakravorty

Sujata: Recognition at last

Bharat Sharma

Govinda: Threatened by Chunky

After topping the charts for years, he seems to be out of tune with today's tastes.

Several of his long-time professional associates—filmmakers Dev Anand, Ramesh Sippy, Romu and Raj Sippy, Ramesh Behl and Rahul Rawail—have now switched to other music directors, leaving only a few faithfuls like Shakti and Ashim Samanta, Nasir Hussain and Gulzar.

For that matter **Gulzar** doesn't seem to be much in demand either. Recently Lata Mangeshkar signed him up to direct her own production *Lekin* (based on Tagore's *Khudito Pashaan*) but his *Ibaas* and *Ijaazat* remain unsold for some time now.

'You see high quality alone doesn't pay any more,' laments the producer of *Ijaazat*, Ashok Sachdev. 'You have to combine it with hardcore business considerations as well. And that's where we made our mistake,' he says.

Sujata Mehta, on the other hand, has all the stages of her career decently behind her. Introduced as a clever, assertive and temperamental newcomer.

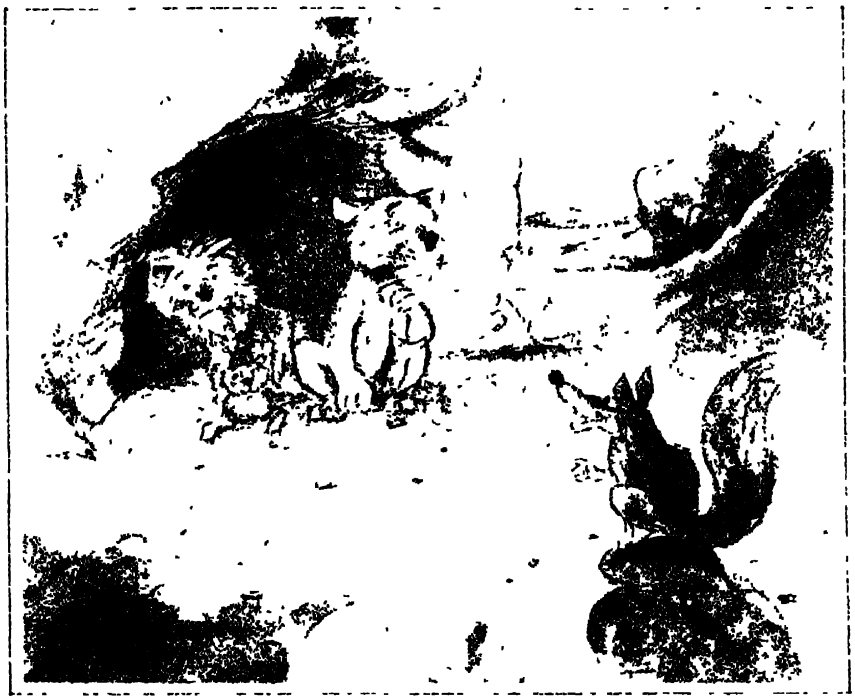
And for all the popularity of her Hiba role in *Ram Sawbai* and the box office busting success of her debut starrer *Pratiggaat*, neither Hiba nor N. Chandra cared to recast her in any of their later projects.

Just the same these initial setbacks have not stopped this spirited young actress from playing fortune's favourite girl-friend.

Now she is working with most of the big guns: Ramesh Sippy (*Zameen*), Mohan Kumar (*Ambat*), Shashi Kapoor (*The Black Prince* or *Anubet*), Sohanlal Kanwar (*Tadap*), Vijay Anand, Ramesh Behl and Sunil Dutt (where she will play a role originally meant for Smita Patil).

Another filmmaker in distress is **Mahesh Bhatt**. He says that with *Kaash* he has run out of all he has had to say about the triangular situations involving a man, woman and the other person. So now he is trying out a different triangle in *Marg* which is all about a man, woman and the Almighty! ■

"The vixen sneered at the lioness because she never bore more than one cub. Only one, she replied, but a lion"



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For a century, the engineers' engineers


Mellow moments with McDowell's
No.1... McDowell
McDowell's
The soda with

A Living City

Calcutta is indeed a vibrant and living city. The cover story, 'The Warm Heart of Calcutta' (November 29) truly depicts the charm and warmth that is so typical of this metropolis.

Though a classic case of urban decay, the city is steeped in history, full as it is of institutions associated with the freedom movement. Despite the squalor and filth, it remains India's cultural and artistic centre. In fact, I would go as far as to say that New York is the Calcutta of the US!

N. Bose,
Ranchi

All Talk, No Action

The hue and cry over drug addiction has become a fashion for those who want to adorn pages of the media as the article 'Drug Wise Pound Foolish' (December 13) pointed out. Politicians, instead of dealing with immediate problems at hand, discuss drug abuse, and social welfare organisations organise seminars on the same without taking any constructive followup action.

Instead of just idle talk, concerned individuals should provide work to drug addicts and set high ideals before them. In our country, unfortunately, all talk on drug abuse simpy rings hollow.

Janaki Ballav Dash,
Baripada (Orissa)

Christmas: Then and Now

Mr Pearson Surita's recollections of the Christmas season (Once Upon A Time Twenty Years Ago,' December 20) were truly a trip down memory lane. In fact, the only thing that keeps us going now is reminiscences of the days gone by.

Today, everything has become so 'high' in Calcutta--the temperature, buildings, prices, population and influx of visitors, especially during the Christmas season. Unfortunately, Calcutta has lost its charm of yesteryear. Mr Surita, too, has become just a memory for most.

I still recall him giving commentary for football matches played by the three big clubs in the city. But after his retirement there has been none to fill the gap left by him.

Madan Mohan Nath,
Calcutta



A nativity scene at the Grand Hotel a decade ago

Psychics at Home Too

The cover story on the psychic powers of Uri Geller, 'The Geller Effect' (December 6) was interesting, but it is distressing to note that while we, in India, are quick to acclaim new developments in the West as 'marvellous', we waste no time in deriding the same events in our own country.

There is no dearth of instances of Indian sages and wise men who were blessed with psychic powers, but hardly anyone gives them their due. This irreverence is more often than not the result of our limited perceptions.

L.J. Mullick,
Calcutta

14 **Cover Story:** The Soviet Festival has reached eastern India. A feature on the glittering extravaganza



12
Panorama: A look at the making of the controversial film, *La Nuit Bangalie*

4
Event: Christie s, the world-famous auction house, recently sold 34 paintings by contemporary Indian artists in Bombay A report

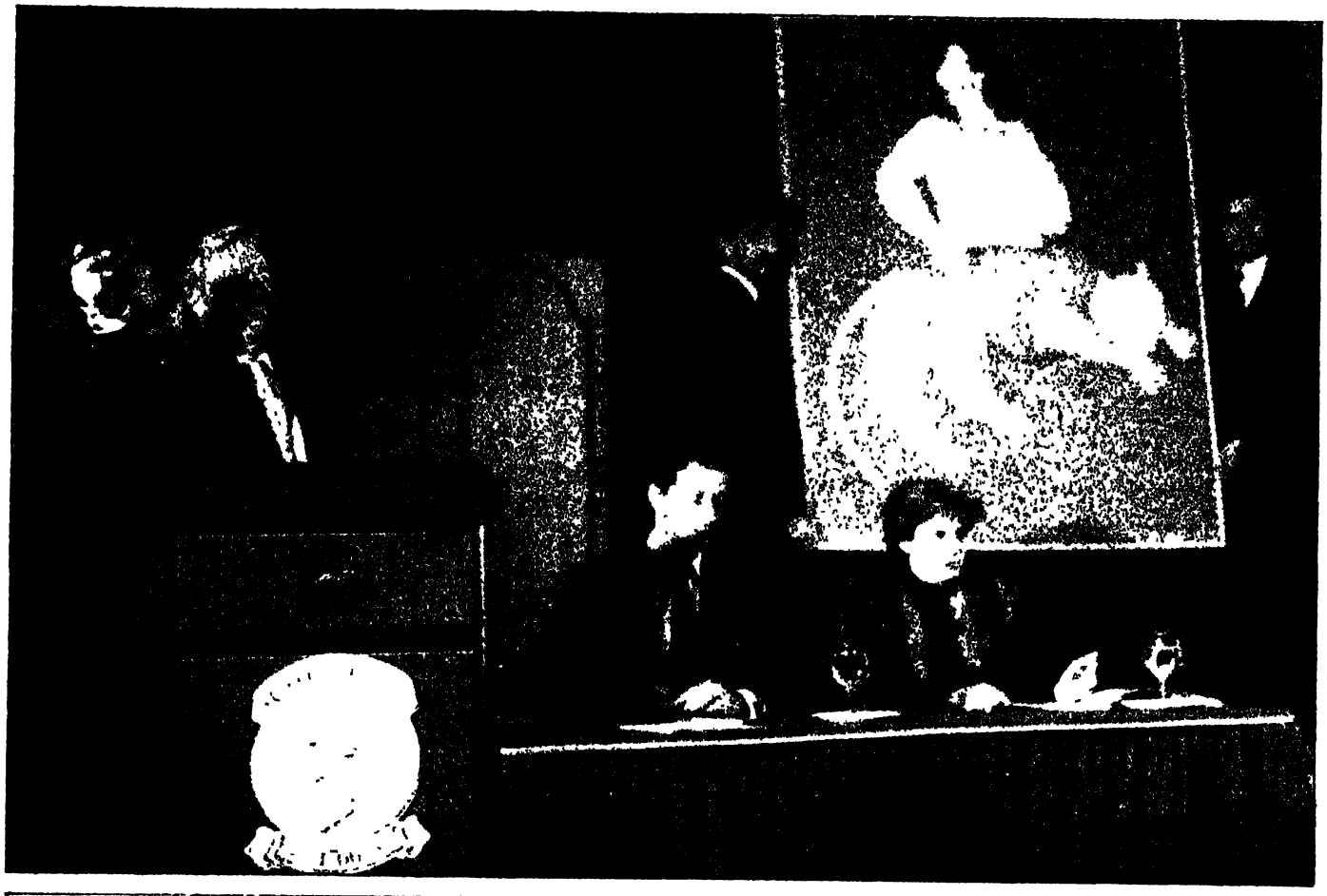
The Telegraph
10 JANUARY 1988

SECTIONS

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Cover:
The Leningrad Kirov Opera and Ballet Theatre's performance of Minkus' *La Bayadere*

HAMMER MASTERS









It was the day of the cognoscenti at the Taj ballroom in Bombay. Art, wealth and charity served each other well as Christie's of London held the city's bejewelled patricians in thrall. **Lekha Dhar** describes the occasion

It was the champagne of the year's social events. A tryst between a 221-old internationally renowned house of fine art auctioneers and the top industrial and social elite of Bombay.

Christie's must be a magic word, because only after the gavel struck for the last time, thus concluding the sale of 34 works of contemporary art, on behalf of Helpage, India, did the audience remember the cause that had brought the famous London house here: charity. At the end of the glittering show, Bombay's cognoscenti had coughed up Rs 19.24 lakhs for a good cause, proving if nothing else that Christie's and success are synonymous.

The silver haired, dark suited director of Christie's, Tom Craig, could have been a performer or politician as he pushed business with humour and held his glittering audience enthralled. JRD Tata, Ashok Birla, Harsh Goenka, Jehangir Nicholson, Adi Dubash — industrialists, and art collectors, socialites and the super rich — they were all there.

One would be mistaken if one said that philanthropic reasons alone made those diamond-and-pearl adorned or Cartier-wrapped wrists put up their numbered paddles. A similar auction held a month ago at Delhi's Maurya Sheraton for the worthy cause of the Prime Minister's drought relief fund brought even M F Husain's best reeling back after the final offer of Rs 40,000, which did not even touch the reserve price.

But the glamorous guests in the Taj ballroom buzzed with excitement as Husain's *Mother Teresa* was displayed on the dais. Craig did not even have to urge once as the bids raced from the initial Rs two lakhs to an astounding Rs 5 lakhs, paid by Mr Minoo Mody on behalf of the Tata Iron and Steel Company.

Facing page, clockwise from above: **Christie's director, Tom Craig auctioning Manjit Bawa's *Man and Tiger*; Paritosh Sen's *Mynah* being displayed; Minoo Mody of Tata's who bought Husain's *Mother Teresa* for Rs 5 lakhs and two other paintings; M. F. Husain's *Mother Teresa***

Sceptics may have dismissed that incredible price as purely a result of the popularity of that leading contemporary artist. But even they were rendered speechless when Baroda-based Bhupen Khakkar got Rs 1.20 lakhs for his exquisite *Fisherman*, a price he had never dreamed off within India. One of the most significant beneficiaries was Jogen Chowdhury, a Bengali artist whose paintings normally go for only Rs 400 to Rs 500. But at the auction, his ink and pastel work, *Couple*, measuring just 40" on paper in width, went for a staggering Rs 20,000.

James Christie started the famous line of auctioneers with a humble barter of hay. From the Haymarket to Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, which was sold for a stupendous £24,750,000, Christie's has come a long way. With due reverence to Sotheby's of course. Compared to the prices that Christie's normally fetches, the Bombay auction did not add up to too much. But, Craig, who watched the price barriers tumble, exclaimed at the end, "I thought it was a wild success."

"People's psychology at auctions has often been compared to that at a casino – once inside, the bidders get carried away by the rising fever in the room and increase their bids," says an article on Christie's. This time the casino was the Taj ballroom and the stakes, the 37 paintings by 31 eminent Indians artists that adorned the walls. Everyone was cast under Craig's spell as he turned the wheel of fortune. Nasreen Mohammedi's untitled ink on paper work began at a "pathetic" figure of Rs 400 for an "absolutely charming drawing." The subtle edge paid off, and the bids virtually flew till they reached Rs 9,500.

Harsh Goenka, managing director of Ceat Tyres, who initially dismissed the works on display as 'average paintings,' was seen frantically bidding for S.H. Raza's striking acrylic on canvas abstract *Souryo* towards the end. The spirit of the casino had caught him too although ultimately he dropped out as the bids raced frenetically.

"You are destroying my profession," proclaimed Craig in a display of exaggerated salesmanship, when Akbar Padamsee's *Woman* reached Rs 70,000, a far cry from the opening bid of Rs 17,000. "I will take 73...," he said as the painting moved onto Rs 75,000 and Craig's "Somebody please,' got lost in the rising crescendo.

Some in the audience themselves were a sight to behold. Mrs Purnima Hatheesing was resplendent in emeralds, pearls and a green silk saree.

The auction was clearly a social event. And far diferent from the London or New York auction where just about anybody who can afford it (or would like to) can walk in. But those present in the Taj ballroom had been invited only after the Taj painstakingly researched a list of Bombay's who's who and "who collects what". The organisers had thus, as Craig put it, "recognised who the collectors are".

Sadashiv Gorashankar, director of the Prince of Wales Museum is not given to expressions like "fantastic," but they came forth unreservedly as he gave his appraisal of this auction. "It was beyond expectations even for the artists. It was a historic event," he extolled. A sceptic at first, he eventually rejoiced at the "healthy trend for Indian art," established by the end of the auction.

"You get a feeling for the painting, as six people put their paddles up you know. It is a question of technique," said Craig to eager reporters who wanted to know the magic formula. He seemed to have experienced several feelings" during the auction which lasted well over an hour.

But there were some things that even Craig did not anticipate. He made a promise of a bid-per-minute before the show began. But the audience, new to the world of auctioneering, didn't play its part. The bidding 'was funny" and "physically slower" than that at London, said Craig. "But here the people bid as or more enthusiastically than those elsewhere," he added quickly.

And if Craig termed it unparalleled he didn't mean the rates or the turn out, but that the diamond-spangled audience had ensured one thing: only three out of the 37 paintings remained unsold. And this was a record. For even in his own country, "forty per cent of the paintings come back."

The laws of the land have kept Christie's away, but the master-auctioneers intend to return. It might be one more hammer for charity, waiving their professional fee as they did this time to take another blow at Indian acumen which seems to surrender before a mistique called Christie's ■

QUIZ



Neil O'Brien

Vinod Nair reports from Jamshedpur:

"The first Thomas Paul memorial inter-school science quiz was held recently at Loyola School, Jamshedpur. Nine schools of the town took part.

"The quiz started off with the home team slowly and steadily establishing a sizeable lead. However, the second half saw a reversal in fortunes. While the Loyoleans were unable to keep up the pace they had set earlier, the team from Little Flower School (LFS) managed to catch up. In the last round, LFS scraped ahead of Loyola to take the lead. With the Loyoleans unable to answer their last direct question: "Name an element named after a Greek goddess?" the LFS team emerged winners by a margin of half a point!

The quizmasters for the evening were Mr Bijan Samanta and Mr Sanjay Prasad "

Binnshi Kr Bhattacharya writes from Jorhat:

"The All-Assam Students' Union's Jorhat unit organised a quiz competition as part of the second Martyrs Remembrance Day. The quiz, which was held at the Jorhat District Library Lyceum, was conducted by Prof. Mukul Chaliha. Twelve teams from Assam participated in the competition.

"'Amnesiacs' represented by Syed Zarif Subhani, Ankur Barbora and Syed Isfaqur Rahman of Jorhat put up a fine show right from the very beginning and maintained the lead till the end to emerge winners. Second place went to Titabor College, while J.B. College and Sibsagar College tied for third place".

CBS

11th Question: **During his recent visit to Calcutta Dominique Lapierre said, "Except for them, the city looks like a City of Joy". Who are "them"? (Nataraja Anand,25/2, Nepal Saha Lane, Howrah 711101,)**

Ans: **The rash mini-bus drivers!**

"Which was Charlie Chaplin's last film as the little tramp?" asks Jugal Misra, Calcutta 26.

Chaplin regarded talking pictures as the ruin of "the world's most ancient art, the art of pantomime. They annihilate the great beauty of silence", he is supposed to have said. *Modern Times* is conceived as a silent film With the exception of the star's voice—heard for the first time on film when he sings a nonsense song—the only other voices heard emanate from television screens or loudspeakers. *Modern Times* was also the last appearance of Chaplin as a tramp—the little vagrant in a too-small bowler hat, too-large boots, baggy trousers, tight jacket, a wing collar and sporty cane that proclaimed fallen gentility. This character first appeared on the screen in 1914 and soon achieved a universal appeal and acceptance the likes of which no fictional character has ever achieved.

The film was, however, poorly received by the critics of the time Chaplin was charged with exceeding the proper function of the clown and of trying to set himself up as a popular philosopher At the same time he was accused of being old-fashioned and cowardly in rejecting sound: after all, this was the era of the Marx Brothers, Mae West and W C Fields In film technique, they said, he had learned little since 1914 Inevitably too, the film was charged with sinister political implications. It was banned in Fascist Italy and Germany—and frowned upon in the Soviet Union for its satirical view of modern productivity.

Protested Chaplin. "Our only purpose was to amuse, it was just my old Charlie character in circumstances of 1936. I have no political aims what so ever as an actor"



Charlie Chaplin as the 'Tramp' in *Modern Times*

QUESTIONS

1. How is Chandragupta Maurya known to the Greeks? (Sailesh Kr Singh, BIT Sindri)
2. On which river is Washington DC situated? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
3. Who is the composer of the signature tune of the news on television? (Ashutosh Dutta, BIT Sindri)
4. What was Gautam Buddha's father's name? (Gopal Chokhani, Guwahati 1)
5. Which famous Indian scientist was killed when an Air India aircraft crashed into the side of Mont Blanc in 1966? (Joy Deep Mitra, Calcutta 29)
6. Hoping to draw German troops away from Monte Cassino, Allied troops landed at what beach resort that saw another famous World War II battle? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
7. In art, what is "schumbling"? (Raja Biswas, Calcutta 29)
8. In which sport might you "shut the door"? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 700054)
9. Which Shakespearean character's last words were: "Witness my knife's sharp point!"? (G. Rajeev Pillai, Calcutta 25)
10. What is hempen fever? (Sandeep Dutta Gupta, Calcutta 19)

ANSWERS

was made of hemp.

10. Death by hanging The original hangman 's rope

9 Titus Andronicus

8. Motor cycle racing It means to prevent a rider from overtaking

7. To drag a dry brush across a surface to spread paint.

6. Anzio.

5. Dr Homi Bhabha.

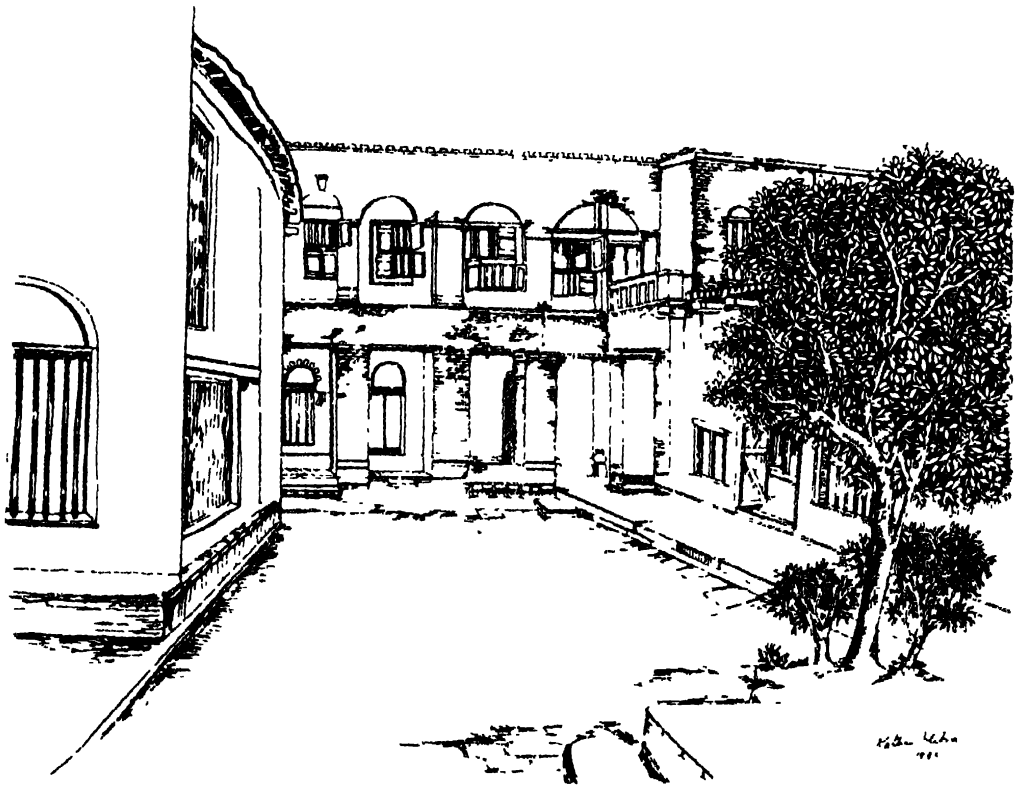
4. Suddhodana

3. Louis Banks

2. The Potomac.

1. Sandrocottus.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA (1863-1902)



Swami Vivekananda was born Narendranath Dutta in an upper middle-class Kayastha family on January 12, 1863 at his paternal home (sketched above) at 3 Gour Mohan Mukherjee Lane Calcutta 6. His father, Vishwanath Dutta, was an attorney at Calcutta high court His mother, Bhubaneswari Devi, was a devout Hindu and was instrumental in developing her son's character Narendranath took his FA and BA in 1881 and 1884, respectively and then studied law but did not sit for the final exams

While still a student, Narendranath focused his energy on the search for the absolute truth This brought him in close contact with great men of the time In 1882, he met Sri Ramakrishna. He surrendered to him only after much questioning, and under his guidance realised the absolute truth in 1886 After Sri Ramakrishna's death, Narendranath took formal *sannyasa* and assumed the name Vivekananda. He travelled widely within India, and while sitting on a rock (now known as Vivekananda Shila) in Kanyakumari, he visualised that religion is the blood of the nation and this 'blood' must be purified for its progress

He attended the Parliament of Religions at Chicago in 1893 and impressed one and all with his oratory. Vivekananda was transformed into a world figure. In February 1895, he started regular classes at New York, and travelled to Europe in 1895 and 1896 Swami Vivekananda established the Ramakrishna Mission on May 1, 1897, and the Belur Math on December 9, 1898 He died on July 4 1902 at Belur Math.

A MEETING WITH SANTA CLAUS

By Mohan Dutt

The club was brightly lit for the Christmas party. The Christmas tree was adorned with silver stars and bells. Santa Claus had already given away the gifts which surrounded the tree. The badminton courts had been converted to a dance floor. Boys and girls were sipping lemonade and excitedly waiting for the appropriate song to dance to as the Band-Aid number *Do they know it's Christmas?* floated across the hall

Marcellus D'Souza felt uneasy in his Santa Claus dress. His false white beard was coming off, but he decided to keep it in place. After all, who has ever seen Santa without a beard? He was a retired old man of 60, and dancing and playing with the children had made him feel tired and worn out The club was generous enough to give him a dressed turkey for his evening's work. His act as Santa Claus was over He bade goodbye to the merry gathering and was soon on Wood Street.

It had been years since he had partaken of a stuffed turkey and burnt caramel pudding. Thinking about the family waiting for him to start the Christmas dinner, he quickened his steps and reached Hungerford Street

The street was brightly lit. The shops were crowded with those making last minute purchases bumping into old friends, and buying cards to send to friends and relatives across the seven seas But in the midst of all the noise and merriment, the street near the children's park was dark. The tubelights flashed intermittently Santa had to pass this way to get to his apartment He increased his pace in order to get home in time to light the Christmas candles But as he did so he saw a small figure approach him Silhouetted in the dim light, he could only discern a haggard boy of about 12 in that cold darkness. Perhaps some child of the street, Santa thought

The boy stopped in front of him. In a hesitant voice he asked, "Are you Santa Claus ?"

Marcellus was about to deny it when he realised he wore the white beard. "Well, yes, yes, I am Santa."

The boy had a thatch of knotted hair When the street light flashed on him, Marcellus saw a dirty, freckled face with a pair of innocent dark eyes looking at him. "Where's my present?" the boy demanded.

Taken aback, Santa asked, "What is your name, son? I don't have your name in my long list. Perhaps you forgot to hang your stocking. My secretaries surely wouldn't overlook any name."

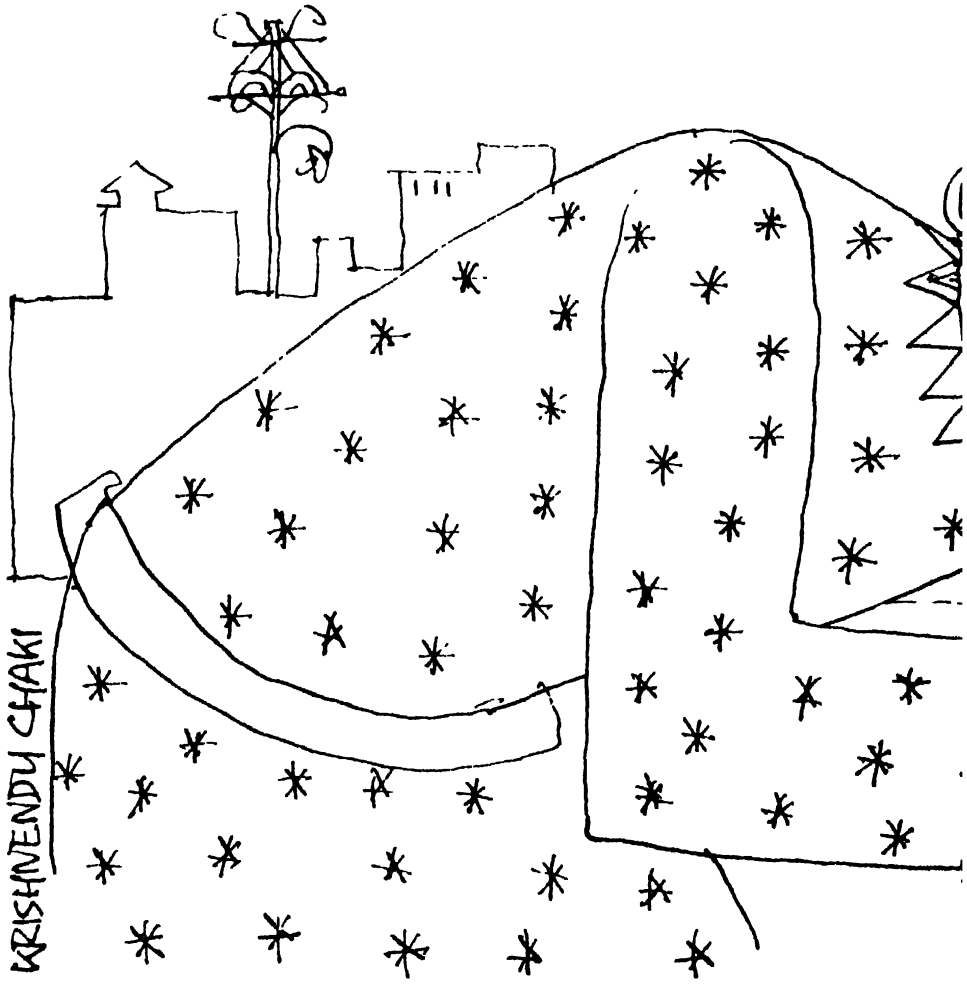
The boy's furtive glance changed into an opaque look. Indignantly he cried, "I will not stand this any longer. You can't overlook my name, Benito Andrew. It's at the top of any list. It was so even at school .. "

Benito stopped. He recalled his only year at school. He had so many friends What fun they had and such games they played! Had it not been for his father's sudden death and the consequent lack of money to pay the school fees, he would have been celebrating in the Wilkes' house. Maurice was his best friend.

Benito continued with his complaint, "For four years now I have hung my stocking. This year, too, I hung it so early that my Mum said you'll visit me for sure. You never came these four years and today I've met you. You can't leave me empty-handed. That will be mean on your part. I must, I must get my parcel. Open your sack. Gimme mine," the boy implored as tears rolled down his cheeks and his anger turned to self-pity

Marcellus was in a dilemma. All his parcels had been near the Christmas tree; all were given away. He was Santa only for the evening. The club paid him to put on the act. He himself could not pay the rent in time, let alone buy gifts for his near and dear ones, and certainly not for this kid, this stranger

"You'll have to give my parcel," the boy continued, growing louder in his appeal and cries. "Tomorrow every-



one will open theirs. Maree, John, Eddie, Sue, Ted and Liz," he said, his voice choking. "Tomorrow all my friends will show off what you have given them. Every year it hurts me when they say, 'Ben, Santa doesn't like you. He doesn't love you. You are a bad boy.' I can't stand their mocking." Benito stopped for breath and pleaded again, "Just for once, don't fail me. Even if you don't like me or love me, please don't go away without giving me a gift. Daddy gave me a teddy bear once and a cricket bat. But that was many years ago. I was only seven then. Now I don't have anyone and so wait for you. Mummy goes to work in the evening. She drinks and comes home late only to beat me Old Granny is suffering She is half-blind Our house is dark and spookie. Nobody loves me. You too don't I thought you did. But now I realise I am a bad boy just as Eddie says." At this he broke into an uncontrolled sob

Santa realised it was no use telling Benito that he had no present left for him He was moved by the boy's pathetic story. It had touched a chord in his heart He could not do much except put his hand around Benito's shoulder and embrace him Benito broke down as he felt the warmth of a father figure on a cold December night. It was after so many years that someone had cared to comfort him. Ben felt that Santa did care. If not, why would he care to listen to him?

Santa took Benito to a wayside stone bench, and said, "I'm going to tell you a story about a little boy like you who lived on this very street 50 years ago. His house was over there. You know there weren't so many houses in those days but Christmas parties, parcels and Santa were always there. That boy, too, never got any parcels Just like you, one evening, he met Santa and asked him for his gift, but Santa had none. Instead he was given a job. That boy worked tirelessly and rose to the position of a clerk It was some kind of an honour then. Today he is married and has four lovely children like you I was that boy"

Benito was taken aback He wondered why he had made a fuss of such a trivial thing when Santa himself had been through the same fate

Santa said, "I will not forget the heaviness in my heart when there were no parcels to open on a Christmas Day."

Benito felt sorry. But Santa continued, "I have a friend. I had done him a good turn once. He is a bookseller and a newspaper agent Nobody can miss his shop which is opposite Lighthouse cinema. Neither will you." Rummaging in his pocket, Marcellus found his pen and, tearing a page from his diary, he scribbled a short note Santa told Benito, "Take this to Mr Ashley. He will surely give you a job at his shop. Be honest and work hard. Mr Ashley's wife, Martha, is the principal of an evening free school. You can request Mr Ashley and join the classes"

For the first time Benito smiled Santa too was happy that he had brought cheer to a child's heart He did not let Ben go just like that. He wanted Ben to remember the big moment—the meeting with Santa.

And so he gave him two crisp ten-rupee notes. Santa then explained, "I know, Benito, that this won't buy you a gift worth showing off to your friends but this will buy you a pen, some pencils and an eraser. The rest you can save for a rainy day. I say this because in a few years from now you will have something which no Santa Claus can present you. An education. This gift will fetch many more gifts. It will also let you forget today's unhappiness. But don't forget to pass on this joy to others. Smile, my friend, and let others smile with you."

Benito stood up. His gaze was fixed on the letter Santa had given him He could only dream of a happy Christmas even though it was without a gift to show off. His imagination ran wild. His future unfolded before him It raised new avenues for him. He was transfixed. For a moment or two he did not realise that Santa stood before him. Suddenly he came to his senses. The cold hit him hard. It was then he realised he was getting late for supper. Granny would be asleep soon and Mum would be back from her late night duties.

"Santa," he said, innocent and childish. "Will you meet me here next year with my parcel?"

And he ran home, clinching the letter. Cutting through the wind he heard Santa say, "Yes, yes, of course I will."

"Merry Christmas."

"May you be blessed Merry Christmas."

"Merry Christ..." ■



The current trend of capitalising on the evergreen popularity of old Bengali compositions by various record companies continues unabated And now it is the turn of Inreco which has come out with compilations of Bengali songs of different genres, each one as a double-album, rendered by established and popular artistes

The albums range from folk, devotional, tappa, Nazrulgeeti, Rabindrasangeet and nursery rhymes to recitation and drama Tappa maestro Ramkumar Chatterjee's album (3726-C319) has 23 choicest numbers of Nidhubabu, Lalchand Boral, Amritlal Bose, Sridhar Kathak, Dasarathi Roy and D L Roy To mention a few oft-heard numbers *Aami belphool, Tomare bhalobesechhi, Ki goon korechho* and *Kader kuler bou* His devotional pack (3722-C316) is also a good buy for a collector s album Besides traditional lyrics and music, this pack includes spiritual compositions by Charu Mukherjee Robin Chakraborty, and Jugalkishore—the music for most of them is composed by the artiste himself

There is also another popular album for those with a spiritual bent of mind it is the one by Pannalal Bhattacharya and Hiralal Sarkhel (3722-C315) The spiritual fervour pervades all the 20 numbers, some of which have been made alltime greats by Pannalal Bhattacharya

Another devotional pack which is likely to please the young and old alike is Bengali Kirtan by Radharani Devi (1722-C308) the *Sri Sri Krishna Leela* in two parts is the major attraction of this album

The pack of Amar Pal s folk songs (3723-C312) offers a wide range of the rural sentiments bhatiali sari, bhawaiya devotional, Gazir gaan Hasan Rajar gaan, Mansamangal and traditional Each one has been rendered with utmost feeling by this renowned folk singer

In the more popular category, Inreco has come out with two Rabindrasangeet packs by Debabrata Biswas and a Nazrul one by Dhiren Bose Almost all the perennial favourites of Tagore have found place in Debabrata Biswas two packs Songs of Kazi Nazrul by Dhiren Bose (3724 C309), too, includes the oft-heard and popular numbers like *Mora aar janame Soi bhalo korey, Rum jhum rum jhum, Gul bagichaye Sunyo e buke* and *Je din labo bidaye*

For the young, Inreco has come out with a pack of nursery rhymes by Japamala Ghosh (3726-C313) and another sung by child artiste Antara Choudhury (2726-C317) Both are thoroughly enjoyable, specially Japamala Ghosh's *Oye ajogar, Haradhaner dashti chhele, Jhuti bandha kakatua, Bnoti pore tapur tupur* and *Ikir mikir cham chikir*

Drama and recitation enthusiasts need not be disheartened, they should unhesitatingly go in for the Bengali Drama and Recitation (2725-C318) which includes Bohurupee s presentation of Tagore's play, *Dakghar* The six recitation pieces by Sombhu Mitra are likely to prove irresistible for most

Finally, D L Roy s classic play, *Shahjahan* (2725-0074) in two parts, which has almost all veterans of the Bengali stage, is a pack which will never lose its appeal

Playback, The 50 Melodious Years: The Swinging Years (Vol 4, 1966-76, HMV, STHV 42689-90, superior)

The 1966-76 decade is perhaps the one in which a sea change came about in the tastes of the listening public, and this double cassette set seeks to show that change through 32 hits (why *Roop tera mastana* from 'Aradhana,' 1969, gets a special mention on the cover is of course not explained)

Hits of this decade which are representative beyond question are *O mere sona re sona re* ('Teesri Manzil'), *Beqarar dil tu gaye ja* ('Door Ka Rahi'), *Baharon mera jeevan bhi* ('Aakhri Khat'), *Rahen na rahen hum* ('Mamta'), *Sawan ka mahina* ('Milan'), *Kasme vaade pyar wafa* ('Upkar'), *Balyyan na dharo* ('Dastak'), *Piya tu ab to aaja* ('Caravan'), *Dil dhoondhta hai* ('Mausam'), *Dum maro dum* ('Hare Rama Hare Krishna'), *Bol re papihara* ('Guddi') and *Main shaayar to nahin* ('Bobby'), among others

But what are songs that have no place in such a collection doing here? If Ranu Mukherjee must be represented, must it be a sidey song like *Jab tak yeh raat hai baqi* from 'Bees Sal Pehle'? Was the Rafi number, *Barbaad-e-mohabbat ki dua*, the best they could find of Madan Mohan from 'Lalla Majnu'? Suman Kalyanpur's *Pehla pehla pyar hai* ('Budtameez') is one of the least memorable songs of hers, Shankar-Jaikishan's or Hasrat Jaipuri's So? And this time it is Narayan Mulani who gets "acknowledgement" on the cover

BARTER BANK

• **Harmonium.** I would like to exchange a harmonium in working condition with a Philips tape recorder or anything of corresponding value Contact D.K Bose, 12/B, Chakraberia Lane, Calcutta 20

• **Biology box:** I offer a biology box for *Higher Secondary Chemistry* (paper 2) by Ranjit Das or *History of English Literature* by W.J Long Write to Saikat Sikdar, Block BL-380 Sector 2, PO C K. Market, Salt Lake, Calcutta 91

• **Study material:** I offer IMS and Brilliants' papers for the MBA entrance examination for a portable typewriter or anything of corresponding value Contact Sandip Barman, P-114, Lake Town, Block A, Calcutta 89

• **Cassettes:** I offer cassettes of *Mard* and *Aag Hi Aag* (volume 1 and 2) for a Casio calculator or cassettes of *Kurmo* (volume 1 and 2) Contact Shakir Kamal Ahmed, 297/E, APC Road, Calcutta 9

• **Sun glasses:** I offer a pair of gold framed Mercury sun glasses for a pair of black framed Mercury sun glasses or a cassette of Madonna or Stevie Wonder Contact Michael Joydeep Kar, 228/1, S K Deb Road, Calcutta 48

• **Tape recorder:** I offer a telefunken mono AC/battery operated, medium gain tape recorder in good condition for anything of corresponding value Contact Kaka Mukherjee, 28, Rani Harshamukhi Road, Calcutta 2

• **Books:** I offer Fredrick Forsyth's *The Devil's Alternative*, Larry Collin and Dominque Lapierr's *The Fifth Horseman* and Irving Wallace's *The Seven Minutes* for anything of corresponding value Contact P.K Ghosh, Ghosh Mansions, Nagendranagar, Third Lane, PO Krishnanagar, Dt Nadia, Pin 741101

• **Camera:** I offer a German camera (35 mm) in good condition for old silver coins dating back to 1914 Those interested may write to A.S Bandang, E.A.C., DC office, Kohima, Nagaland

• **Study material:** I offer ICSE test papers from 1976 to 1981 and a geography text book by G.C Leong for a calculator preferably with a video game Contact Kulwant Singh Gill, 5/2, Thackwell Road, Belurmath, Howrah, West Bengal

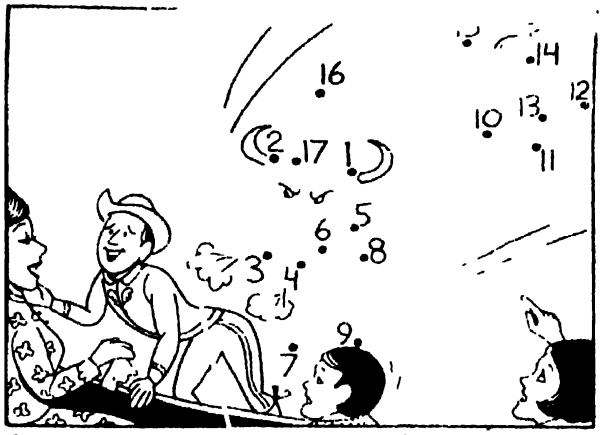
Cassettes and **records:** I offer a wide selection of music (pop, country and rock) for any records or cassettes by Kris Kristofferson or Johnny Cash Write to Shivjeet Kullar, 42, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 71

• **Cycle, cassette** and **comics:** I offer a Jyoti cycle for anything of corresponding value I also offer cassettes of *Osibisa, Scorpions, Michael Jackson* or *Extra Disco '80* and Tinkle comics for other cassettes and comics Write to Rohit Singhania, 19, Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta 19

• **Video game:** I offer a single screen video game, *Mickey Mouse* for any other video game Contact Ajay Kumar Mitruka, P/318 A, CIT Road, Kankurgachi Scheme, 6 M, Calcutta 54.

• **Lens:** I offer a Vivitar wide angled lens for a Aashi Pentax camera or slide projector Contact Thakurdas, c/o India Gift House, Grand Hotel Arcade, Calcutta 13.

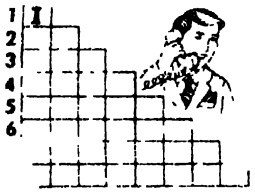
JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



BULL HEADED! Alas, our toreador pal insists on talking to fans. Draw lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc

• **TREE SCAN!** Find a tree among consecutive letters of each sentence 1 I feel messy 2 Lucy pressed ahead 3. We faced an east 4 It's made of iron 5 He ran it into a keg

1 tree 2 (press) 3 (ead) 4 (ron) 5 (ran)



SALES PITCH STEPWORDS

Find words in this sales report to fill the blanks above

"I look for it to be a better quarter. We will tie into new accounts with our diet line, something we haven't tried before.

"Our credit is good. Analysts predict market will improve long before our equipment becomes decrepit."

Beginning with I, one letter is added and letters rearranged to form successive words. How quickly can you find them?

Words are: I tie diet tried credit (credit) decrepit

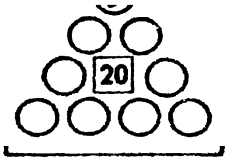
quickly can you place the digits 1 through 9 in the blank circles of the diagram below so that the four circles on each of the triangle's sides total 20?

As you see, number 5 is already in place.

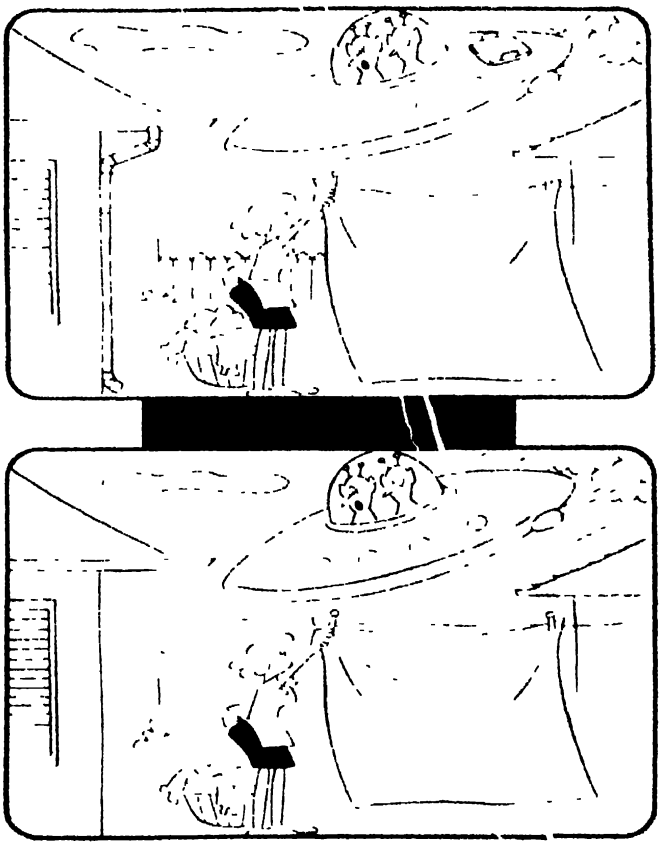
Remember, each of the sides is to total 20

Time limit. 3 minutes

(clockwise from 5 at top: 7 6 2 9 1 8 4 3 will do it)



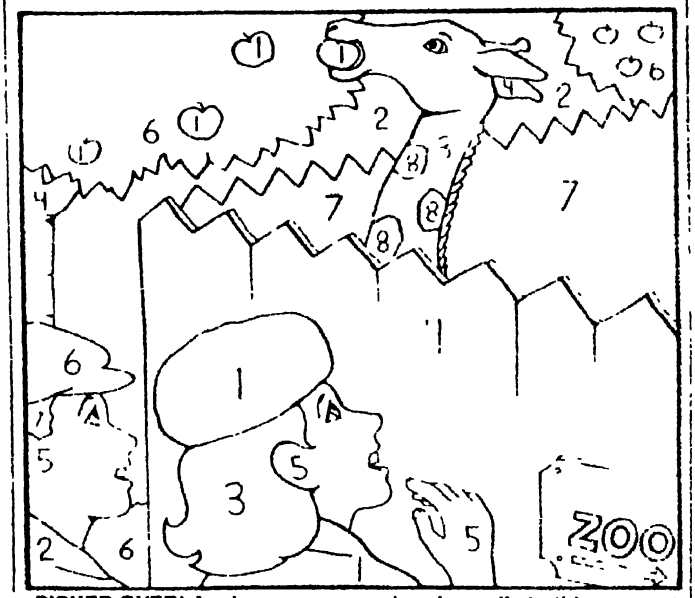
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

(Other differences: 1 Cloud is smaller. 2 Dragonfly is missing. 3 Pile of wash is smaller. 4 Fence is missing. 5 Hatch's missing. 6 Sheet is smaller.)

FUNSPOT



PICKED OVER! Apply crayons or colored pencils to this scene at the zoo. 1—Red 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt. green 7—Dk brown. 8—Orange

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

FALDEROL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram: Rode fall

CALLING THE WRONG SHOTS

La Nuit Bengalie is the latest in the line of foreign films which have run into controversy while shooting in India. **Swapan Kumar Ghosh** exarnines the phenomenon

In the last few years, India has emerged as a prime location for foreign film productions, the most recent being French director, Nicholas Clotz's *La Nuit Bengalie*. While this trend can, in part, be attributed to the revival of British interest in colonial literature, there is no doubting the fact that this influx of foreign film units to the country comes as a wholly unexpected windfall.

Not only does it bring in valuable foreign exchange but it also helps to promote India as a major tourist attraction. Perhaps, the first time that the Indian government was involved in foreign film production was in 1980-81 when Richard Attenborough came to shoot *Gandhi* here.

Since then, the number of independent foreign film units keen to shoot in India has grown. While this "foreign invasion" can be regarded as a tribute to India's growing cinematic talent—which includes proficient crew, enthusiasm and filming equipment, it is unfortunate that the only thing lacking is initiative and innovation on the part of those who matter here.

This unhelpful attitude is all too evident from the media reaction to the foreign units. At least two ventures—Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Arc* (Part 2) and David Lean's *Passage to India*—suffered due to the high-handed and uncooperative attitude of Indian bureaucracy. While Spielberg had to shift his film's location to Sri Lanka, Dame Peggy Ashcroft who acted in *Passage to India*, reacted sharply "Why does the Indian government not go all out to promote it (the film shooting)? Don't they realise what underutilised potential and resources lie here?"

Between 1980 and 1983, as many as 10 feature film and television productions were cleared by the information and broadcasting ministry. But how many of them were finished? Apart from *Gandhi*, the other major projects that were completed during this period were the 14-hour long Granada television serial *Jewel in the Crown*, Merchant Ivory's *Heat and Dust*, Cable television's serial *The Far Pavilions*, the James Bond thriller *Octopussy* and David Lean's *A Passage to India*.

On the other hand, the list of projects that were disturbed either during or after production included the Angle-Indian television serial *Kim* based on Rudyard Kipling's story by the same name, *The Last Vicerov*, a television serial based on the life of Louis Mountbatten, and French film *Gilles at Catherine*.

Among the most oft-heard complaints by foreign film producers is the rigmarole and waste of time incurred in tackling Indian red tape. Clearance is required from as many as six different ministries, including those of external affairs and information and broadcasting and an equal number from the state governments concerned

What adds to the general confusion—and delay—is the fact that no specific guidelines for foreign units are available. Save broad outlines that ensure that prospective film scripts do not tarnish the Indian image, bureaucrats have no other framework.

As a result of this ambiguity several foreign film crews have faced a trying time in India. While Ismail Merchant, producer of *The Deceivers*, was faced with an arrest warrant in connection with a case filed by Sunayna Mishra under Section 292,292(A), 268,500 and 34 of the IPC for "polluting the minds of the viewers," Nicholas Clotz has been charged with ridiculing Maitrayee Devi's image in *La Nuit Bengalie*

Ismail Merchant, it was alleged, had captured on film the recent incident of sati in Deorala and had used "desecratery" words while referring to goddess Kali. On his part, Merchant justified his film saying that "if the story is really anti-religious, how come the book was not banned when it was first published? Moreover, the information and broadcasting ministry had approved our script"

Clotz's film is also based on a novel, that written by Rumanian novelist, Marcea Eliade. The author had come to India in his youth and had fallen in love with Maitrayee Devi He returned to Rumania eventually and Maitrayee Devi, went on to make a name for herself as a litterateur. It is in essence, a story of unfulfilled love set amidst the traditional and conservative society of Bengal.

Maitrayee Devi, on her part, wrote the novel, *Na Hanyate* in 1974 where she give a completely different version of the event. People close to her claim that Clotz is trying to ridicule the Bengali novelist.

Nicholas Clotz who came to Calcutta with his cast that included John Hurt, Elizabeth Perceval and Anne Brochet discussed the controversy surrounding his film and clarified that "my film is based entirely on a book written by Eliade. I do not know whether his book is based on real-life characters or

Saeed Jaffrey with Ismail Merchant on the sets of *The Deceivers*





Pierre Loup Rajat, Elizabeth Perceval and Anne Brochet ▲

John Hurt and Anne Brochet ▼



Chitrali Singh



Chitrali Singh

Elizabeth Perceval

fiction but all I did was only to [illegible] my film on it. Personally I don't th[illegible] it is linked to any real life charac[illegible] Moreover this novel is not banne[illegible] India. This controversy has arise[illegible] because I have already taken permi[illegible] from the ministry of information.

He clarified that his intention "definitely not to ridicule the tra[illegible]tional Bengali culture. He [illegible]ed that before him only one other Fren[illegible] film director, Jean Renoir, came Calcutta to shoot a film. "Then Satyaji Ray was just starting out. Today R[illegible] has become a legend in his own w[illegible] and I am a student. I am proud direct a film in this vibrant and [illegible] city," he concluded ■

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Novosti



The Soviet Union has come a-visiting, and has overwhelmed its hosts with colour and artistry. **Soma Guha** describes the memorable spectacle

Every night every day
I will come to you and say
Time for peace no time for war
That is what we should be asking for

The electric voice of Valery Leontiaev resounded through the cool evening air with an appeal that was rich in its passion. All around the response was instantaneous: swaying, clapping, the gathered humanity vibrated with emotion. It was a message close to heart felt as deeply by the audience as by the hartmager from a faraway land. Under the purple skies lit up by the radiance of a thousand flowers witnessing the whirl of stars, swirling on the stage with liquid grace against a canvas of changing surprises, a section of India discovered the hidden self of the Soviet Union.

This has been happening in Delhi and Bombay. And has now happened in Calcutta. On January 2 at the Yuba Bharati Kurangan the cultural emissaries of USSR extended their hands in warmth and friendship to the people of eastern India. No doubt a fortuitous beginning to the year. A further strengthening of the vow of amity taken by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during the former's visit to India in 1986.

The two-year long dating of the nations had commenced in April 1987 when youth and artistes from our country had mesmerised Moscow with exuberance and talent. That the Soviet had reciprocated in the best was evident right from the [illegible] at the effervescent [illegible] mony in New Delhi on December last year.

The course had not been [illegible] free. The severe drought in [illegible] parts of India had posed a grave [illegible] to the holding of the festivals. Expenditure had to be curtailed [illegible] of frills. The stone-eyed [illegible] through the Soviet Embassy [illegible] nominal red tape did create [illegible] hue much richer than had [illegible] easy task. The Soviet minister of culture Mr Zakharov had referred to this when he said that even [illegible] did not carry weight while trying to organise some of the finest artistes to be exhibited in India. Yet India was not to be deprived of [illegible] Soviet magic. The cry of 'mir' [illegible] ba (peace and friendship) rent the air at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium as it gradually filled up with Delhiites at first lukewarm in spirit expecting little from a country buried under the facade of ice and iron tanks, later battling frenetically for the tickets.

A scene from the Bolshoi Theatre's performance of Adam's ballet, *Giselle* and (facing page) Tamara Sidorova, a member of Vladimir Nazarov's folk group.

Novosti



which seemed to have disappeared all of a sudden

Bombay had bungled too Russi Karanjia, editor of *Blitz* and president of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society, left the inaugural ceremony after five minutes, disgusted with the poor seating arrangements at the Brabourne Stadium Tickets had been oversold and there were instances of gate-crashing Members of Arsenal a popular jazz rock group of USSR had to cope with unforeseen hassles due to a generator breakdown Still, people gathered under a steady drizzle wet and enchanted listening to Alexie Kozlov's "fusion of jazz, rock, folk, classical and funky music" at the

Raphael's *Holy Family* ▶

taev' after all the Russians have been saying 'our Raj Kapoor' for the last 20 years!"

A student from Christ College, Bangalore, said "I waited in the rain for 40 minutes for Leontaev to appear He is great The only jarring note was struck when Leontaev announced at the end that he wears Intershoppe clothes." Of course, there have occurred a number of amusing incidents Like the one related by G S Chenney, the general manager of Bangalore's Hotel Ashok "There was this Soviet gentleman who spotted my turban and came up to hug me, in front of 500 people as if I was his long lost brother, saying 'You sardar, me sardar' It

MASTERS LEAVE THEIR HERMITAGE

It is after exactly 225 years that Raphael's *Holy Family* has been sent out of the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad And it is Delhi Museum's proud privilege to play host to it for two months till January 22.

Accompanying the *Holy Family*



Jagdish Yadav



Jagdish Yadav

▲ Domenchino's *Magdalene being taken to Heaven*

are 69 other paintings of priceless worth, 40 drawings and 38 sculptures from the 15th to 19th centuries by 143 Italian, Dutch, French, German and English masters Like the *Holy Family* , most of the masterpieces have never before been sent out of the Hermitage. The treasures has been lent to India by the Soviet Union as a very special gesture of friendship.

Officials from the Hermitage Museum who accompanied the collection, said it was beyond the power of their highest official to grant permission for these works to be lent to any country. The Soviet minister for culture, Mr V G. Zakharov, added that "the decision was taken at the highest level as it was beyond even my powers to sanction them."

The importance of this art event in India can be gauged from the fact that countries like Spain, Holland, France and Italy, which also possess some masterpieces by the same artists, have never allowed their treasures to go out of the country. To appreciate the world-famous art

Rang Bhavan

There have been ups and downs all the way While the folklore performance at the Durbar Hall Maidan in Cochin had to be cut short due to rain, a 10,000-strong audience in Sonepat gave an unprecedented reception to Sergeev's State Brass Orchestra of the Russian Federation When a raging firecancelled the inaugural function at Jaipur, Bangalore was going crazy over the pop phenomena from USSR A Soviet official, F A Tabiev "I appreciate the Indian audience talking about 'our Pugacheva' and 'our Leon-

seems he came from a state where people joked a lot." The guests were pleasantly surprised at the Russian Food Festival being held in the hotel. "Mr Kadeerov, the chairman of Uzbekistan council of ministers came to inaugurate the event," said Mr Chenney. "He had thought that it was going to be a 'hotch potch' mixture and not authentic Russian food. But as soon as he ate some Mr Kadeerov came up to me and kissed my face."

And now they are here. Over a thousand men and women representing the awe-inspiring traditions of Soviet Union, right in the heart of Calcutta. The city never to be out shone in confusion went through a quota of fracas even before the first of the Soviet performers had set up on the Calcutta bound plane. There was a storm over the ticket distribution process. The state information and cultural affairs department rose in revolt against the autocratic dome-roof of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (a wing of the Union government's department of culture). A debate took place regarding the high price of the tickets (perhaps the cultural extravaganza was not meant for the *hoi polloi*.) Ministers spent busy hours in heated discussions.

Hectic preparations meanwhile were underway. All four and five star hotels in the city were booked for the guests much in advance. Yuba Bharati Krirangan was fitted with a three tier stage which would have the strength to support 900 performers simultaneously. Special lamps costing Rs 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs each, arrived from the USSR and even the US. Arranging the elaborate dinner to be hosted by chief minister Jyoti Basu was itself a Herculean task. It came to be a gala occasion with over 1,500 invitees. The menu was Soviet — one of the courses is sturgeon. Even the dinner plates were

The Hermitage Museum of Leningrad has sent out its collection of rare paintings for the first time. **Seema Paul** visits the exhibition in New Delhi

works, people have had to travel to these countries.

Some of the masterpieces on view at the Delhi museum art gallery are Rembrandt's *The Sacrifice of Abraham*, Francois Boucher's *Triumph of Venus*, Joshua Reynolds' *Cupid Untying the Girdle of Venus*, Domenchino's *Magdalene Being Taken to Heaven* and Titian's *Danae*.

Other painters who are represented include Italians Allori, Bassano, Dolci, Bomi, Rosa and Reni, French masters Voet, Watteau, Gellee and Lancret, Dutch artists Bot, Hals, Heda, Heem and Steer, German painters Cranach, Euger, Kauffmann and Mengs, and Englishmen Moreland, Ribera, Zurbaran and Murillo.

The exact worth of their paintings has probably never been estimated because the USSR would never put these on sale, but an idea of their priceless value can be obtained from the fact that Vincent Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* which he painted shortly before committing suicide, was sold for $39.9 million at Christie's in London. A work of Nicolas Poussin, who is also represented at the exhibition, fetched $15 million in a British transaction last year.

Undoubtedly, Rapheal's *Holy Family* whose authorship was once a subject of fierce debate, occupies pride of place amongst the masterpaintings at the exhibition. Lucas Cranach's *The Madonna Under the Apple Tree* is also one of the greatest works of art. The former depicts Mary and Joseph with Christ as a child in his mother's arms. The latter has child Christ in his mother's arms with anapple in one hand (representing the original sin of mankind) and a piece of bread in the other (representing Eucharist which will remove all sins).

The influence of Greek mythology on European art is evident in many works. Perhaps the best known piece in this section is Titian's *Danae*, which represents his early nude.

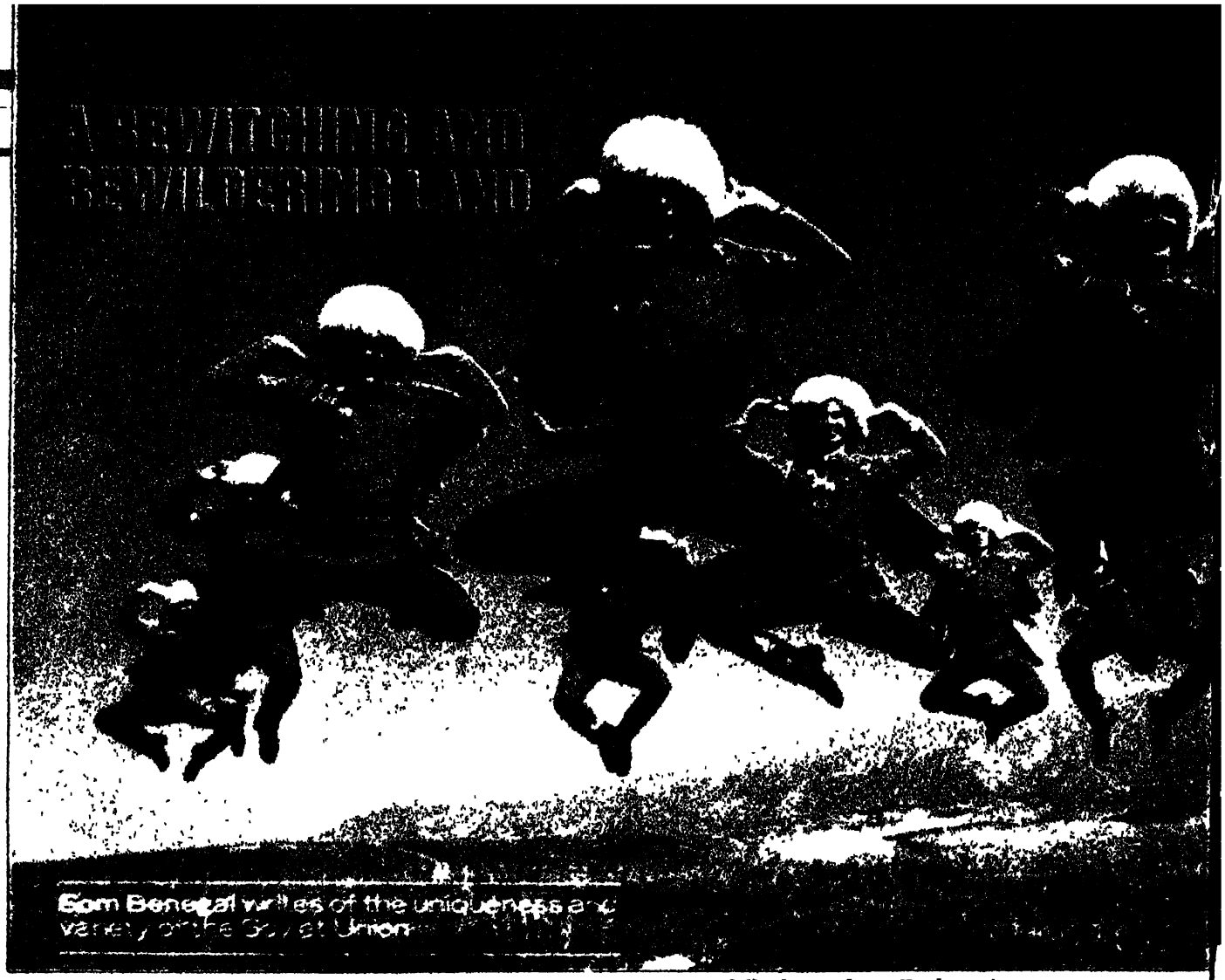
Amongst the sculptures on display are the works of Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Canova, Antonio, Cellini and Desiderio, but pride of place undoubtedly belongs to Rodin's *Cupid and Psyche* which is done in pure white marble.

Security has been tightened ever since the treasure arrived at the museum.



Jagdish Yadav

Titian's *Danae*



A folk dance from Turkmenia

"In Soviet Russia—at last! Whichever way I look, I am filled with wonder. It is unlike any other country."
—Rabindranath Tagore, 1930

Perhaps the Bard of Bengal's exact words may not be echoed by the hundreds and thousands who visit the Soviet Union every year but surely they share Tagore's poetic sentiments! Otherwise, how can one explain that during the period 1976-80, 25 million foreign citizens visited the Soviet Union? It works out to an average of 50 lakh tourists a year demolishing myths about the "iron-curtain" and "closed society."

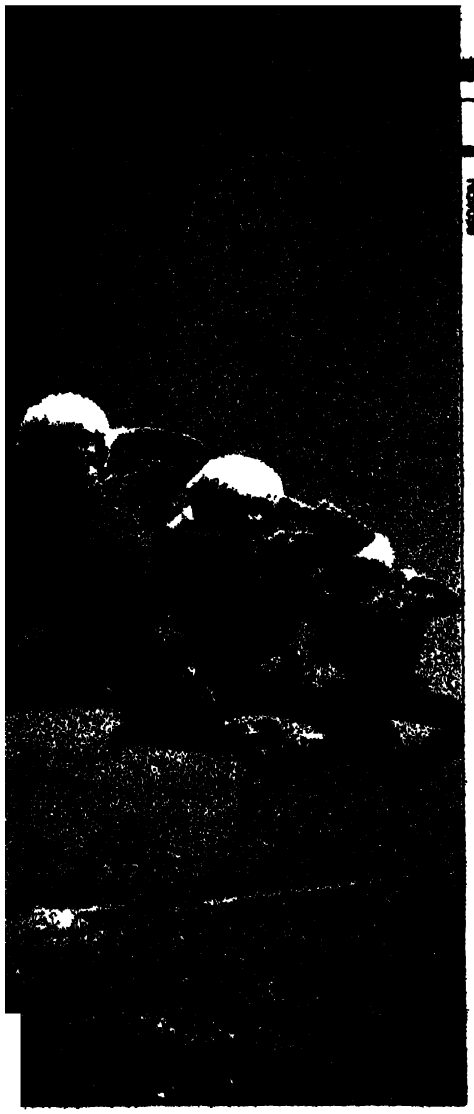
What is it in the USSR that attracts so many tourists from all over the world? What is its mystique? What are its charms that lure travellers the year round?

One answer is the rich variety in physical, geographical, topographical and climatic aspects of the Soviet Union. The country is a huge land mass comprising one-sixth of the earth, stretching from northwest Europe through central Asia to north-east Asia. When the Muscovites are settling down for lunch, people in Riga in Latvia are having their mid-morning coffee, while in Tashkent in Uzbekistan it is tea-time and in Nakhodka in the far east, dinner is on the table!

For a cosmonaut swooshing in his Salyut space station, the Russian landscape would be a fabulous mosaic of fertile valleys and arid deserts, taiga forests and vast steppes, green meadows and snow-bound mountain ranges, crisscrossed by a network of rivers and dotted by lakes. The Soviet Union is the home of Mount Elbruz, the highest peak in Europe (5,636 metres) and Lake Baikal, the world's deepest lake (1,620 metres). Permafrost snow-bound areas alternate with deserts that have man-made rivers and lakes. So much so, it is said that when it is snowing at Murmansk (within the Arctic circle), roses are blooming in Batumi (on the Black Sea coast).

Travellers who visit the Soviet Union, from one end to the other, are provided with kaleidoscopic sights of her people. Her 269 million friendly population is spread over 15 republics, each unique with its own language and literature, art and architecture, each with its own history and tradition, sustained by customs, habits, food delicacies and dress.

The Soviet Union is a country of the past, a continuously emerging present, and an utterly socialist future. Moscow's Kremlin, Pokrovsky Cathedral and Novodevichy Convent vie with Shir-Dor Madrasah and Shah-i-Zindeh Mausoleum, as well as Gur-Emir Mausoleum in Samarkhand, where lies buried Timur, also known as



Tamerlane. Even as much as the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, the Tretyakov Art Gallery in Moscow, and other museums chronicle the evolution of European culture, the Matenadaran is a museum of museums in Armenia with a fabulous collection of manuscripts—with a Gospel in an ivory binding, a calendar the size of a matchbox and works of philosophers and astronomers

What is most amazing is that in the Soviet Union, an average of 17 towns emerge every year and one out of every two is in Siberia. The towns are named after the country's great leaders, poets, composers, and other luminaries. Thus there are Pushkin (poet), Pavlovsk (scientist), Frunze (military leader), Ilya Repino (painter) and even Tolliatti (Italian communist leader). More than that, they preserve the homes and estates of Pushkin, Tolstoy, Tschaikovsky the composer and, of course, of Lenin. In Leningrad, the cradle of Bolshevism, there are 270 places associated with the life and work of Lenin and in Siberia they have preserved the place where he lived when he was exiled by the Czars.

Tourists, who go from one end of the Soviet Union to another in package tours, have various objectives. Some go for health reasons to the resorts along the Black Sea coast and the spas scattered all over. The mud-bath resort at Pyatigorsk is very well-known. Others go for music and ballet. And in every big city there are philharmonia and opera halls where one can hear Tschaikovsky, Borodin, Khachaturiyan, apart from European composers. And, of course, Moscow has the celebrated Bolshoi. Tourists also go for conferences and film festivals (Moscow and Tashkent). They also visit the country to study modern marvels like dams and hydro-electric stations and industrial enterprises. Some of the largest in the world are in Siberia and Azerbaijan.

Those who exult in sight-seeing can have their fill in the circus in Moscow and other cities, the Dolphunarium in Batumi, the Fireworshipper's Museum in Baku, the subterranean lake at Bakharden in Turkmen; the "City of Seamen, Fishermen and Builders"—Nakhodka on the Pacific coast, the Museum of the History and Development of Cosmonautics at Kislovodk in North Caucasus, the winter polar nights at Murmansk, the winter song festivals in the Baltic states, in which as many as 20,000 people take part at a single place and time, the monuments in honour of the braves who withstood the Nazis all over the country, and the celebrated metro in Moscow. This list can be never-ending. And no one can possibly miss the old Russian cities like Pereslavl-Zalessky, Yaroslavl, Vladimir and Suzdal. Here one is transported into the feudal past of Russia drenched in the tradition and glory of her intensely national art and pride.

The Soviet Union is truly a wondrous land for the tourist and traveller; the bewitching sights and bewildering panorama of history takes one right now into the 21st century.

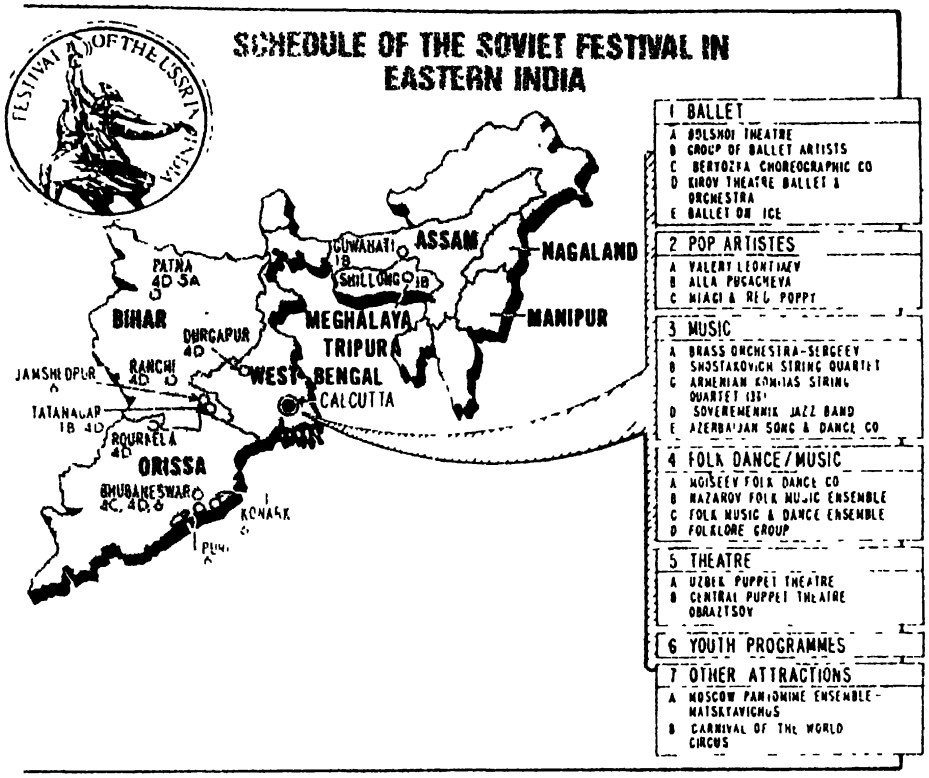
hosted at Raj Bhavan in honour of Khrushchev-Bulganin and Queen Elizabeth were nothing compared to this"

Once the sun set on the second of January, all memory over the chaos and discontent faded away in the golden shimmer of universal joie de vivre. Against the wondrous backdrop of colourful formations depicting Soviet and Indian scenes and motifs of friendship and peace, dancers belonging to the joyful Uzbek, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Tajik and Turkman communities created an utopia of eternal harmony. Singers sensational Valery Leontiaev and Alla Pugacheva, who collected a number of fans during their performances elsewhere in India, cast a spell on the Calcutta crowds as well. Unfortunately, Calcuttans will not be seeing more of them—instead the people of this cultural centre have been blessed with the choices of classic and folk art from the USSR

Serpentine queues have virtually frozen to concrete outside Rabindra Sadan, where the renowned Ballet Group of the Bolshoi Theatre perform—but many have had to return with hands empty and eyes tearful "I was prepared to pay the highest price(Rs 500), even if I had to sell myself," lamented an enthusiast, "but all to no avail" To be in Calcutta and not to see Nina Ananiashvili as the lovelorn *Giselle*, floating as the spirit of woods, seemed to be the greatest tragedy of his life

The performers themselves have fallen in love with everything Indian Otan Asilkojeav, the 25-year-old who plays the part of Jans (the forester) in *Giselle* and the Duke in *Love for Love* (Yuri Grigorovich's brilliant adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*),had gone into raptures about "the beautiful and sensitive eyes of the Indians, the breathtaking Taj Mahal, the colourful skies and the all-pervading warmth, not just of the sun Though the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra will not be accompanying the Bolshoi Ballet in Calcutta, one will still be regaled by gems from western classical music of the Komitas aand Shostakovich quartets

Netaji Indoor Stadium has reverberated with peals of laughter and delightful exclamations as the Carnival of the World holds sway till the end of the month The leaping and flying juggling and clowning circus troupe has given its best to the young and old—an audience that cut across all sections of society. The more musically-inclined thronged the ramparts of



Ilsa Lieba and Alexander Valuev of the Bolshoi in Minkus' *Don Quixote*



Victoria Memorial to listen to the State Brass Orchestra of the Russian Federation under music director Sergeev, while Igor Moiseev of the State Folk Dance Company of the USSR enjoyed an appreciative house at Kala Mandir last week. Moiseev's contribution in the field of choreography is of paramount significance. He has selected dance syles from all over the country and presented them anew by blending the perfection and sophistication of classical ballet with the vibrant realism of folk art. Amidst all the singing and dancing that is going on in the city, Boris Sankin's *Rhythms of the Planet* evokes special interest. Formed in 1977, it is an esentially youthful group where a member is forced to retire at the age of 38.

Calcuttans will savour one of the finest treats that the Soviets have to offer when the Gorky Drama Art Theatre of Leningrad performs here in February. Set up in 1919, under the patronage of Maxim Gorky, Alexander Blok and other luminaries of the era, the theatre symbolises excellence in the Soviet artform. The cityfolk are also eagerly awaiting the puppet troupes from the USSR. Since "Father Puppeteer" Sergei Obratsov founded his Central Puppet Theatre in the 1930s, Russian puppet-wizardry has been creating legends through the 130 professional groups existing in the USSR. No doubt then that Obratsov's Tashkent Puppet Theatre and the Bashkir Puppet Theatre will receive thunderous applause from Calcuttans as they present age-old folk tales from an ancient nation softly probing into human psychology, the essentials of which are universal. Besides puppetry, other well-known groups like the Folklore Ensemble of V. Nazarov, the Moscow Gypsy Theatre Romen, the Azerbaijan Song and Dance Theatre and the noted choreographic ensemble *Beryozka* will be putting up their best in the eastern region.

The interest in the land of mysteries is on the rise as crowds converge at the various exhibitions and live shows—giving an insight into the arts as well as the life of the Soviet people. It is time then to delve into the mellow Russian afternoons listening to the yarns of a long-forgotten era, of drowsy-eyed men wooing prettily plump maidens, with warm sips of vodka.. reaching out to the heart of Russia. Only, there is no need to fly Aeroflot. the USSR has suddenly become our next-door neighbour.

(With reports from Janajit Ray and Saritha Rai)

7 DAYS

SUN 10 MON 11 TUES 12 WED 13 THURS 14 FRI 15 SAT 16

ALL THE INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Dariya-dil:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 235442), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254958), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Malancha (Regent Park).

Directed by K Ravi Shankar and with music by Rajesh Roshan, the cast includes Govinda, Kirran Kumar, Shakti Kapoor, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Gulshan Grover, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Dharti.** Society (Corporation Place, 241002)—4 shows.

A re-release, starring Rajendra Kumar and Waheeda Rehman The film is directed by Sridhar and the music is by Shankar Jaikishan

• **Gangvaa.** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Krishna (T.C Dutta Street, 344262), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108), Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road, 355059)

Rajnikant, Shabana Azmi and Kader Khan are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Raja Sgekar and music by Bappi Lahiri

• **Insaf Ki Pukar.** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147)—4 shows; Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road; 478608), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 3115'22)—3 shows

A film by T Rama Rao, starring Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Bhanupriya, Anita Raaj, Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Anupam Kher The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Jungal Ki Beti** Opera (Lenin Sarani), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)—4 shows, Madhuban (Regent Park)—3 shows

Salma Agha plays the lead in this film, directed by R Thakur and music by Rajesh Roshan

• **Kasam...:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284136)—4 shows, Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 478608), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270)—noon.

Jackie Shroff, Dimple Kapadia and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this Mahesh Bhatt film, whose music is by Rajesh Roshan



Salma Agha in *Jungal Ki Beti*



Prasenjit in *Amar Sangee*

• **Pushpak.** Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—4 shows, Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132) & Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—noon

A silent film by director Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, starring Kamalahasan, Amala Mukherjee, Tinu Anand and Samir Khakhar

• **Sindoor:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—noon

A film, directed by K Ravi, starring Shahshi Kapoor, Jaya Prada, Govinda, Neelam, Kader Khan, Prem Chopra, Shakti Kapoor, with Jeetendra and Rishi Kapoor in special appearances.

BENGALI FILMS

• **Amar Sangee:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2 30, 5 30, 8 15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 7 45, Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—2 30, 5 30, 8 30

Vijayeta Pandit and Prasenjit are the lead pair in this Sujit Guha film which has its music by Bappi Lahiri Others in the cast are Subhendu Chatterjee, Shakuntala Barua, Ruma Guhathakurta, Ishani Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh and Soumitra Banerjee

• **Dolon Champa:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—3, 5 45, 8 30, Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—2 30, 5 15, 8

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Aruna Irani, Prasenjit, Sandhyarani, Dilip Roy, Gita Dey, Bankim Ghosh, Satya Banerjee, Chinmoy Roy and Anup Kumar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Sujit Guha and music by Kanu Bhattacharya

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Kali Banerjee, Ishani Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua, Bhabesh Kundu and Ranjit Mullick comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film The music is by Bappi Lahiri

FOREIGN FILMS

• **Amin, the Rise and Fall (A):** Globe (Lindsay Street, 231769)—12, 3, 5 45, 8 30

• **Big Zapper (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715)—4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)—noon

• **Deadlier than the Male (A):** Minerva (Chowringhee Place, 241052)—4 shows

• **Aliens the New Movie** Lighthouse (Humayun Place, 291299)—4 shows

• **Scream for Help (A).** Elite (S N Banerjee Road, 241383)—4

shows
• **The Satanic Rites of Dracula** New Empire (Humayun Place 291051)—4 shows

THEATRE

• **Dampati** Rangana (153 2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 556846)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm



Sreela Majumder in *Raktakta Adalat*

Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
Directed by Dilip Roy and based on a story by Manoj Mitra who also makes in a special appearance the cast includes Dilip Roy Gita Dey and Basabi Nandy
• **Kaker Basha** Tapan Theatre (37A & 37B Sadananda Road 425471)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
Directed and acted in by Satya Bandopadhyay the cast also includes Shakti Thakur Ratna Ghosal and Tarun Kumar

• **Nesha** Pratap Mancha (opp Rajabazar Tram Depot)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
George Baker K Debraj Tapati Bhattacharya Gita Karmakar Miss Sabari and Miss Chaitali comprise the cast of this play directed by Tarun Kumar Drama Partha Banerjee

• **Phera** Biswaroopa (2A Raja Raj Kissen Street 553626)—Thurs at 6 30 pm Sat Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
Drama direction and music are by Soumitra Chatterjee The cast Soumitra Chatterjee Madhabi Mukherjee Devika Mitra Gautam Chakraborty Srirup Mitra and Premangshu Bose

• **Raktakta Adalat** Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street [illegible] Thurs at 6 30 pm Sat Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
Sreela Majumder Hardhan Banerjee and Kaushik Banerjee are the chief attractions in this play directed by Subhash Bose

• **Syamali** Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road 355598) Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
Directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee the cast includes Kalipada Chakarborty Bankim Ghosh Mrinal Mukherjee Swapan Sengupta Irani Mukherjee Kalyani Mondal and the lead pair Joy Banerjee and Papia Adhikari
• **Swikarokti** Rungmahal (76 1B Bidhan Sarani 551619)—Thurs at 6 30 pm Sat Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
Chinmoy Roy Ajit Banerjee Dhiman Chakraborty Bani Kumar Joy Sengupta and Sanghamitra Banerjee comprise the cast of this play Drama and direction Subhash Basu

SPECIAL EVENTS

10 January 3 30 pm and 6 30 pm
Swar Vandana presents two musical programmes by Sharon Prabhakar
At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani 449086 432197)
14 January 6 30 pm
Dancers Guild presents *Tomari Mukh Kiyan* [illegible] on Tagore's dance drama and playscript *Chandalika* and choreographed by Dr Manjusri Chaki Sircar The [illegible] by Indira Shilp Gosth
At Girish Mancha (Bagbazar)
16 January 5 30 pm
The inaugural function of Sri Purandara Dasa Aradhana Celebrations organised by Raska Ranjana Sabha Sri Madhwa Samaj and Karnataka Association
At Mysore Association Hall (P 194 Raja Basanta Roy Road Calcutta 29)

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU 588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU 588 at 1105
Beijing-Calcutta Belgrade Arr (1) JU 589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU 589 at 0050
Calcutta Bombay Dubai London New York Dep (1) AI 103 at 2330
Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (3) AI 307 at 2005 Dep (3) AI 307 at 2105
Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi Arr (4) AI 325 at 2320 Dep (5) AI 325 at 0030
Delhi-Calcutta Hong Kong Arr (4) AI 324 at 1150 Dep (4) AI 324 at 1250
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (2) AI 316 at 1830 Dep (2) AI 316 at 1930
Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU 537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1955
Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0925
Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1) RA 214 at 1040 Dep (3) RA 214 at 1100 Dep (2 4 7) IC 247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC 247 at 1510 Arr (1 3) RA 213 at 0940 Arr (2 4 7) IC 248 at 1525 Arr (3 6) IC 248 at 1425
Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1215 IC 223 at 1340 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG 694 at 1745 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1115 IC 224 at 1540 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1645
Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC-225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG 697 at 1220 Arr (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555
Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (1 3 6) TG 313 at 1240 Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640 Dep (1 3 6) TG-314 at 1355 Dep (2 4 7) IC-231 at 1050
Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 3 5 6) GQ-102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ 101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1710 and IC—263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210
Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1855
Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225
Calcutta-Kanpur Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC-295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC 296 at 1635
Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4 6) IC 295 at 1640 Arr (2 4 6) IC 296 at 2105
Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC 287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC 288 at 1235
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 541 at 1240
Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2235
Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC 278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 [illegible]) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (3) IC 270 at 2155

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC 229 at 1320 and IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 and IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) ICC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6 7) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (2 4 6 7) IC 202 at 1040
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily)) IC 255 at 0530 Arr (2 4 6 7) IC 256 at 1000 Arr (1 3 5) IC 256 at 1230
Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405
Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC 242 at 1640
Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar. Dep

(1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5) IC 238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3 5) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (1 3 5) IC 202 at 0910

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2 4 6) PF 733 at 1600 Arr (2 4 6) PF 734 at 1855
Calcutta Malda Balurghat Dep (1 3 5) PF 731 at 0555 Arr (1 3 5) PF 732 at 1000
Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (1 3 5) PF 717 at 0600 and PF 717A at 1600 Arr (1 3 5) PF 718 at 0800 and PF 718A at 1755
Calcutta Jamshedpur Patna Dep (2 4 6) PF 725 at 0600 Arr (2 4 6) PF 726 at 1100
Calcutta-Shillong Guwahati-Silchar Dep (daily) PF 701 at 0830 Arr (daily) PF 702 at 1550
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep (1 3 5) PF 727 at 0940 Arr (1 3 5) PF 728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5 7) PF 707 at 0610 Arr (1 3 5 7) PF 708 at 0910
Calcutta-Agartala Kamalpur Kailasahar Dep (2 4 6) PF 729 at 1130 Arr (2 4 6) PF 730 at 1610
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2 4 6) PF 715 at 0555 Arr (2 4 6) PF 716 at 1010
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar Dep (daily) PF 705 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF 706 at 1525
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo Dep (1 3 5) PF 721 at 0800 Arr (1 3 5) PF 722 at 1645
Calcutta Guwahati Dibrugarh Passighat-Along Dep (2 4 6) PF 723 at 0800 Arr (2 4 6) PF 724 at 1715
Calcutta-Guwahati Tezpur Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh Dep (1 4 5 7) PF 735 at 0530 Arr (1 4 5 7) PF 736 at 1545
Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari Dibrugarh Tezu Dep (2 3 6) PF 735 at 0530 Arr (2 3 6) PF 736 at 1650

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19 00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8 30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8 05	6
3	20 15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12 55	4
81	9 15	**Air Cond Express** Tri Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep — Sat up to Amritsar Arri Tues Wed & Sat	17 50	82
103	9 15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi Wkly via Patna Dep — Thurs up to New Delhi Dep Sun up to Amritsar Arr —Mon & Fri	17 50	104
101	16 00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mor Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arr —Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10 55	102
173	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri Wkly Dep —Tues Fri & Sat Arr —Tues Wed & Sat	10 40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arr Thurs & Sun	4 15	948
9	21 10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 30	8
49	13 30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20 50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21 35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5 20	40
19	22 00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16 05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6 00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon Wed Fri Arri —Tues Thurs Sat	20 35	58
59	17 35	**Kamrup Express**	6 30	60
165	12 30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13 35	166
307	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	308
309	17 15	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	310
305	18 20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21 00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4 15	106
171	22 30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon Thurs & Sat	6 00	172
15	9 55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arri —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15 30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7 30	960

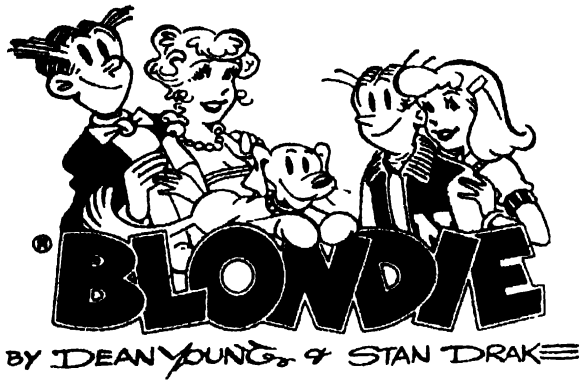
SEALDAH

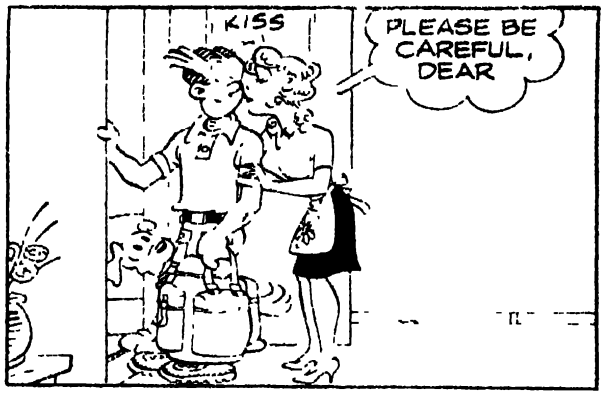
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19 00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	44
53	20 10	**Gaur Express**	6 10	54
51	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16 10	52
33	20 45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 35	34
303	18 15	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

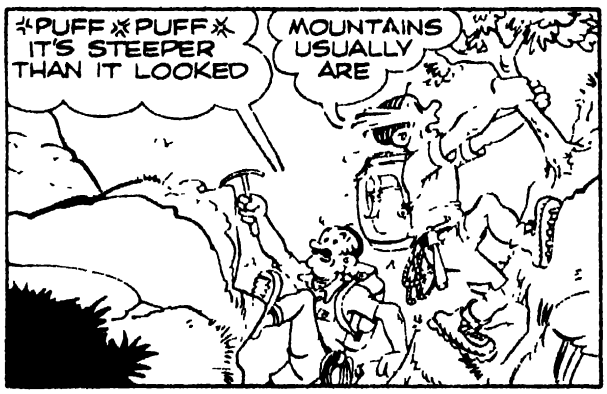
3	20 35	**Madras Mail**	6 00	4
2	20 25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13 50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arri Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sat	14 15	59
134	20 50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed Fri & Sun	4 10	133
30	12 15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15 15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11 15	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express**	4 00	38
13	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	14
11	6 20	**Ispat Express**	21 50	12
5	21 25	**Sambalpur Express**	5 30	6
15	21 15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 30	16
7	22 45	**Puri Express**	5 45	8
9	18 45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8 15	10
45	11 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14 15	46
317	16 40	**Purulia Express**	11 30	318
902	22 35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13 45	—
—	22 35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22 15	940
952	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13 45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.


®BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


KISS
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, DEAR


YOU READY TO CLIMB ?
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE


PUFF PUFF IT'S STEEPER THAN IT LOOKED
MOUNTAINS USUALLY ARE


WE CAN KEEP GOING UP OR GO BACK
I VOTE FOR UP!

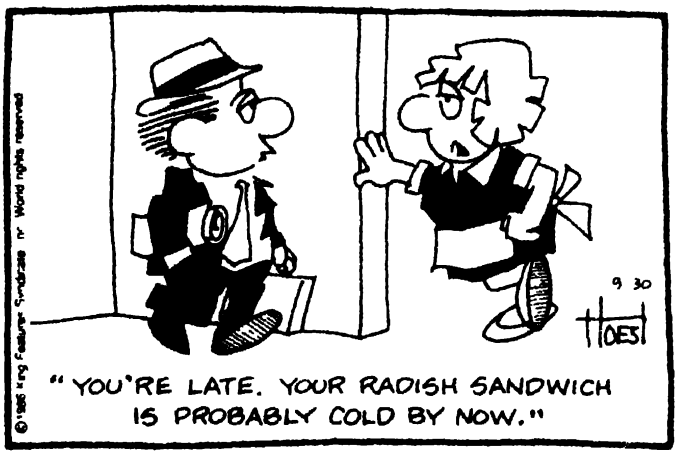

WE'RE GOING WHERE NO MAN HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE
AND MAY NEVER GO AGAIN

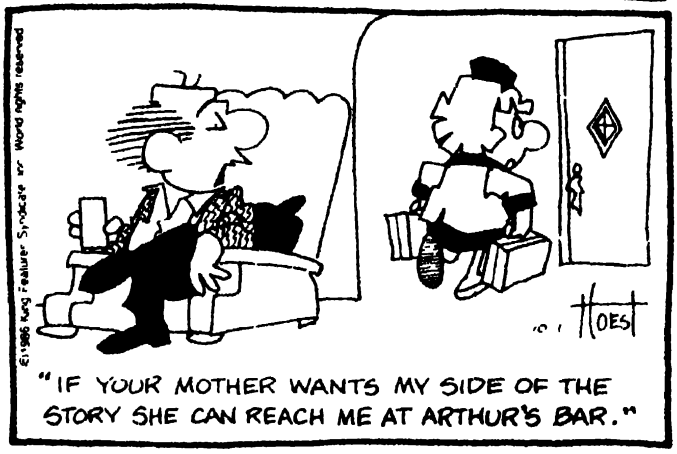

OMIGOSH!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, SON ?
YOUNG & DRAKE 8-23

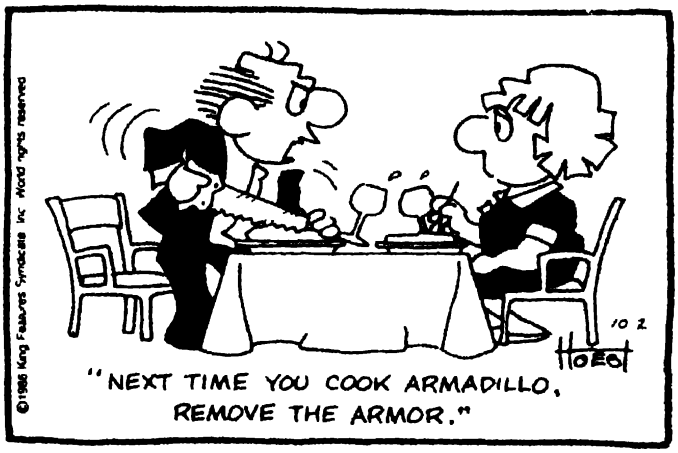

WE ALL DROVE UP HERE AN HOUR AGO
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THE LOCKHORNS



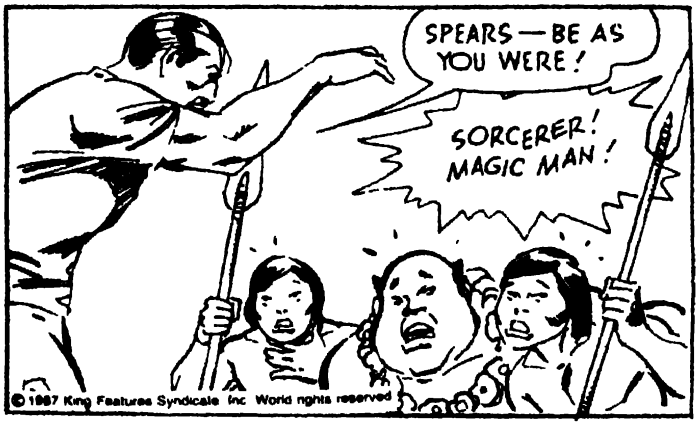




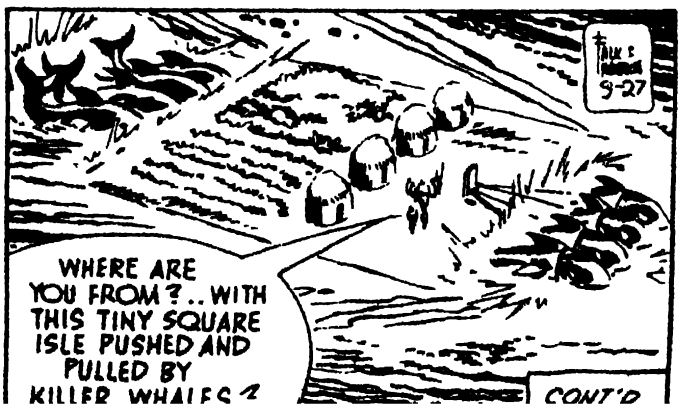


MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

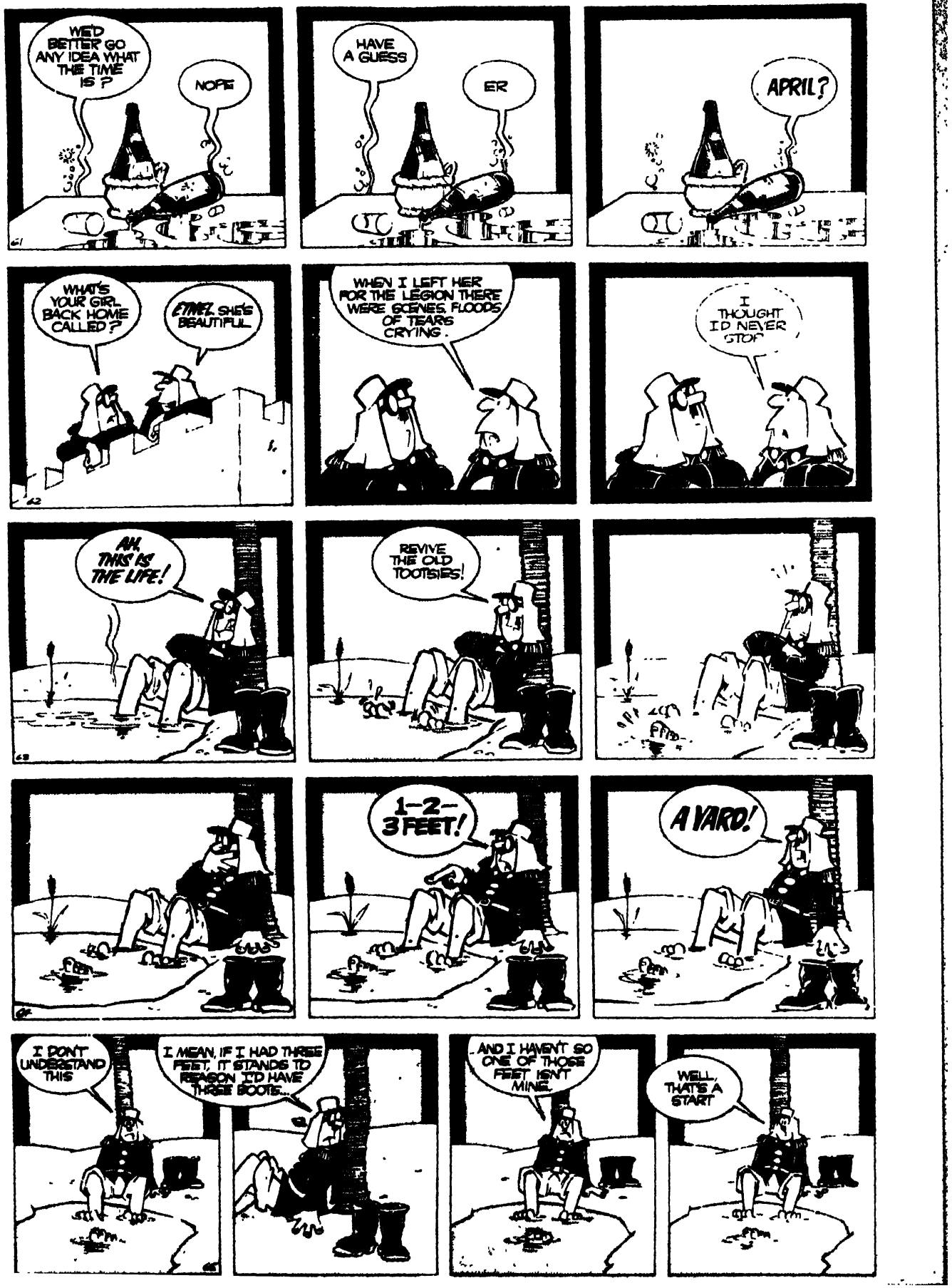


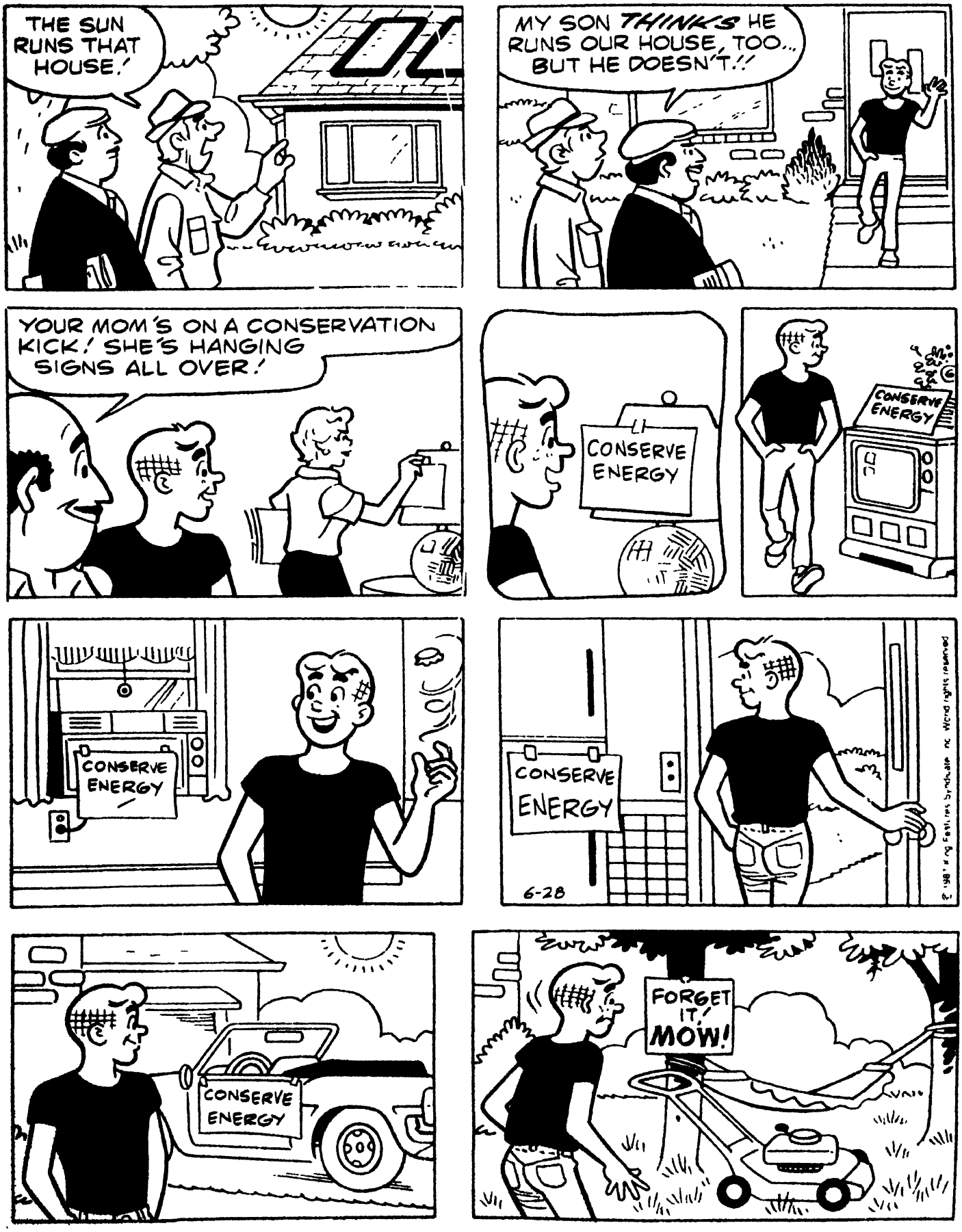


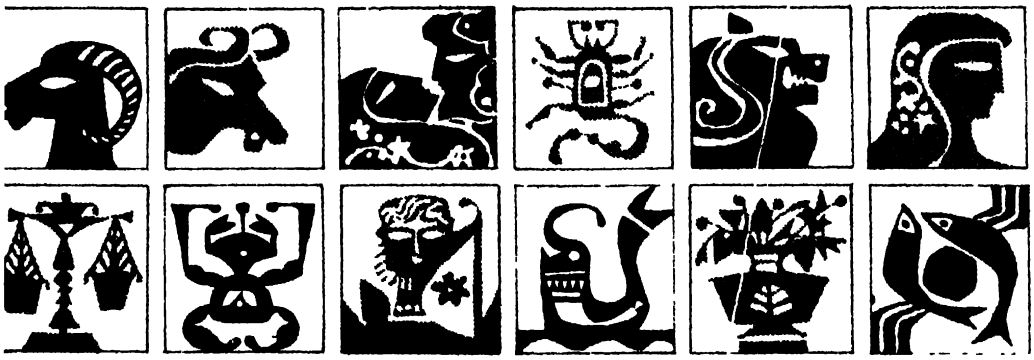




THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP




THE SUN RUNS THAT HOUSE!
MY SON THINKS HE RUNS OUR HOUSE, TOO... BUT HE DOESN'T!!
YOUR MOM'S ON A CONSERVATION KICK! SHE'S HANGING SIGNS ALL OVER!
CONSERVE ENERGY
CONSERVE ENERGY
CONSERVE ENERGY
CONSERVE ENERGY
6-28
CONSERVE ENERGY
FORGET IT, MOW!



ARIES
March 21 April 20

The moon's last quarter indicates ties, partnerships, links, contacts and a strong possibility of marriage for the romantically inclined As Mars ingresses your ninth angle, journeys and ceremonies will rate high on your list This is the time to reach out to people and places Guard health

TAURUS
April 21 - May 20

The focus is now on employment, professional misunderstandings, business transactions and deals Contacts, associations and collaborations are also on the cards Learn to be discreet in your monetary dealings Take care of your health as you are likely to be prone to minor coughs and colds

GEMINI
May 21- June 20

The Mercury sextile Mar conjunction favours romance, buying, selling, shopping, creative pursuits and hobbies Children and grandchildren will demand a great deal of your time Travel and communication will keep you busy Things may start to get out of hand so exercise tact in your dealings

CANCER
June 21 July 20

Venus sextile Saturn helps you to carry out renovation, decoration and refurbishing of your home and office This is the ideal time to select new machinery for your factory Buying and selling could be salient features of the year ahead. Money is likely to come in from unexpected sources

LEO
July 21 August 21

Deeds and documents will now be signed This is the right time to enter into transactions Venus in your eleventh angle ensures success in meetings conferences and interviews This is the time to socialise and entertain in style Learn to give in to your emotions Health may cause concern

VIRGO
August 22 Sept 22

Venus sextile Uranus will help you to finalise business deals and forge long-standing relationships The time is also right to put your point across forcefully at meetings and conferences You may have to put in extra work, but do not let that deter you Do not lose your temper with colleagues

LIBRA
Sept 23 Oct 22

The moon's last quarter in your sign will give you the courage and finesse to tide over all obstacles Romance now blooms The time is right to forge new links Collaborations and business transactions will now be finalised At work, it is likely that you will be saddled with extra responsibilities

SCORPIO
Oct 23--Nov 22

This is the time to travel and renew old contacts Home and property affairs will demand a great deal of your time You may now have to exercise all the tact and caution at your command to tackle your colleagues and subordinates. Money will now come in from unexpected sources.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 Dec 20

Friends will now rally around Mood swings will keep you off balance as moon conjuncts Uranus-Saturn A week of mixed fortunes lies ahead You may now receive information which may have an effect on your future People around may try to sully your reputation so do not take them at face value

CAPRICORN
Dec 21 Jan 19

The moon conjunction Pluto formation will affect your progress at work and at home Traders commission agents, public relation officers, artists, financers lawyers, editors and salesmen will now make it big The weekend may see a sudden rise in expenses Children will demand attention

AQUARIUS
Jan 20 Feb 19

The moon's last quarter will spur you into starting a new enterprise Collaborations, contracts and deals are also in the offing On the personal level too, it is likely that you will meet someone interesting A longstanding wish will come true Money will now come in from unexpected sources Guard health

PISCES
Feb 20 March 20

The accent will now be on joint finances, insurance, loans, funds and collaborations Intimate relationships are foretold Mercury in your seventh angle signifies group activity and entertaining Good news will now reach you. Matters pertaining to children and parents will now take top priority

BIRTHDAYS

January 10
Moon square Saturn sextile Mercury Expenses will mount Journeys are on the cards. You may have to go on a prolonged trip abroad Expansions and promotion are on the cards A lucky year ahead for artists

January 11
Mercury sextile Mars Do not count your chickens before they are hatched The best line of action is to adopt a pragmatic approach You will succeed in all that you do

January 12
Moon's last quarter, Libra A change of direction both at work and in your personal life is foretold There will also be changes at home so learn to adapt to them

January 13
Moon conjunction Pluto Friendship, fun and fraternity are the passwords for the year ahead Money will also pour in Traders artists, entrepreneurs politicians, brokers and students will do well

January 14
Venus sextile Uranus A long standing wish will now come true This is the right time to launch a new venture Romance, money ties and publicity will be the highlights of the year ahead

January 15
Moon conjunction Mars You will travel extensively this year Secrecy and subtlety are called for in all your dealings Publicity, collaborations, import and export are highlighted Shifts and transfers are on the cards.

January 16
Moon trine Jupiter: Lawyers, preachers and teachers will make it big this year There is the possibility of travelling extensively now A shift or transfer cannot be ruled out Rites and ceremonies will demand attention



Photograph: **Samir Sinha**

Subroto Mukherjee

Feroz Khan had put together his previous film *Jaanbaaz* obviously going by the rule that nothing succeeds like excess in Hindi filmmaking. But the box office didn't quite bear out the theory in this case. So, Feroz is now working on the Hindi remake of a current south box office-buster which is supposed to be based on the real-life story of Varadrajan Mudaliar, the south Indian underworld kingpin of Bombay. It seems his earlier-launched *Yudgaar* will be shelved for the time being at least.

Most people came to the conclusion that she had already retired for the pleasure of motherhood. But it was **Zeenat Aman** who made a comeback before it's too late.

The latter not only has she managed to sign a new project called *Mera Saathi* but she has also been paired with newcomer **Shekhar Suman** who is years younger.

The buzz is rife with the rumour that she intends to astound us all by her new avatar. Look. One only hopes that at this rate, she doesn't end up becoming what she is normally referred to as 'Zeenie Baby'.

Feroze: On to bigger things

Filmmakers **Arun** and **Tarun Dutt** are so unlike their father, the late Sunil Dutt. The last time he produced and directed a movie it turned out to be a true *masala* mess called *Bewafa Chamkegi*.

Now the sons claim that they are trying out something very different with *Khule Aam*. But then that's what everyone claims when they set out to make a film. Anyway, the brothers had better prove themselves this time.

No matter how one rates **Muzaffar Ali**, it's obvious that his talents lie elsewhere in pre-selling his product. When asked why he chose Dimple in preference to Meenakshi and Farha to play the title role in his project *Habba Khatoon* based on the life of the legendary Kashmiri poetess, he said, "Because she is a fairly good actress, she is willing to learn Urdu, she has the looks of a Kashmiri and above all because there is a quality of mystique about her which the other leading ladies lack."

And while on Dimple, according to the latest update on the star rat race she is supposed to have edged ahead of Meenakshi to take second place next only to Sridevi who is of course way ahead of the rest. While Meenakshi may certainly qualify as a better dancer, Dimple has managed to beat her with her sheer oomph.

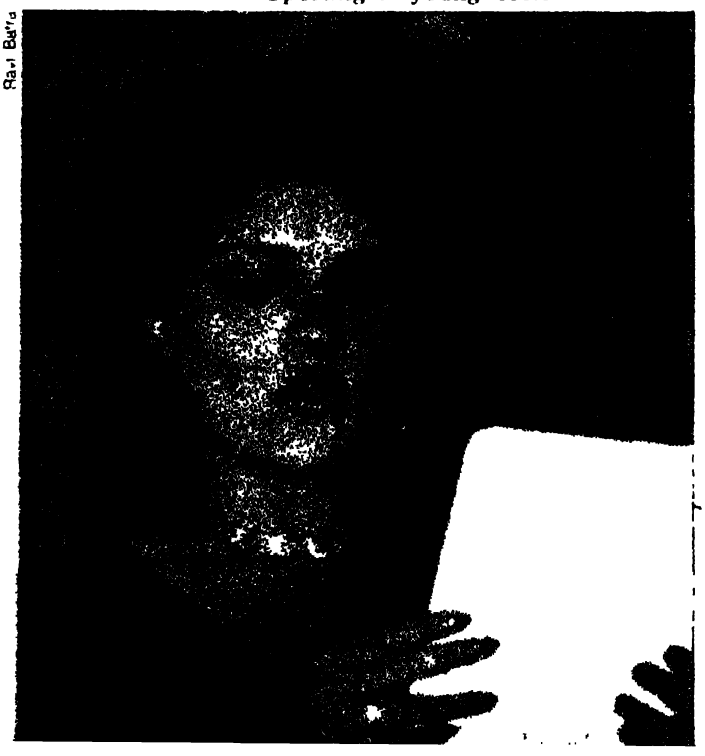
Vinod Khanna seems to be playing a dual role these days. Some say that he is driving his producers up the wall with his tantrums while others just can't stop singing his praises as a hardworking star who is always helpful despite being terribly overworked.

Whatever the truth, Vinod has proved one thing: he is the best thing to have happened to Hindi cinema since Amitabh Bachchan. Boosted by the box-office success of *Insaaf* and *Satyamev Jayate*, he is blazing ahead and in an incredibly short span has even managed to outrace Dharam, Shatru, Jeetu and Mithun, to say nothing of the rest who are trailing way behind by almost all standards.

According to trade sources, Vinod is now working in over 40 films and has hiked his price to an unbelievable Rs 40 lakhs per film. While Amitabh still commands double that price, he has nowhere near as many projects in hand today as the Khanna.

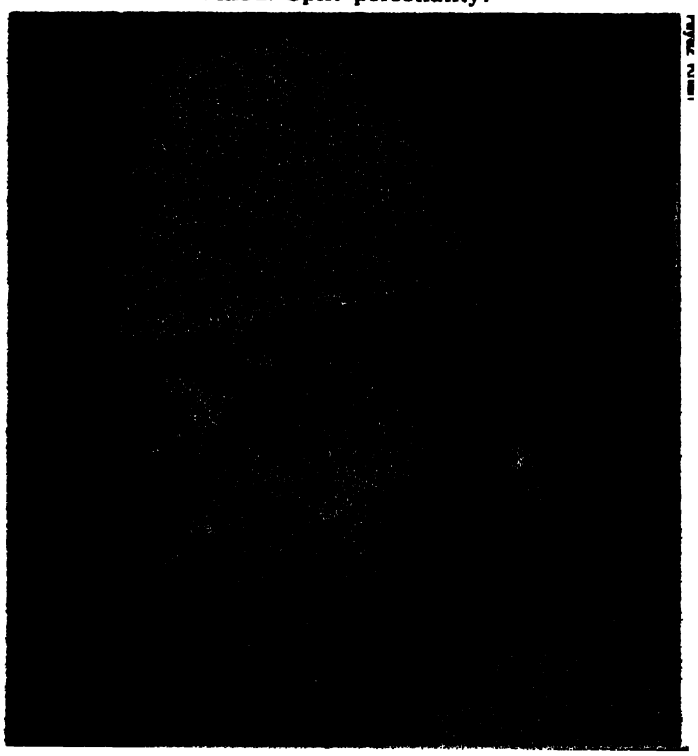
Most industry pundits are divided in their opinion over whether the Khanna will be able to match the Bachchan phenomenon. Mahesh Bhatt for one feels that "tomorrow Vinod may command the same price but I doubt whether he will ever be able to occupy quite the same pride of place. Bachchan will always continue to cast his shadow over tinsel town."

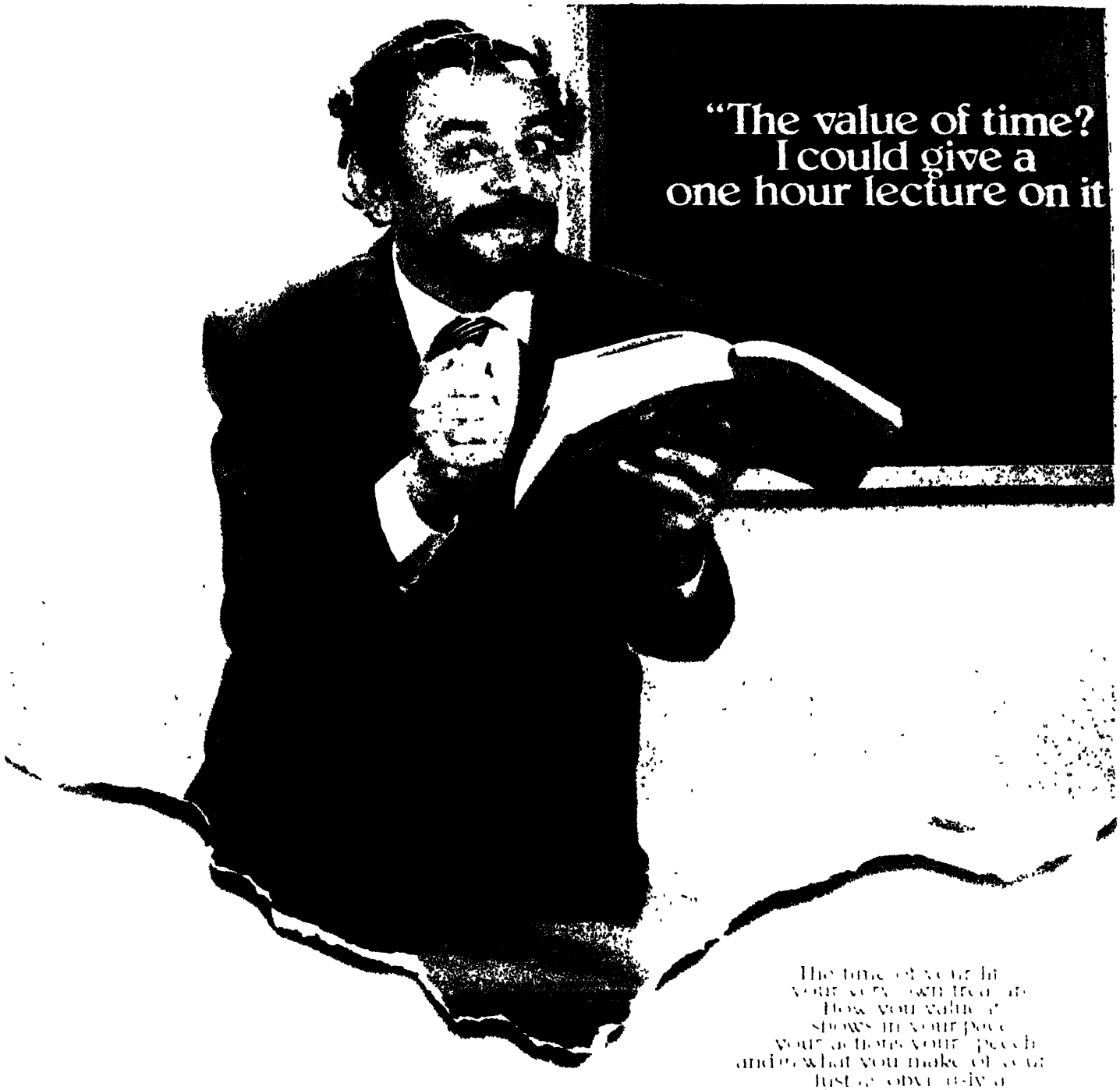
Zeenat: Sporting a 'young' look



Ravi Batra

Vinod: Split personality?

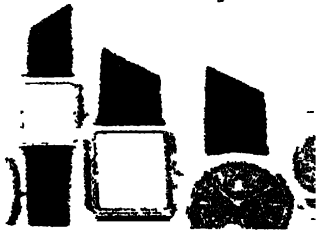




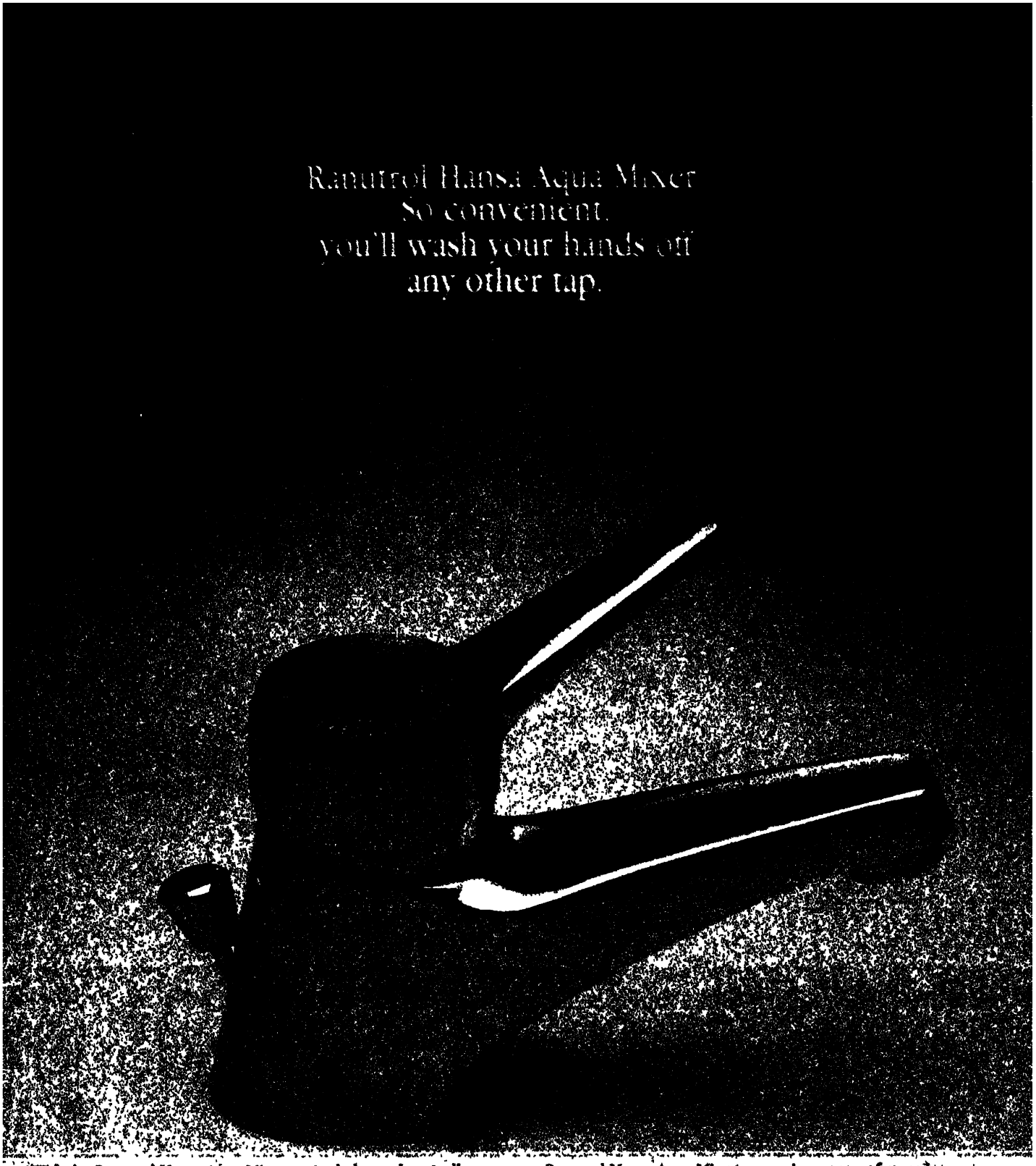
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Adding Drama to Literature

It is true that the plays of Tagore rank much lower in general esteem than his poetry, fiction or music, but it does not necessarily mean that his dramas were substandard ('The Other Tagore,' December 20).

In fact, dramas were an integral part of Tagore's potential contribution to literature. We, the heirs of the Viswakavi, bear the responsibility of making dramas like *Chitrangada*, *Chandalika* and *Dak Ghar* popular.

A.N. Bhattacharya,
Calcutta

Talk Less, Work More

I share the feelings of Monosij Mazumdar ('Drug Wise, Pound Foolish?,' December 13) on the growing trend of just talking about the drugs problem. In fact, it has become a popular current topic and almost everyone is trying to utilise the hot *masala* in their own way: the press, the film-makers, Doordarshan. The situation is being glorified in disguise and the TV serials have been the worst; their sole aim seemed to be to attract people to addiction.

Organisations, institutions and clubs should be aware that this crusade against drug addiction will be worthwhile only if something concrete is done. Discussions in seminars should be brought to fruition and they should do something for the illiterate and poor sections where the situation is critical. I'm sure that will be appreciated more.

Sriniwas Sadani,
Calcutta



Manu Bhandari

The Los Angeles Olympics, 1984

Unfolding Events

Thank you for bringing us glimpses of events that will take place this year ('Highlights of 1988,' December 27). It will help us to look out for those events as they unfold.

I think the Olympics will be a great attraction despite India's recent debacle in sports and some political disturbances.

Sanchita Chowdhury,
Calcutta

6
Cover Story: What does 1988 hold in store for our politicians? A glimpse at the crystal ball

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Rainbow: The British Museum in London has a collection of clocks that compels another look. A photofeature.

13
Focus: The Gandhiji Prem Nivas Leprosy Centre at Titaghar is perhaps the only rehabilitation centre of its kind in the world. A report.



Anil Grover

The Telegraph
17 JANUARY 1988

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Cover:
Bulbul Sharma

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

[illegible]

A vault of air one morning
passed my little window
carrying viruses from the
TB affected beggar at the turn of the
alley,
the smoke of burning tyres
and burnt potatoes
from the slums behind,
the stinking smell from the jammed
hydrant
and from the dead dog beside it,
run down by a Maruti last night

And from some storeys above me
came the aroma of Darjeeling tea,
blooming chrysanthemums,
eau de cologne

I wait every day at my little window
for that morning air
that will carry to me only
a single smell—
of human sweat,
dripping from the heads of the far-
mers at their fields
and from the workers at the mill

That morning I am yet to find
Raja Bose

[illegible]

Her withered breasts
suckle a new born babe,
his hungry eyes look on
while his stomach
creaks and protests
She cooks a meal for six
as unpalatable as her ten stifling
summers on earth,
he walks on unsteadily
after dark, smelling liquor,
a full grown man at fourteen,
lights a 'bidi' before issuing orders,
Isn't he the provider, while
he lies down before suppressing a
smile
which some obscene thoughts
bring to his lips,
he blows in like a violent gale
before dawn from a drinking binge
to accuse his neighbour of
taking his woman, to wake
the others up before pulling force-
fully
his wife to him, the amber flints
still burning in his eyes
He remains lying still, unperturbed,
his 'bidi' smoke meandering away
with
his thoughts; he shrugs,
this ancient man, a few
cardboard houses away, nothing
changes here
while he tries to organise in the order
of progression the dots
on this mottled canvas,
and I?
I think this poem may just
give me the break
Anubha Barthakur

[illegible]

What do you take us for?
Clowns? Buffoons? You want us
to tickle you to laughter
We are serious fellows, you know,
and we take everything seriously.
Note the word 'everything'
We are but weeping philosophers

Eternally preoccupied with
life before birth and
life after death
we are serious to the core

Do not ask us what about
life between birth and death
We have no time for all that
And you don't need an Indian
to answer such a simple question
P. Raja

[illegible]

Dreams and darkness pull their
shutters down, only an embryo of
silence remains, till far away
from the river of voices comes
quietly
floating a wet, timorous moment
Gently
she says, 'You promised to touch
me"
"A chimera,' you muse But the
printed
page slowly states back
Avijit Ghosh

[illegible]

At this moment a cop
may have fallen to the bullets in the
North
at this moment a priest
may have lost his head to a sword in
the South
at this moment a dagger
may have passed through a breast in
the East
at this moment a bomb
may have killed children in the
West

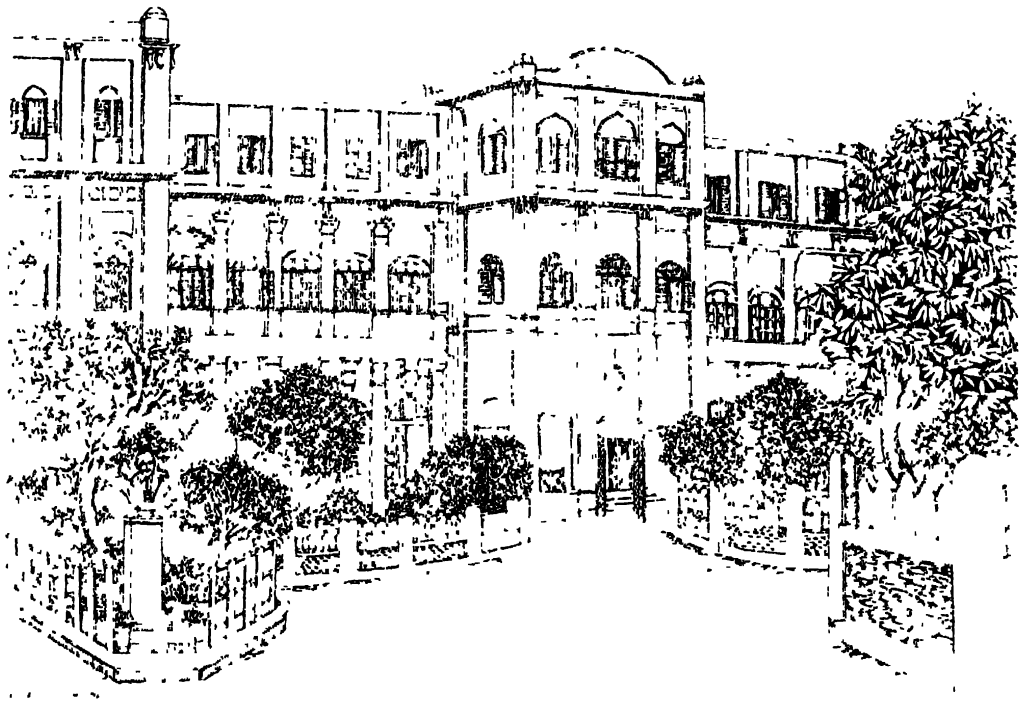
Yet at this moment
I am standing in a queue to see a
horror film
The man next to me
may have murdered his neighbour
the day before,
The ticket collector may have
drove over
a sweet school boy,
But I, unashamedly watched their
faces
and saw the horror film

Yesterday's rain have washed
the colour of red from the street
and now I am stepping over this spot
not ashamed,
but relieved
that the colour is wiped.
Jaydeep Choudhury



HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

R.G. KAR MEDICAL COLLEGE



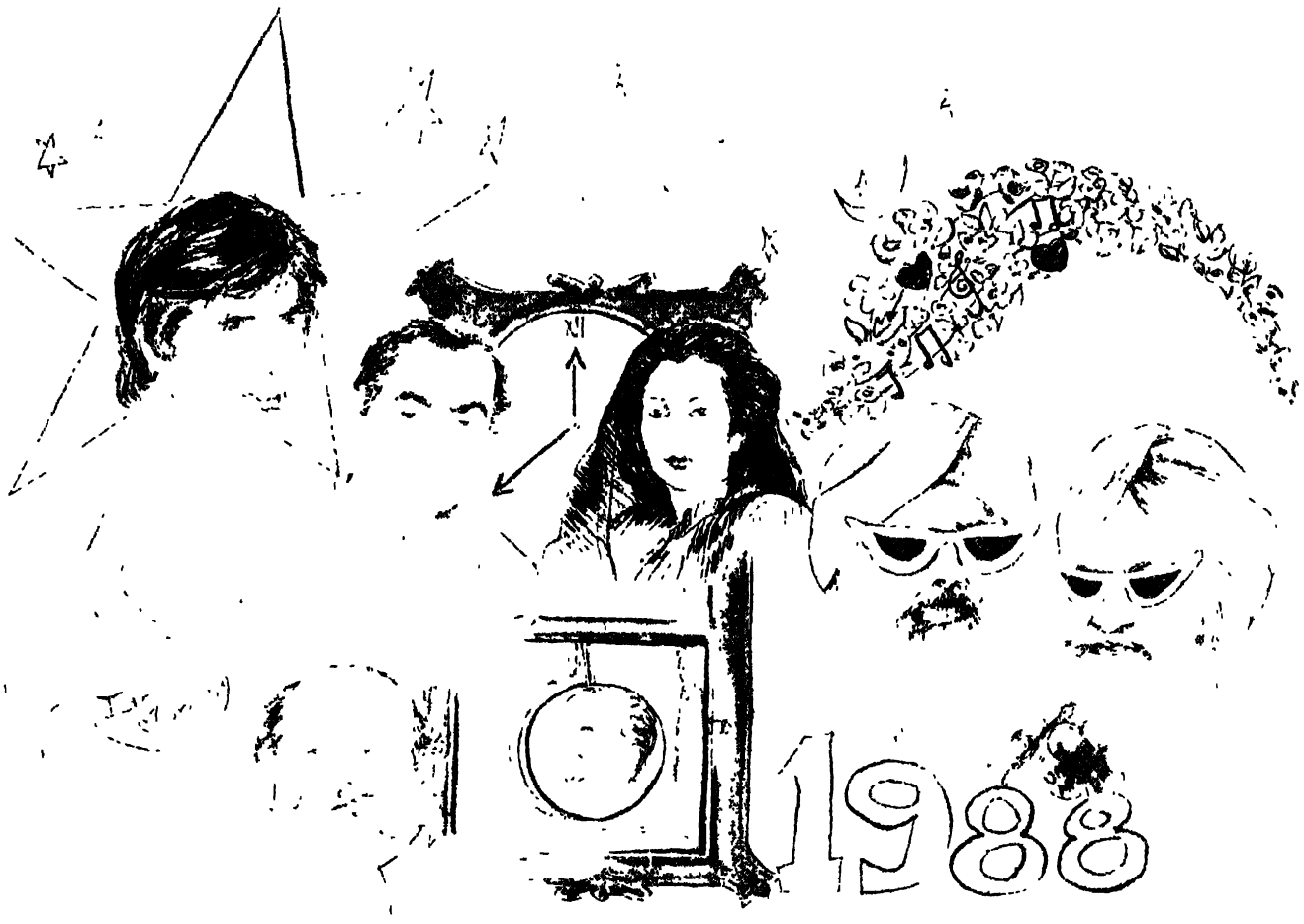
The institution, whose origin can be traced back to 1886, began as the first private medical school under the name of Calcutta School of Medicine. Its curriculum was modified in 1887, according to that prescribed for government medical schools, and consequently its name was changed to Calcutta Medical School.

The school functioned from a rented house for 17 years. The major portion of its present site was bought in 1896 and the school was shifted to its present location (sketched above) at Belgachia, north Calcutta, in 1903. In the same year it was amalgamated with the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Bengal which was founded in 1895. It was affiliated to Calcutta University in April 1916, and the building was formally inaugurated by Lord Carmichael on July 5, 1916.

The affiliation to the final MB standard was granted in July 1917. The college was first named after Lord Carmichael and was subsequently renamed R. G. Kar Medical College on March 4, 1948, in memory of its first secretary, Radha Gobinda Kar, who bequeathed his entire property towards the building of the college.

The college was nationalised on May 12, 1958. Besides its own building, laboratory, library and hostels, the college boasts of multifarious extra-curricular activities. It is also affiliated to the ISc, MBBS, DGO, DOMS, DA and Pre-medical standards of the university.

WHAT THE STARS FORETELL



Acharya Raj, the man who predicted that Morarji Desai would be Prime Minister and the death of Sanjay Gandhi, finds out what 1988 has in store for those who control our destinies

Benazir Bhutto

She will first be the mother of a child and then the mother of her nation. Where her brothers failed, the firebrand Benazir (born on June 21, 1953) will succeed in controlling the destiny of her family and country. The "Bhutto" tradition will give way to a "Benazir" one. She should conceive between April and June —most likely a male child. The year is a good one for her though with less of politics and more of family life. She should take over the reins of government by the end of next year.

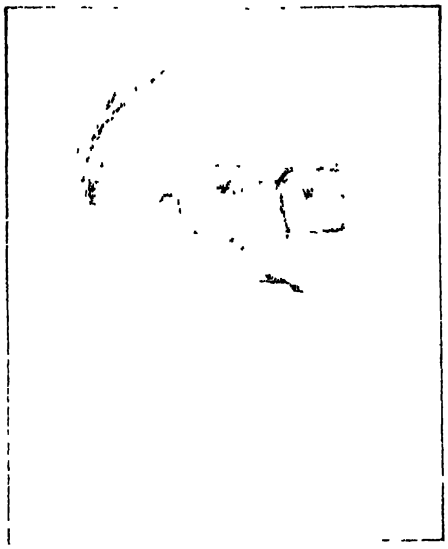
J.R. Jayewardene

This year is dangerous for the grand old man of Sri Lanka. It is very possible that he might not see it through. Born on September 17, 1906, his worst periods will be during April-May and October-November. If he ever felt guilty about involving India so much in the affairs of his country, he is not so anymore. But now he does not have the strength to combat the LTTE, JVP and the fundamentalist Buddhist clergy. Personally, his ambition is waning and he has developed a more sacrificing nature, especially from last September. This is like the last chapter of his life.

Jyoti Basu

Born on July 8, 1914, the veteran Marxist is going through a seven-and-a-half year period of bad luck, the first and last periods of which are poor for health. It will activate other problems, too, but slowly, as the cycle of Saturn picks up. Though the year will be bad health-wise, the chief minister will be able to contain his opponents with his usual elan. The really critical periods are between April 14 and May 15 when the "Gorkhaland" problem

will climax, and between October 16 and November 17 But the chief minister's healthwont affect thegovernment, and the state s financial position will be stable



J.B. Patnaik

He will survive only till the general elections. If he contests then, he will certainly lose, spelling his political death But as such, the worst period for the Orissa chief minister (born January 3, 1927) is over he having already earned whatever bad name he had to Right now he is just living in the shadow of the murky events of his past Mr Patnaik's wife has been the positive factor in his life, his prospects improving after his marriage



and her presence saving him during his worst times

H.M. Ershad

When Gen Ershad holds elections in Bangladesh, his tenure as President will end, and Bangladesh will become the first Muslim country with a woman head of state Born on February 1, 1930, he has all the qualities of a great administrator but the Mars and Venus combination indicates that he will only be defeated by women Aft3r losing power, he will face problems in his personal life too His "other" wife will be the cause of financial loss, once again proving that women will always result in his downfall

Mikhail Gorbachev

Imagine a combination of Marx, Lenin and Lincoln that is the closest one can get to Mikhail Gorbachev He will make the Soviet Un-



ion the foremost global power but without hurting humanity Financially, his people will see better days and he, himself, will take a firmer hold over his country The charismatic Soviet chief will certainly not leave his vivacious wife, Raisa, as some have predicted in the West Born on March 2, 1931, Mr Gorbachev's star is certainly on the ascendant

Zia-ul Haq

There will be no major change in Pakistan during 1988 but when the shrewd general (born on August 12, 1924) does hold elections Pakistan will become the second Muslim country to have a woman head of state The President's dream of getting the nuclear bomb will be realised with help from a Muslim country, perhaps Iran Muslim countries, in fact, will help more than the US which will continue providng aid The general faces no danger to his government for the next 18 months

AMITABH VERSUS V.P. SINGH

Amitabh Bachchan and V P Singh, both born at Allahabad under the same birth star, Swati went through a seven-and-a-half year period of bad luck because of the presence of the moon in Saturn's orbit Though this cleared on December 16 last year, both were affected by it personally and professionally

Amitabh, born on October 11, 1942, almost met his death when he was dealt a near-fatal blow on the sets of *Coolie* but he recovered, amidst hysterical public sympathy. And with that, the star later joined politics. But the greater fame that he acquired was rudely snatched last year, the effects of this patch lasting until December 16. But within the next 30 months he should make up most of the financial losses incurred. Between February 2 and June 19 this year, he will re-establish his somewhat shaky position in the film industry. After June 19, his public image too will improve and he will resume public activities His Saturn cycle and a combination of stars foretell that for the next 10 years, his health and finances will both be comfortable.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh was born in Prayagraj near Allahabad on June 31, 1931 Unlike Amitabh whose moon was in the ninth angle, V.P Singh's moon was in the seventh house, and this adversely affected both his personal life and political aspirations His mother died and power remained so near and yet so far. He will never become the Prime Minister but will go down in history as a kingmaker Changes in Jupiter between this year and the last caused him to raise people's expectations There was immense suspense between July and October but things simply quietened down and remain so today He will do constructive work from February to June After June things will start to hope up for him and he will assume a pivotal role in Opposition politics But he will never be king, only a kingmaker

...AND WHAT THE NUMBERS DO

Priya Ranjan Das Munshi

Calcutta's **Amritlal** uses numerology to discern the prospects of our political leaders

Between December 15 and the end of 1989, the ambitious Union minister is likely to be removed from



the post of West Bengal Congress(I) president and may even have to resign his ministership But the silver lining is that he has a good chance of being given an important organisational assignment in the party at the national level Taking a cue from experience, the 42-year-old leader born November 13, 1945, should take special care in his dealings with colleagues and party workers. Some of his bete noires are wont to slander him, and between February 14 and March 29, he will see significant changes at his place of work Extreme caution is called for in all his dealings from May 13 to July 1

Mikhail Gorbachev

For Time's 1987 Man Of The Year, 1988 has grim portends. The euphoria of glasnost will be short-lived, and he will have to face serious opposition from his party workers He might even have to purge some members after an unsuccessful coup d'etat in the ranks. His foreign policy will remain unchanged though the major bone of contention will remain his stand on nuclear disarmament which will not please the hardliners.

Benazir Bhutto

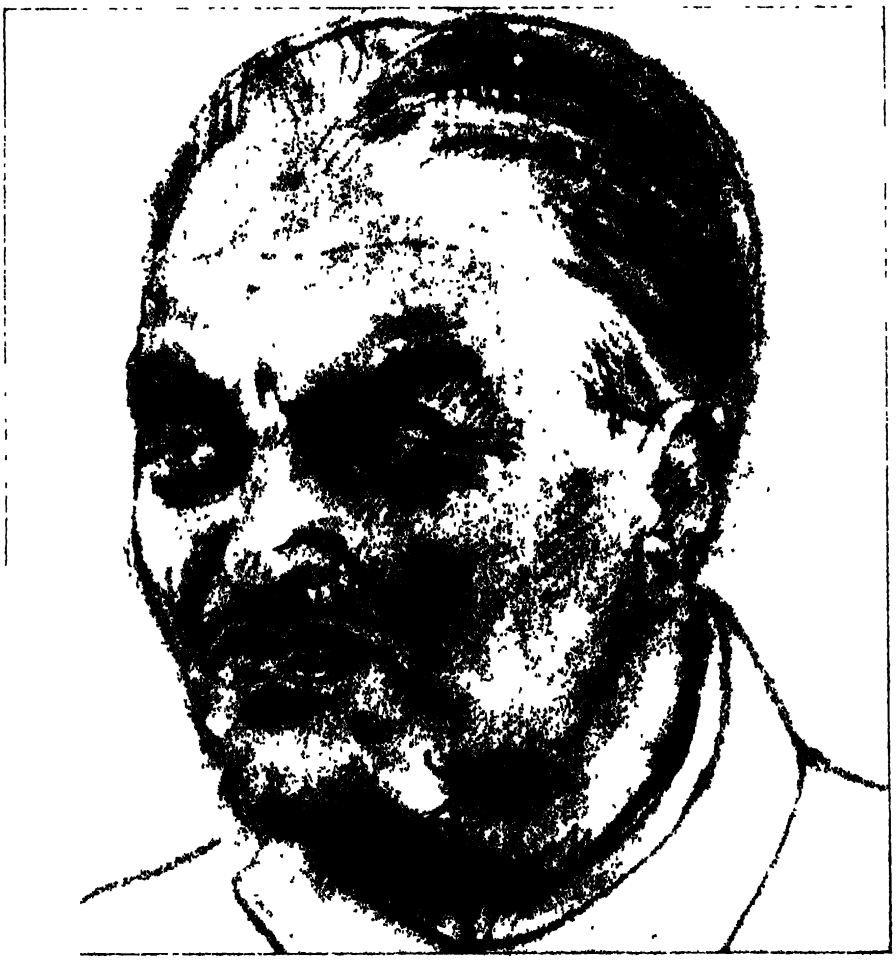
After a grand marriage, the honeymoon will be brief for the charming Pakistani Opposition leader, born on June 21, 1953. Though she will be able to strengthen her party and offer stiff resistance to General Zia, she is likely to be imprisoned many times in the coming months, and her health might fail Some of her public statements are likely be directed against India and her political activities will create disharmony in her personal life

Zia-ul-Haq

The wily Pakistan President, born on August 12, 1924, will face rough weather at home with increasing violence and arson But he will proceed with his nuclear plans, possibly resulting in strained relations with the US. The Soviets will be quick to take advantage, but, as usual, at the end of the storm, the cool-as-cucumber general will emerge unscathed. Even Shia-Sunni skirmishes and escalating tension on the Indian border will not affect his political career.

Amitabh Bachchan

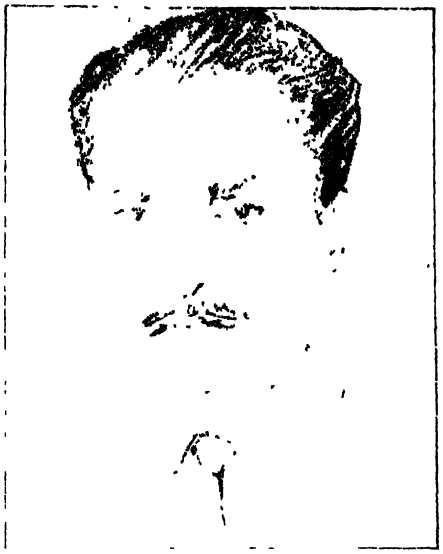
In 1988, happy days will be back again for the supremo of the Hindi screen The Bofors and the Fairfax issues, which cast a shadow on his mass-appealing image, will die down and the October 11, 1942-born star will be flooded with film offers Politically, the Shahenshah of Bollywood is poised to make a comeback from February 1, re-elected as MP and given charge of party organisational matters But his brother, Ajitabh's acti-



vities might continue to be a cause of concern during the year.

H.M. Ershad

A military coup might see the end of the regime of the beleaguered Bangladesh President, born on February 1, 1930 In the next two years, he will be pushed into a tight corner by his political opponents, and violent incidents in Bangladesh will increase.



Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed will continue to give a tough time He will have to forget his first love, poetry, and get down to some astute realpolitik in order to survive

V.P. Singh

For the charismatic Congress rebel, born on June 25, 1931, the year holds out ominous portends. The Raja Saheb might not be able to forge the Jan Morcha into a formidable force There is, however, every chance of other Opposition leaders using his "Mr Clean" image to further their own ends. Raja Saheb should guard against their doublespeak If Raja Saheb retains his characteristic smugness, he might bite the political dust this year. But he is likely to raise some fresh and more serious charges against Mr Rajiv Gandhi which might have far reaching consequences

Zail Singh

After leaving the Rashtrapati Bhavan last year amid a storm of controversy, the years 1988 and 1989 remain rather unfavourable for Mr Singh, born on May 5, 1916. His heart problem is likely to continue to plague him. Possibilities of another heart

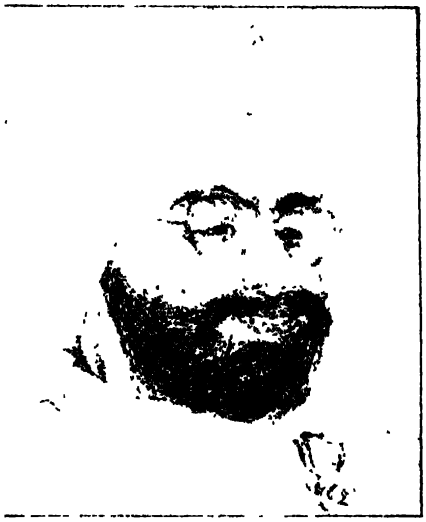
THE FATE OF RAJIV GANDHI



According to Amritlal: For Mr Gandhi, born on August 20, 1944, the next two years are likely to find the Prime Minister on a sticky wicket, and his resignation following a no-confidence motion against him in Parliament cannot be ruled out. Another close confidant or political ally might fallout *a la* Mr V.P. Singh and level serious charges against him and his family. Overcome by these problems, Mr Gandhi might take an impulsive decision that will evoke a public outcry and have serious political implications.

According to Acharya Raj: There will be no midterm polls. Rajiv Gandhi will remain Prime Minister for his entire term. In fact, he can not be removed from power till he is about 47 years old. In the previous year, he lost both financially (despite charges of corruption) and where public opinion is concerned. But this year will be good for him and the country His position started improving from October 15, 1987, and this will continue. Between February and March 6, 1988, he is likely to take a valuable step which will enhance his prestige and also prove effective. During June-July, he will take some good decisions In the next two years he will make the country one of the seven powers of the world, and in the international sphere, his reputation will definitely improve The Bofors and other scandals which have spoilt his image will clear in the next six months. On the whole the two-and-a-half year cycle of Saturn will go well.

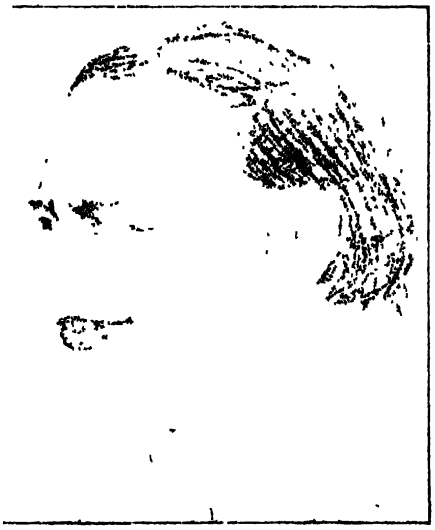
surgery and a serious mishap injuring him seriously cannot be ruled out Like Mr V P Singh, the former Presi-



dent may ferret out some top-secret information which could spark off fresh controversy

Arun Nehru

For the portly and controversial Jan Morcha leader, 1988 and 1989 do not hold out much promise



They indicate that heart ailments and personal problems are likely to keep Mr Nehru (born May 25, 1944) away from big time politics despite his active role in forming the Jan Morcha But he need not lose heart for if he perseveres, he is likely to bounce back into the political reckoning in 1990

Margaret Thatcher

The Iron Lady will continue to face severe criticism from prominent Opposition members on the home front, but might break new ground by initiating a possible accord on Ireland Under Mrs Thatcher, born on October 13, 1925, Britain's role in the Commonwealth will take a new shape but health problems will arise due to work pressure



J.R. Jayewardene

The tough and crusty octogenarian leader cannot afford to rest on the laurels of 1987 The LTTE will step up its activities and an attempt on his life cannot be ruled out For Mr Jayewardene, born on September 17, 1906, the next two years are politically and personally unfavourable, and serious differences with India over major foreign policy matters are on the cards

Jyoti Basu

For the astute and agile septuagenarian chief minister of West Bengal born on July 8, 1914 the year holds out the promise of him playing a pivotal role in bringing together the Opposition parties on a common platform But positions foretell depressing health, and Mr Basu should exercise great caution against high blood pressure and heart ailments

Buddhadev Bhattacharya



For the suave and elegant West Bengal urban development minister born on March 1, 1947, the year will bring increased political power and prestige His clean image will be enhanced and he will be given an important role in steering the CPI(M)'s affairs at the national level He is likely to succeed Mr Jyoti Basu as the chief minister by 1989, but he must take care of his health now

All illustrations by Tania Ghosh

QUIZ Neil O'Brien



"What is the difference between the leader and conductor of an orchestra?" asks S A Admed, Calcutta-16

The chief player in an orchestra is called the leader (in the US, the concert-master) He plays the violin. When the orchestra rehearses his job is to see that everything runs smoothly He helps the conductor and the players to work together to get the sound exactly right Often there are mistakes which have to be rectified in the printed parts and there are other matters that need a leader's skilled advice

When you watch an orchestra play, for example, you may notice that the groups of string players move their bows up or down at the same time A down-stroke produces a slightly stronger sound than an up-stroke During rehearsals, one of the leader's jobs is to decide in consultation with the conductor, which kind of strokes to use Sometimes the leader trains sections of the orchestra in advance, ready for the conductor to take over later

At the concert, the leader comes on stage when the rest of the orchestra is sitting down, and just before the conductor He gets a round of applause of his own He has two jobs in the concert to play his own part, and to lead the players in carrying out the conductor's signals about playing the music

To the audience, conducting can appear very easy All a conductor seems to do is stand in front of the orchestra and wave his hands and arms But to the orchestra these movements are precise signals, indications to remind them how the conductor wants the music played Besides, arm movements, many conductors use facial expressions as well (lifted eyebrows, smiles, frowns, and so on) to guide the players The kind of signals a conductor gives depends on his personality Some make lively, excited movements, others are deliberate and calm The kind of movement does not matter, so long as it gets the results the conductor wants

The conductor's job is to interpret the music and to see to it that it is played just as the composer wanted it

When different conductors conduct the same piece of music, there can be hundreds of small variations in interpretation slightly different speeds, tiny slowings-down or speedings-up, (musicians call this 'letting the music breathe'), alterations of balance (that is, making some parts of the sound louder or softer than others), and of colour (bringing out the sound of particular instruments) Great conductors often become famous for the way they interpret a particular composer's music

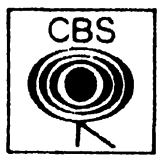
A quiz report from Manjit Saha

"Calcutta Boys' school is a strong force as far as Calcutta school quizzing is concerned and bagged four golds, one silver and one bronze in 1987 But, for the first time, an inter-school quiz was held on the premises of CBS The quiz was divided into two groups group 'A' for classes 7 and 8 and group 'B' for classes 9 and 10

"In group 'A', Julien Day was in the lead from the beginning and ultimately emerged winners They were however, closely followed by CBS and Don Bosco

"In group 'B' tension started mounting from the word go Though, once again, Julien Day took an early lead, Hindi High school and Don Bosco came up strongly The last round saw the uncertainties (which we usually find in one-day cricket) playing their role The final positions were--Hindi High (first), Julien Day (second) and Don Bosco (third)

'The quizmasters were Stephen D Souza Protik Prakash Banerjee and Debabrata Mukherjee '



11th question: **What is common to *The Hummock, The Brown Island* and *The Reef?* (Romit Majumdar, CK, 237, Sector II, Salt Lake City, Calcutta-700 091)**
Ans: **They are all different kinds of patches formed due to hair loss. *The Brown Island* occurs when there is loss of hair in patches on the scalp. These patches may sometimes develop into *The Hummock*, which is complete baldness; while *The Reef* is loss of hair along the hairline.**
(The Hippocratic wreath is a fringe along the back and sides of an otherwise bald head — OB.)

QUESTIONS

1. What was Avashkumar Ganguli's screen name? (Sandeep Dutta Gupta, Calcutta-19)

2. "Books are those faithful mirrors that reflect to our mind the minds of sages and heroes " Who said this? (Subrata Kumar Barik, Calcutta-31)

3. What is six inches taller in summer than in winter? (Subrata Sen, Varanasi-221005)

4. How did the word "penknife" originate? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta-31

5. What is common to the Battle of Plassey, the Sepoy Mutiny and the minting of first coin currency in India? (Dipesh Bhowmik, Howrah-4)

6. Which film began with the following narration "This is a story of the period between twoWorld Wars—an interim during which insanity cut loose, liberty took a nose dive and humanity was kicked around somewhat "? (Supratim Choudhury, Calcutta-72

7. What specifically, distinguishes a slapstick comedy from a screwball comedy? (Soumyadip Chowdhury, Calcutta-29

8. What were Oflags and Stalags (Manish Halder, New Delhi-2)

9. In the film *Kanhaiya* the popular song *Ruk jaa o jaane wali ruk jaa* starred Raj Kapoor To whom was the song addressed? (Sunita Garg, Calcutta-89)

10. In management take over parlance what is the Pac-man Defence (Subhasis Ghosh, Calcutta-45)

ANSWERS

1 Kishore Kumar
2 Edward Gibbon, the English historian
3 The Eiffel Tower
4 In the days when pens were plumes or feathers, they had to be regularly re-pointed The knives used for this purpose were therefore called pen-knives
5 They all took place after a gap of 100 years (Battle of Plassey - 1757 Sepoy Mutiny - 1857, First Token Currency -- 1957
6 Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*
7 Screwball Characterised frantic action and great deal of verbal wit (exemption Frank Capra's *It happened one night)* Slapstick Characterised by acrobatical physical gags and exaggerated pantomime rather than verbal humour (example Chaplin's *City Lights)*
8. German concentration camps. Oflags for officers and Stalags for enlisted men
9. It was not addressed to any person as such, but to a bottle of country liquor, rolling down a hilly incline which Raj Kapoor was trying to catch
10 The target company makes a counter bid for the raider company

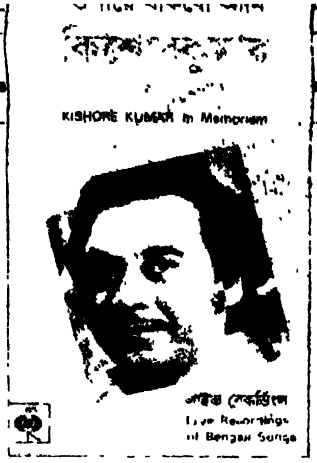
MUSIC

Chitralekha Dutta: Songs of Rabindranath (Soundwing, SWR-107)

Right from the beginning of her career, this young artiste has shown a flair for the not-so-oft heard Tagore compositions And in this SP record she has lived to her reputation She has cultivated an impressive *gayaki*, and all the four numbers in this disc speak of her sincere approach and dedication to this genre of music, coupled with an excellent voice training *Jogi hey ke tumi* is an apt beginning, *Jani nai go sadhan tomar* is permeated with devotional spirit, and *Aamaar jabar somoy holo* is a grand finale the strains of music lingers long after the disc is heard

Opare Thakbo Aami Kishore Kumar in Memoriam (CBS MDX 6511 stereo)

The 10 extremely popular Bengali numbers of Kishore Kumar are compiled from the live recordings from various musical soirees The selection undoubtedly caters to a varied taste the range includes soulful numbers like *Aasha chhilo bhalobasha chhilo Onek jomano byatha Aamar puiar phool Opare thakbo aami* and *Nayan sarashi keno* to the more lively *Shing nei tabu Emon mojar shahar* and *Aamar naam Antony* The artiste's multifarious moods are apparent and only serve to



establish his gift of tremendous showmanship

Yaadon Ki Manzil: Down Memory Lane (set of 12 cassettes commemorating 50' years of playback singing in Hindi films, HMV, SSHV 1016-1027)

This prestige set of 12 cassettes (sold mostly through advance subscription) aims to cover the five decades since 1932, but stops short at 1978—four years earlier Only one song per film is selected and care has been taken to be different from the previous five volumes which also covered the five melodious decades of playback singing Each inlay card acknowledges the "immense contribution towards this project" of Vinod Sonthalia.

The first volume goes deep into the recesses of memory and gives us the voice and music of Govindrao Tambe In *Chhod aakash ko sitare* ('Maya Machhlinder', 1932), a little heard and little known song. Then you have the 'singing stars' like Ashok Kumar and Devika Rani *(Main ban ki chidiya ban ke*, 'Achhut Kanya', 1936) or Surendra *(Kahe akela dolat badal*, 'Gramophone Singer', 1938) or Kanan Devi and Pahari Sanyal *(Mast pawan shakhen lehrayen*, 'Haar Jeet', 1940) The pick of the second volume is Kanan Devi's *Toofan Mail* from 'Jawab' (1942) and you find the entry of people like Naushad and Noorjehan and K.L Saigal along with the older batch like Khemchand Prakash and Pannalal Ghosh

Gentle giant Mohammad Rafi may have stormed in with Naushad's 'Baiju Bawra' in 1952, but the third volume features him in a charming new-singer song, *Kehke bhi na aaya tum* ('Safar', 1946) and you can see the obvious talent to come Likewise, Lata Mangeshkar may have come like the merry monsoon in Shankar-Jaikishan's 'Barsaat' (1949), but here we have her prancing through *Jeevan sapna toot gaya* ('Anokha Pyar', 1948)

And so it continues wistfully into the sixth volume where the contemporary listener hits more familiar territory Shamshad Begum and Kishore Kumar's *Meri neendon mein tum* ('Naya Andaz', 1956) suddenly has you sit up and Asha Bhosle has you swaying to the gently erotic *Beimaan balma* ('Hum Sub Chor Hain', 1956) and Talat Mehmood holds you spellbound in his *Jhoome re* ('Ek Gaon Ki Kahani', 1957). The lilt in Lata's *Mere man ka banwra panchhi* ('Amar Deep', 1958) makes you go back to it again and again Till you realise that you were holding yourself back from Rafi's *Tujhe kya sunaoon main dilruba* ('Aakhri Dao', 1958)! The unforgettable Neeraj lyric from 'Nai Umar Ki Nai Fasal' (1965), *Caravan guzar gaya*, which appears in the ninth volume, reminds one of the passing away of the musical caravan in the wake of the trash that has risen in the name of music nowadays

The last three volumes are a treat for the modern, but not-gone-crazy-yet listener with some superb songs with 'soul' a random choice would be *Neend kabhi rehti thi* (Lata, 'Aasra' 1966), *Hum tere bin jee na sakenge* (Asha, 'Thakur Jamail Singh', 1966), *Abhi to raat baqi hai* (Rafi, 'Bandish', 1969), *Koi chupke se aa ke* (Geeta Dutt, 'Anubhav'), and *Mero gaam katha pare* (Preeti Sagar, 'Manthan') There are plenty of other you may prefer, but then it's a *saagar* to choose from Unforgiveably, HMV forgets to date the songs in the last volume

BARTER BANK

• **Stamps:** I would like to exchange 175 Indian stamps and 120 foreign stamps for a calculator or a single screen video game or anything of corresponding value Contact Soumitro Bhattacharya, c/o S N Bhattacharya, Qr no B/2H/2, PO Chakradharpur 833102.

• **Camera:** I offer a German Petri camera for a portable black and white television or anything of corresponding value Contact Sunjay Kumar Somani, 17, Camac Street Calcutta 17

• **Garrard changer.** I offer a Garrard changer with 3 speakers and a few records for anything of corresponding value Contact Marshall Fernandes 8-J, Ananda Palit Road, PO Entally Calcutta 14

• **Skates:** I offer a pair of roller skates in good condition for anything of corresponding value Contact Amartya Banerjee, c/o A K. Bhattacharjee. 'Bibasanalaya' Chiragara Masan Road, Hirapur Dhanbad 826001

• **Study material:** I offer *New Light*, IIT Solved Papers for *A Text Book of Practical Physics for Advanced Students* by K G. Majumdar or *A Text Book of Sound* by L P Sharmah and A C Saxena. Contact Brajendra Roy, c/o K Bhattacharya, Rehabari, Bamunagar, Guwahati 781008

• **Posters** and **photographs:** I offer 100 posters and 100 full-page photographs of famous cricketers for a Walkman with headphones in good condition Contact Devashish Shukla, 6 B, Heysham Road, 'Maitrisadan', Bhowanipore, Calcutta 20

• **Text books:** I would like to exchange a text books on economics for the higher secondary level by Sen, Sen and Mukherjee for a book on business economics by the same authors I would also like to exchange *College Physics* by Manning and White and *Higher Secondary Philosophy* by P.B Sengupta for *History of English Literature* by Albert and Long Contact Sandeep Mukherjee, 10/3, Ramakrishna Paramhansa Deb Road, PO Alambazar, Calcutta 35

• **Tape recorder-cum-radio:** I offer a Sanyo two-in-one for anything of corresponding value Contact Anand Kumar Agarwal 2, Indra Biswas Road, Calcutta 37

• **Guitar, books** and **camera:** I offer a Gibtone Hawaian guitar, Agfa Isolly 2 camera and physics books of the post-graduate level for a bicycle in good condition Contact Ashok Mazumdar, B-394 Sector 13 PO Haldia Township, Pin 721607

• **Bicycle:** I offer an Avon bicycle with an adjustable seat for anything of corresponding value Contact Aziz H Rangoonwala, 44 B, Ripon Street, Calcutta 16

• **Pocket camera-cum-transistor:** I offer a National pocket camera-cum-transistor for a Walkman or anything of corresponding value Contact Suchintya Cooman Gupta 16 7 Dover Lane Block G-1 Flat 27 Calcutta 29

• **Record:** I offer the LP, *Disco Deewane* by Nazia Hussain for any record of Western music Contact Pratip Halder, 91/92 B, Kumir Jala Road, Serampore, Dt Hooghly, PO Mallik Para, Pin 712203

AN OASIS OF DIGNITY

The Gandhiji Prem Nivas Leprosy Centre in Titaghar, a small town near Calcutta, is perhaps the only rehabilitation centre of its kind in the world. What the so-called 'scum of society' are capable of has to be seen to be believed. Anil Grover documents, through this report and photographs, the unique example of the restoration of self-esteem

Leprosy must be the world's most misunderstood disease. And replying to a letter of an NRI doctor, published in THE TELEGRAPH, recently, Yeswant, the president of the Jagat Matha Kusht Ashram in New Delhi, wrote in the paper (and which bears repetition). "I refer to Dr P Roy's letter ,where he advocates that 'lepers' should not be allowed to move about freely We, the leprosy patients of Jagat Matha Kusht Ashram, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi, strongly protest against such utterances by a medical practitioner who is expected to know better

"Perhaps, he cannot bear the sight of leprosy patients begging on streets Actually, it is the state which forces us to beg For the last four years we have been trying to get help from the social welfare directorate, Delhi administration, but to no avail We have even tried to get jobs of sweepers without success When we beg, we are put behind bars So how do we survive? Are we to be denied existence because we are leprosy patients? In fact, two of our fellow patients have died of starvation."

The sight of these "ugly creatures" begging on the roads may be revolting but most of these patients are in "burnt out cases" and are suffering from the non-infectious variety of the disease For this reason, the law of 1898 which restricted their movements has been repealed by the government and even the word "leper which has harsh connotations, has been banned by the Indian Leprologists Association, the World Health Organisation and the government of India

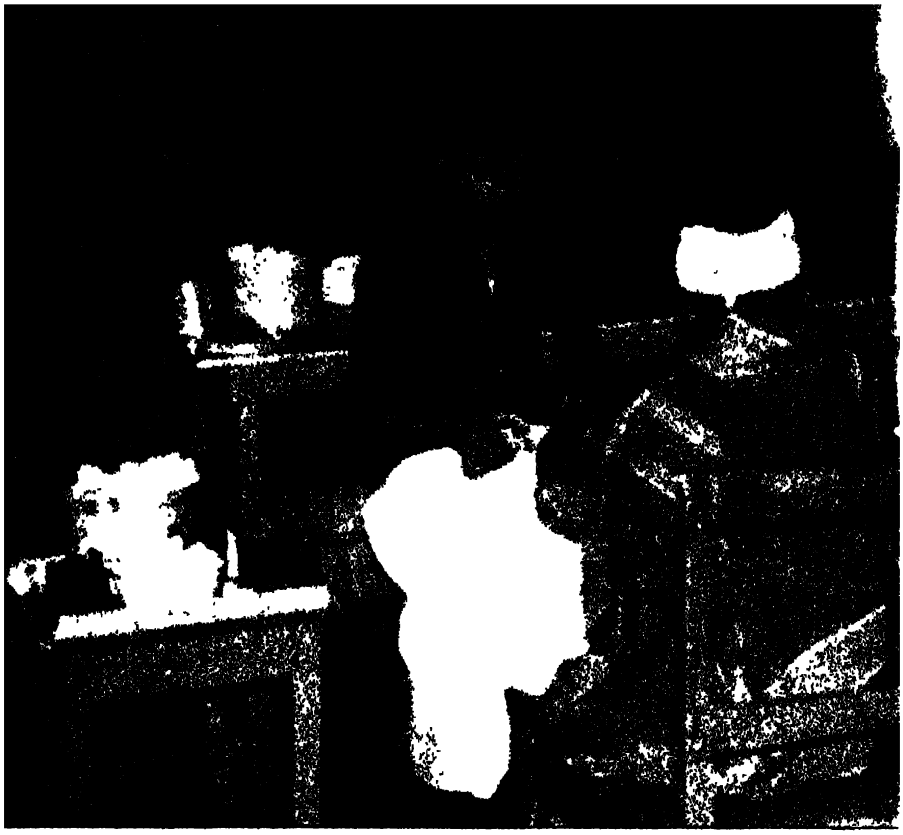
Leprosy patients have a worse experience than any other patient -say, of cancer or tuberculosis, who draw some sympathy and clucking of tongues at least "Lepers undergo a five fold suffering," as Brother Prem Anand the director of the Gandhiji Prem Nivas Leprosy Centre, said "Physically, they are crippled and deformed, mentally, they are depressed and desperate, socially they are ostracised and stigmatised All this leads to their being, economically, in a no-man's land, and when they do not find the face of the Deity who is loving and caring, who has left them to such suffering, they become spiritually blank "

For the same reason, he explained, leprosy patients, unlike other patients,

The fish pond, with the various departments in the background



did not have much of a sense of gratitude because they have never known it themselves. In that sense, was not the kind of job Brother Prem Anand and his band of 10 totally dedicated Brothers doing at Prem Nivas doubly thankless? "Yes," Brother agreed, "but one must carry on. We have been trained by Mother (Teresa) never to expect gratitude for anything, anyway." It is precisely for this reason, too, and because often the people in charge may get emotionally attached to the work that they have done, that the priests are transferred after a while. That way, many of them living under the tremendous pressure of doing this work without even the saving grace of a warm smile in return, are relieved. On the other hand, those who may be unconsciously beginning to attach too much importance to their own work, do not get a chance to get emotionally entangled



Attending to each

Prem Nivas is a little oasis of love in Titaghar, a small town about 20 kms away from Calcutta, better known for its paper mills and criminal gangs. The centre was started by Mother Teresa and her sisters of mercy as a mobile outdoor clinic under a tree in 1958 as Mother Teresa's Leper Clinic. And it has come a long way since.

In 1974, Mother asked her Brothers to take over the administration since the Sisters were not able to stand the constantly aggressive behaviour of the leprosy patients, not to speak of the attacks and threats by the local gangsters. Under the singleminded leadership of Brother Christdas (a derived name, as all the Brothers here have), the Gandhiji Prem Nivas Leprosy Centre took a big leap forward towards making the patients self-supportive and, thereby, humanising them. Those who were beggars, or on the verge of taking to the streets, were given a new lease of life Today, 14 years later, it is probably the only rehabilitation centre for leprosy patients anywhere in the world

Prem Nivas is run by 11 Brothers and the centre was even constructed entirely by the patients themselves: a beautiful haven of self-respect and dignity. Prem Nivas at one stage had 550 rehabilitated patients, but the number was reduced, for financial reasons, with the ruling that only one member per family could be accommodated. At present, there are 325 patients in this rehabilitation project.

The basic aim of this unique project, therefore, is to restore to the patients their dignity Patients who were once beggars and a liability are turned into workers and a productive part of society. The work they are capable of is truly unbelievable and Prem Nivas looks like a heaven on earth, spread on either side of the railway track, near the Titaghar railway station

It is a medical fallacy which leads one to shun leprosy patients· fears, superstitions, ignorance and plain psychology are the causes which make one leap away from an outstretched, maimed hand of a snub-nosed human being, feet rotten with sores and heavi-

Saris being spun for the sisters



An assistant brewing tea in her neat 'working room'





other's wounds

ly bandaged There are an estimated 18 million leprosy patients all over the world and at least four million in India alone But hardly 20 per cent of the cases are infectious, and most of us have normal immunity against the disease In that sense it is the least infectious of diseases Ironically, it is not the maimed beggar, looking physically unpleasant, who spreads the disease. it is more likely that the fellow next to you in the bus or the cinema hall is suffering from the infectious variety without your knowing it. The physical deformities are the result of a lack of sensation in the nerves and consequent carelessness that lead to the blunted limbs. With modern treatment available, most of the patients can be cured even at home

Prem Nivas has three major sections· the outdoor and indoor medical units, and the rehabilitation centre. Till the end of 1985, the records show that Prem Nivas had 23,000 registered outdoor leprosy patients. The clinic is conducted four times a week. The indoor section has patients in advanced stages and at present, there are 117 beds for both males and females

The rehabilitation centre has units for handloom, cobbling, carpentry, tailoring, vegetable garden, piggery, poultry and goats, the fish pond [illegible], canteen All these are managed by the leprosy patients themselves Even the electrical engineer they have is a patient and the personal assistants of the director, too, are patients It is heart warming and humbling to see the efficiency, love and cleanliness with which they go about their duties, not the least being the hospitality of brewing black tea and serving it with biscuits to visitors like this correspondent (after Brother Prem Anand thoughtfully checks out if one has any objection)

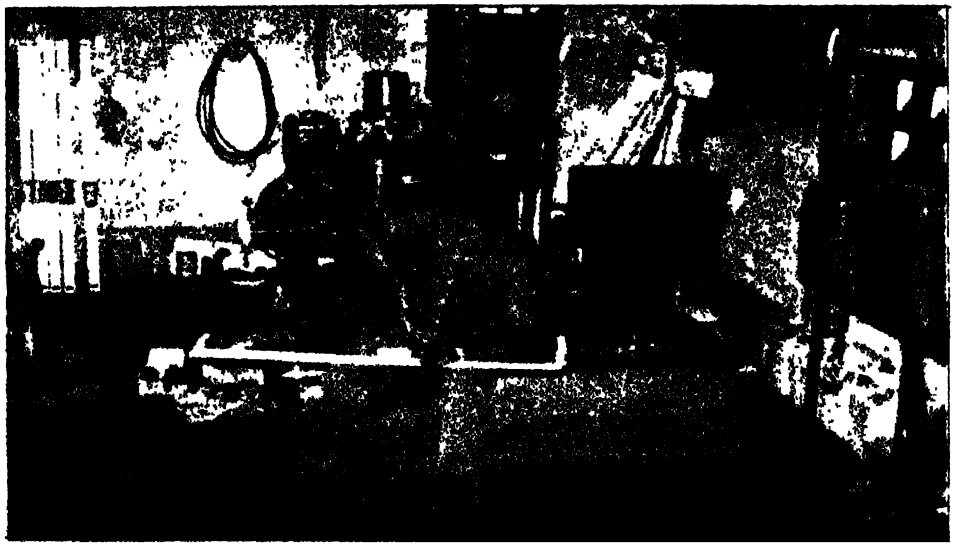
The centre is spread over land measuring about 10,000 sq m, leased out by the Eastern Railway Each rehabilitated patient at Prem Nivas gets a daily wage of Rs 6 and a family allowance of Rs 35 per month Apart from this, he gets cooked rice, food material on a weekly basis and, of course, the necessary medicines But nothing that is produced here is sold All the material is used by inmates of the various homes of Mother Teresa all over the world Even the characteristic white saris with blue borders that the Sisters all over the world wear, are produced here by the leprosy patients

The 11 Brothers supervise and treat them (they are all medically trained and proficient in the treatment) The Brothers, in fact, do not remain there all the time, they retreat to their quarters, a little distance away from Titaghar in Barrackpore They attend to Prem Nivas from 8 am to 12 30 pm and again in the evenings, from 6 30 to 9 30 The patients take charge themselves the rest of the time, fighting back anti-socials(who frequently try to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere by trying to steal medicines and using the nearby premises for consuming illicit liquor and prostitution), caring for their fellow inmates generally running the whole show The entire building and its sections were built and painted by the leprosy patients themselves Most of them as beggars were earning average of Rs 12 a day, but ask them today whether they want to go back to that 'profession', and they will answer, to the man, in the negative

"One has to see to believe what these so-called useless and dangerous human beings are capable of" explained another Brother "None of them want to go back to begging even though they earned much more there. Because they have regained their self-respect and that has more value."

Prem Nivas is where love has returned, where human dignity has been restored ■

The electrician at work

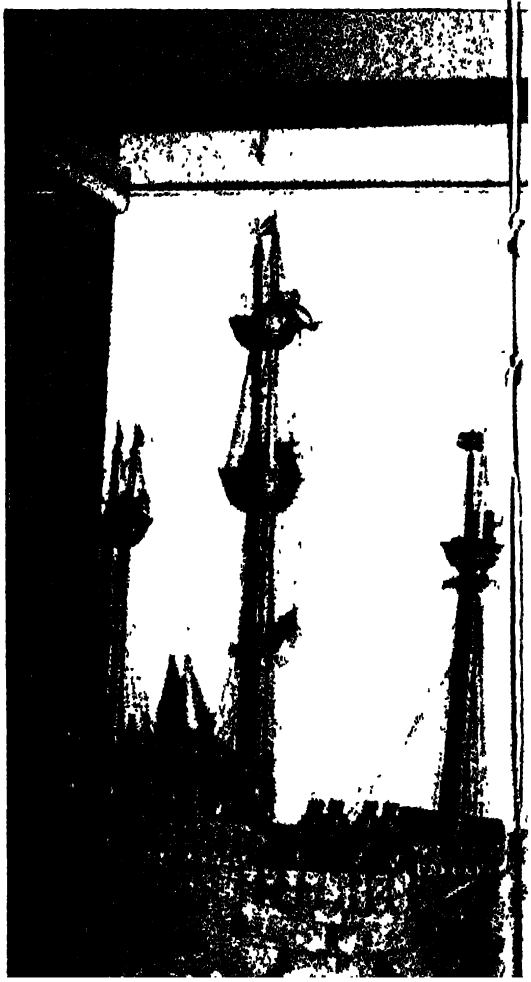


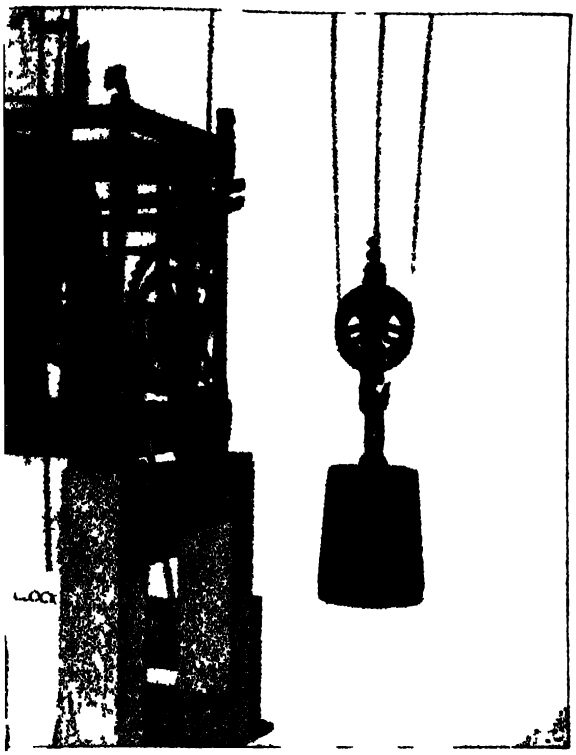
TIME TO WATCH

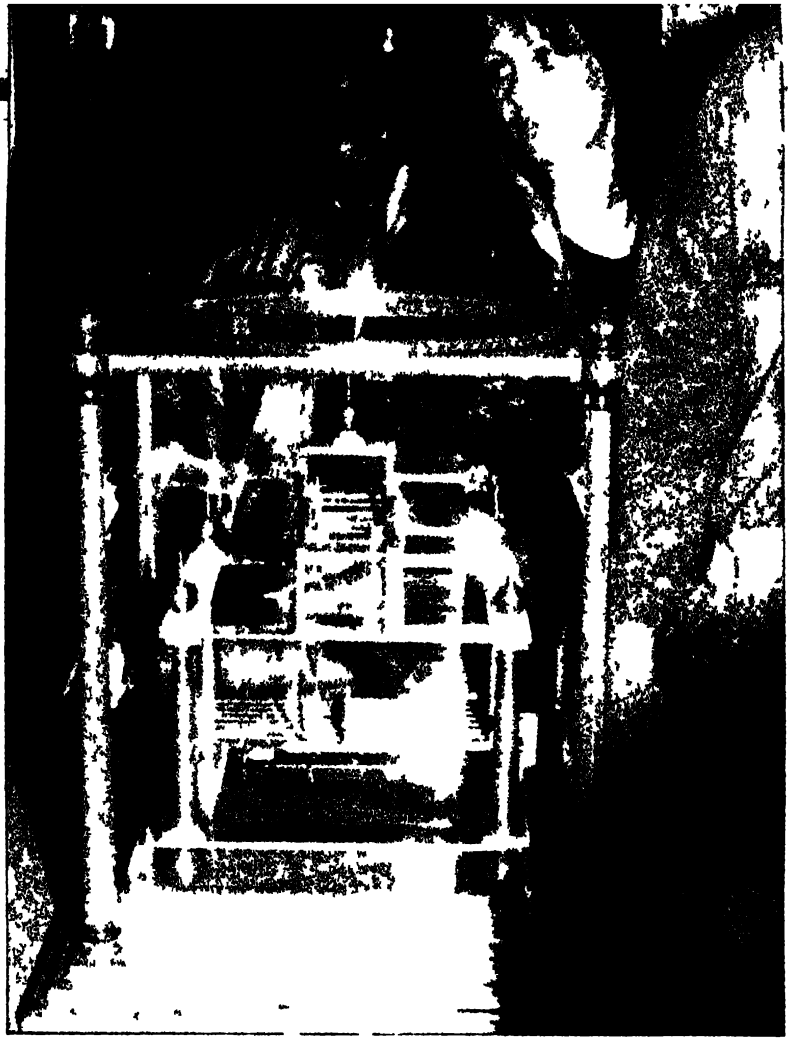
The British Museum in London has a fascinating collection of clocks. Photographer **Santimoy Sanyal** went there and watched in wonder

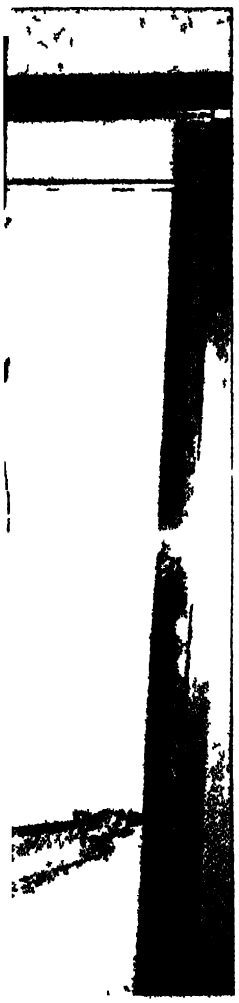




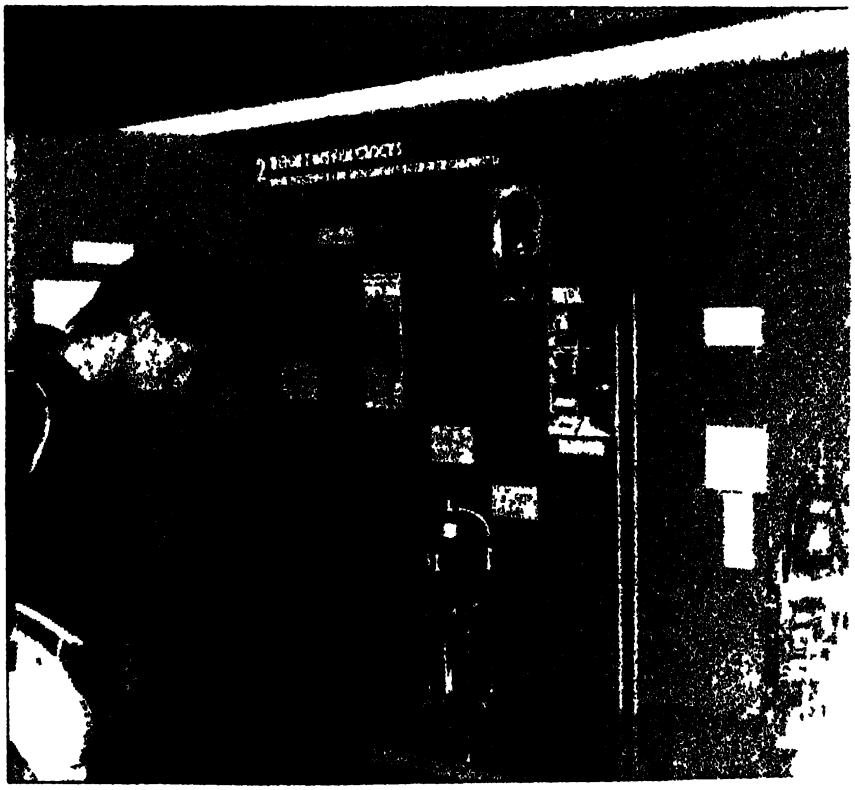








Clockwise from top The Cassiobury Park 'tower' clock, installed in 1677 by the Earl of Essex, the Congreve rolling ball timepiece (1810-1840) which uses a spring driven movement to tip the table, some weight driven clocks with posted-frame movements, 16th-17th centuries, the ship clock attributed to clockmaker Hans Schlotterheim, made for Emperor Rudolph II, using a pitching and rolling motion, and the Carillon clock (1589), the earliest surviving musical clock



THE MAGIC OF RELIGION

Physical hardships cannot keep the pilgrims away from Gangasagar every January. Changes down the centuries have taken place, but the faith of the simple Indian remains unflinching. Ranjit Roy reports on the mela that ended last week



January 14, 4 am. The last stars are beginning to fade. The biting cold wind from across the sea lashes the face. But thousands of pilgrims chant bhajans and brave the chill by taking a holy dip in the icy waters where the Ganga meets the Bay of Bengal. It is Makar Sankranti. This is the hour when half a million people from all over the country gather at Sagar Island in search of eternal bliss.

According to old Hindu scriptures, the Ganga had washed away the sins of the 60,000 sons of King Sagar and it is this legend that attracts people to this little island in a remote corner of south 24-Parganas. To the south of the island there is a wide muddy beach where pilgrims assemble every January for the holy dip. The great sage, Kapil Muni, is believed to have selected this island as his seat for attaining salvation.

The Kapil Muni temple, as we see it today, was built only in 1974. Till 1961 there used to be a wornout wooden temple said to be erected some 400 years earlier. It had to be demolished because of the advancing sea and a new one was built about 150 feet away from the original site at a cost of Rs 20,000 in the early sixties.

But this temple, too, is no more,the sea having eaten it up. The temple we see now is the fifth one, constructed with bricks and cement, far away from the sea. The tall dome, with the Omkar on it, is visible from a distance In the front corridor, three images engraved in stone are displayed, the middle one being that of Kapil Muni The sage is seen in a yogasana, his eyes wide open, looking towards the sea with millions of devotees before him. His head covered by the hoods of five giant snakes, the sage is seen holding a *kamandalu* in his left hand and a string of beads in his right. The Ganga and King Sagar flank Kapil Muni and the horse of the sacrificial *yagna* stands at a distance. The images are not particularly artistic; they are simple and rustic, very much like the countless village folks who visit the island on Makar Sankranti.

A hundred years ago, there was no source of drinking water except a *kunda*, known as the Sitakunda, just behind the temple, and the pilgrims had to pay one anna each to the priests. Today the state government arranges for drinking water through pipelines and by sinking shallow tubewells during the mela each year. Likewise, there was virtually no land route to Sagar Island and the pilgrims availed of boats and steamers for the mela. These accounts are found in a Bengali periodical, *Harkara*. Thanks



Dilip Banerjee

again to the state government, the mode of journey has now become less hazardous Trains and chartered buses reach Namkhana, the gateway to the island, from where motor launches cruise through the river Bartala and reach Chemaguri. From this point, the pilgrims have to walk about eight kilometres to the mela ground. The other route is from Kakdwip to Kachuberia through the Bhagirathi river. From Kachuberia, buses are available for the mela ground, about 40 kms from there. The problem here is that the launches can operate only during the tide and sometimes the pilgrims have to wait for hours to cross the river, though a jetty has been constructed at Harwood Point to solve this difficulty.

Recent years have also seen another change: the controversy over the right to worship at the temple and to the offerings Historical evidence shows that in 437 AD the Guru community of Jaipur Rajas worshipped the idol in the Kapil Muni temple. The name of the chief priest at that time was Ramananda and all the offerings were enjoyed by him for about 40 years Shivananda succeeded him as Rajguru and it was the latter who ordered that Rs 100 each be distributed among some sects and the rest of the offerings be utilised for the maintenance of the temple.

Currently, the mahantas of the Ramanandi sect control the affairs of the temple and its treasures Hanuman Ghari of Ayodhya is their centre of worship and 40 priests come to Sagar Island a few days before the mela and take away all the offerings to Ayodhya. This has become a sore point between the mahantas of the Hanuman Ghari and the Left Front government in West Bengal. The state government incurs an expenditure of over Rs 1 crore on arrangements each year and the mahantas do not contribute at all to this. The government felt it only fair to demand a share in the offerings—but this was not acceptable to the mahantas.

The mahantas said, "Let the government take every single bit of the offerings if it agrees to pay Rs 1 50 lakhs in cash to the akhra every year The money is needed for the travel expenses of 40 priests, their stay at Sagar, the maintenance of the temple and to run a free kitchen for the pilgrims" The mahantas warned that they would start "a holy war" if the government pushed them to the wall "If necessary, we will take the images elsewhere - and the mela will follow wherever we instal the images they threatened

But the Sagar mela continues to throb with life and vibrate to the chants of millions of pilgrims The pilgrimage may not be physically easy, but they know that the visit will purify their bodies and souls The visit fulfils their life-long desire and often one can see tears of joy rolling down their cheeks That is the power of religion.■



Amit Dutta

ALL THE INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Dariya-dil.** Paradise (Bentinck Street 235442), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Malancha (Regent Park)

Directed by K Ravi Shankar and with music by Rajesh Roshan, the cast includes Govinda, Kimmy Katkar, Shakti Kapoor, Raj Kiran Shoma Anand, Gulshan Grover, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Dharti** Society (Corporation Place 241002)– 4 shows

A re-release, starring Rajendra Kumar and Waheeda Rehman The film is directed by Sridhar and the music is by Shankar Jaikishan

• **Gangvaa** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 344262) Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108) Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road, 355059)

Rajnikant, Shabana Azmi and Kader Khan are the chief attractions in this film directed by Raja Sgekar and music by Bappi Lahiri

• **Insaf Ki Pukar** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147)—4 shows, Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522)—3 shows

A film by T Rama Rao, starring Dharmendra Jeetendra, Bhanupriya, Anita Raaj, Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Anupam Kher The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Kaash....** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270)—noon



Chunkey Pandey, Rubina and Sunny Deol in *Paap Ki Duniya*

Jackie Shroff, Dimple Kapadia and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this Mahesh Bhatt film, whose music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Pushpak**· Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—4 shows, Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132) & Ujjala (Russa Road 478666)– noon

A silent film by director Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, starring Kamalahasan, Amala Mukherjee, Tinu Anand and Samir Khakhar

• **Sindoor.** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—noon

A film, directed by K Ravi, starring Shahshi Kapoor, Jaya Prada, Govinda, Neelam, Kader Khan, Prem Chopra, Shakti Kapoor, with Jeetendra and Rishi Kapoor in special appearances

BENGALI FILMS

• **Amar Sangee**· Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2 30, 5 30, 8 15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 7 45, Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—2 30, 5 30, 8 30

Vijayeta Pandit and Prasemjit are the lead pair in this Sujit Guha film which has its music by Bappi Lahiri Others in the cast are Subhendu Chatterjee, Shakuntala Barua, Ruma Guhathakurta, Ishani Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh and Soumitra Banerjee

• **Deepshikha:** Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)—3 shows

Papia Adhikari, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Madhabi Chakraborty, Tarun Kumar and Joy Banerjee comprise the cast of this film, directed by Amal Nag

• **Dolon Champa.** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—3, 5 45, 8 30, Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—2 30, 5 15, 8

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Aruna Irani, Prasenjit, Sandhyarani, Dilip Roy, Gita Dey, Bankim Ghosh, Satya Banerjee, Chinmoy Roy and Anup Kumar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Sujit Guha and music by Kanu Bhattacharya

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Kali Banerjee, Ishani Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua, Bhabesh Kundu and Ranjit Mullick comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film The music is by Bappi Lahiri

FOREIGN FILMS

- **Aliens the New Movie**: Lighthouse (Humayun Place 291,999) 4 shows
- **Amin, the Rise and Fall (A)**: Globe (Lindsay Street 231769)—12 3, 5 45 8 30
- **It Could Happen to You (A): Jamuna (Marquis Street: 243715)——4 shows**
- **Kill and Kill Again: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)——4 shows**
- **The Hitcher(A): New Empire (Humayun Place, 291051)—4 shows**

SPECIAL EVENTS

17 January 3 30 pm and 6 30 pm

Sachin Shankar Ballet Unit (Bombay) present *Baradan Ghost Pakri* and other popular items

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 444205)

17 January, 10 30 am to 1pm, 6 pm onwards

18 January 6 30 pm onwards

Sri Purandara Dasa Aradhana Celebrations organised by Rasika Ranjan Sabha Karnataka Association and Sri Madhwa Samaj features Sangeetanjali by local artistes, speeches by K Appa-charya and T Panduranga Rao and rendering of Purandara Kirthis in Hindustani style by Pandit Malini on 17th speeches by K Appa-charya and Aralumallige Parthasarathy rendering of Purandara Kirthis in Carnatic style by Mysore Sisters G S Kamala and G S Rajalakshmi and prize distribution ceremony on the concluding evening

At Sri Thyagaraja Hall (P 530 Raja Basanta Roy Road Calcutta 29)

17 January 7 pm

Calcutta School of Music and Italian Embassy cultural centre present the Trio Doppler

At Calcutta School of Music (6B Sunny Park, Calcutta 19)

19 January, 6.30 pm

Maitreyi presents Dancers Guild in the new interpretation of Tagore's dance drama, *Chitrangada* choreographed by Dr Manjusri Chaki Sircar The participants are Manjusri Chaki Sircar Ranjabati Sircar Pradipta Niyogi, Jhuma Basak and artistes of Dancers Guild in dance and Arghya Sen, Roma Mondal, Rita Ghosh, Alak Raychaudhury and artistes of Rabichhandam in songs Lights Joy Sen

At Gorky Sadan)

20 January, 4 pm to 7 pm

The annual college reunion open to all Presidentians organised Presidency College Alumni Association

At Derozio Hall (Presidency College)

22-26 January

The 36th session of the Dover Lane Music Conference features Ravi Shankar, Hariprasad Chaurasia Amjad Ali Khan with Zakir Bhimsen Joshi L Shankar Vinayak Viswamohan Bhatt and Zakir (Quartet) and Sudha Chandran Also Naina Devi with Subha Padma Talwarkar Subroto Roychowdhury Shokat Husain Khan Lakshmi Shankar, C R Vyas, Ajoy Chakrabarty Rais and Radha Reddy Saswati Sen and Haimanti Guha

At Vivekananda Park

22 January 7 pm

Calcutta School of Music presents a piano solo by Aruna Pasricha

At 6B Sunny Park

23, 24 and 29 January daily at 7 pm

Goodtime Theatres presents *The Business of Murder* by Richard Harris Directed by Dean Mistry the cast includes Ashok Vishwanathan, Gitanjali Chugani and Dean Mistry

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

23 January onwards daily at 5 30 pm



Dancers' Guild's *Chitrangada*

Rasika Ranjan Sabha's 41st annual music, drama and dance festival to celebrate 141st anniversary of Sri Thyagaraja Swami features Tamil plays—*Anandam Paramanandam* (on 23rd) *Odippora Kanavan* (on 24th) *Olliyum Oliyum* (on 25th) *Padi Thandiya Pathi* (on 26th) and *Vanthal Mahalakshmi* (on 27th), and vocal by Maharajapuram Sri V Sanatham, violin by Nagai Sri Muralidharam and mridangam by Thiruvarur Sri Bhaktavatsalam on 30th

At Sri Thyagaraja Hall (P-530 Raja Basanta Roy Road)

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU 588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU-588 at 1105

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU 589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU 589 at 0050

Calcutta-Bombay-Dubai-London-New York Dep (1) AI 103 at 130

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (4) AI 89, at 2005 Dep (5) AI 307 at 2105

Hong Kong-Calcutta -Delhi Arr (4) AI 325 at 2320 Dep (5) AI 325 at 0030

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI 324 at 1150 Dep (4) AI 324 at 1250

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (4) AI 316 at 1830 Dep (2) AI 316 at 1930

Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU 537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1955

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1245 and Arr (3) SQ-411 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (3) RA-214 at 1040 Dep (3) RA 214 at 1100 Dep (2 4 7) IC 247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC 21 at 1[illegible] Arr (1 3) RA-213 at 0940 Arr (2 4 7) IC 248 at 1525 Arr (3 6) IC 248 at 1425

Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1215 IC-223 at 1340 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG 694 at 1745 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 11 5 IC 224 at 1540 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG-693 at 1645

Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG 698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC-225 at 1305 Arr (2, 5) BG 697 at 1220, Arr (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (1 3 6) TG-313 at 1240 Arr (2 4 7) IC 232 at 1640 Dep (1 3 6) TG-314 at 1355 Dep (2 4 7) IC 231 at 1050

Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 4 5 6) GQ-102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (1 [illegible]) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi, Dep (daily) IC 402 at 1710 and IC—263 at 0650 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210

Calcuta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC 295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC 296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4 6) IC 295 at 1640 Arr (2 4 6) IC 296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC 287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC 88 at 1135

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 5 6 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 27[illegible] at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC 278 at 2215 Arr (3 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 279 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC-269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (1) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC 270 at 2155

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC 231 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC 229 at 1320 and IC 203 at [illegible] Dep (1 3 5) IC 243 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 and IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC [illegible] at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur Jorhat--Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1140 Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1[illegible]

Calcutta-Guwahati Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6 7) IC 221 at [illegible] Arr (2 4 6 7) IC [illegible] at 1050

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal [illegible] (daily) IC 25[illegible] at [illegible] Arr [illegible] 6 7) IC-256 at [illegible] IC 256 at 1450

Calcutta-Bagdogra [illegible] IC 221 at 1[illegible] Arr [illegible] at 1105

Calcutta Agartala [illegible] IC 243 at [illegible] Arr (daily) [illegible] IC 242 at [illegible]

Calcutta Agartala [illegible]

(1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1, 3 5) IC 238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1, 3 5) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (1 3 5) IC 202 at 0910

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-733 at 1600 Arr (2 4 6) PF 734 at 1855
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat Dep (1 3, 5) PF 731 at 0555 Arr (1 3 5) PF-732 at 1000
Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (1 3, 5) PF 717 at 0600 and PF-717A at 1600 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-718 at 0800 and PF-718A at 1755
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (2 4, 6) PF-725 at 0600 Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-726 at 1100
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar: Dep (daily) PF 701 at 0830, Arr (daily) PF-702 at 1550
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-727 at 0940 Arr (1, 3 5) PF-728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5, 7) PF-707 at 0610 Arr (1, 3 5 7) PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailasahar. Dep (2, 4 6) PF-729 at 1130 Arr (2, 4 6) PF-730 at 1610
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555 Arr (2 4 6) PF 716 at 1010
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo Dep (1, 3 5) PF 721 at 0800, Arr (1, 3 5) PF-722 at 1645
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along Dep (2, 4 6) PF-723 at 0800 Arr (2, 4 6) PF-724 at 1715
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh Dep (1, 4, 5, 7) PF-735 at 0530 Arr (1 4 5 7) PF 736 at 1545
Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu Dep (2, 3 6) PF-735 at 0530 Arr (2 3, 6) PF 736 at 1650

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8 05	6
3	20 15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Tri Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep Sat up to Amritsar Arri Tues Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9 15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri - Mon & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep -Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri - Tues, Wed, Thurs Sat & Sun	10 55	102
173	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep --Tues Fri & Sat Arri -Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep -Mon & Thurs Arri - Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21-10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 30	**Amritsar Express**	15 45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21 35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep --Mon Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12 30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arri —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

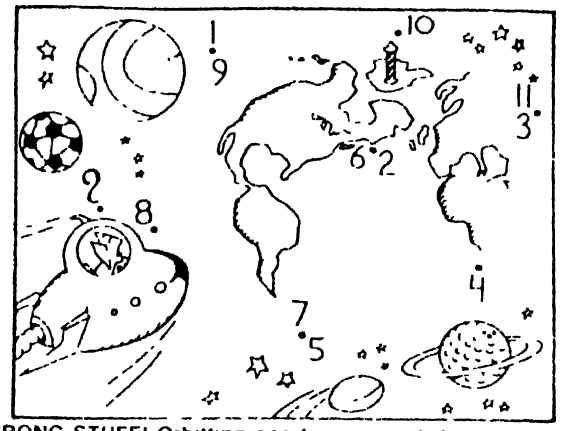
SEALDAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19 00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20 10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16 10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

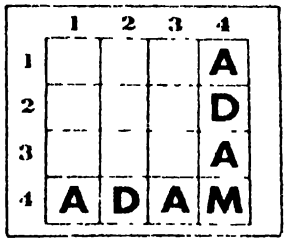
3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6 00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 6 days a week Dep -Mon Tues, Wed Fri & Sat Arri --Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sat	14 15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep --Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri --Tues, Wed Fri, & Sun	4 10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	1 00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21 50	12
5	21 25	**Sambalpur Express**	5 30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5 45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	11 15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11 30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	-
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	--
--	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



WRONG STUFF! Orbitting sports gear isn't the only thing wrong in this dot scene. Insert missing lines.

• JUMP SHOT! Challenge someone to jump as far as the head of the shadow he or she casts on the pavement. Kazam! When your friend jumps, his or her shadow jumps, too.



SQUARE OFF NAMES!

Four short names can be made to form a word square above — that is, a cluster of words that reads the same across and down.

From the following clues, see if you can determine the four pertinent names.

1 Whatever—wants she gets, in a popular song

2 A Roman poet, full name Publius Ovidius Naso

3 Miss Minnelli, for instance

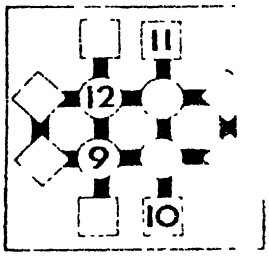
4 Chap one of the Bible (name in place)

Time limit: 1 min.

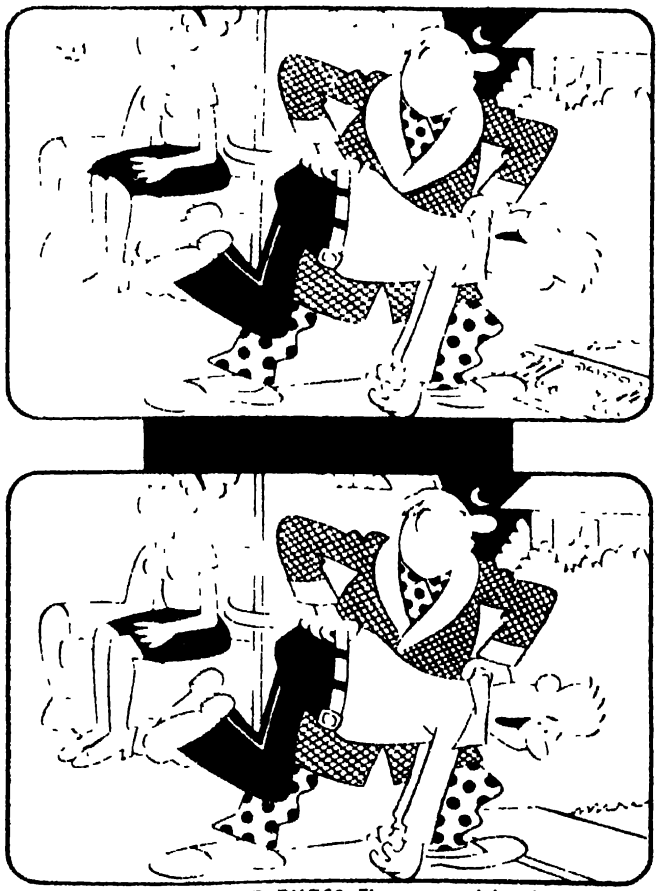
• **SUM TEST:** Place numbers 1 through 8 in blanks of the diagram below so that the two horizontal and two vertical rows of four numbers each total 26.

Also, each group of individual shapes—circles, squares and diamonds—must also add up to 26.

Present numbers remain. All spaces must be filled.



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

FUNSPOT



PATCH WORK! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to this cabbage patch scene. 1 - Red. 2 - Dk. green. 3 - Yellow. 4 - Lt. brown. 5 - Flesh tones. 6 - Lt. green. 7 - Dk. [illegible]

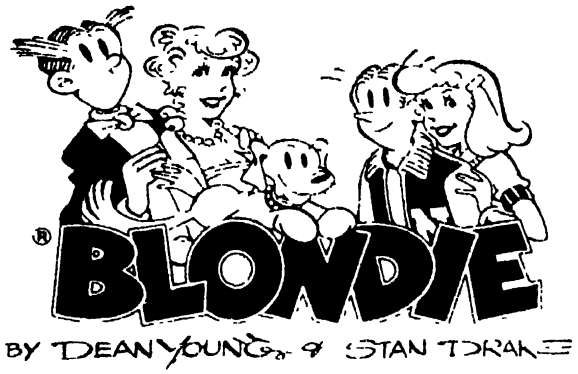
SPELLBINDER

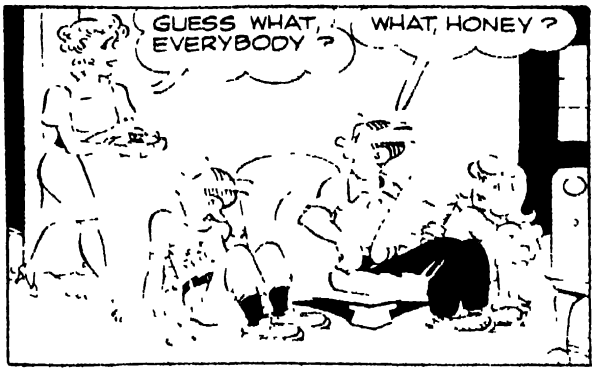
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

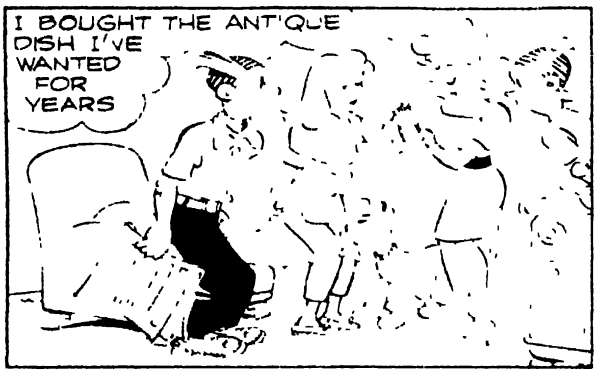
CLEMATIS

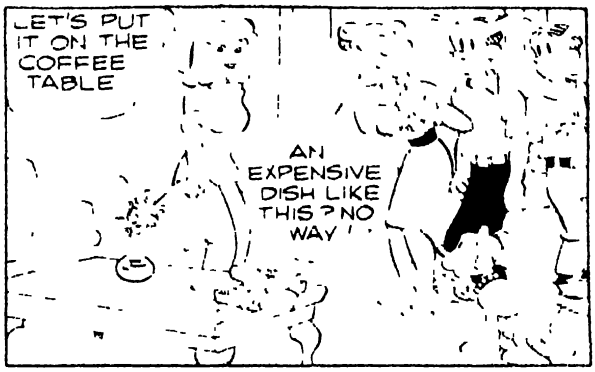
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

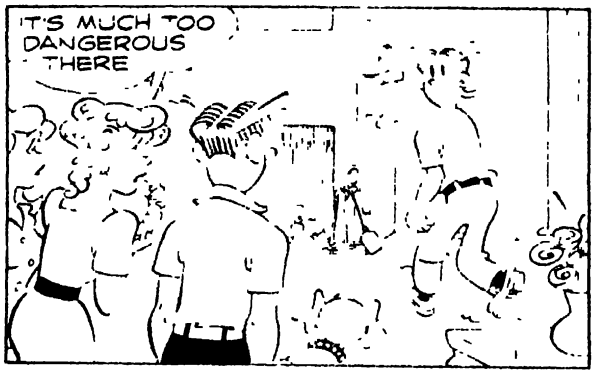
Try to score at least 50 points.

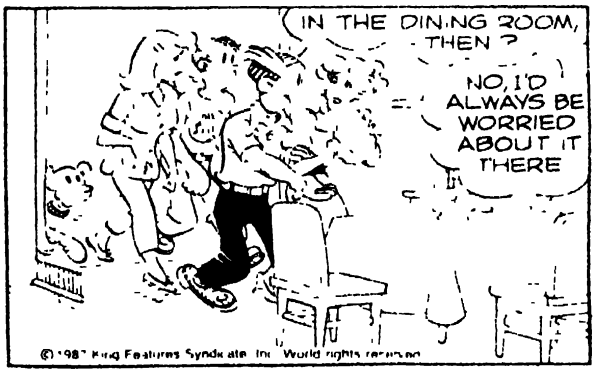

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

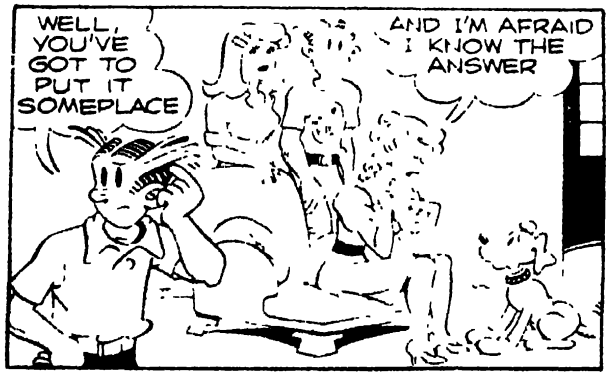

GUESS WHAT, EVERYBODY ?
WHAT, HONEY ?


I BOUGHT THE ANT'QUE DISH I'VE WANTED FOR YEARS


LET'S PUT IT ON THE COFFEE TABLE
AN EXPENSIVE DISH LIKE THIS ? NO WAY !


IT'S MUCH TOO DANGEROUS THERE


IN THE DINING ROOM, THEN ?
NO, I'D ALWAYS BE WORRIED ABOUT IT THERE
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WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO PUT IT SOMEPLACE
AND I'M AFRAID I KNOW THE ANSWER


AT LEAST I KNOW IT WILL BE SAFE HERE
AND YOU CAN LOOK AT IT EVERY FEW MONTHS
YOUNG & DRAKE 8-30

THE LOCKHORNS

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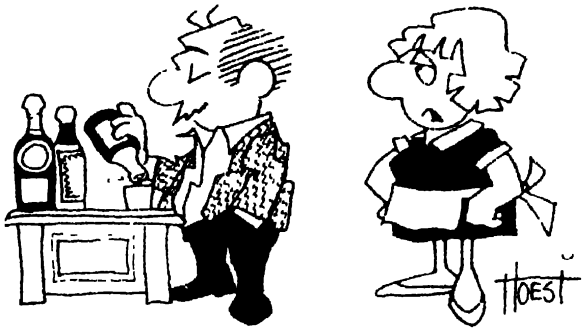
"WE DON'T HAVE AN OPEN MARRIAGE. JUST AN OPEN CHECKBOOK."



"AND JUST WHEN HE WAS HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME "



"I COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU LESS IF YOU WERE TWICE AS WRONG."

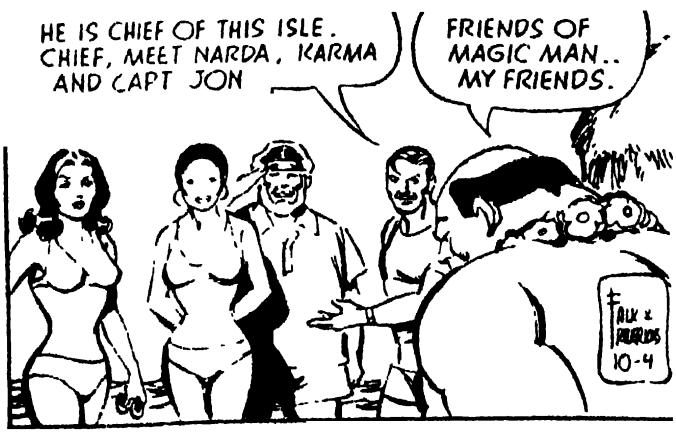


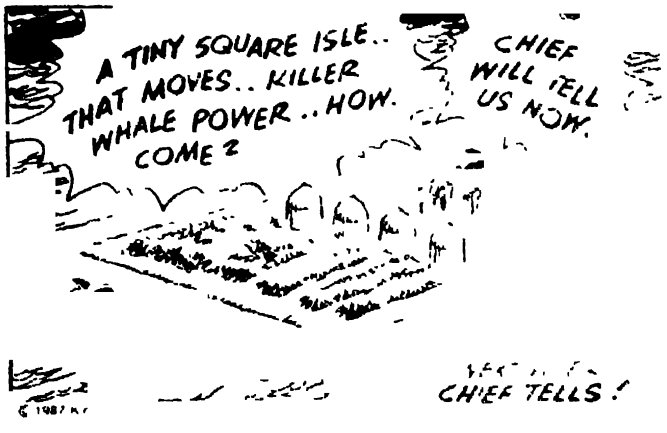
"ISN'T IT KIND OF EARLY TO WINTERIZE?"

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk







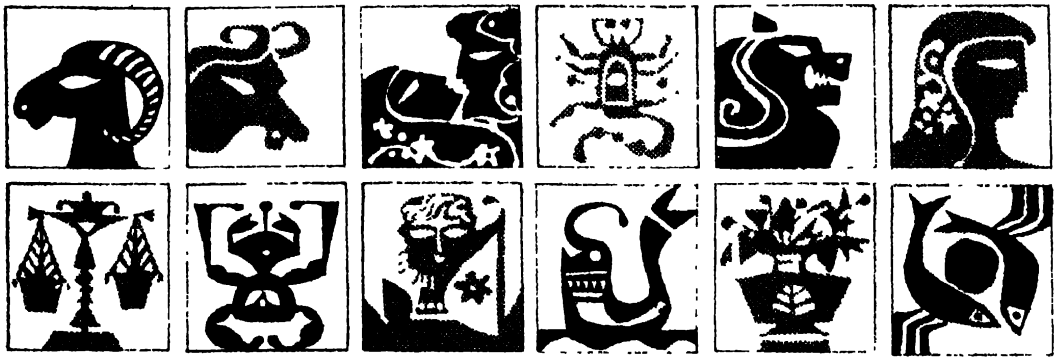


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


I'M BUILT JUST LIKE A STURDY OAK TREE!
HOW TRUE! YOU'RE BOTH NUTTY UPSTAIRS!
PING!
YOU'RE NEW IN TOWN, GAYLE, SO I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE GUYS!
GREAT!
ARCHIE AND REGGIE ARE VERY DIFFERENT!
IN WHAT WAY?
ARCHIE'S A PURE ROMANTIC, AND REGGIE'S A TOTAL OPPORTUNIST!
REALLY!? THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE!
7-5
WATCH!
ARCHIE... WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THAT OLD TREE?
AN AGING BEAUTY STRETCHING ITS LOVELY LIMBS TOWARD THE HEAVENS!"
AND YOU, REG?
I SEE LOTS OF FIRE-WOOD!
WELL?
OKAY! I BELIEVE! I BELIEVE!



ARIES

March 21 April 20

The new moon will now increase work pressures and indicates added responsibilities This is the right time to start new ventures Lady Luck will shine on you and success is assured in all that you do Expenses will mount but money will also come in from unexpected sources

TAURUS

April 21--May 20

The moon sextile Jupiter Saturn trine indicates ceremonies, rites, rituals, family get-togethers and collaborations Allow your heart to rule your actions Long awaited news will now reach you Parents and in-laws will take undue interest in your affairs but do not let that bother you

GEMINI

May 21 June 20

Money will now pour in A new line of activity is on the cards A promotion or transfer cannot be ruled out Rely on your intuition and take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way Good news will reach you towards the weekend Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree

CANCER

June 21 - July 20

This is the time to reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication Changes on the work front are likely But do not worry unduly, things will work out in your favour ultimately Romance is on the cards Get ready to go on a prolonged trip abroad Health may cause concern

LEO

July 21 August 21

The Venus sextile Neptune conjunction in your sign ensures collaborations and new ventures You may meet interesting people now Health safeguards are essential as you will be prone to minor coughs and colds Do not take people at face value, and learn to look beneath the surface

VIRGO

August 22 Sept 23

The new moon indicates new ventures, collaborations and contracts This is the ideal time to socialise and entertain You will shine at meetings and conferences Do not hesitate to use connections to get what you want Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication

LIBRA

Sep 23 Oct 22

Moon conjunction Mercury focuses attention on home and property affairs There may be an addition to your family soon Entertainment and socialising are highlighted now Take care not to overstrain yourself even though work pressures are likely to rise Romance is on the cards

SCORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 22

The moon sextile Pluto conjunction will change your perspective in life and influence your attitude towards people You will now meet influential people who may make a lasting impression on you Property affairs, renovation, refurbishing and socialising are highlighted now

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

Traders, psychiatrists, doctors, lawyers and sportsmen are advised not to overexert as the moon unites with Saturn in your sign Buying, selling, brokerage and commission work are now signified Home and property affairs will demand attention Parent and in laws may prove irksome

CAPRICORN

The new moon in your sign will help you to make decisions Misunderstandings that you may have had with your colleagues will now be cleared up At work after an initial setback, you will shine and colleagues will finally recognise your worth Romance is on the cards

AQUARIUS

Jan 20 Feb 18

Expenses will rise now Get ready to go on a prolonged visit within the next few days Unexpected visitors will drop in Even though minor health problems will bother you at the beginning of the week, you will overcome them to complete long standing assignments Romance in the offing

PISCES

Feb 19 March 20

The moon conjunction Venus in your sign will help you to influence people and create a lasting impression Entertainment, socialising and religious rites and ceremonies are on the cards now Changes on the work front are likely Moon conjuncts Saturn, so be cautious in all your actions

BIRTHDAYS

January 17

Moon sextile Venus You will get off to a shaky start Fun, romance and entertainment will be the highlights of the year ahead Artists, astrologers, interior designers and students will do well Money will now come in from unexpected sources

January 18

Moon sextile Pluto The year ahead is ideal for furthering scientific research You will be successful at any venture that you undertake Expect alliances and relationships to mature

January 19

New moon Capricorn Money is likely to pour in this year Traders brokers and businessmen will make it big this year Foreign connections import and export and trading are also signified Relations may come to stay with you for a prolonged period of time Romance is in the air

January 20

Moon conjunction Mercury Buying, selling, trading and collaborations are now on the cards Money will pour in This is the appropriate time to launch new ventures and sign deeds and documents

January 21

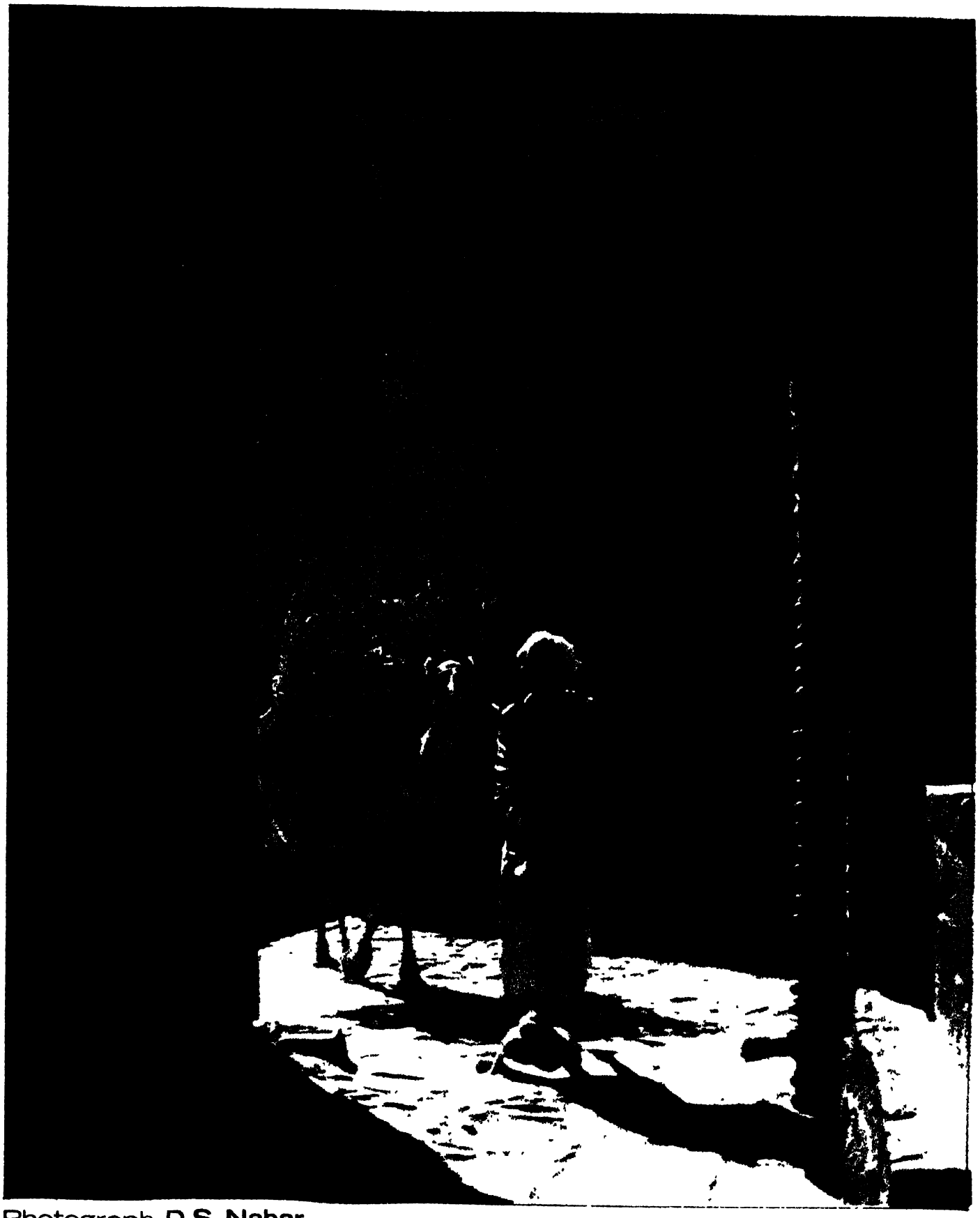
Moon conjunction Venus Caterers, travel agents, artists writers, editors financiers and interior designers will make it big this year Those in import and export, and property dealers will also shine in their profession

January 22

Venus sextile Neptune The sky is the limit this year Long standing wishes will now be fulfilled You will achieve success in anything that you now set out to do Grab every opportunity that comes your way and go full steam ahead

January 23

Moon sextile sun, square Saturn A year of mixed fortunes Alliances are foretold Connections and travel are the other highlights of the year ahead However, take your time before deciding on a particular course of action



Photograph. D.S. Nahar

TINSEL TOWN □ Subroto Mukherjee

'I'M INTERESTED IN ROMANCING ONLY WITH MY WORK'

Says **Sonu Walia**, the high flying model turned high potential star, who is well on her way to becoming the latest sex symbol in the mould of the Zeenats, Parveens, Kimmys and Dimples

To begin with, you signed Sagar Sarhadi's Tere Shaher Mein for a passing appearance, followed by lead roles in a couple of minor setups like Aakarshan and Tejaa. Wouldn't you agree today that they have been strategic errors?

Initially, I was very keen to make the art film scene, to be a part of the serious cinema movement. That's why I accepted *Tere Shaher Mein*. Today, I realise that it was a mistake—playing an inconsequential role in it. I feel it makes more sense first to establish oneself in mainstream cinema before seeking the other kind of cinema for deeper artistic **fulfilment.**

So it has been a calculated strategy on your part to sign up a big banner film like Mahadev now?

Not quite, really. I am hardly the shrewd, calculating strategist or the aggressive go-getter you might imagine me to be. The offer of *Mahadev* was more like something which breezed in through the open window and fell into my lap. It's a great break for a newcomer like me and I flew back from abroad to grab it.

It's said that you play just a gangster's moll in Mahadev in the name of a second lead?

No way! I do play a solid second lead in the film. It's the role of a classy prostitute and a role for which Dimple was considered earlier, so you can guess its importance in the film. Would Dimple have ever agreed to play a mere gangster's moll?

In that case, one can also guess to what extent the director must have exploited your sex appeal.

You guess wrong. I play a sophisticated call girl and not a cheap floozy. And can you believe it, I wear a sari all through the film? Only, I wear it tight, exposing my midriff. But there are no vulgar or titillating camera angles.

We're afraid we cannot quite believe you. Anyway, you are not much of a dancer, so how far can you hope to go in commercial cinema?

Oh, is that what you think! In that case, you must see *Mahadev*. That will certainly make you think otherwise. I have done a whole lot of dancing in the film—two sizzling numbers have already been picturised on me in Ooty. In fact, the dance-director of the film, Pappu Khanna, had the same preconception about me and he was worried as to how much he would be able to get out of me on the dancing floor. But once we began to rehearse, you should have been there to see his look of surprise! It's a myth that models tend to be like cardboard in histrionics and dancing. On the contrary, they are more flexible.

What about your slight squint? Isn't it something that's likely to stand in your way as a star?

I am not squint-eyed in the slightest. I have got myself checked even by an eye specialist for this. Once a wellknown photographer told me that I had a better right profile. Ever since, I have always tended to present my right profile to the camera. And because my eyes are set slightly wider apart than normal, this angle tends to convey the impression of a slight squint. No star is perfect in looks, anyway. Every star has some facial flaw or other, but a good cameraman knows how to eliminate that.

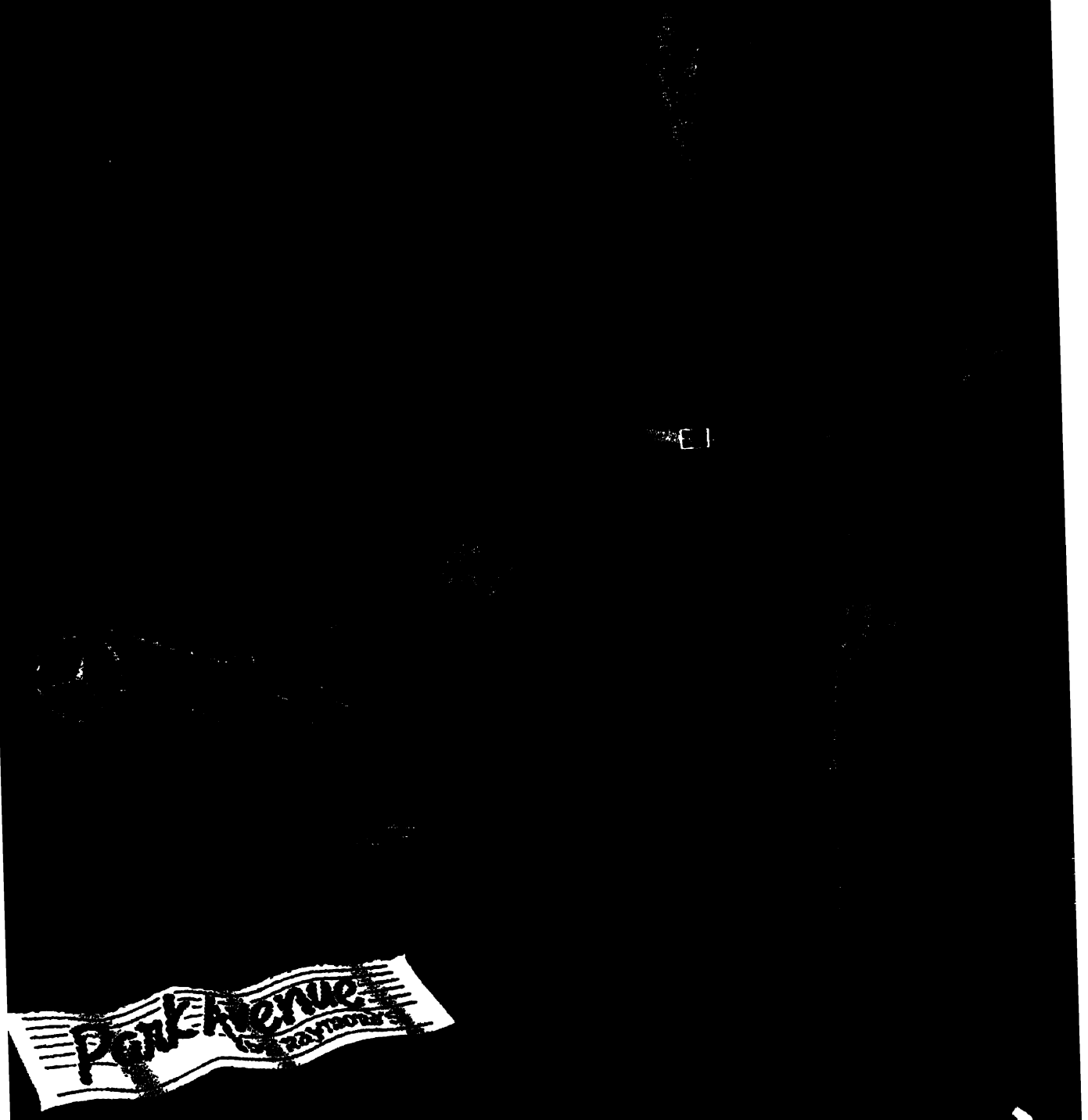
According to a section of the press, you had a torrid time with Vinod Khanna in Ooty during the outdoor shooting of Mahadev.

Not that it's anybody's business how and with whom I share my personal life, but I have said this before and I will say this again: at the moment I'm not interested in any emotional entanglements. I'm interested in romancing only with my work and having an affair only with my career. When I was shooting for *Aakarshan*, the press conveniently linked me with Akbar. And now that I am doing *Mahadev*, they are linking me with Vinod Khanna. So what's



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Soldier Be Praised

The summation of 'The Indian Soldier' (January 3) by Sumir Lal was excellent But about rising to the occasion, when he says, it is the result of "something inborn or good training, or both, one cannot tell," I don't think he should have left it at that

Perhaps, he should read chapter two of my book, *The Battle of Dograi*, which deals with the subject under the heading, 'The Invisible Thread' From there, he might go on to Philip Mason's *A Matter of Honour* and everything will become clear

I look forward to a further article by Lal on what makes the Indian soldier rise to the occasion Professional writers should have begun to write on this as far back as 1947 Now that you have made a start, please don't allow the Indian soldier to fade away from public consciousness

Brig D.E. Hayde (Retd),
Kotdwara (U P)

■ Sumir Lal gave a very vivid picture of the brave Indian soldier who is always present where he is needed most, be it a riot in Meerut or the floods in Orissa or the snowbound glaciers of Siachen And now in Sri Lanka, the gallant soldier is doing a brilliant job at great personal loss so that peace is restored in Jaffna

We bow our heads before these brave, honest and disciplined sons of Mother India

Vivian Cruze,
Jamshedpur

■ In your lists of Indian Army chiefs and recipients of the Param Vir Chakra, you have left out the name of Gen Sri R M Lockhart, who was the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army after Independence (The Chief of Army Staff was then known as C-in-C) He was succeeded by Gen Sir F R Roy Bucher and Gen (now Field Marshal) K M Cariappa, the first Indian C-in-C of the Indian Army (and the last, after the nomenclature was changed to Chief of Army Staff) He then became the first chief

Again, the writer has missed the name of Maj Amarjit Singh Bal (born on June 6, 1940) who was conferred the Param Vir Chakra in the '71 Indo-Pak war His father was Maj-Gen Tara Singh Bal who retired in 1975 (source *India Who's Who* Pvt Asia Newspaper Alliance, Hongkong)

Samir Kumar Sutradhar
Bongaigaon (W B)



UNI AFP

A convoy of Indian soldiers passing through the Elephant Pass near Jaffna

Sumir Lal replies:
While thanking Mr Sutradhar for the information about the C-in-C s I would like to inform him that Maj Amarjit Singh Bal won the Maha Vir Chakra and not the Param Vir Chakra in 1971 The only four PVC winners in the 1971 conflict were 2 Lt Arun Khetarpal, L/Naik Albert Ekka, Flg Offcr Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon (all posthumous) and Maj Hoshiar Singh all of whom were mentioned

One Sided

Your reporter did not bother to ask the students of Don Bosco, Liluah, for their views on the school ('Golden Gate,' December 13). The attitude of the school towards its teachers has not been healthy of late. Your reporter should have also tasted the food the boarders get and the food the Salesians themselves have: There is a marked difference.

Name and address withheld

10
Cover Story: A profile and interview of 18-year-old Viswanathan Anand, India's first chess Grandmaster. Also a look at Garri Kasparov's phenomenal career graph

26



Comics: Introducing the popular serial,He-Man,from this week

18
Focus: Calcutta's famous Maidan is being destroyed by the very people who are supposed to maintain it. A report



Goutam Roy

The Telegraph
31 JANUARY 1988

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Cover:
George Francis

NATURE'S GEMS

Rashbehari Das visited the Agri-Horticultural Society of India's flower show earlier this month







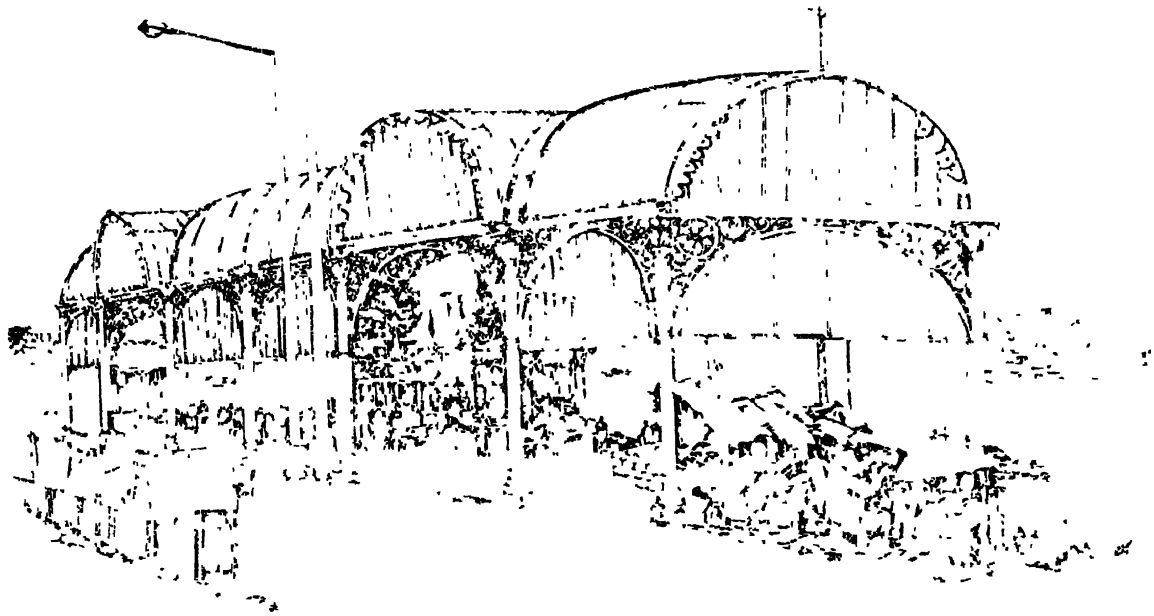


Clockwise from top left: **Visitors at the flower show; a dahlia in full bloom; a prize-winning display; and a variety of rose**

HERITAGE

Rathin Mitra

AHIRITOLLA GHAT



The Ahiritolla Ghat is located on the east bank of the Hooghly, off Strand Road. One of the city's oldest localities, Ahiritolla still bears the stamp of the Bengali aristocracy of the bygone days with some palatial buildings of classical architecture.

The roots of the Hindi word 'Ahir' can be traced to the Sanskrit, 'Abhir' (milkman). Ahiritolla means the locality of milkmen. This area of north Calcutta is also known as Goalpara or Goaltuli. Ahiritolla was once inhabitated by a number of renowned personalities, among whom were the zamindar of Janai, attorney Purna Chandra Mukherjee, Kumar Krishna Mitra, Bhola Nath Chandra and Kishorilal Mukherjee, father of revolutionary Jadugopal Mukherjee.

Bengali Bhajans by Sabita Chakraborty (Super Sound 063)

The artiste is gifted with an exceptionally sonorous and well-trained voice that automatically adds a separate dimension to the songs However, in this cassette of devotional compositions, the music is often inapt Some of the numbers for instance, bear close resemblance to the adhunik genere Also traits of folk tunes do not do justice to bhajans Nevertheless, *Meerar Krishna tumi, Kato je sundar* and *Hey Giridhar, Nandalal* stand out from the collection of 10 numbers The uneven recording quality has also adversely affected the artiste's virtuosity, she displays perfect voice control and a laudable command over the essentials of music

Dil Padosi Hai Asha Bhosle, Rahul Dev Burman and Gulzar (HMV HTCS O4B 4357-58 stereo, hi-dynamic)

This twin cassette set was a search for a song with no strings of made-to-order attached by Asha Bhosle R D Burman and Gulzar the three who have collaborated on Hindi film songs so often and so well These private songs 14 in number, are indeed different–and yet not so different that they are difficult to identify as the works of the three

As with any such set of songs, something here and there is bound to be amiss But the overall charm of experimentation and sincerity cannot be missed Certainly a far more successful exploration than RD's *Pantera! Dil Padosi Hai*, in fact seems an extension of the recent collaboration of the trio for Gulzar's film, *Ijaazat* And what collaboration all three seem to enhance one another's work and bring forth the joy of holding hands and prancing in the park

Bheeni bheeni bhor begins the musical journey with natural early morning sounds which evoke poetry And Gulzar's poetry has always been matchless Then, there is the instrumental used twin-voice effect which RD used as a devastating device in *Kya janoo sajan* in *Baharon Ke Sapne* one of the earliest Rajesh Khanna films and then reverted to in *Koraaya aane bhi de* in *Kala Sona* and has yet again toyed with in *Ijaazat* As for Asha she has always been getting better and better with the years enriching her voice Gulzar too is at his best here To wit

Haan mere gham to utha 'eta hai gham khaar nahin
Dil padosi hai magar mera taraf daar nahin

If one single number were to be selected for repeated listenings, one would barter the rest of the songs for *Saaton baar bole bansi* 'you can hum the universe' with it, to follow Gulzar's words The only regret is that it does not exploit the sound of the *bansi* in the interludes as much as it should have And if a single number were to be panned for being there, one would easily shoot down the last number, *Raat Christmas ki thi*–a big bore if ever there was one

Rahul Dev Burman Presents Pantera (EMI, STCS-S EMGE 21011, stereo supreme)

After grappling with this strange creature that goes by the name of *Pantera* (panther in Spanish) one is still bewildered is it a bird is it a plane or is it Superman Pancham (R D Burman's bold attempt to go international? Trying to be different (and maybe one-up on close rival Bappi Lahiri), R D Burman gangs up with foreign vocalists and musicians with Jose Flores having a big say in matters (the music is credited jointly the lyrics are his and the bongo, conga and percussion are attributed to him) What they conjure up are seven oddities which excite you to begin with, but leave you quite cold mid-way A word about the inlay card however beyond doubt, an artistic delight

The technical aspects of the compositions are also beyond dispute excellent by any standards But technical excellence do not a musical composition make A queer mix of Latin American beats stringed together with meaningless wor-



dage and nothing particulatly throbbing about any of the seven compositions The initial feeling of excitement one realises at the end is perhaps due to the fact that it is our very own Pancham striking out *Pantera's* growl turns out to be just a yawn

BARTER BANK

• **Camera, cassettes, magazines** and **stamps** I offer a camera with electroflash, cassettes, magazines and stamps for anything of corresponding value Contact Swapan Chandra, 95 2, Bose Pukur Road Calcutta 42

• **Transistor** and **wristwatch:** I offer a transistor and wristwatch for a carrom board or amplifier Write to Ashok Bhowmick, 87 9, A K Mukherjee Road, Baranagar, Calcutta 90

• **Video games:** I offer the double screen video games, *Oil Panic* and *Green House*, and the single screen games, *Submarine*, *Mario's Cement Factory* and *Turtle Bridge* for other video games in good condition, or anything of corresponding value Contact Atul Beria, 66 1, C G T Road Liluah Howrah

• **Novels:** I want to exchange James Hadley Chase's *You're Dead Without Money* and Harold Robbin's *The Carpet Baggers* for books by Jeffrey Archer, Desmond Bagely and John Cleary Write to Chandan Guha, 82 Belgachia Road, Block B, Flat no 4, Calcutta 31

• **Study material:** I offer ICSE and ICS (class 11) books with papers for anything of corresponding value Contact Sudip Arch, B 93 Astronauts Avenue, Bidhan Nagar Durgapur 713212

• **Record player, camera** and **transistor:** I offer a Fiesta Popular record player, Agfa camera and a transistor for a portable television Write to Sandeep Bose, 63 A, Chowringhee Road, second floor, Calcutta 20

• **Spectrum Plus** with **television, cassette recorder,** and **games/utilities.** I offer a Spectrum Plus with television, cassette recorder and games utilities for anything of corresponding value Contact B Thakker, 10, Tarachand Dutta Street, Calcutta 73

• **Shaving sets:** I offer a Philips Lectronix and a Sanyo shaving set (battery operated) for a Walkman in good condition Contact Debashis Guha, 40 A Satish Mukherji Road, Calcutta 26

• **Video game:** I would like to exchange a Singaporean, light weight battery operated video game, *Missile Strike*, for anything of corresponding value Write to Sudip Arch, B.93, Astronauts Avenue, Bidhan Nagar, Durgapur 713212

• **Calculator:** I offer a Casio solar system calculator for Bullworker's New Height Programme Contact Ranaji Gupta, 9, Brindaban Pal Lane, Baghbazar Street, Calcutta 3

Magazines: I offer about 1,000 Indian magazines in English and Hindi for anything of corresponding value Contact P K Agarwal, 157, Netaji Subash Road, third floor, Room no 204 Calcutta 1

• **Cassettes:** I offer cassettes of *Sagar* and *Wham* for Sidney Sheldon's *If Tommorow Comes* Contact Prem Tantia, 66/1 C, G T Road, Liluah, Howrah

• **Study material:** I offer the complete set of Agarwal classes for IIT-JEE for anything of corresponding value Contact Mohim Phadke, Block 19, Flat no 14, South Eastern Railway Colony, Calcutta 43

• **Stamps** with **album:** I offer 900 foreign stamps with album for two double screen video games or one triple screen video screen video game or five encyclopedias Contact Zafar Alam, 12, Haji Mohd Mohsin Square, Calcutta 16

THE WORST OF TWO WORLDS

His mother tongue is Malayalam (or Punjabi or Marathi or Hindi). But he speaks English and cannot communicate with his grandmother. He wears jeans, reads Ayn Rand and listens to Pink Floyd. He forever feels out of place. He is the modern urban Indian

Years ago many young men with a prayer on their lips and a degree certificate in their suitcase entrained for distant Calcutta to make a fortune. They settled down in dreary hotel one room flats boarding houses and hostels.

Despite their twangy Malayali accent and limited knowledge of spoken English they managed to get jobs and positions as clerks in various firms in the city. They worked hard and through sheer perseverance rose in the office hierarchy. By the time they were in their late twenties they were earning enough to live comfortably in Calcutta and so they went home to Kerala to get themselves brides.

They returned timid dusky brides who were both thrilled and scared about living in a big city like Calcutta. After a month's leave and a honeymoon in exotic Kashmir or Agra, the newly weds came to Calcutta. In course of time children were born to these men and women.

The children came into relatively comfortable middle class homes and received good food, good clothing and a lot of affection. Their mothers spoke Malayalam to them and they picked up the language quickly. Soon they were speaking it with an elan and fluency that would have put native Keralites to shame.

When they were five, they went to school usually St. Xavier's or Don Bosco for the boys and Loreto House and its branches St. Theresa's and Queen of the Missions for the girls.

For the first time in their lives, these children were confronted with English. They began to read books and saw films in the language and were surrounded by English-speaking friends. At home when their parents found their children had become fluent in English they perhaps consciously began to speak the language with them although between the spouses, Malayalam remained the medium of communication. With the constant use of English in time the children forgot their mother tongue although they retained a rudimentary knowledge of it.

At the end of two years when the parents took their children to Kerala, they were confronted by another culture. Now there was Malayalam everywhere in houses, films churches and in conversations. For a few days, the English speaking children were completely disoriented. Although they knew Malayalam, their fluency left much to be desired. But gradually, because of the intense pressure to speak it (they could not communicate with their grandmothers, for instance) they picked up the language and, soon, were speaking it fluently.

Parents were proud and relatives joyous. The children had became "true" Malayalis. But then the holidays came to an end and the children returned to Calcutta, and within a month, the effect was wiped out and they were back to thinking and speaking in English. Enid Blyton prim English world replaced the ethos of Kerala in their minds.

Meanwhile, they were growing up and teenage rebellion was manifest in parent-child tensions. Daughters were in conflict with mothers and sons with fathers.

Searching for identity the young people began to ape the youth of the West in various ways. So came jeans, T-shirts and the latest fashions. American best-selling fiction became the staple reading diet and listening to Western music was the style of the day.

Soon there was a growing band of fanatical supporters of Pink Floyd, Abba and the Beatles and, for the discerning few, the music of Jethro Tull and Crosby Stills Nash and Young.

The urban Keralite thus mixed with other cosmopolitan youth and gradually grew completely alienated from the Malayali society from which he had sprung. In fact whenever he got the chance he talked derisively of the greenborne (who'd just arrived in Calcutta like his father had so many years ago) and mocked their accented English and "rustic" ways.

Right through college, the rebellion lasted. Then as the young man settled into a career and found himself independent and confident, he reconciled with his parents. He could not forget the hard work they had put in, selflessly and unconditionally that had enabled him to have such a peaceful childhood. He treated them with a renewed love and respect.

But still there was this deep sense of rootlessness.

Why? The Malayali youth does not belong anywhere completely. He is a mixture of several cultures. The urban culture that exists on the streets, the South Indian culture that prevails at home and the Western culture of his cosmopolitan friends.

That is why in a city like Calcutta, you will find jeans clad young Indians exult over American Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* and identifying with its heroes and heroines and the powerful message of positive individualism. In other words he is in a perpetual state of cultural dichotomy. He lives in and is a product of India but his eyes and ears and aspirations are in the West.

What better example is there of this unfortunate state than when one tries to indulge in perhaps the most personal act of all self-expression one has to use an alien language English.

Shevlin Sebastian



QUIZ



Neil O'Brien

I am happy to receive a report of a sports quiz held in far off Cochin P K Shaju writes

An all-Kerala inter-collegiate sports quiz was held in Cochin Kerala, under the auspices of the States Club Cochin Twenty-four teams from different parts of Kerala participated After a preliminary test, eight teams were selected for the final round

'The final round witnessed a keen tussle among the teams Finally Christ College, Irinjalakuda won the first prize The department of Ship Technology Cochin University, came second, missing the first place by a narrow margin of one point St Thomas College, Trichur, came third

The quiz was conducted by Subhash Panicker who was assisted by Tony Kuriakose, Sreekumar and Shaju It was one of the best quizzes held in Cochin recently as far as organisation and participation are concerned '

Shantanu Dey reports from Calcutta 50

The Young Effective Anglo Indians Hope (YEAH) organised a quiz with a difference Sponsored by Pure Drinks Limited, the inter-school sports quiz included special video rounds and questions pertaining to cricket Nineteen teams took part and it was impossible to pick the winner till the very last question

Calcutta Boys School (CBS) led till the visual round, but the placings then underwent a dramatic change with La Martiniere for Boys (LMB) getting ahead to capture the Campa Cola-YEAH trophy and beating CBS by half-a point St Xavier's came third

The quiz was well organised and thoroughly enjoyable One only hopes that there are more quizzes of this nature in the future Thanks a lot Campa Cola and YEAH!

A few weeks ago we carried a tribute to Sadhan

CBS

11th Question: **Why are beds in hotels so placed that their left sides are against the wall? (Gaurab Bhattacharya, Qr No. : B-126, IIT Kharagpur, Pin 721302**
Ans: **It is because of a superstition that the forces of good dwelt on the right side and evil forces on the other side So getting out from the bed on the right side precipitated a bright lucky day whereas the otherway round was considered unlucky. So, the special arrangement in hotel beds.**

Banerjee from his fellow quizmasters In response to that I have received the following letter from Bangalore

"My dear Neil,

Before I begin, a very happy New Year to you and the Calcutta quizzing community It is only today, when I chanced upon a copy of *The Telegraph* that I learned of Sadhan's imminent departure for Australia The tributes by you, Francis and R M Sen have more or less epitomised the sentiments of everybody who knew Sadhan, but a word from "exiles" like us, one-time Calcuttans and honorary members of the DI thanks to quizzing, is, I think, in order

"For those in thrall as we were when we first entered the portals of the Home of Quizzing way back in 78 or '79, two names that we whispered in reverential undertones even in the bar (this feat is not impossible, it all depends on the names) were yours and Sadhan's I do not intend being fulsome, but Sadhan was Zeus to your Apollo in the inquisitorial pantheon The comparison is, I think, apt for Sadhan had raised the judicious employment of thunderbolts almost to a fine art But then, if there were occasional thunderbolts, an obbligato as often as not for a nor wester that sent us scurrying into the Hall, there was the fun and jollity too There was Sadhan the excellent mimic, Sadhan the raconteur of a naughty story or two, Sadhan the magnificent reciter of verse or drama whose Bengali offerings brought us well nigh tears, Sadhan at his schoolmasterly best as he peered at us inquiringly over his glasses, Sadhan at his most endearing as he consoled a team that had missed a vital point Above all, Sadhan always

'Each year North Star time was Sadhan time, more so for us exiles If the quiz itself offered the irresistible allurement of the hunt, meeting Sadhan was something even more precious it was an all too brief a tryst with the past And one could commiserate with him in his unspoken ill-ease as he contemplated the atmosphere of the Institution of Engineers or the ornate stage of the Chowdaiah Memorial Hall - not quite the lawns of home, he seemed to be saying to himself, and those of us who had known the latter knew precisely the c fference

"It would be trite to say that we shall miss him but if one allows oneself a native superstition, the chances are that Sadhan will choke rather often on his ginger-beer as he sits under the southern sky, for each time would be an echo of the emptiness he leaves behind And we hope the land of Cook loves him as much as the land of Tagore

Warmest regards,
K V K Murthy"

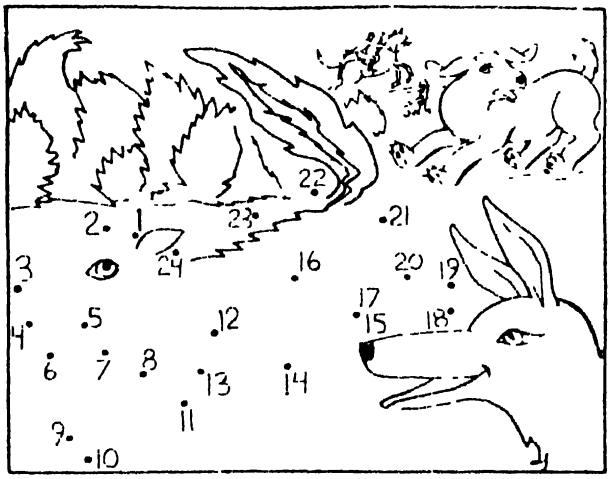
QUESTIONS

1. Who were Muzhiks? (Manish Gupta, Calcutta-17)
2. Which vegetable contains the most iron? (Joy Deep Mitra, Calcutta-29)
3. Which mineral is known as 'rock cotton"? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
4. Which is the only country to have its map on its flag? (Shailesh Kr Singh, BIT, Sindri)
5. Which city was partly built from the rubble of London (after the Great Fire) (Baishali De, Calcutta-29)
6 Which place is often referred to as an "amusement supermarket '? (Gopal Chokhani, Guwahati-1)
7 Which are the only three English words with the five vowels in their alphabetical order? (Sanjay Kr Agarwalla, Mayurbhanj)
8 Who are known as "St Nicholas' clerks"? (G Rajesh, Calcutta-25)
9. Whose last words were "I desire to go to hell and not to heaven In the former place I shall enjoy the company of popes kings, princes, while in the latter are only beggars, monks and apostles' ?
10. What is a 'dead man s handle"? (Shankar Sharan, BIT, Sindri)

ANSWERS

1. Russian peasants
2 Spinach
3 Asbestos, because it can be split into fibres and spun into a fire-proof fabric
4 Cyprus
5. Leningrad
6 Disneyland
7 Abstemious, arsenious, and facetious
8. Thieves (St Nicholas was the patron saint of thieves –OB)
9. Niccolo Machiavelli, Florentine diplomat and political philosopher
10. It is a device attached to the control gear of an electric train which ensures that the train is automatically brought to rest if the driver releases his grip due to sudden illness

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



OUTFOXED! What can you draw to complete the picture above? To find out, add lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc

• FLAT OUT! Lie flat on your back on the floor. Fold your arms across your chest. With arms folded, feet forward, try to stand up.



FACING UP TO BILLS

Use value information below to identify portraits on current $1, $2, $5, $10, $20, $50 and $100 US bills.

Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson values total $8

Washington, Hamilton, Grant total $61

Grant, Jefferson, Jackson total $72

Jackson, Lincoln, Franklin total $125

Franklin, Grant, Hamilton total $160

Remember, you are asked to tell whose portrait is on each of the bills.

Washington $1, Jefferson $2, Lincoln $5, Hamilton $10, Jackson $20, Grant $50, Franklin $100

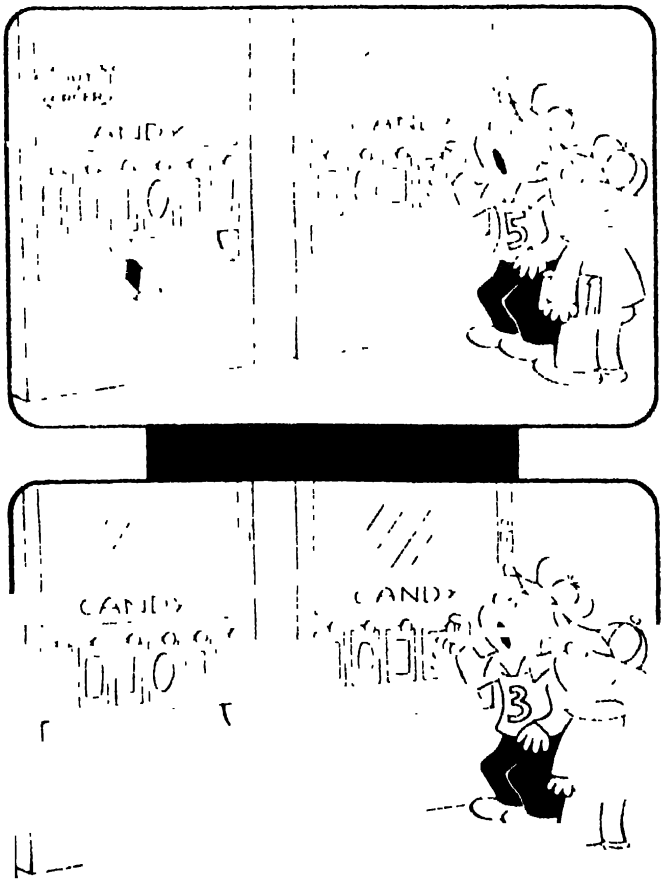
ABC SCAN. Each of the words below contains a trio of consecutive letters of the alphabet—RST, DEF, GHI, etc. Just for fun, see if you can find at least six more words that contain these or other consecutive three-somes.

Tip: Jot down letters of the alphabet horizontally and scan them for threesome possibilities.

Other laughing, hijack, syncopsis, worst, study, are, six, etc.



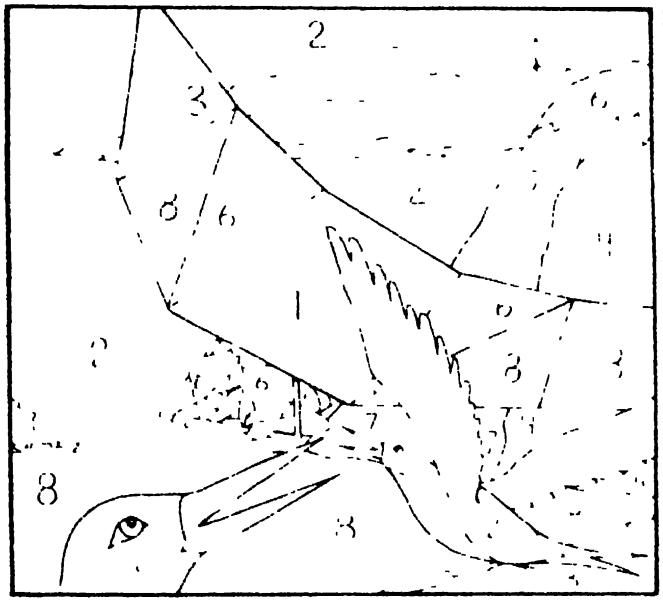
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Candy bars moved. 3. Number is different. 4. Cap is different. 5. Book is missing. 6. Lady is slimmer.

FUNSPOT



SKY LARK! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments. 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Lt. purple, 6—Green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. blue.

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

STERLING

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagram: Sent, gilt

MASTER OF THE GAME

Young Viswanathan Anand is one of the few sportsmen to have done the country proud over the last year, becoming the world junior chess champion and also India's first ever Grandmaster. But what is even better, says *Partab Ramchand*, is that the prodigy is not content to rest till he wins the world title

Viswanathan Anand is phlegmatic by nature. Unaffected by triumphs and disasters (the latter have been few and far between) his equanimity would be the envy of a philosopher. But having won the Grandmaster title something which has so far been beyond the reach of Indian players the 18 year old prodigy's happiness was evident as he met friends, family members, wellwishers and newsmen at his spacious home in the posh Besant Nagar area in south Madras.

move uneasily in their chairs, Anand is a picture of poise - never over confident, only supremely confident. His middle game is his strongest point and so planned are his tactics and so far sighted his thinking, that he frequently has his opponents in a tight corner. Not surprisingly most of his victories have been within 15 or 20 minutes while his opponents have struggled for more than two hours. Since most of Anand's opponents do not survive his on laught in the middle game there is, strictly speaking, no end



Anand with his mother, Susheela, who has been instrumental in his success

game at all!

The Lightning Kid" is perhaps one of the most appropriate sobriquets that has been bestowed on him. For his game is indeed lightning fast. While his opponents scratch their heads or

Anand's triumph is a classic case of inborn talent being carefully nurtured at every step, first by his parents and then by the Tamil Nadu Chess Association and the All-India Chess Federation. Born at Madras on December 11, 1969, Anand is the youngest of three children born to K. Viswanathan and his wife Susheela. His father retired in 1986 as general manager of the South-1986 as general manager of the Southern Railway. A camaraderie exits between Viswanathan senior's quip that his son too had become a 'GM' soon after Anand won the Grandmaster title at Coimbatore on December 28.

The credit for getting Anand interested in chess goes to his mother when she discovered the enormous talent in her youngest child, she lost no time in arranging special coaching for him.

A major turning point in Anand's life came in 1978 when his father, as a senior executive of the railways, was sent to Manila on deputation. The chess-charged atmosphere in the Philippine capital appealed to the future Grandmaster who was then not even 10-years-old. He played regularly in many tournaments and took a keen interest in Chess Today, a daily feature on Manila television. Soon he began solving many of the problems posed by the programme and became a regular on the show. Today, he recalls meeting Filipino GM Eugene Torres on the programme and asking for his autograph.

After almost two years in Manila Anand returned with his parents to Madras where he joined the Tal chess club run by the Soviet consulate. By 1983, Anand was making headlines with his triumphs at the all-India open tournaments at Madras and Sivakasi. Finally, people took notice of this sensation from Tamil Nadu a state with a rich tradition in the game.

Anand got an International Master (IM) norm at 14 and by 15, became India's youngest IM while playing at the Asian junior championship at Hong Kong. Despite his phenomenal rise, the doubt that he would burn himself out always lingered. In the past, there had been several precocious youngsters who faded as quickly as they rose. But here there was no need for such worries, as later events proved—Anand was obviously built of sterner stuff.

Manuel Aaron, currently secretary of the All-India Chess Federation, was one of the early Indians to make a mark on the international scene, becoming the country's first IM in 1960. He remained India's only IM

until 1977 and has obviously been an inspiration, even a father figure to Indian chess players

Between 1960 and 1987 though 10 other Indians became IMs, none succeeded in graduating to GM Admittedly, chess is a tough game, but it is disappointing that promising players like Ravishekhar Ravikumar, Thipsay and Barua did not live upto their earlier promise Barua, in particular attracted considerable attention by his exploits in the early eighties (he got the IM title when he was 16) but unfortunately, the bespectacled youngster from Bengal failed to live up to this earlier promise

Anand succeeded where his predecessors failed In August last year, he took a major step towards becoming the GM when he won the junior world title held by an interesting incidence, in the Philippine city of Baguio He was the first Asian to do so The victory gave Anand a GM norm He needed two more such norms to get the GM title Practical and methodical he gave himself 1988 as his target year for achieving the title which he said on his victory was his immediate ambition

But Anand was really 'immediate' about achieving his ambition He picked up a GM norm by finishing second in the Bhilwara Tournament at New Delhi early in December and then came the climax with his victory in the Shakthi Finance International Grandmasters Tournament at Coimbatore later that month It was fitting that he fulfilled his ambition in the state where he had learnt the rudiments of the game

After this big achievement the question that arises is where does Anand go from here ? Fortunately he is an ambitious lad not one content to rest on his laurels He wants to play in more big tournaments and raise his rating At present he has 2 505 points (he is the highest ranked Indian player) but his primary aim is to get 2,600 points, a rating which would automatically place him among the top two dozen players in the world Of course now that he is a Grandmaster, he should be getting invited to the major tournaments

Anand's ultimate aim is to have a try at the world title, no less ' But that is too far ahead to plan and the path is quite long," says the ever practical teenager The procedure is both lengthy and tough making some liken it to the chess equivalent of climbing Mount Everest First, there is a zonal competition with representation at the next stage depending on the

HOW A GM IS MADE

How does one become a Grandmaster in chess? Though the title itself is coveted, the path to it is definitely tough and time-consuming.

The first condition one has to fulfil is to play a total of 24 games in various high category tournaments recognised by Fide (the international body). For example, the Shakthi Finance International Grandmasters Tournament at Coimbatore in which Viswanathan Anand clinched the GM title was a Category VII tournament (Fide rating 2,401 to 2,426 points) The conditions for these tournaments are

- **There should be a minimum of three GMs participating and they should not all be from the same country**
- **One-third of the players must be from abroad**
- **The points won in these tournaments by those aspiring to become GMs must be about 75 per cent of the total possible**

If these conditions are fulfilled the player gets a GM norm Let's take Anand's case In the category VIII Bhilwara tournament held at New Delhi in December (Fide rating 2,426 to 2,450) there were 12 players (including four GMs). This meant that out of a possible 11 points Anand had to get 8 5 to get a GM norm. In the Coimbatore tournament, there were 14 players (including five GMs) This implied that Anand had to get 10 out of 13 for another GM norm. Playing a total of 24 games in the two tournaments and getting the required number of points, Anand would have clinched the GM title even he if had not won the world junior championship last August

In competitions like the latter, (which are not round robin) only if one wins the tournament one gets a GM norm Hence, Anand's victory in that tournament can now be considered as a bonus on his way to becoming a GM



Anand admiring his world junior champion trophy

THE UPSTART WHO MADE IT BIG

Devangshu Dutta profiles the reigning world champion, **Garri Kasparov**

Baku, capital of Azerbaidzhan, the predominantly Muslim Soviet republic, has a tradition of chess which dates back to the 12th century. And today, this Caspian Sea-port's tradition is epitomised by Garri Kimovitch Kasparov, the current world champion.

Garri Kasparov, who will turn 25 in April, was a prodigy from the word go. At four he taught himself to read and write and on the very first day the six-year-old Garri was to start violin lessons, he startled his parents, Klara and Kim Wainsthein, by suggesting a solution to a problem in chess that had baffled them the previous evening And they had not even taught him the game!

When Kim Wainsthein, a Jewish engineer died in an accident before Garri was seven, the little boy was brought up by his maternal grandparents, the Kasparians, from whom he legally adopted the "Sovietised" version of his name.

Garri Kasparov first hit the headlines at nine when he was the runner-up in the Baku championship. In 1973 he was declared a candidate master—a Soviet title accorded to a player of near international class. But his first real triumph came in June 1973 when he played in the All-Union Youth Championship where former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik noticed him for the first time

Western interest in Garri Kasparov was first aroused when he finished seventh in his first attempt at the Soviet junior title in Vilnius in 1975. Barden of *The Guardian* then predicted that Garri Kasparov would possibly wrest the world title from Anatoly Karpov in 1990. (Kasparov went on to do that in 1985!)

In 1980, Kasparov became the youngest ever Grandmaster. The same year, he vanquished all opposition at Dartmund and went on to win the junior title. Dibyendu Barua, who was present, recalled that in casual games Kasparov gave others a five-minute handicap and himself only one minute, but would still win.

The world championship match between Karpov and Kasparov, considered by most as the most memorable clash of the century,



began in Moscow in 1984. The rules stated that the title would go to the first person to win six games in an unlimited match Initially, Karpov took full advantage of Kasparov's reckless style and within 10 games was ahead 4-0. Just as the outcome seemed inevitable, Kasparov changed his style and began playing for a long series of draws. His intention was to exploit the unlimited match rules and Karpov's possibly suspect stamina. Though Karpov went ahead 5-0 in 17 games, he simply could not wrap up the match and Kasparov clawed his way back by winning 3 games—the last two in a row. With 48 games already played, the president of the World Chess Federation controversially stepped in and cancelled the match on health grounds.

The next match was played in Moscow in 1985 under revised rules—the first player to win six games would continue to be regarded the winner but the match would be limited to only 24 games. If the players tied after 24 games, the defending champion would retain his title. Also, Karpov would have the right to a return match if he lost

A much chastened and wiser Kasparov won the very first game of the marathon match. He eventually won the match 5-3, thus becoming at 22, the youngest player to ever win the world championship

The memorable "revenge match" of 1986 was split between London and Leningrad. Kasparov surprised everyone by resurrecting the Grunfeld Defence, which his own innovations had rendered obsolete After the London leg, Kasparov led 2-1 and after 16 games, the result seemed a foregone conclusion with him leading 4 . Karpov equalised but Kasparov won the 22nd game and retained the title

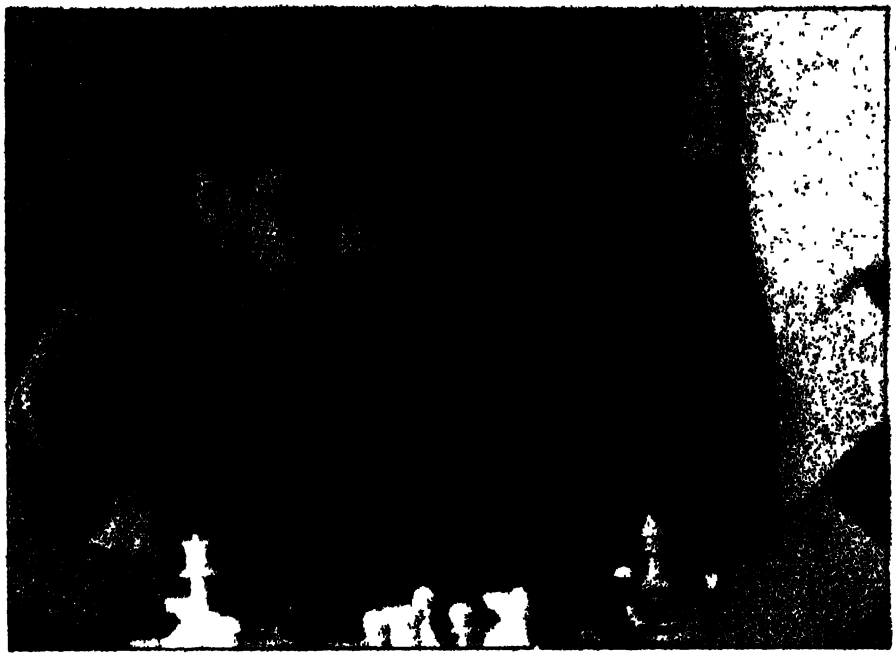
In 1987 they tied at 3-3 after the 16th game and the next six games were drawn. But in the 23rd and penultimate game, Karpov broke through to lead 4-3 Kasparov had to win the final game to retain his title which he did in 64 moves after a wild scramble where both players had only seconds to spare. The fact that at 24, Kasparov is the world champion with his best still to come, is indeed a frightening prospect.

strength of each zone. India is in the weaker Asian zone which has only one qualifier The European zone, which is stronger, has three or four qualifiers. After the zonal competitions come the inter-zonal ones, following which are the candidates' matches These can see nearly 20 participants compete over a long drawn out series of matches. The winner of these challenges the world champion, Garri Kasparov

Anand, however, will have to wait before he can stake a claim as the next qualifying rounds for the world championship will start only after three years. But he remains unperturbed In fact, he says the delay will give him a chance to hone his skills.

Anand is shy and modest but get him to talk and you will find that he is intelligent with a maturity that belies his age. He remains unaffected by pressures and, in any case, has that

'I WANT TO GO FOR THE WORLD TITLE'



George Francis

Viswanathan Anand in conversation with **Partab Ramchand:**

Did you expect to clinch the GM title at the Coimbatore tournament?

After winning the world junior title in August, I reserved 1988 as the year in which I would hopefully win the GM title. So it was a very pleasant surprise to win it in 1987 itself. Regarding the Coimbatore tournament, I knew I would have to finish with 10 points out of 13 in this Category VII tournament to get the required norm. I wanted to avoid defeat at any cost and planned for seven wins and six draws which would have given me the 10 points. But I was off to a good start, notching up four points after the first five rounds. That made my task easy and ultimately I finished with 10-and-a-half points from eight wins and five draws.

Were you nervous at any time, particularly when you were on the verge of clinching the title?

I was not nervous though there might have been a little apprehension at the thought of not winning the title. But I did not play for the GM title and took each game as it came.

What was the general standard in the tournament?

The competition was strong, there being five GMs and four IMs among the 14 participants.

You always said that achieving the GM title was your immediate ambition. Now with that behind you, what are your future plans?

I hope to play in more big tournaments and improve my rating. I now have 2,505 points and my next target is 2,600 which will put me among the top 25. I am confident of being invited for major competitions now that I have achieved this title. Ultimately, however, I want to go for the world title.

But would you say that this is too far ahead?

Yes, it's a long process. First there is the zonal competition. Then the inter-zonal followed by the candidates' matches. The winner of the candidates' matches challenges the world champion. But of course all this is a long way off. Right now my next move is to take part in the national championship at Neyveli from January 25.

When will you formally get the GM title?

At the next congress of Fide, in February or March. I will be awarded the GM title which comes in the form of a certificate I don't have to go to the congress to receive it; it will be sent to me

You have achieved the GM title at just 18. Is that the average age for a player to become Grandmaster?

Becoming a GM between 18 and 20 is not common. There are exceptions. Fisher became a grandmaster at 15 and Kasparov at 16. But the majority achieve the title between 20 and 30.

How do you see the future of chess in India?

In recent years the game has received a tremendous boost In 1977 India had only one IM, Manuel Aaron. Now we have 11. With the dramatic rise in the standard, interest has increased and so has sponsorship. Thus you have bigger prize money and more banks and institutions are prepared to provide jobs to chess players. I am confident this trend will continue.

Sometime back you were quoted as saying that one can make a career out of chess in India. Could you explain how?

Yes, one can make a career out of chess in India if one is among the top 15. Union Bank, Indian Bank, the Tatas and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) have many chess players on their rolls. Some may fall in the category of 90 per cent chess and 10 per cent work but at the Tatas it is 100 per cent chess and nothing else. The players just represent chess teams at various tournaments and get the prize money besides their regular salary I still maintain, you can make a career out of chess in India.

What is the kind of prize money offered for chess?

Well, in Coimbatore the winner's purse was Rs 15,000 and the runners up, Rs 10,000. Abroad, the prize money for the winner, for example, at the Lloyds Bank Tournament in London is £2,000 (about Rs 40,000) So there is money in chess both here and abroad.

Do you have time for any extra-curricular activity?

I used to play a lot of tennis table tennis and go swimming I still do them for recreation but chess takes up most of my time I read books on chess and occasionally go to the Tal chess club where my interest in the game started

THE STATE OF THE MASTERS

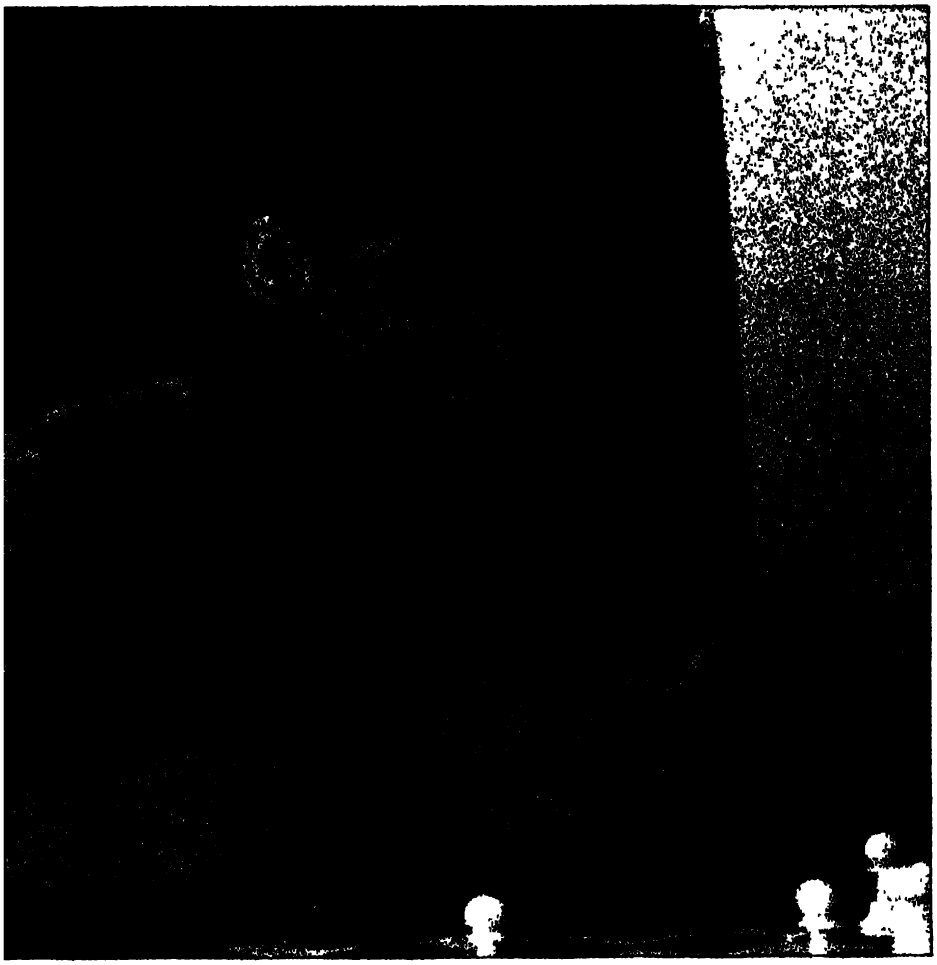
If Calcutta is the headquarters of Indian football and Bombay the nursery of Indian cricket, Madras is the nerve centre of Indian tennis—and chess. The Indian Davis Cup squad almost entirely comprises players from Tamil Nadu. In chess too, of the 11 International Masters (IM) produced in the country since 1960, six are from this state alone.

Manuel Aaron was the first Indian to get the IM title in 1960. No one emulated him for 17 years, but in the last decade India has produced an astounding 10 IMs. five of whom are from Tamil Nadu—Ravikumar, Ravishekhar, T.N. Parameswaran, V. Anand and Lanka Ravi. The other IMs are Barua (West Bengal), Prasad (Karnataka) and Thipsay, Tilak and Vaidya (all from Maharashtra).

The reasons for Tamil Nadu's dominance are not difficult to identify. There is a strong base for popularising and improving standards in the state. Tournaments are conducted regularly in major centres including Madras, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Salem, Madurai and Tuticorin. Sponsorship is not hard to come by with industrialists vying with each other to pour money into the game. The Lakshmi group, Shakti group, Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and Spic are among the chief promotors of the game. All-India open tournaments are conducted regularly and attractive prize money, and free board and lodging are provided to the competitors. As Aaron points out, the prize money for the state championship has risen from a paltry Rs 100 to Rs 750. In Indian tournaments prize money is about Rs 1,5000

More important, the state association is also alive to the needs of chess players and interest is maintained by holding regular tournaments and exhibitions. "It is a very active association," stresses Anand. "and there is a strong chess base in the state. Of course, one must also say that Aaron has been a great inspiration for the young chess players in the state. The feeling here is that if Tamil Nadu chess is strong, Indian chess is strong."

Aaron, however, laments the fact that other states have not followed Tamil Nadu's example. "For some time the game flourished in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. But comparatively little is being done in these states today," he says. Tamil Nadu's dominance in the chess arena is complete—Aaron is the AICF secretary and Tamil industrialist, Mahalingam, is today the AICF president. And now, to top it all, India's first GM hails from this state as well.



George Fani

wonderful capacity of not putting extra pressure on himself For example, at Coimbatore, he did not allow the fact that he was so close to reaching the GM title to affect his game "I did not play for the GM title and took each game as it came," he explains matter-of-factly

Anand attributes his fairy tale success story to his parents, who he says, played a great role "They have encouraged me at every stage and my moves have always met with their approval In the last few years it has been a bit of a battle concentrating on both studies and chess But they have never interfered with my playing chess " And wisely,too, for his parents obviously recognised their brilliant son would do well in both

Anand is currently a first year B.Com student at Loyola College, Madras He does not think that studies will prove a hindrance to his game. In fact, even while playing chess at a very high level, he plans to do his post-graduation.

Anand says that he has not based his game on any other player's. "I read a lot of chess games in books and papers and have generally been impressed by ideas, not players. Unknowingly, I might have adopted the characteristics of some players' style," explains Anand. His favourite, though, has always been Mikhail Tal

Disillusion

I mistook twilight for dawn.
In the faint chirp of a retreating sparrow
I found
the first stirring of a new day.
With lingering hope
yet quivering faith
I thought I touched
the youngest dewdrop on the greenest leaf,
when disillusioned—
I woke up to behold darkness
and the pale moon sighed softly to see
the age old willow's drooping despair.
Sriparna Banerjee

Disembodied

After all the turmoil
a lull prevails.
I am quiet
my eyes stare
at the silence
of speechless trees
dispersed in the blank field ahead.
Let there be none around.
I am not there also.
This is only a fossil preserved
a shape retained
a self lost
and a memory struggling for breath
Subhendu Das

The Call

The red roof tops the winding green lanes;
the swaying green palms, the gentle glade,
from miles away they persistently call,
the spirit of youth is within me,
I have got age on my side—
Wouldn't it be uncanny not to heed the call?
That is where the gypsies by the night dance.
Moon all aglow gives them the light that stars enhance.
It is the moon's call, the stars' call and the gypsies call above all
It is with them I want to dance and sway;
and lose myself in the lilting melodies fray.
Time is not my enemy, no bondage will I heed,
will just flow along and savour their freedom sweet;
New pastures, new lands, new people and a whole new romance.
With every dawn the urge to explore the unknown heralds.
It is a madness, it is a frenzy, it's a bubble—about to burst.



Burst it will, the rainbow colours will disperse
The gypsy way is not mine—in a flash I realise
The cause is simple, I knew it all the way,
I am too darned human to dare and live their way.
Swati Mukherjee

Depression

A dull aching
Holding steady,
As if a plateau has been reached

An all pervading listlessness
Filling all the empty spaces
With a throbbing pain.

Procrastinating lethargic
Suspended in time
A cottonball in space,
Unaware of its passage

A gradual withdrawal of all responses
As if a leper cast aside
Standing tall, forlorn
A majestic banyan tree,
Alone with its wisdom
Shunned by lesser beings

An autistic world
Silent
Unhappy
Fearful.
Sudatta Chakroborty

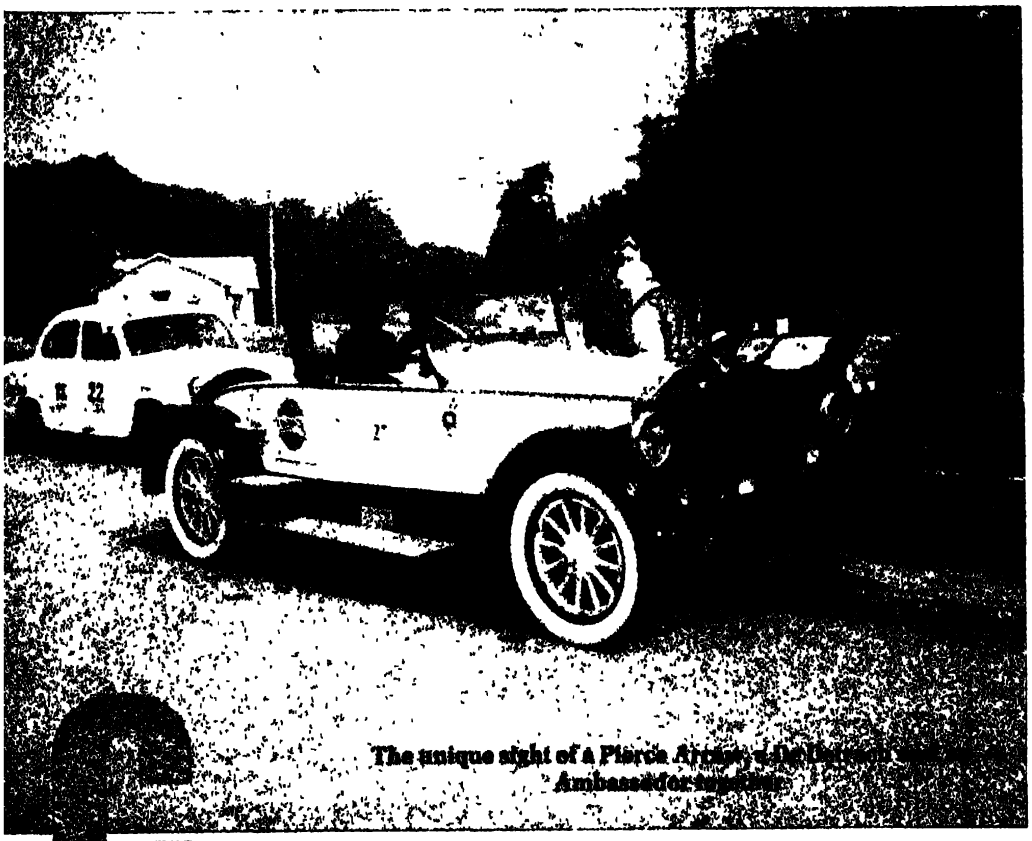
The Song of U Tirot Sing

The sun writes its first few lines of poetry in the morning—
the sounds and light of earth thread around and
sink into the hilly retreats of peace

To us, the bond of blood is a reminder of the long
trek of our wandering race,
and now centuries after,
we gather into an arm of resistance

I grew up to the smell of coarse grain drying in the sun
and the taste of dried fish on hurdles,
and dreams were shaped by the rare lanterns lit up at dusk

Now in an exile, not mine,
I weep the bitterness of [illegible] births—
return me to my land
Give the grass a chance to grow again!
Desmond L. Kharmawphlang



The unique sight of a Pierce Arrow [illegible] Ambassador [illegible]

CHAMP OF THE ROAD



Pulling up before Diamond



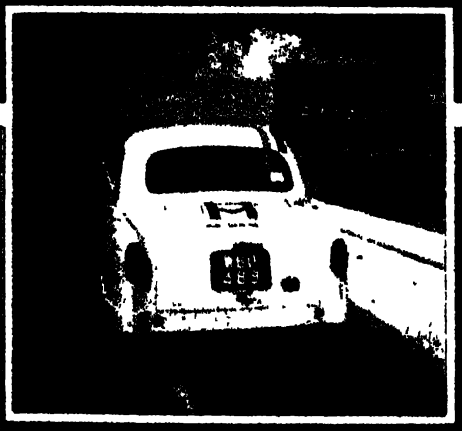
Passing through the US countryside

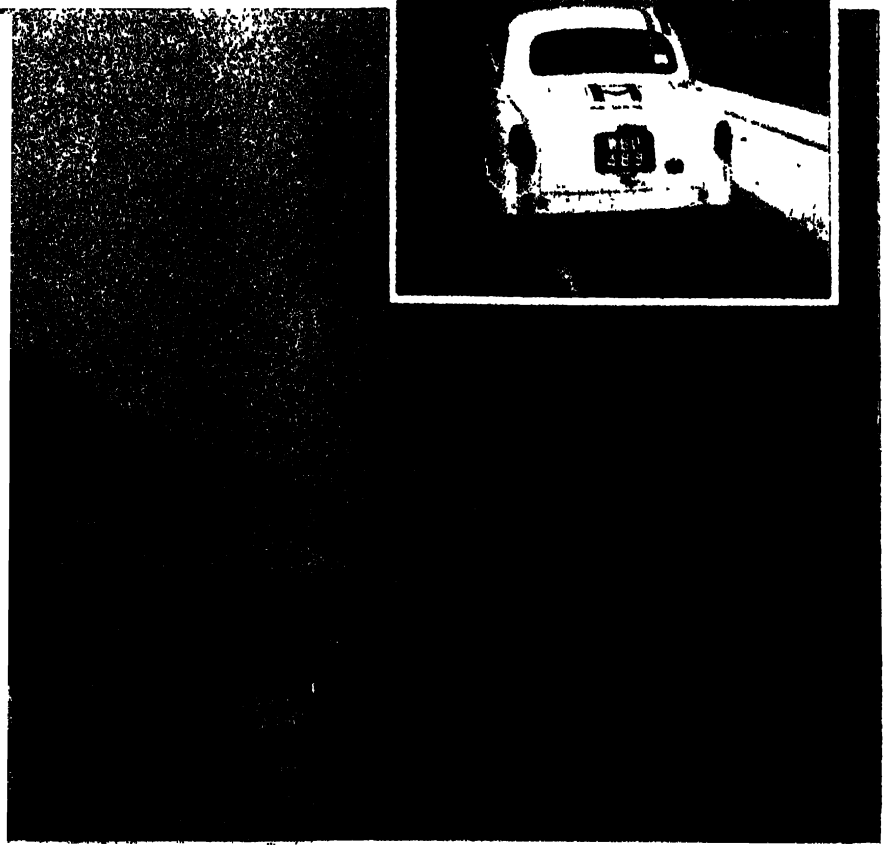


hamrock's headquarters



Lining up [illegible] start at Granbury





India's vintage car rally ace Saloo Chowdhury has proved his supremacy behind the wheel yet again. The man who has never lost a rally all his life, had a dream run last year. Besides winning local rallies, Saloo won laurels at the Great American Race and the Old Car Lap of Texas, becoming the first Asian to do so in both cases.

Fifty-five vehicles began the 1,500 mile trail in October to win the coveted Old Car Lap. The pre-1966 four wheelers had, among them, Saloo's 1961 Ambassador – the first time a car of Indian make participated in an American rally. And it did so gloriously. Saloo and his navigator wife winning in style. India's sturdy Ambassador defeated a field consisting of Silver Ghosts and Bentleys among others.

Sponsored by *The Telegraph*, Hindustan Motors (who revamped the car) and Ambuja Cement, Saloo did not disappoint his well-wishers. He ran smoothly through the 20 stops never requiring a major repair. And Saloo's win came despite an initial penalty of 30 points because he arrived at Dallas, the flag-off point, after the rally control had been [illegible]



Goutam Roy

A drain for the tram tracks has cut off a sliver of the Maidan while a lack of fencing makes it dangerous for children to play

THE GREAT GREEN ROBBERS

The Calcutta Tramways Company is the latest unscrupulous gobbler of the city's invaluable Maidan but nobody seems to be bothered, complains **Umesh Anand**



Subir Kumar Dutta

The space occupied by vendors opposite the Victoria Memorial has become completely bereft of grass

The Maidan has suffered yet another body blow Trams which run along the Fort William golf course are now furrowing through a prime stretch of the Maidan on Casuarina Avenue and the ladies' golf course. What is worse is that to make this possible, several trees have either been felled or have lost their branches.

The tram tracks have been realigned to suit the layout and design of the Second Hooghly Bridge. But the damage to the Maidan and its greenery on which the city depends will be irreparable. Trees which take 30 or 40 years to grow and flourish cannot be replaced overnight, nor will the ladies' golf course remain verdant and serene with overcrowded trams bustling past all day

The invasion of the Maidan has so far been restricted to the Chowringhee-end, where the Metro Railway has converted a temporary lease into a destructive permanent tenancy Or the Hastings-end, where the incomplete Second Hooghly Bridge has been allowed to eat up precious acres with its maze of concrete pillars and girders. But now with the shifting of the tram tracks, no part of the Maidan remains untouched, even though congested and polluted Calcutta is in no position to barter any more of its greenery for projects which demand more from the city than they give in return.

The realigning of the tram tracks was never put to public scrutiny, as all important decisions affecting the quality of life in a city should be. At one stage, the Friends of the Trees interceded and ensured that six of the doomed trees were scientifically uprooted and transplanted. Thereafter, no trees were supposed to be felled or mutilated, till last month when labourers with axes were seen bringing down those trees which were too close to the tracks and chopping off branches of those that came in the way of overhead wires.

The Maidan has lost most of its trees over the years. In 1946, A.P. Benthell recorded in *The Trees of Calcutta*, that there were at least 75 varieties on the Maidan alone. A count made in 1976, however, revealed that only 700 trees of 45 varieties remained. Today, there would be just half that number. The tragedy is that the destruction of the Maidan is taking place at a time when Calcutta needs to preserve all the greenery and open spaces that it has to serve as a buffer against pollution which has reached alarming levels. The city has just 0.45 acre of open space per thousand persons, when a

healthy standard would be 7 acres per thousand. With the population constantly increasing and new buildings coming up every month, this ratio is keeping on changing for the worse. Most parks have either become derelict for want of funds to keep them green or simply disappeared.

The Maidan represents 80 per cent of the open space in the city. There is, therefore, an urgent need to protect it, so that ordinary people have somewhere to go in the evenings and its grass and trees provide some kind of antidote to the poisonous automobile exhausts and noise in the city's core. Instead, 13 big exhibitions are held on its every year and at least 100 acres of the green have gone to the Metro, the shops of the 'New' New Market and the Second Hooghly Bridge.

The Maidan was originally created by Robert Clive for strategic reasons. Jungles were cleared to creat a glacis for Fort William, but as time passed and the city grew, it ceased to serve as merely an appendage to the fort. The military remained the owner, but the Maidan's 1,300 acres of greenery came to be regarded as a civic asset. For instance, when permission was sought for the construction of St Paul's Cathedral, one of the conditions laid down for giving 22 bighas to the Church was that it should be bound off only by iron railings. A concrete wall, it was felt, would mar the Maidan.

A 1921 memo of the PWD and a government order of the same year similarly stipulated that there should not be any permanent structures on the Maidan. The police commissioner was vested with powers to ensure this and the PWD was given the responsibility of maintaining the Maidan. The only structures permitted under the 1921 rules were those which, like the club tents, could be dismantled at 24 hours' notice. Moreover, they would have to be taken apart every six years as proof that they were not permanent.

Such concern, however, is no longer in evidence. The Metro Railway has usurped 39 acres on which it has built shafts for lowering materials underground, storage depots and water tanks: none of these can be dismantled at 24 hours' notice. The Metro has been paying Rs 30 lakhs rent a year for 37 acres and for another Rs 30 lakhs it has bought 1.62 acres for permanent use. It has handed back a few acres prior to the Reliance Cup final and the South Asian Games, but its cranes and warehouses still occupy prime parts of the Maidan. There is little possibility of the Metro pulling out till 1990 or



Subir Kumar Dutta

Exhibitions are increasingly encroaching on fresh segments of the Maidan



Goutam Roy

Valuable trees whose branches have been cut off to make way for the new tram tracks opposite Fort William



Subir Kumar Dutta

Garbage from the numerous exhibitions has accumulated outside the Victoria Memorial



Subir Kumar Dutta

Trees have been cut despite promises to the contrary

even later.

The Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners (HRBC) have, on the other hand, taken over 70 acres of the Hastings corner of the Maidan. When the Second Hooghly Bridge is complete, the HRBC will give back 31 acres, but 39 acres have been lost forever. Then there are also the exhibitions, which are no longer restricted to the area opposite the cathedral and Rabindra Sadan. This year an industrial exhibition was held near the Territorial Army pavilion, a part of the Maidan which was normally used just once a year for the Punjabi Biradree's Ramlila

The chief reason for the decline of the Maidan is that there is no one in authority who perceives its importance to the city. In fact, there even seems to be confusion about who is responsible for its upkeep The legal position is that it belongs to the Army and is looked after by the state government through the commissioner of police. But the Metro till a year or so ago was paying rent directly to the defence ministry and the police chief did not even know about it, though it is he who collects Rs 10,269 a year from the Tramways and the small amounts that labourers pay for cutting the grass. Similarly, the space that was allocated for the shops of the 'New' New Market had actually been leased to the Metro and it was paying rent for it. It was only when the shops started coming up that the Metro protested and asked for the area to be deleted from its quota.

The confusion does not end there. Mr P.T Nair, wellknown for his research on Calcutta past and present, tells us that the Calcutta Corporation Act, 1980, has created some doubts about who owns the Maidan. The Act excludes only Fort William and its ramparts beyond Red Road from the area under the Corporation. This in effect delinks the Maidan from the fort Now, Fort William comes under the Fort William Act of 1881. The area of the fort is not defined, but a notification in *Gazette of India* dated September 13, 1884, said the limit of Fort William was the line of the crest of the glacis, or the extent to which the Maidan stretches. The Fort William Act is valid under the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950, and the Maidan has therefore always been regarded as the property of the Army. But the Calcutta Corporation Act has also received the assent of the President and the question now is who really owns the Maidan? And more important, who is going to fight to protect it? ■

7 DAYS

ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

●**Dariya-dil**-Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033)—all 4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417)—2 30, 5 30 8 30 Malancha (Regent Park) 1 30 4 30 7 30

Directed by K Ravi Shankar and with music by Rajesh Roshan, the cast includes Govinda Kimmy Katkar Shakti Kapoor Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand Gulshan Grover Asrani and Kader Khan

●**Ghar Grihasthi** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road 242664) Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552932) 4 shows

Directed by Dilip Bose and with music by Chitragupt, the cast includes Sujit Kumar, Rakesh Pandey Jai Tilak and Bandini Misra

●**Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein Shyam** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266) Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road 474403) Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road 392250) 4 shows, Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108)- 3 shows Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417)—noon

Govinda Neelam Khushboo and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this film directed by Subhash Sonik The music is by Amar Utpal

●**Khoon Pasina** Orient (Bentinck Street, 231917) Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 244822) Uttara (Bidhan Sarani 552200) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680) Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road, 355059)

A re-release of this Prakash Mehra film, starring Amitabh Bachchan, Vinod Khanna and Rekha The music is by Kalyanji Anandji

●**Mardon Wali Baat**:Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 311090)—4 shows, Madhuban (Regent Park) - 3 shows

Dharmendra, Shabana Azmi Jaya Prada, Sunjay Dutt, Preeti Sapru and Danny Denzongpa comprise the cast of this film, directed by Brij The music is by R D Burman

●**Nastik** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)

A film by Promod Chakraborty starring Amitabh Bachchan, Hema Malini, Deven Varma Amjad Khan and Pran The music is by Kalyanji Anandji



Danny Glover and Darlene Love in *Lethal Weapon*

BENGALI FILMS

●**Amar Sangee** Radha (Bidhan Sarani 553045)—2 30 5 30, 8 15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5 7 45

Vijayeta Pandit and Prasenjit are the lead pair in this film, directed by Sujit Guha Others in the cast are Subhendu Chatterjee, Shakuntala Barua, Ruma Guhathakurta, Ishani Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh and Soumitra Banerjee The music is by Bappi Lahiri

●**Dolon Champa.** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 473462)—3 5 45, 8 30, Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—2 30, 5 15, 8

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Aruna Irani Prasenjit Sandhyarani, Dilip Roy, Gita Dey, Bankim Ghosh, Satya Banerjee Chinmoy Roy and Anup Kumar comprise the cast of this Sujit Guha film whose music is by Kanu Bhattacharya

●**Gurudakshina** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road 474686)—all 1 4 7

Tapas Paul Satabdi Roy Ranjit Mullick, Ishani Banerjee K. Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua Bhabesh Kundu and Soumitra Banerjee comprise the cast of the film, directed by Anjan Choudhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

FOREIGN FILMS

●**Frankenstein 90 (A).** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141)- 4 shows

●**It Could Happen to You (A)** Jamuna (Marquis Street 243715)—4 srows

●**Keoma (A)** Globe (Lindsay Street 296845) -4 shows

●**Lethal Weapon** New Empire (Humayun Place 291051)- 4 shows

Directed by Richard Donner, the film stars Mel Gibson Danny Glover, Darlene Love Gary Busey Mitchell Ryan and Tom Atkins

● **The Omen (A)** Light house (Humayun Place 291299) 4 shows

●**Scream for Help (A)** Elite(S N Banerjee Road 241382)- 4 shows



Shabana Azmi in *Mardon Wali Baat*

•**The Right and the Wrong (A)** Tiger (Chowringhee Road 2359) 4 shows

THEATRE

• **Dampati** Rangana (153 2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 556846) Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Directed by Dilip Roy and based on a story by Manoj Mitra who also makes in a special appearance the cast includes Dilip Roy Gita Dey and Basabi Nandy

• **Kaker Basha** Tapan Theatre (3, A & 37B Sadananda Road 4,65171) Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Directed and acted in by Satya Bandopadhyay the cast also includes Shakti Thakur Ratna Ghosal and Tarun Kumar

• **Nesha** [illegible]

• **Phera** Biswaroopa 12A Raja Raj Krishna Street 553626) Thurs at 6 30 pm Sat Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Drama direction and music are by Soumitra Chatterjee The cast Soumitra Chatterjee Madhabi Mukherjee Urvika Mitra Gautam Chakraborty Srirup Mitra and Premananda Bose

• **Raktakta Adalat** [illegible]

• **Swikarokti** Burgmahal (76 1B Bidhan Sarani 561619) Thurs at 6 30 pm Sat Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Chinmoy Roy Ajit Banerjee Dhiman Chakraborty Bani Kumar Joy Sengupta and Sanghamitra Banerjee compose the cast of this play Drama and direction Subhash Basu

SPECIAL EVENTS

31 January 5 pm, 1-4 February 6 15 pm, 5 February 6 30 pm, 6 February 5 30 pm, 7 February 5 pm

The 41st annual music drama and dance festival organised by Rasika Ranjana Sabha to celebrate 111st anniversary of Sri Thyagaraja Swami features M L Vasanthakumari (vocal) with Kanyakumari (violin) Srimushnam Sri Raja Rao (mridangam) and E M Subramaniam (ghatam) on 31st *Vaidya Bhrdaam* by Kanyakumari (violin) Mandalam Sri Siva (nadaswaram) Vijayalakshmi (veena) Srimushnam Sri Raja Rao (mridangam) and E M Subramanium (ghatam) 1st Neyyatinkara Sri Vasudevan (vocal) with V V Ravi (violin) and T V Gopalakrishnan (mridangam) on 2nd Madurai G S Mani (vocal) with V V Ravi (violin) and T V Gopalakrishnan (mridangam) on 3rd Dr Seerkhazi S Govindarajan and party (vocal) on 4th S Kanakai (Bharata Natyam) 5th Allepey Venkatesan (vocal) with Annavarappu Ramaswamy (violin) and V Kamalakar Rao (mridangam) on 6th and D K Jayaraman (vocal) with Vasantha Kannan (violin) J Vaidyanathan (mridangam) on the concluding evening

At Sri Thyagaraja Hall (P 530 Raja Basanta Roy Road Calcutta 29)

31 January 5 30 pm

An evening of classical dance and music by Neeraja G Pal (Bharata Natyam) and Dilip Ganguly (violin)

At Birla Academy of Art and Culture (108 109 Southern Avenue Calcutta 29)

31 January 6 pm, 1-7 February 6 30 pm

Sangeet Natak Akademi's fourth annual award presentation ceremony and festival will feature presentation of awards and Bhimsen Joshi's vocal recital on 31st Shobha Gurtu (vocal) and Pandit Jasraj (vocal) on 1st T Viswanathan (flute) Mani Krishnaswami (vocal) with T K Murthy (mridangam) and Chitra Visweswaran (Bharata Natyam) on 2nd Ram Maratha (natya sangeet), Halmi Jaffer Khan (sitar) and C R Vyas (vocal) on 3rd Kalamandalam Gopi (Kathakali) Uma Sharma (Kathak) and Sonal Mansingh (Odissi) on 4th Ali Mohammad Sheikh (folk music of Kashmir) Bhupen Hazarika (folk music of Assam) and Chhabi Bandopadhyay (kirtan) on 5th Suresh Dutta (puppet play) on 6th and Ratan Thiyam (Manipuri play) on the concluding evening

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 449947)

1 February 6 15 pm

An evening of songs and play-reading by Mita Chatterjee (Nazrulgeeti) Chitralekha Dutta (Rabindrasangeet) reading from excerpts of *Chandalika* by Gouri Ghosh and Tulsi Roy with Bani Tagore in songs and choral Rabindrasangeet Kabi Manase Nari, directed by Chitralekha Dutta

At Sisir Mancha (A J C Bose Road)

4-6 February 12 noon to 7 30 pm

Kusumika's 20th anniversary exhibition

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 444205)

4 February 6 30 pm

Saurabh Music Circle presents an evening of Odissi dance by Rubena Mitra Saswati Biswas Supradipta Dhar Baishali Kolay, Lopamudra Kolay and Sunita Kripalini Direction Aloka Kanungo

At Kala Mandir (B) (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

4 February 6 45 pm

S E Railway Women's Organisation presents a Kuchipudi dance recital by Ramaa Shankar

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

5 February 7 pm

Calcutta School of Music and British Council Division present the Mistry String Quartet

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

6 February 3 pm

The 4th Jaycee Inter School Quiz and Speech contest

At Loreto College

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU-588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU 588 at 1105

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU-589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU-589 at 0050

Calcutta-Bombay Dubai-London-New York Dep (1) AI 103 at 2340

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (3) AI 307 at 2005 Dep (3) AI-307 at 2105

Hong Kong-Calcutta- Delhi Arr (4) AI-325 at 2330 Dep (5) AI-325 at 0030

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI-324 at 1150 Dep (4) AI 324 at 1250

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (2) AI 316 at 1830 Dep (2) AI 316 at 1930

Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU 537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU-538 at 1955

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1) RA-214 at 1040 Dep (3, RA 214 at 1100 Dep (2 4 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3 6) IC-247 at 1510 Arr (1 3) RA 213 at 0940 Arr (2 4, 7) IC-248 at 1525 Arr (3 6) IC 248 at 1425

Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1145, IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5 6) BG-694 at 1715 Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 2 4, 5 6) BG 693 at 1615

Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG 697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640, Dep (1 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355, Dep (2, 4 7) IC-231 at 1050

Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1 2 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1710 and IC—263 at 0615, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210

Calcuta-Bombay. Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730, Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (1 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4 6) IC-295 at 1640 Arr (2, 4 6) IC 296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC 288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1100

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 541 at 1210

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 1630 Arr (1 2) IC-278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1145 Arr (3 5 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC-269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC-281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1420 and IC-203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC-240 at 1610 and IC-204 at 1235 Arr (1 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat--Guwahati-Calcutta. Dep (daily) ICC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (2, 4 6, 7) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (2, 4, 6 7) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily)) IC-255 at 0530, Arr (2 4, 6 7) IC-256 at 1000 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-256 at 1230

Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala. Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar. Dep

(1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (1 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 733 at 1600, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF 734 at 1855
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 731 at 0555 Arr (1, 3 5) PF 732 at 1000
Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 717 at 0600 and PF-717A at 1600, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-718 at 0800 and PF-718A at 1755
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-725 at 0600, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-726 at 1100
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar Dep (daily) PF-701 at 0830, Arr (daily) PF-702 at 1550
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep (1 3 5) PF-727 at 0940 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar. Dep (1, 3, 5 7) PF-707 at 0610 Arr (1 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailasahar Dep (2 4 6) PF-729 at 1130, Arr (2, 4 6) PF-730 at 1610
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555 Arr (2, 4 6) PF-716 at 1010
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo Dep (1 3, 5) PF 721 at 0800 Arr (1 3 1645
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along Dep PF 723 at 0800 Arr PF-724 at 1715
Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh (1 3 5, 7) PF 735 at 0530 4 5 7) PF 736 at 1545
Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu Dep PF 735 at 0530 Arr PF 736 at 1650

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19 00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9 15	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep --Sat up to Amritsar Arr Tues Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9 1	**Air-Cond Express** Bi Wkly via Patna Dep Thurs up to New Delhi Dep - Sun up to Amritsar Arr Mon & Fri	17-50	104
101	16 0	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arr Tues Wed Thurs Fri & Sun	10 55	102
173	00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	10 40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep Mon & Thurs Arr -Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
1	1 10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9 15	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	21 50	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20 10	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
41	21 55	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22 00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16 05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6 30	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep -Mon, Wed, Fri Arr -Tues Thurs Sat	20-35	58
59	17 35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21 00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep -- Wednesday Arr -- Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep --Tues Thurs & Sat Arr -- Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep --Except Wednesday Arr -- Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep - Thursday Arr Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

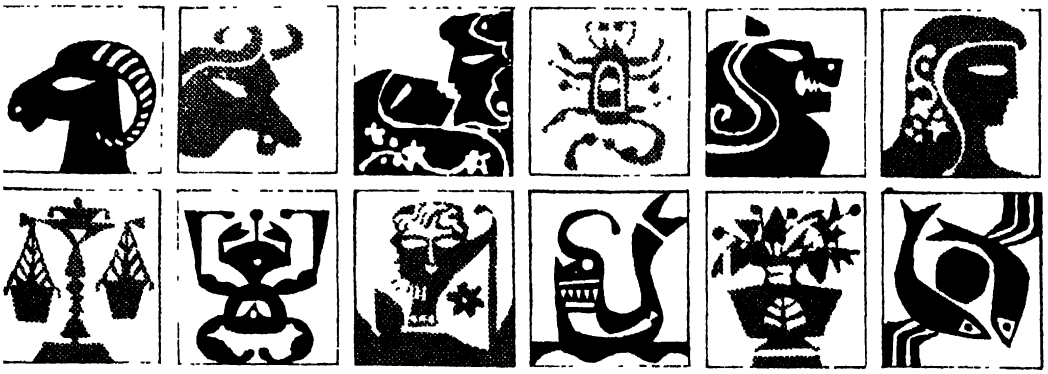
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	2
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	1
303	18 15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	4
2	20 25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 3 days a week Dep Mon Tues Wed & Sat Arr Mon Tues Wed Thurs & Sat	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 3 days a week Dep Tues Thurs & Sun Arr -- Tues Wed Fri & Sun	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	29
141	15 15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express**	38
13	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	14
11	6 20	**Ispat Express**	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	8
9	18 45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	46
317	16 40	**Purulia Express**	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	
-	14 05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	904
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	
—	22 35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arr Tue	

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for other trains; 203535-44 for all other information



ARIES

March 21 April 20

Dramatic developments may confront you at work Increased responsibilities may bog you down but you are sure to emerge victorious The full moon indicates success in all that you do Friends and relatives will offer all possible support to you now A visit to foreign countries is on the cards

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

Moon trines Saturn Uranus and your application for loans, funds, scholarships and jobs will definitely be considered Long-awaited news will now reach you Do not take people at face value Learn to look beneath the surface, for things may not be as rosy as they seem Health may cause concern

GEMINI

May 21 June 20

Moon trines Mars and friends will now seek your help to advance their schemes However, take your time before lending your name to any ventures There is a likelihood of winning accolades at anything that you turn your hand at You may have to go on an extended trip soon Attend to legal issues

CANCER

June 21 July 20

The moon Pluto sextile implies that the time is just right to launch business collaborations, projects and ventures You may even find an ideal business partner Take care not to overindulge Exercise restraint in all your dealings Romance is on the cards for the eligible and fancyfree.

LEO

July 21 August 21

Romantic involvements may cause an inner turmoil and you will be torn between the dictates of society and your inner feelings Before taking any decision, weigh the pros and cons A journey is on the cards. This is the time to reach out to people and places by every possible means,

VIRGO

August 22 - Sept 22

Do not worry unduly over your choice of a life partner Things are bound to work out ultimately This is a week for change and advancement Unexpected avenues will open out now Pressures are likely to mount and you may be overworked Chances are that you will get a promotion at work

LIBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22

Affairs pertaining to family members may cause concern but before the week is over, things will get sorted out The wisest course of action is to express your opinion tactfully and firmly Romance is in the air for the fancyfree and eligible Hobbies and creative pursuits are also likely to keep you busy

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Your relationship with family members may become strained as you try and achieve personal goals Deal with your loved ones patiently and try and avoid open confrontations until you are sure of where you stand Renovation, decoration, buying and selling are the highlights of the week.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

Trust your instinct in all matters and you are sure to emerge a winner You may meet someone interesting with whom there are chances of building a long lasting relationship This is the right time to start a new business venture Money may come in from unexpected sources now

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

The moon Jupiter trine indicates a happier atmosphere at home and definite improvement in health This is not the time to launch new ventures However, try and continue with any work that you have already started An old friend will come forward to help now Money will be readily available

AQUARIUS

Jan 20 Feb 19

Your opposition to the lifestyle of a friend or loved one will prove to be right only after some time So, despite the apparent animosity that you may now face, your worth will finally be recognised Legal issues may also demand attention Travel is on the cards You may sign new ventures

PISCES

Feb 20—March 20

Travel plans may have to be temporarily shelved in light of the recent developments in your career Yet, an unexpected journey is on the cards. People in high places will go out of their way to befriend you Money will now be spent on weddings, rites and rituals Attend to legal matters

BIRTHDAYS

January 31

Moon trine Pluto Contacts, communication, associations and marriages will keep you busy this year Journeys and collaborations are indicated. Wedding bells for the fancyfree

February 1

Moon square Jupiter Renovation, decoration and refurbishing are distinct possibilities Transfers and shifts cannot be ruled out You may change your job this year Health safeguards are essential now

February 2

Full moon in Leo The full moon focalises finances, loans and investments While transfers are on the cards for most, immigration is imminent for a few Legal issues may worry you towards the beginning of the year

February 3

Moon trine Jupiter This is an excellent trine formation for matters pertaining to business, trade, commerce and industry Anything that you set out to do will be completed this year Entertainment and socialising are the other highlights of the year ahead

February 4

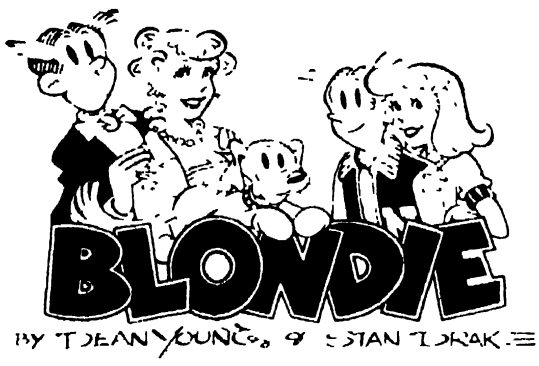
Moon trine Saturn Uranus, later on opposition Mercury After May, things will start to look up for you While you should not expect proposals right away, do not disregard the possibility of receiving them either Those associated with industry may face slight labour problems

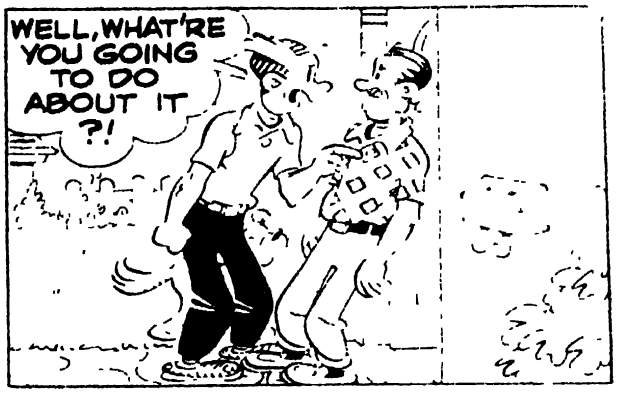
February 5

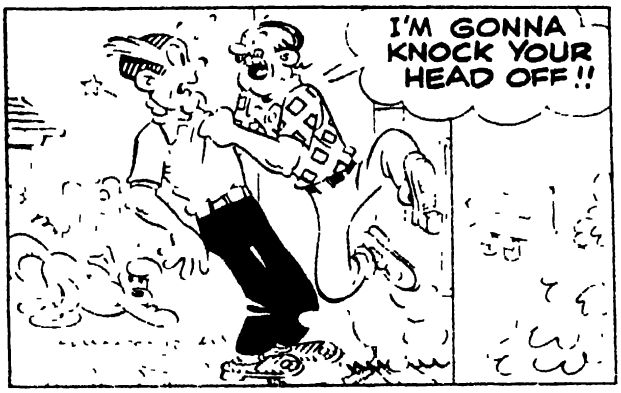
Moon square Mars, sextile Pluto The health of parents and in-laws may cause concern Excellent prospects lie ahead in your professional life Money is likely to come in from unexpected sources.

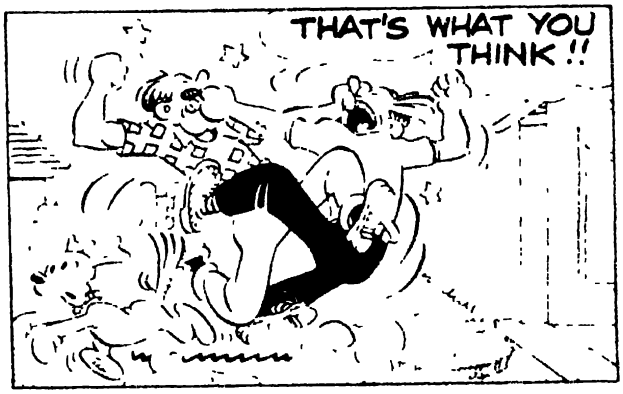
February 6

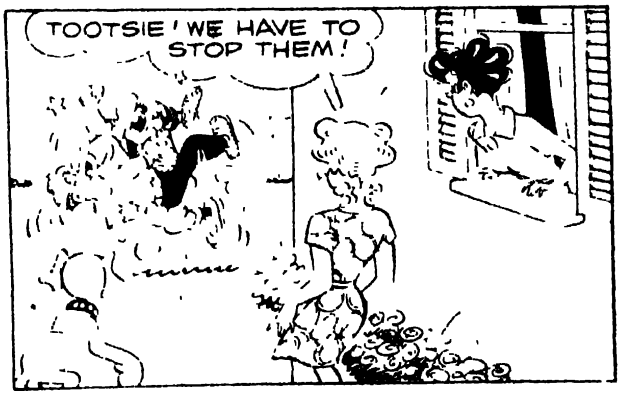
Moon square Saturn, Uranus There may be change in your lifestyle which may lead to some degree of discord However, friends and relatives will rally around now Exercise caution in all your dealings and do not lose your temper with colleagues at work

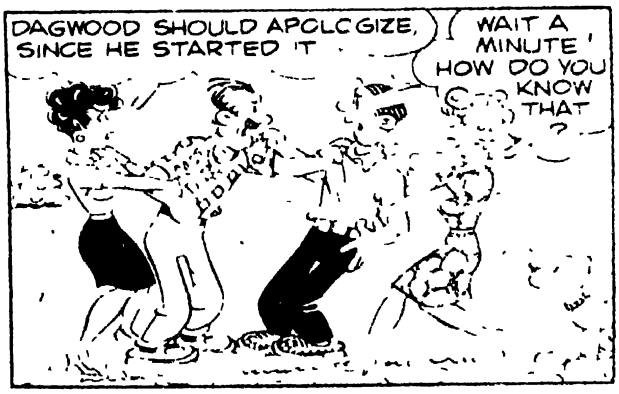

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

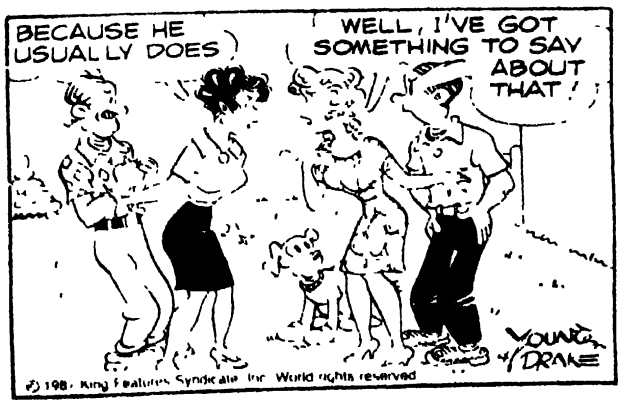

WELL, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT ?!

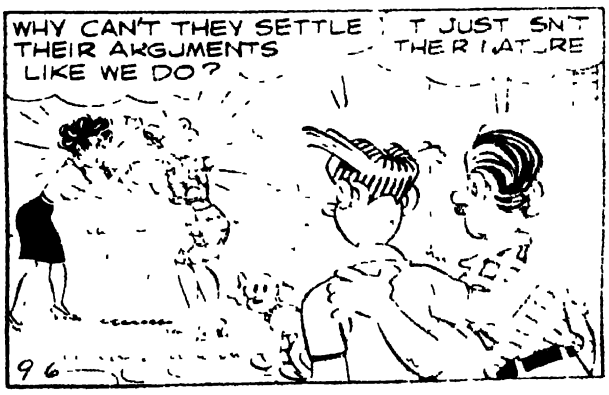

I'M GONNA KNOCK YOUR HEAD OFF!!


THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!!


TOOTSIE! WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!


DAGWOOD SHOULD APOLOGIZE, SINCE HE STARTED IT
WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT ?

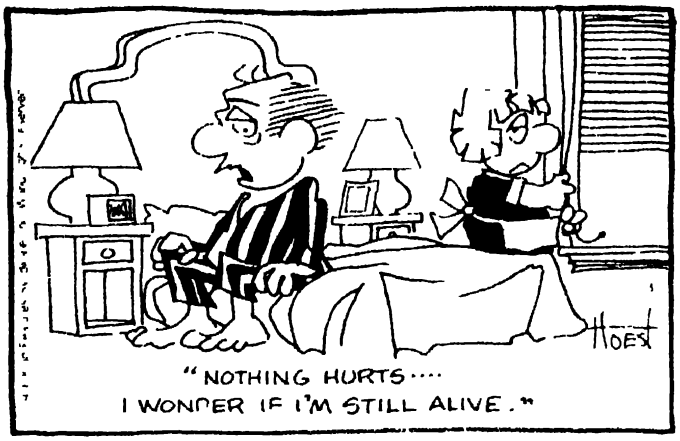

BECAUSE HE USUALLY DOES
WELL, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT!
YOUNG & DRAKE
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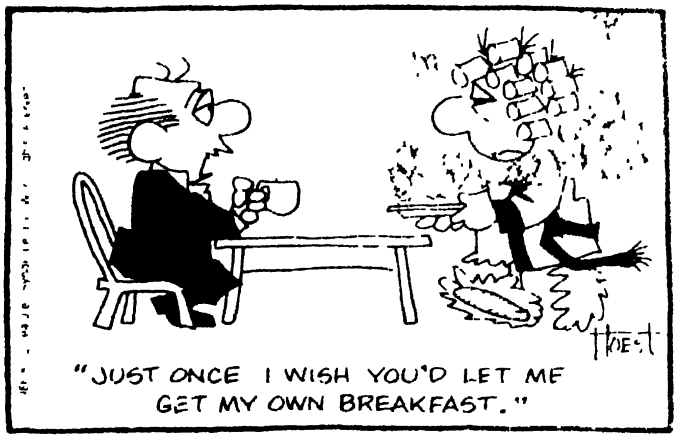

WHY CAN'T THEY SETTLE THEIR ARGUMENTS LIKE WE DO?
I JUST SN'T THE NATURE
96

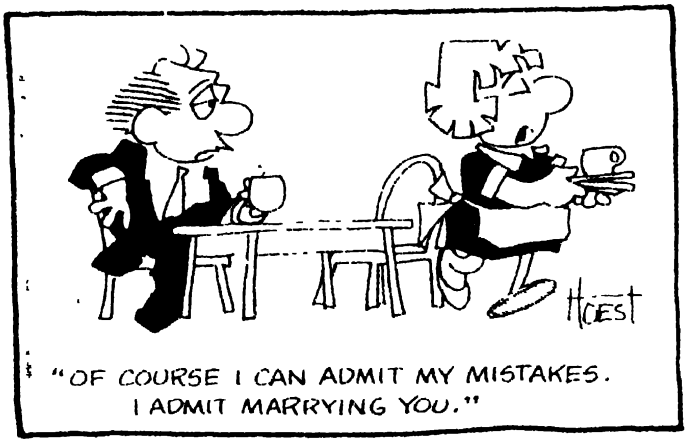
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

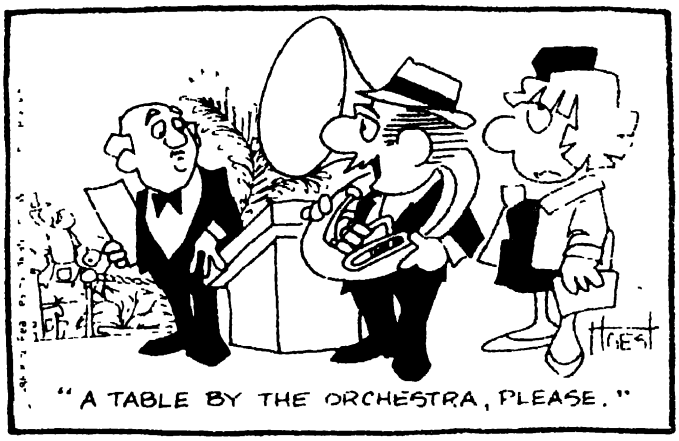


THE LOCKHORNS



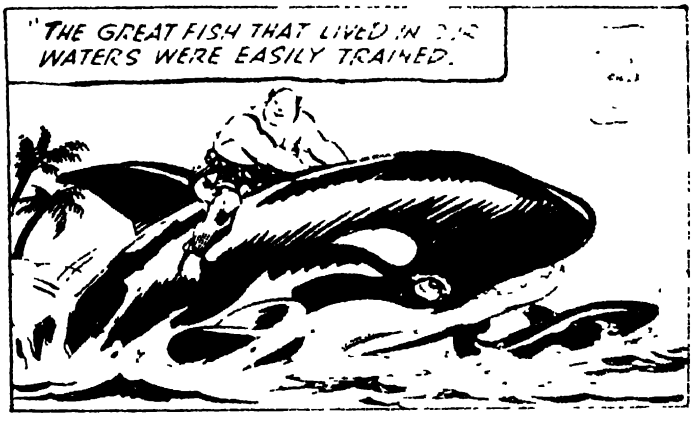


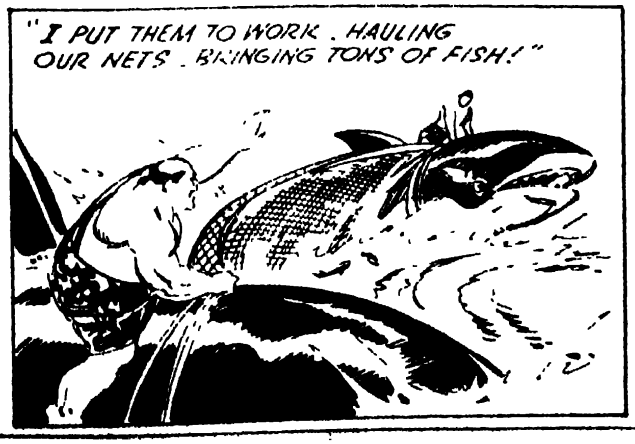




MANDRAKE By Lee Falk







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TINSEL TOWN □ Subroto Mukherjee

Here's a Rs 10,000 item In the grand tradition of the business-minded Kapadias, sisters **Dimple** and **Simple** have a good deal going between them Simple designs all the screen costumes of Dimple at the cost of the producers, of course, thereby enhancing the inflow of cash into the Kapadia clan

And can you beat it– recently, she charged the producer of the film, *Number One*, a fabulous Rs 10,000 for a single exotic outfit she had created for Dimple to wear in the film! But when lensmen landed up on the sets, keen to click her in the 10-grand wear, she unpredictably refused The reason was the bold, revealing cut of the outlandish dress Well, you see, Dimple wants to shift the emphasis from her image of a glamour queen to that of a deep and serious artiste In the press at least



Jayant Das

Abhinav: Making it on the big screen

With so many people walking in and out of *Jadugar* it had almost come to resemble a railway terminal instead of **Prakash Mehra**'s ambitious movie project

First, Amitabh Bachchan walked out, Vinod Khanna walked in, then, he too walked out We heard about Raaj Kumar walking in, but Vinod Khanna declared that he had never walked out in the first place Finally, **Amitabh** walked back with **Mithun** in tow.

And with that, Prakash Mehra ultimately put to rest all doubts about his excellence as a movie-making magician He proved that in spite of all his ego-hassles with the towering megastar he could still conjure him out of his non-existent top-hat if he so wished for his project And that he could still perform the levitation trick to perfection- getting his dream projects off the ground instead of having to stand by helplessly and watch them remain distant dreams forever

Speaking of the two film industry big guns, **Manmohan Desai** and **Prakash Mehra**, they are still at war with each other, using highly charged words for firepower.

Recently, Desai said, "When Prakash Mehra directs his own productions, he tries to economise as far as possible and wrap them up as fast as possible But when he directs films for other producers, he invariably spends lavishly on them and delays their completion To cite instances, he took as long as about four years to complete *Aakhri Goli*, and *Insan Ki Aulad* has been on the floor for just about as long but remains far from complete *Muqaddar Ka Faisla* was also considerably delayed in production But like all the earlier ones, his own production, *Mohabbat Ke Dushman*, was completed in just about six months!"

At this Mehra immediately countered "How can I help the delays when my producers are not organised enough financially or otherwise? And why point such an accusing finger at me alone when there are so many other bigtime directors who put their producers to much worse hassles? And come to think of it, who's accusing whom! I can level the same charge against Manmohan Desai, too Has he not delayed the completion of *Ganga Jamuna Saraswati* which he is directing for another producer, S. Ramanathan?"

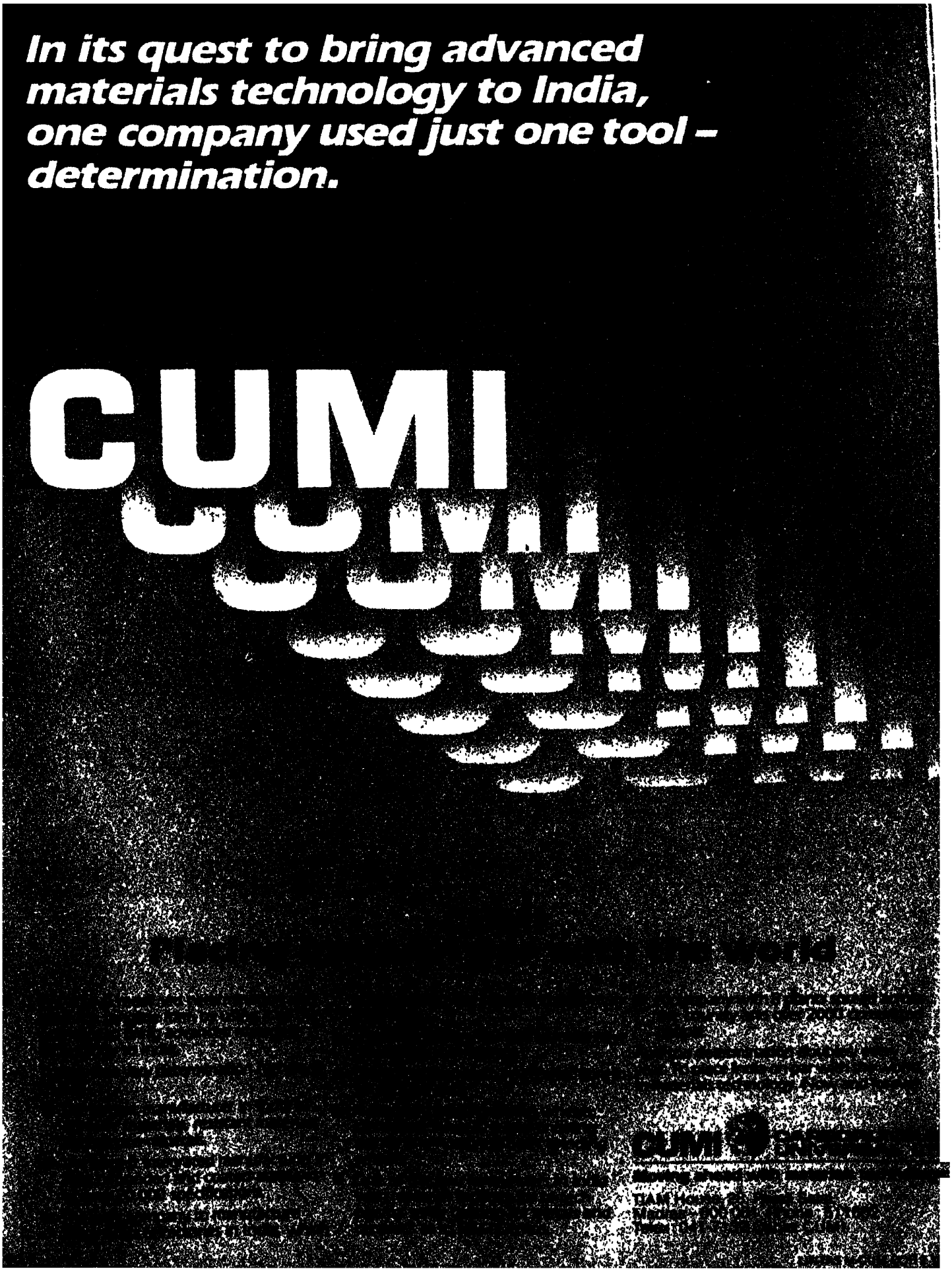
Dimple: Wanting to change her image

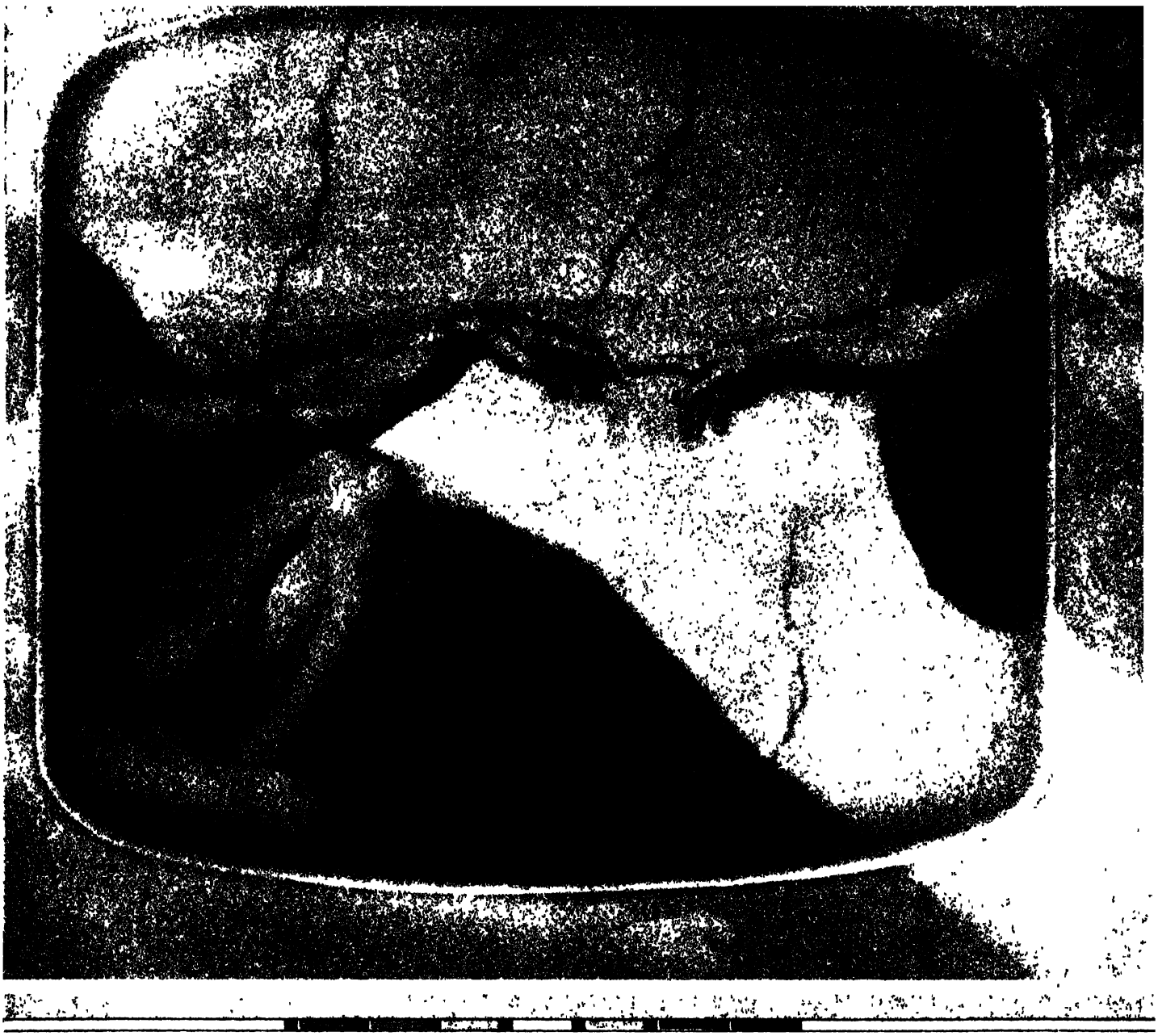


Jag Mohan

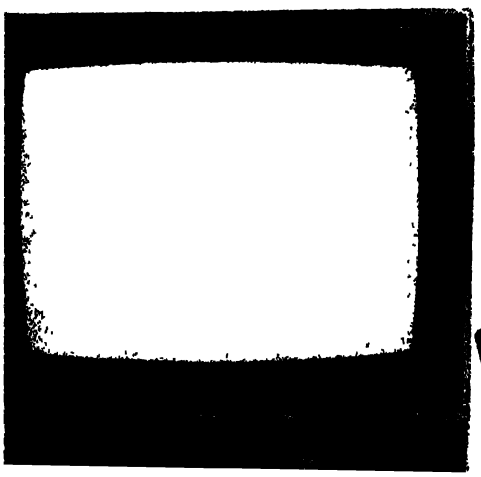
So much for the movie moghuls Turning to the small fry--'Nanneh' for one has finally made it to the big screen The *Hum Log*, *Buniyaad* and *Nai Dishayen* heart-throb of the young girls in the TV audience, **Abhinav Chaturvedi** has for his debut played the lead in a small budget quickie (as yet untitled) directed by Raman Kumar.

Raman, by the way, is quite a star-maker in his own small way. In his film, *Saath Saath*, made a few years ago, he gave a break to quite a few new talents including Satish Shah and Neena Gupta who are household names today. ■


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Tagore's English

In 'The Other Tagore' (December 20) Ananda Lal feels that "unlike Samuel Beckett, for instance, equally fluent in French and English, Tagore wrote English that was competent but by no means excellent, especially when it came to creating a style appropriate for the unusual nature of his plays." Many critics of Tagore, specially in the West, have the same attitude to Tagore's English versions of his *Gitanjali* poems.

At a time such as now, when pucca English, of the BBC and Oxbridge variety, is no more venerated with bated breath and whispering humbleness, Lal's cavalier assessment seems very out-of-date.

Tagore's English is of an experimenting kind, and very valid for Indians and others for whom English is not a mother tongue (their number is legion). In fact Tagore is probably the only poet who has developed the English prose poem into an art form. The Old Man had many tricks up his *jobba*, and Bright Young Things will coruscate superiorly by learning from them.

P. Lal,
Calcutta

Some More Tolerance



Samir Singha Roy

Nicolas Klotz directs on the set of *La Nuit Bengalie*

The unhealthy controversy over the shooting of *La Nuit Bengalie* ('Calling the Wrong Shots', January 10) in India exposes our fear of being exploited by foreigners (which we have been in previous incidents). The renowned litterateur, Maitreyee Devi, forbade Kalpana Lajmi, the director of *Ek Pal* (based on Maitreyee Devi's *Bidhi O Bidhata*) from filming her *Na Hanyate* for personal reasons. But that does not mean that she has the right to interfere in a foreign project based on a foreign novel. Maybe the novel's name is the same as hers or recalls an incident of her own youth. Being a famous litterateur she should have shown more tolerence at her age. They being the writers' prerogatives, the Bengali and Rumanian versions may vary, but after all both novels are just literature.

At least the controversy will give a boost to the sales of *Na Hanyate* which will be a gain for Bengali literature.

Aloke Basu,
Gocharan (24-Pargans)

Not Charnock's Tomb

There was an error in the caption to the photograph of St John's Church ('Houses of Faith,' December 20). The tomb in the foreground is not that of Job Charnock as mentioned, but of someone else.

Charnock's Mausoleum, as it is called, is much further north in a corner, flanked by government buildings on the east and north, and by the new construction coming up there on the west.

Gyan Kapur,
Konnagar, Hooghly

12

Cover Story: Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri, the new vice-chancellor of Calcutta University, has an unenviable task before him. A profile and interview.



Saibal Das

6

Nostalgia: We publish a rare interview with the grand old man of Indian cricket, Vijay Merchant, given a while before he died late last year.

18

Event: A photofeature on the dog show held in mid-January.

The Telegraph

7 FEBRUARY 1988

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Cover
Saibal Das







WORLD WAR VETERANS



Barun Ghosh reports on the discovery of a mysterious set of unexploded grenades in Hooghly. Experts believe they are relics of the second world war

December 28 last year awoke to the routine winter morning chores at Rabindra Nagar near Chinsurah town in Hooghly district About a month back, the construction of police quarters had been taken up at an abandoned plot of land in Rabindra Nagar The people there went about their work without much fuss, the children continued to play nearby. Till December 28 morning was a few hours into the day

The sudden discovery of a few hand grenades under the earth at the construction site disrupted the serenity, and anxious villagers gathered there Somebody mentioned that their lives could be endangered if the grenades exploded and that panicked the villagers The anxious murmurs began to rise in volume and the Chinsurah police station had to be called to bring the situation under control The villagers' worries could only be reduced after they were assured military assistance. Apparently, the grenades belonged to the second world war period and that they would not explode helped to bring down the rising blood pressure

Nevertheless, sleepless nights were passed till January 4 when the military personnel from Fort William in Calcutta, led by Maj S Chakraborty arrived to make an on-the-spot enquiry District police forces were also deployed to cordon off the area

The military personnel began digging up the land where the grenades were found and came up with 75 hand grenades and four wide phosphorus (WP) grenades, all looking fairly "worn-out" By now thousands of people from nearby villages had also flocked in and tension rode high again They demanded that the construction work be stopped and the grenades shifted elsewhere "More than 50,000 people had gathered," said Mr Manik Chandra Dey, a policeman standing guard at the site "Many of the grenades appeared to belong to the second world war and the military personnel also hold the same opinion," he added

It was decided that the grenades would be exploded at Kanagarh mango grove, five kms from Rabindra Nagar, as it was secluded and safe for the purpose Under heavy police escort, the grenades were exploded on the morning of January 6 Mr Narayan Bhowmik, sub-divisional officer (SDO), Hooghly Sadar, maintained that the grenades were exploded safely

But the question is What were these grenades doing in Rabindra Nagar? The older villagers say the land where the construction is going on belonged to the military during the war and it was used as a target practice field for the jawans "The place is known as Chandmari and military jawans practised firing there in the days of the war," recounted 'These grenades, which are discoloured, must belong to the second world war' However, the SDO, Mr Bhowmik differed "This area was known to be a Naxalite den in the seventies and they must have used the spot for storage," he said Had they been of an earlier period they could not have but with such an earth-shaking sound, he felt Military personnel were not available for comment

Meanwhile, the strong resentment of the local people has seen them submitting a memorandum to the district authorities, apprehending the presence of more grenades in the area Local CPI(M) panchayat members and pradhans have joined the people to start a movement against the district administration

Mr Narayan Dey, the CPI(M) upapradhan of Kodalia gram panchayat which covered the Rabindra Nagar area, warned that they would intensify their movement if the district authorities failed to arrange for the proper rehabilitation of the villagers He maintained that at least 15,000 people who had arrived from erstwhile East Pakistan were now exposed to the danger He had also written to chief minister Jyoti Basu informing him about the explosive situation prevailing in the district ■

***Facing page, clockwise from top left*: The spot where the grenades were found, a policeman displaying a grenade; the plot where the construction is taking place; and the scarred mango tree under which the grenades were defused**

THE VINEET GUPTA MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR SHORT STORIES AND POETRY

RESULTS OF THE CONTEST 1987

Short Stories

First prize (Rs 2,500): Pampa Chakraborty (for *Made for Each Other*)
Second prize (Rs 1,500): Anonymous* (for *For Joy or Sorrow*)
Third prize (Rs 1,000; to be shared equally): Subrata Chakrabarty (for *Scientific Explanation*) and Shams Afif Siddiqi (for *The Language of Love*)

Poetry

First prize (Rs 2,500): Suma Josson (for *The Sparrow's Nest*)
Second prize (Rs 1,500): Prabhanjan K Mishra (for *The Wound*)
Third prize (Rs 1,000): Robin S Ngangom (for *I am Sorry to See Poetry in Chains*)

* The author of this short story should either send a carbon copy or the gist of the story earliest to *The Telegraph* for identification.

Prizes will be distributed on July 14, Vineet Gupta's birth anniversary. We will be publishing the prize winning entries in our forthcoming issues. Please await further details.

'GET READY. WE ARE PLAYING'



And so the Hindu cricket team met the Muslim during the height of communal tension just before Partition. And not a single incident occurred. Vijay Merchant, gentleman cricketer, recalls how sportsmen remained sportsmen in those turbulent times, in this rare interview given shortly before his death last year to *Mridula Mukherjee, Aditya Mukherjee* and *Bipan Chandra*

What did sportspersons in those days feel about the ongoing national movement?

There was nobody in the world whether he was a sportsman or otherwise who felt that independence should not come to India. We all wanted freedom. To what extent the sportsmen contributed to the freedom struggle I do not know. But then just one incident which you might well know.

In 1932 the first Indian team went to England under the captaincy of the late Maharaja Shri of Porbandar. At that time there was a possibility of C.P. Lu Champalal Mehta and myself being included in the team. But since the freedom struggle was on and all our principal leaders were put in jail by the British government we three felt it would be disrespectful to our country and to ourselves if we went to England and played against that country. And so we decided not to have anything to do with that tour to England.

Had that tour been to any other country we would have certainly participated in the trial matches. But to go to that country which was trying its best to destroy our freedom, destroy our civil disobedience movement which was after all a non violent movement, we felt it was not in keeping with our own individual respect and the respect to our country. So we did not go to Lahore and Patiala for the trial matches to which we were invited. Naturally our names were not considered for the team. But not only did the team go (so did) three cricketers from Bombay, S.R. Godambe, Sodi Kaula and Nari Marshal. No gymkhana took any action against them. In other words, people just did not bother, which was unfortunate.

Later on, when the civil disobedience movement was over and you did go, did you and other members of the team feel that if you play better then it will help the country improve its image or give confidence to the people that we are also somebody, we can also fight?

No sir. We were no match for the English (players) of those days. But one incident comes to mind when I went under the Nawab of Patiudi Sr. as vice captain of the side in 1946. Patiudi Sr. fell ill and it was left to me to respond to the toast raised for the Indian team at the main function at Lord's. I responded on the spur of the moment. I felt here was an occasion when the self respect of India could be maintained in a very small way. And these are the words I uttered. More or less I remember them verbatim.

Ladies and gentlemen, you hear talk about exchange of visits bringing about two countries together. Please don't believe in them. Exchange of visits by sportsmen never bring two countries together in any aspect of life. Countries come together when they play on a sense of equality and we are not equals. We are the subject nation and you are the ruling nation. And so long as we remain the subject nation and you remain the ruling nation until such time these two countries will never come together. At present there is a mission (the Cabinet Mission) trying to bring together the two countries. Let us hope it will be successful to some extent and let me also hope and pray that the next time an Indian team comes here it will come here to play on a footing of equality, not as we are playing now. I want to stress this point, ladies and gentlemen, that exchange of visits never brings countries together. They only bring the sportsmen participating in that match together.

Now that you have started re

membering, can you think of some other situations where the team or you felt, as sports people, that we also in some way or the other must show our feelings, must express solidarity with the movements which are going on? For example, when the Congress ministry was formed in 1937, in Bombay also the Kher ministry Did you have a reaction that, well, now, we are on the way?

No, sir, because we were not sure whether the British government would stand by its word to India It had broken its word so often to India and Indian leaders that we were only hopeful and we kept our fingers crossed That is all

Do you remember any other such incidents? They'll help very much in bringing out the atmosphere of the time

Yes, sir Another incident, but in a very, very indirect manner In 1947-48 our Indian team was in Australia, the first official visit by an Indian team, under the captaincy of Lala Amarnath Actually, I was appointed captain for the tour but because of groin trouble I could not go

During the time that our team was there, Mahatmaji was murdered on January 30, 1948 And our team was due to play on that day against a countryside XI Very rightly, our captain and our manager, Lala Amarnath and Pankaj Gupta, respectively, refused to play saying the Father of the Nation has been assassinated. The president of the local club where the match was to be played took them aside and said, "We fully appreciate your feelings We also feel the same way, because Mahatmaji was a great man by any standards But tell me, gentlemen, how do you serve your country by not playing this match? There are about 15,000 people who have gathered here, most of them farmers. They have travelled 10 to 100 miles in station wagons just to watch Indian cricket, Indian cricketers And then Indian cricket means Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji And to a certain extent, Nawab of Pataudi, senior. (If you do not play) you will disappoint them greatly and you will not serve any purpose.

"Instead of that, now that you are a free country, show your tremendous sportsmanship and respect for your country by playing This is a match of no consequence, but Indian sportsmanship after Independence will be judged by what you do today If you do not play, a few of you will go to a cinema house, the others will go to a pub and drink, or shall we say drink their misery down. But if you play, then 15,000 people on the ground will stand up out of respect for the memory of the dead, because we will line up both the teams in front of the pavilion We will announce what has happened, that the Indian team, out of a sense of responsibility to Australia and their great leader, will observe two minutes silence and then play as a commitment by one independent nation to another independent nation"

I must say, to the everlasting credit of our captain and our manager, they decided to play They (teams) were lined up before the toss and 15,000 people stood up in the stands for exactly two minutes Incidentally, it was a country XI pitted against an Indian XI They lost by an innings and 34 or 35 runs But the self-respect of an independent country, a newly independent country, was maintained by eleven cricketers playing that match.

There used to be that great pentangular series of matches in Bombay Hindus, Muslims, Parsis, Europeans Bombay also was, specially 1933 onwards the home of communal [illegible] Now, it used to be said by [illegible] people that these matches [illegible] ated communal feelings and that [illegible] perhaps, should either not have been played or recognised on a different plane This view must have [illegible] reached you at that time What did you think of it?

My impression (is) just the opposite Communal riots went on because the British government fanned them You will hardly believe when I say that in the morning papers the number of Muslims and Hindus killed appeared in figures And if the number of Muslims killed was more than it provoked the Muslims to murder a few more so that the score could be equal So it was the government that was responsible not only initially for inciting the riots but even for keeping the flames high

These tournaments in quadrangulars, had been played from 1907 onwards, but then it was first between the Europeans and the Parsis only In 1913 or 1912 came the Hindus It was in 1924 that the Muslims came I will recount one incident The year I do not remember now, but the communal riots had just started

The P J Hindu Gymkhana (which had) the largest membership, held an emergency general body meeting to decide whether to participate Some people said, with communal riots in Bombay, the Hindu team should not play, the others said this is the only tournament we play and although the two best teams are the Hindus and the Muslims, there (has) never (been) any disturbance of a communal nature during these matches

As a matter of fact, it would surprise many people to know that my entire very big family, 40 people was given special seats in the Muslim tent, because the Hindus could not give us so many seats, the Hindu membership being so very big And imagine a Hindu-Muslim team match where natural sentiments ran very high yet not a word was said against my family members, not a word which would make them get up and walk out of the pavilion

But what is more important at the emergency general meeting [illegible] hours they could not come to a decision So our president of the club the late L R Tarsee said "[illegible] want to decide this matter [illegible] Would you leave it to your [illegible] to make a decision on the day of match?" Well, (each person) relieved that this responsibility been taken off his shoulders

On the day of the match [illegible]

He (Gandhiji) came to that particular page, where vertically all the sixteen names (of the MCC team) were. (He) thought it over for a minute and then put down, in his own handwriting, (the number) 17 and (his initials) M.K.G. (in Gujarati). In that one little gesture, he indicated, 'I am not against the English people, I am against the English government, which is ruling my country.'

Tairsee entered the pavilion in a Gandhi cap, long coat and a dhoti, no one knew his mind. He went in to the dressing room, called the Hindu captain and merely said, "Get ready, we are playing " The Hindu team played. Throughout those 10 days there was not one communal incident. In a crowd of 25,000 people who were not housed in a stadium but on planks and chairs and a shamiana which could be set on fire in a matter of five minutes, not a single communal incident took place. That showed that although communal feeling generated by the British was there outside, on the sports field there had never been any such incident. I think (these matches)



Lala Amarnath

enerated a feeling of fellowship bet-
Sr than any other gathering

But as a principle, would you say r example that even today if we ave matches ?

We can't have (such) matches now!

Sikhs and Hindus and ..?

No, sir, those matches can never be layed now, for three reasons. Numer one, the Hindus are so strong that would be one-sided. There would be o match Second, after this gap of so any years, we can't have communal atches and, third, on a matter of rinciple, we should not do anything hich is of communal nature.

This is what I was asking, that at at time, though you have said there as no communal incident in those atches, but simply having teams hich were based on communal or on ligious grounds, would it not have e potential of generating communal eling)?

Potential, yes, but it did not really happen. As a matter of fact, even in those days, in Kathiawar the Rajputs would have beards and Muslims would wear dhotis and they ate from the same plate. These (communal feelings) are all generated by politics, politicians, which means the British government at that time.

For example, in your teams, was there any communal feeling among Hindus and Muslims or Sikhs?

None whatsoever Never. But I must say to the credit of the late Nawab of Pataudi.. I am talking of 1946 in England. In those days we had a full tour Four and a quarter months, 16 cricketers travel together, live together, and

Exchange of visits by sportsmen never bring two countries together in any aspect of life. They only bring the sportsmen participating in that match together. Countries come together when they play on a sense of equality

at least five, six, seven were Muslims. Pataudi did not allow any political discussion. No political discussion, no communal discussion throughout that tour Of course, if in your bedroom, you have a political discussion with two Muslims or four Hindus, that he could not stop. But he did everything in his power to see that communal feeling was never generated

But even earlier, in the thirties, you cricketers would never feel as if one is a Muslim ?

Not at all, they are brother cricketers, that is all Nothing more

What is your impression of Gandhiji?

Gandhiji? When the question came up whether these pentangulars should be continued or not, the Hindu gymkhana people again could not come to a decision. Vital problem one: Gandhiji feels that all communal things should be stopped. But then, if we stop the pentangulars, where is the cricket for us? They left it to a small delegation to call on Gandhiji at Wardha and take his opinion. And Gandhiji, after giving them a very patient hearing, only uttered one sentence, which is in my memory. He said: "I am opposed to everything communal and more so in sports."

We still played the pentangulars, because (the argument was) Gandhiji's all right so long as he's on our side. When he is not, then that old man may go on talking whatever he wants to. How does sports come in the way of his communal (unity)? And, in any case, in our pentangulars or quandrangulars there had never been any incident

(Another more direct memory) In 1937, Gandhiji used to stay in Karna Kutir, the palatial bungalow of my aunt, Lady Premlila Thakersay. One day, my aunt called me and said, "At least come and pay respects to a great man " So I went to him. I am too small a person to even sit before Gandhiji, that was my feeling Sir, I went there, sat down My aunt quietly left, on some excuse so I could have an opportunity of talking to Gandhiji After sometime I said, "Bapu, I want your autograph " He took the book, turned over the pages He came to a page which has become memorable In 1933-34, the first official English team came to India I was lucky enough to play in all the Test matches. When we played in Madras, my younger sister, who is no more now, Lakshmi, she gave me an autograph book "Get autographs of all the cricketers," (she said) I put down in my own handwriting, 'English-MCC cricket team, 1933-34, one, two, three ' Went round, and as brother cricketers, they never said no Cricketers may say no to outsiders but when you are playing in the same match, they don't say no.

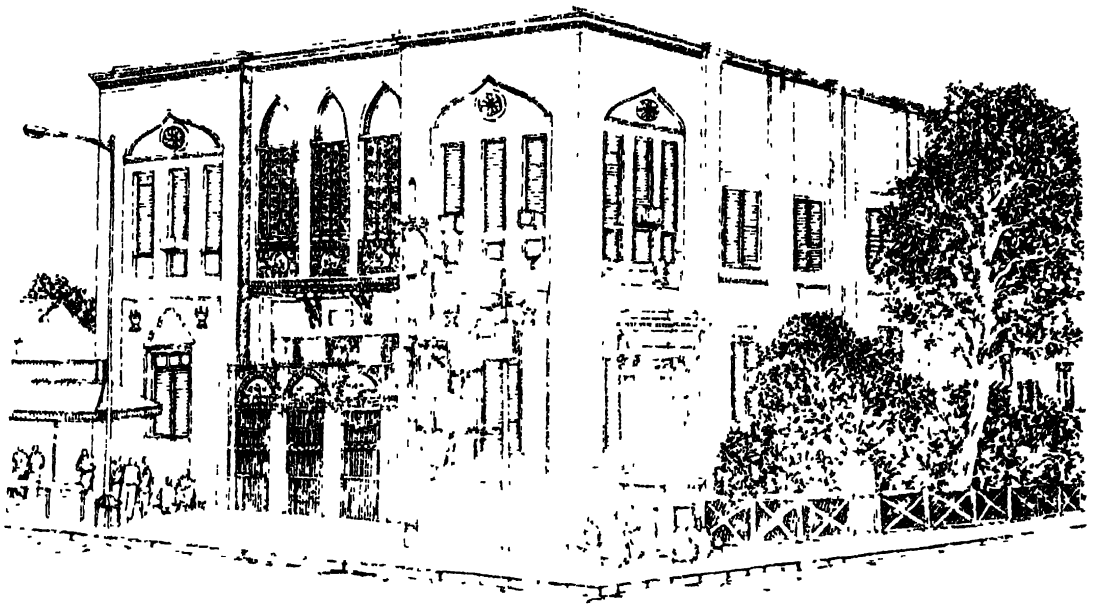
He (Gandhiji) came to that particular page, where vertically all the sixteen names (of the MCC team) were (He) thought over it for a minute--and a minute when there are two people alone feels as good as half an hour Believe me, sir, he put down, in his own handwriting, (the number) 17 and (his initials) M.K.G. (in Gujarati). In that one little gesture he indicated, "I am not against the English people, I am against the English government, which is ruling my country." Can you think of it? One little gesture!, 'I am prepared to be the 17th man in an MCC cricket team but I am not prepared to be ruled. I am not going to allow my country to be ruled by the British government ' ■

HERITAGE



Rathin Mitra

BANGIYA SAHITYA PARISHAD



Situated at 243/1 Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad is wellknown not only for its museum comprising a picture gallery, a collection of old coins and stone structures, and a splendid library containing rare and ancient manuscripts, but also as a centre for research work and promotion of learning in various disciplines

Formally founded on April 29, 1894 mainly through the effort of Benoy Krishna Deb, the Parishad had some famous personalities connected with it Ramesh Chandra Dutt as its first president,and Nabin Chandra Sen and Rabindranath Tagore as its vice-presidents Its activities were centred around the improvement and promotion of the Bengali language through research in literature, history, science and philosophy Publication of original books on these subjects and translation of important and rare books have been its major occupation

Initially located at the house of Benoy Krishna Deb, the Parishad was shifted after six years to 137/1 Cornwallis Street (now Bidhan Sarani) With the renowned Ramendra Sunder Trivedi as its dynamic secretary, it expanded its functions and activities rapidly The consequent need for a spacious location was met through the munificence of Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy of Cossimbazar who donated almost seven cottahs of land On December 6 1908, the Parishad came to be established at its present location Later, an annexure to the building on the eastern side, known as Ramesh Bhavan, was added in memory of its first president

STAYING ALIVE

That is sufficient to take your life and your life's savings, courtesy some in the medical profession

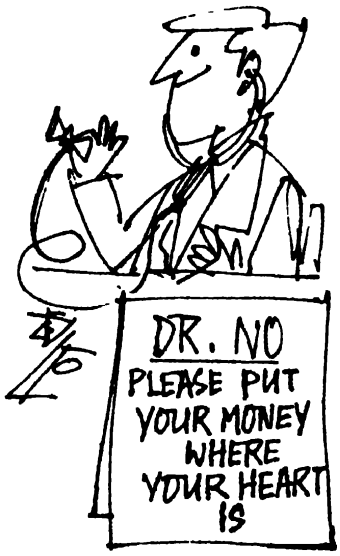
My illusions about nursing homes were shattered the first time that I crossed the threshold of one, when a friend, whose father, a long-time heart patient, had an attack and his cardiologist advised immediate transfer to the intensive care unit of one of his many haunts In another 24 hours, a second attack occurred around midnight We managed to reach the place immediately, only to find the resident doctor and nurse on duty, visibly shaken

"When is the doctor expected? I am sure you have contacted him," we asked 'He does not come after 9 pm I have instructions not to bother him during the night," was the reply "But don't you feel he ought to be here by now?" we queried further 'But that is impossible He garages his vehicle at 9 pm and releases the driver Even if you arrange for his pick-up and return, he will not come"

We telephoned and got an identical answer from the doctor himself "I don't understand why you are bothering me at this hour. I've already given my instructions I can't do any better by coming myself"

My friend hurled down the receiver on the cradle after a heated argument Suddenly, a solution flashed in my mind A relative of my friend was also a senior doctor in the same hospital and, perhaps, he could be persuaded to pick him up in his car He would not let a colleague down The doctor was rushed to the scene in 20 minutes, grumpy and bleary eyed Nevertheless he managed the situation remarkably well. The spectre of death could be set aside for the time being

To an outsider, getting a relative admitted to a nursing home may appear to be the end of all problems. But, it is exactly the opposite. In fact, the real test of his physical and mental endurance begins from that point onwards, when he realises that the specialist will visit the patient at certain fixed hours only, irrespective of his condition, once in the morning on his way to hospital, once in the afternoon



on his way back home and once in the evening after his chamber hours, for two minutes on an average The charges will be a modest Rs 600 per day, that is, Rs 200 per visit The proceeds will also be collected from the patient in the next cabin and, if his luck holds, from a couple more

He may thus earn your monthly 'sweat and blood' salary in just one day in such fleeting moments, whose cumulative duration may not even be an hour. This is in addition to the regular receipts of monthly kickbacks from the nursing home which has managed to rope him in on the panel of doctors.

And who is to be blamed if the patient has the habit of developing a crisis outside the specialists' time schedule? Well, for him there is a resident doctor, just christened a couple of years ago and a sister (usually semi-trained or indifferent or both) to combat the untimely battle of Crimea within the intensive care unit, or extensive scare unit, as one may be tempted to call it, on payment of a meagre Rs 500-plus per day Even if you are an atheist, you will be converted in a day and your faith in God will mount in geometric progression if the patient manages to survive against all conceivable odds. As you get familiar with the setup, you will get wiser and organise a round-the-clock vigil in shifts, on your own, instead of trusting the job to the lone receptionist-cum-telephone operator and a couple of messengers who tackle emergencies with the complacence of peace time.

Keeping you company will be anxious faces of ill-at-ease middle-class family members who have pooled their combined resources and come all the way from the districts to provide the best possible medical care for their ward, which is not available locally One such family waited from 6 am to 10 pm without the specialist doctor showing up at the appointed hours for days together, despite having committed to the family over phone, while the teen-aged boy lay in coma practically without any proper medical care. On the fourth day, the doctor dropped in at 10.30 pm on his way back home, whispered a few words to the sister, suggested a test or two and vanished.

The relatives hardly got a chance to enquire about the condition of the patient Before they finally decided to shift to a hospital, they had to shell out a cool Rs 12,000 for a week's cabin charges, the doctor's fee and X-ray reports, etc. even though the doctor could not plan any strategy, nor figure out a line of treatment For the doctor and the establishment it was no matter of of concern, as there would never be any glut of 'customers'

Calcutta is still denied many modern medical facilities which are available in other Indian cities For example, patients have to be flown all the way to Madras nursing homes and hospitals for cine angiographic findings in order to ascertain whether bypass surgery is possible or not This surgical operation is done at prohibitive costs there and cannot be undertaken in Calcutta In case you are not so lucky, you may have to come back poorer by around Rs 30,000 without being operated on, as was the case of my friend's father, mentioned earlier The famed South Indian cardiologist found the old man's heart condition unsuitable for surgery and expressed his surprise at the lack of concern of the Calcutta cardiologist, who, in his opinion, ought to have referred the case for bypass two years earlier instead of allowing the angina pain to recur and cause irrepairable damage to the arteries

The gentleman has by now blown up Rs 80,000 of his life's savings to pay for one-and-a-half month's nursing home expenses in Calcutta and his unsuccessful Madras trip. Even a part-time nurse costs Rs 2,400 per month plus food these days. But the 'vulturism' continues unabated, while the patient blames himself for being alive.

Soumitra Sinha

QUIZ



Neil O'Brien

A quiz report from Ratan Das, secretary of the Sarupathar Quiz Club, district Jorhat:

"The third Golaghat district inter-school quiz contest, organised by our club was held in a packed hall at Sarupathar Public Hall.

"Twenty-one teams participated and the quiz was conducted by Mohan Saikia and Md Abidur Rahman Besides the general questions, there were special rounds based on the Reliance Cup, 1987

"Golaghat Christian High School, represented by Jaswant Kakathy, Pankaj Saikia, Satyadev Sarmah and Abhijit Sarmah emerged first and won the Pooshraj Memorial Shield, while Barpathare High School represented by Pranati Duyarah, Madhumita Baruah, Geeta Borah and Rituparna Das came second and received the Jitendra Mohan Paul Memorial Shield "

"Who are the gnomes of Zurich?" asks Saurav Saha, Calcutta 64

"Gnome" is a 16th century word, coined (appropriately) by a Swiss in a mining context, and is derived from the Greek *ge-nomos*, used to describe a creature said to live in the depths of the earth to guard buried treasure

"Gnomes of Zurich" was a term used disparagingly for the tight-fisted methods of speculators in the Swiss financial capital who questioned Britain's creditworthiness and forced austerity measures on the Labour government of Prime Minister Harold Wilson when it came to power in 1964 Faced with an enormous balance of payments deficit on taking office plus the so-called "haemorrhaging" of the pound sterling, the secretary of state for economic affairs, George Brown, spoke out against the speculators who were making a killing at the pound's expense and called them the "gnomes of Zurich."

Priya Pandey, Calcutta 6, asks," Who are the jet set?"

Jet-set, (also, jet set) refers to the wealthy social set that gathers in fashionable places in many parts of the world, often travelling by jet plane This term made its appearance in the early 1960s and quickly replaced older terms of similar meaning like "cafe society" and "smart set " Though it may have been a felicitous coinage by a society news reporter, there is evidence indicating that the term was used during the 1950s in a special sense that may have foreshadowed the current meaning The sense in which jet set was used between 1956 and 1958 was that of a group of youngsters in the Soviet Union, especially in Moscow, who had adopted a "fast" Western style of life The following 1956 quote from the *New York Times* uses the term in this sense and suggests the probable origin of the term

"This is the Soviet Jet Set,' an element of the younger generation that is causing great concern to the country's leaders and to the Communist party This term was originated by a young member of a foreign embassy staff in Moscow and refers to the Soviet youth who are attracted by things 'foreign' - specially clothing hair styles, jazz, movies, automobiles and who go for resturants, hard drinking wild parties and the gay life generally "

K Rao reports on a quiz from Bhubaneshwar

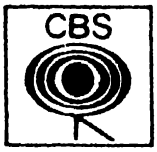
"There are only two inter-school quizzes held in the city Naturally we all look forward to these special events Recently Bhubaneshwar Round Table 53 hosted their annual quiz for schools and it was the unanimous opinion of all that Bhubaneshwar has never witnessed a more exciting quiz contest

'Every year the organisers change the subject of the quiz This year with the Reliance Cup fever still in the air, 'sport' had to be the theme

"Nine schools participated All present enjoyed the video round with the clips varying from Pete Sampras's marathon [illegible] ification to Dawn Fraser's gold medal swim and Jack Nicklaus winning [illegible] quiz was conducted by Mr O Brien "

Pradeep Kedia and Poonam Goel write from Siliguri

'A quiz was organised on the occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations of St Joseph's College of Commerce Twelve teams took part out of which four made it to the finals The winning team was represented by Prashantkant Mohta, Naresh Agrawal and Sandeep Mehrotra The questions were tough the quizmaster Dr Pranabesh Roy, had to answer most of them himself!"



11th Question: **Which fictional character was brought up in a refugee camp during childhood, went on to become the head of a spy and smuggling organisation called "The Network" and then married and divorced an Englishman named James Turner in Beirut? (Sutanu Mukherjee, B-2-1,M.S. Flats, Sector B, R.K. Puram, New Delhi 66.)**
Ans: **Modesty Blaise.**

QUESTIONS

1. What is a potter's field? (Rajesh Kapoor, Calcutta 89)
2. Does the colour red anger a bull? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)
3. What is a denier? (Gaurab Bhattacharjee, IIT Kharagpur)
4. Who said, "It is woman's business to get married as soon as possible and man's to keep unmarried as long as he can "? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)
5. Decollation was an ancient practice What exactly happened when a person was decollated? (Anjanava Dutta and Rakhi Bhattacharya, Calcutta 31)
6. Who are Yompies? (Subrata Sen, Varanasi 5)
7. Who or what is a brickfielder? (Srinjoy Chakravarti, Calcutta 31)
8. Which animal has three hearts? (Tanmoy Dutta, Calcutta 6)
9. What do King Juan Carlos of Spain, a scantily-clad Arnold Schwarzenegger, a tuxedoed President Ronald Reagan and an olivedrab-suited Oliver North have in common? (Pradeep Kedia, Siliguri 5)
10. Can you frame a sentence using all the 26 letters of the alphabet at the beginning of each of the words serially, as used in this sentence? (Sukanya Basu, Calcutta 10)

ANSWERS

1. A public burial place for paupers, unknown persons and criminals
2. Red does not anger a bull more than any other colour. Bulls are colour-blind It is the movement of the bullfighters' cape that confuses the beast
3. A measure of the fineness of thread
4. George Bernard Shaw
5. He was beheaded
6. They are young outwardly mobile professionals related to the brain drain
7. It is a hot, dry Australian wind
8. The cuttlefish
9. All were mentioned in the 46th annual best-dressed list compiled by the fashion foundation of America's customer tailor, John Tudor
10. A brave child during efforts for going home infuriated jackals, kangaroos, leopards moving nearby on provocation quickly retreating safe to vanquish with xylophone yelling zebras

TALKING TOUGH

Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri, the new vice-chancellor of Calcutta University, is coolly confident of restoring normalcy to the politics-scarred campus within the year. *Debashis Aikat* profiles the left-leaning neurophysician who minces no words about what he thinks has gone wrong with the university



Sanbal Das

Political slogans mar the Calcutta University campus

The new vice-chancellor of Calcutta University, Dr Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri, is confident that he can put the strife-ridden university "back on the rails within just 11 months." He regards no problem of the university to be more complex than the understanding it requires. And he feels that the solutions will follow automatically. The self-assured vice-chancellor says, "My sole mission is to set in motion a process by which the oldest university of the country can become the nation's top centre of excellence as early as possible."

But how will he achieve in just 11 months what his predecessors have failed to do in years? Answers Dr Ray Chaudhuri, "There will be a total innovation in functioning. I will accomplish my mission by employing just three key words. Sympathy, tact and firmness."

And what if even these three fail him? Dr Ray Chaudhuri nods thoughtfully and then laughs heartily. He definitely exudes confidence and resorts to similar mirthful outbursts whenever confronted with, what he perhaps considers, arenaive questions.

Dr Ray Chaudhuri is a doctor who strongly believes that laughter is the best medicine. And the 60-year-old cool and composed leftist seems a tactician par excellence. To those who cross swords with him, he is never intimidating; instead he cuts shot any verbal duel with a wry one-liner, leaving his detractors at their wits' end. The highly successful doctor plays his cards close to his chest, and while he speaks in well-chosen words, he conveys a toughness which indicates that he is not accustomed to defeat. If his past record as medical college teacher, reformer of the medical education system and adviser to the government on health policy is any indication, the teachers and students of the university had better be prepared for some zealous leadership.

Dr Ray Chaudhuri was elected unopposed to the post of vice-chancellor and now faces the uphill task of resuscitating a university which has been tainted by a host of unseemly controversies. The new vice-chancellor admits his task is "Himalayan" but hastens to add, "Wait and watch. It will all be over." The university's administrators were, in fact, rather uneasy about the unmanageable task confronting them, and Dr Ray Chaudhuri was clearly singled out by the Left Front government for his allegiance to the party and his administrative ability - he had been instrumental in streamlining the city's medical education system, and had rendered valuable advice to the state health department.

So within a week of assuming office, Dr Ray Chaudhuri was asked to tackle intractable problems which would have driven any management expert up the wall:

- to restore normalcy in the university's functioning,
- to prevent further delays in holding examinations, declaring results and commencing academic sessions,
- to meet certain basic demands of teachers and other employees in the manner they are being met by other universities,
- to clear the huge backlog in academic and administrative activities without further delay,
- to manoeuvre the belligerent unions back to the negotiating table; and
- to root out corruption and irregularities at all levels.

Dr Ray Chaudhuri is quite blunt about apportioning blame where he thinks it is due. For instance, he says his predecessor, Dr Santosh Bhattacharya, "lacked tact" and was "a stumbling block in the university's



The new vice-chancellor in his office at Darbhanga Building

HOW THE VC IS NAMED

Under the Calcutta University Act, 1979, the vice-chancellor is appointed by the chancellor on the unanimous recommendation of the Senate. If the Senate fails to make any such recommendation, it elects three candidates through the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The chancellor, in consultation with the state education minister, then appoints the vice-chancellor from this panel.

The vice-chancellor holds office for a period of four years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, and is, subject to this provision, eligible for re-appointment for a period not exceeding four years.

The new vice-chancellor, Dr Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri, 60, was elected unopposed to the post on December 22. The former vice-chancellor, Dr Santosh Bhattacharya, proposed his name.

At the expiry of the vice-chancellor's term or his attaining the age of 65 years, the chancellor may allow him to continue in office till a successor assumes office. However, he cannot continue as such for more than a year.

The vice-chancellor is a whole time officer of the university and is paid a salary of Rs 3,500 per month and such allowances as the chancellor may decide.

CU: THE BARE STATISTICS

The geographical jurisdiction of the 131-year-old Calcutta University—the oldest in modern India—has reduced substantially over the years but it remains one of the world's largest universities.

More than 80,000 students get registered every year in the 203 affiliated colleges of the university for its undergraduate degree courses. Nearly 4,500 students are enrolled annually in 69 postgraduate departments under the nine faculty councils. The university has 660 teachers for its postgraduate courses, out of which 190 are professors, 280 readers, 141 lecturers and 49 part-timers.

The university employs 2,578 non-teaching staff who are engaged in the university's campuses spread all over the city.

The budgeted expenses for 1987-88 amount to more than Rs 18.63 crores against receipts (comprising the general fund, UGC grants and other sources) of Rs 17.06 crores.

The university conducts 650 major and minor examinations every year. It has 17 hostels. The central library possesses 4.9 lakh volumes and subscribes to 1,011 journals annually.

progress Others of course feel that it is the Left Front government which deserves these adjectives But whoever was at fault the university certainly suffered

The politics that had overtaken the campus during the last few years had badly affected the students And those who could escaped Dr Ray Chaudhuri s 22 year old daughter Sharmila is a case in point Her father quips She did not take any chances with the university here and is now doing her PhD in economics with a scholarship at the Price University in Houston US His 28 year old son Debamanda is a medical student at the Oldham Hospital in England

By his own admission Dr Ray Chaudhuri s wife son and daughter were against his taking up the vice chancellorship but he persisted as he considered it a social obligation to do something worthwhile for my alma mater He now leads a workaholic s life even though he retired from the Calcutta Medical College in 1985 He wakes up at 6 am seeing off wife Leena to work at 8 am She is a matron at the Belle Vue Clinic He sets out to the university after 9 am and is usually available there from 10 30 am to 5 pm

The vice chancellor hurriedly turned doctor and by 6 pm he is in his clinic on Park Street as an eminent neurophysician, he is in high demand He attends to his last patient at 9 pm leaving himself enough time to enjoy some Rabindra sangeet before retiring to bed No he does not watch television though his drawing room has a set He finds the national programme very disgusting Despite his busy routine he meticulously looks after his 94 year old father Dr Bimal Kanti Ray Chaudhuri

Dr Ray Chaudhury did his schooling at Jessore and matriculated from the Calcutta University in 1943 He graduated in medicine from the Calcutta Medical College in 1950 and was admitted to the University of Edinburgh s faculty of medicine for doctoral studies in 1964 He started his teaching career in 1957 at Burdwan s R M School and after serving at different undergraduate medical colleges in the city retired as professor and head of the department of neuromedicine Calcutta Medical College in October 1985

The vice chancellor has been directly associated with Calcutta University for the last 20 years He was an elected member of the postgraduate council in medicine for two terms from 1968 to 1978 and was nominated to the Calcutta University council in 1978 He

Why did the Left Front nominate you as the vice chancellor?

I do not know I cannot read their minds but can assure you that I did not go to them with a request to nominate me

But still there must have been a reason

Perhaps their wisdom and information prompted the decision They must have taken into account my contribution to medical education And even the chancellor Prof Nurul Hasan endorsed my name

Are you a Marxist?

I do not know the real definition of the term Marxist philosophy has many fundamental tenets which are not different from any other philosophy

What will be your managerial style as vice chancellor?

I personally feel that the vice chancellor should not roam around the corridors of power with files under his arm The chief minister has entirely agreed to this view Though the service rule book describes the vice chancellor as the chief executive officer it does not mean that he should be treated like just another officer However a person of this high position should keep the prestige of his office I should also behave in a manner that befits the high position

How will you deal with the politics and unions in the campus?

It is no problem They key words are sympathy tact and firmness I am not sure what will happen if these fail But I trust that they will surely pay

Your comments on Prof Santosh Bhattacharya s tenure as vice chancellor?

The last vice chancellor lacked tact But that was his method of working I also do not know what his aim or purpose was But during the last four years I think he was a stumbling block in the university s progress

What is your idea of progress?

Some palpable difference to the academic decadence I will try my best to improve the situation But there is no going back for the university any more My mission will be to make the country s oldest university the nation s top-most centre of excellence as early as possible It may not be possible to reach this target within my short tenure of four years However if I can set the right trend my successors will be able to achieve the goal

What is your immediate task?

To put the derailed wagons back on the rails and then put the steam on for mobility and advance I expect that by the end of 1988 most of the derailed bogies can be put on the rails and next year a part of the progress trend can start

What are the problems in the university?

Lack of direction absence of work culture at all levels including attempts to shirk the responsibility and pass it on to others The antiquated administration needs a thorough overhauling It has to be streamlined Accountability and fixation of responsibility have to be introduced I am sure the entire university community will be with me if I can give the correct leadership without fear or favour

Your immediate plans

I intend to fill up the vacancies



'THE LAST VC WAS A STUMBLING BLOCK IN PROGRESS'

Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri speaks to *Debashis Aikat* about his job, his plans and what ails Calcutta University

in academics and administration. I will find more space for all departments, with special consideration being given for the active ones. All pending projects will be put into operation. The system of examinations and results will also be streamlined.

What has been your first impression of your job?

In just a few days I have realised that the vice-chancellor has little time to think, which is imperative if he has to work in a manner that befits his responsibility. Everybody feels that he has a right to walk into the vice-chancellor's chamber. It seems that others' time is more important than mine. However, this is a touchy issue and has to be tackled carefully. All members of the university community are eager to help me.

Your views on the present education system?

The present education system of which Calcutta University is a part needs reorientation. Even if some institutions were set up with a definite aim, a comprehensive review will show that they have been utilised for some other purpose.

Your opinion on the politicisation of education?

I'm afraid the word politics is wrongly being equated with groupism and factionalism. Politics is nothing but a philosophy and I feel every man, particularly of the intelligentsia, must have a philosophy of his own. But that does not mean the philosophy should be imposed on others.

Your solutions to the following problems

Delay in examinations. At present, the university has no advanced schedule of examinations that will benefit teachers and examinees alike. I have already released a circular instructing teachers to chalk out an academic calendar. This will help teachers, students and the administration to prepare for exams in time.

Belated results. The main delay occurs during the distribution of answerscripts and the collection of marks. Efforts are already on to streamline the whole process. I also propose that social pressure be put on errant examiners so that they cooperate.

Are you confident of success?

My sincerity is the key to my success. I also consider myself as a trustee of the university. I can play with my own things but not with trust.

But there is still a note of scepticism amid the hope that you have generated.

Why should there be scepticism? I am not aware of it. Although I agree that the task is Himalayan.

What will you do if the government starts interfering?

Government interference can only be dealt with firmness. Government and the university should act in unison and should not embarrass each other. Their areas are well defined. Any emerging problem should be dealt with mutually. A government can never be happy about chaos persisting in a university.

How powerful is the vice-chancellor?

It depends absolutely on the interpretation of the incumbent. He may have powers greater than the US President. The Act has given complete freedom but the exact demarcations are not there.

Could you elaborate?

The vice-chancellor is not a czar but then he is not an ordinary chief executive officer either. He cannot function if he acts like a czar of the university. The Act is to be obeyed in body and spirit. And to this end, the key man has to act responsibly.



Subhas Das

'ADMINISTRATION MUST NOT BE LEF

Santosh Bhattacharya, the controversial outgoing vice-chancellor, e has hamstrung Calcutta University



Most of my colleagues at the University and surely those who are members of the Left Front found it intriguing on December 22 last that I proposed the name of Dr Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri as the next vice chancellor even though he had often differed with me during the last four years

I said then that the main reason why I supported his candidature had been my knowledge that he believes in upholding the autonomy of the university From what I have read in the press so far from reports of his exclusive interviews and of his speeches in different meetings I am glad to find that he has not resiled from that position But what is more heartening to me is that I find him eager to restore the glory of the Calcutta University as a centre of excellence a term often derided by many leaders of the Left Front as being a surrogate of elitism

In what follows I want to underscore certain issues which as I found from my experience stand in the way of firmly establishing the Calcutta University as a centre of excellence in the academic map of the country

Government Policy If the Calcutta University is to be maintained and developed as a centre of excellence it must have more than average support in terms of its inputs namely infrastructure faculty and students In other words the university must be assured of modern infrastructure administrative material the best of the faculty and the best of the students available

But because of the government policy both as laid down in the Act and as practised by the Left Front nominees in the university bodies the university is hamstrung Apart from the question of financial support there is no administrative flexibility, nor are the departments allowed to innovate even in academic matters

Promising young teachers and researchers cannot be inducted or rewarded because the university does not have any autonomy in creating or even redesignating academic posts Finally the university is constrained to admit its postgraduate students only from its own affiliated colleges and is not allowed to admit students graduating even from other West Bengal universities on the basis of open competition

On the very important question of finances it is not evident that the government realises that as an old university Calcutta requires a really big push for the renovation of its material infrastructure Even UGC development grants lie unused for want of matching government support Excellence is a very tender plant and has to be nurtured with immense care Bureaucratic uniformity and egalitarianism are its worst enemies

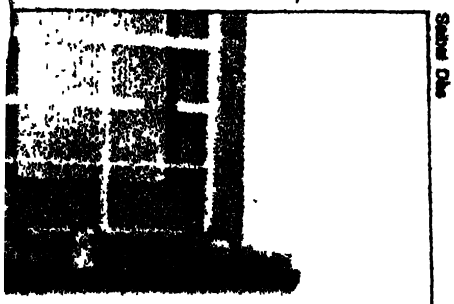
Decentralisation I want to comment on this issue separately even though it is tied up with government policy and the Act, because Dr Ray Chaudhuri has laid great stress on decentralisation as one of his main approaches to solving the administrative problems

I fully agree with his main point but I believe that unless decentralisation is carried out both in letter and spirit, its benefits will not be realised The Ghani Committee of which I was a member recommended a national scheme of decentralisation of the university structure But the present Act, ostensibly on the basis of recommendations of the Ghani Committee, put the whole thing upside down

Instead of separating the undergraduate administrative matters from the direct purview of the Syndicate, which was intended to be an administrative body of the

TO ACTIVISTS'

plains how government policy





postgraduate faculties, the present Act converted the Syndicate into an executive committee for the postgraduate departments, while it is dominated by non-postgraduate elements. If the constitution of the present Syndicate remains as it is, the administrative matters relating to the postgraduate departments should be handed back to the university colleges, as they were in the older days. That way, decentralisation would be non-discriminating and meaningful, the Syndicate concerning itself with policy issues only.

Another aspect of decentralisation relates to the existence of different campuses of the university, spread all over the city. Would it not be logical to give administrative and budgetary independence to the different campuses? In fact, the different campuses are so big by themselves that, compared to many new universities, they deserve to be considered as separate universities, though they may continue to be designated as Calcutta University.

Finally, the question of loadshedding. It is no secret that many departments of the university are overburdened with the number of students and the administration is overburdened with the number of affiliated colleges. If anyone thinks that such huge number of students and number of affiliated colleges are conducive to the pursuit of academic excellence, he must be an incorrigible optimist indeed. But, here comes the government again.

Examinations and Publication of Results: This issue, though not directly related to pursuit of excellence, has assumed such scandalous dimensions that I feel morally bound to report my attempts at solving of the problem. Also, it does upset those brilliant young students who are the pride of our university and the prime inputs of our future excellence.

There are some who believe that the solution to the problem lies in decentralising the examination department, that is, entrusting the overall responsibility for conducting major undergraduate examination to another officer (say, additional controller), with completely separate infrastructure.

The fact, however, is that the administration for conducting major undergraduate examinations is even now separate, though the controller is the common head.

Two years ago, I made an exhaustive study of the problem and made some concrete recommendations to the Syndicate, many of which are yet to be acted upon. I am convinced that the problem is mainly managerial, and the question of decentralisation is an extraneous issue in this context.

However, I should love to see my successor solving the problem in some other way, because it is the solution which matters. But, administration must not be left to activists and decentralisation must not be a cover for awarding grace marks.

served in that capacity till February 1983 when he was elected the dean, faculty council of medicine, a post to which he was re-elected in 1985. He was then elected to the university Senate from the graduates' constituency.

Dr Ray Chaudhuri was also the honorary editor of the journal of the Indian Medical Association for six years, and was till recently the national president of the organisation.

In the first few weeks of his vice-chancellorship, Dr Ray Chaudhuri has moved cautiously, maintaining a studiedly low profile and yet conveying an impression of determination. Within three days of assuming office, he removed the posse of policemen who stood guard near the vice-chancellor's chamber. His enthusiasm and his highly personalised style of functioning were in evidence when he responded positively to a complaint about the woeful condition of the teachers' room. He made it a point to visit the room to see for himself the state of affairs.

After his visit, he had explained, "I wanted to have an open dialogue with the teachers in order to be apprised of their problems. I would also like to have similar interaction with students, employees and others. That is the only way to remove the mutual distrust."

But though the new vice-chancellor is backed by the powers-that-be in the state, there is still some apprehension about whether he will be allowed to work without political interference. The general secretary of the Congress(I) faction of the Calcutta University Employees' Association, Mr Amalendu Banerjee, describes as "politically motivated" the decision of Dr Ray Chaudhuri to cancel the list of papersetters and moderators of the law examinations. But even Mr Banerjee would prefer to wait for some more time before passing an opinion on how the new vice-chancellor functions. Mr Amil Sarkar, leader of the Calcutta University Teachers' Association, believes that Dr Ray Chaudhuri will be able to work freely. He says the anti-CPI(M) faction in the university did not put up any candidate against Dr Ray Chaudhuri because they all wanted him as the vice-chancellor.

With such high expectations Dr Ray Chaudhuri has his task cut out proving his credentials against formidable odds. It is an unenviable job for the stakes are high. And the doctor will receive either bouquets or brickbats - there is no scope for anything in between ■





Kushal Gerroppedryay



Ashok Das



Kushal Gangopadhyay





Ashok Das



Kushal Gangopadhyay

Clockwise from left: **A champion Dobermann with his owner; a Rough Collie; some dogs being judged; a Lhasa; a lady with her prize-winning Bulldog; and a Tata company guard dog performing tricks**

Dog shows organised by the Calcutta Kennel Club are becoming increasingly popular and this year, a record number of 82 entries were received for the obedience tests. They were divided into seven different classes and comprised the most popular items in the shows. Altogether 520 dogs took part in the two shows, many of them coming from different parts of the country.

In the obedience tests, the dogs are expected to act according to the commands and signals of the handlers and the judges, for which points are given. Each and every breed has its own specifications regarding the size, shape, nature and behaviour.

After the show in mid-January, the acrobatic performances on the concluding evening by the dogs of Tata Bearings, Kharagpur, and Tisco, Jamshedpur, added excitement to the proceedings.

Talking about the quality of dogs in India, Ashoke Mukherjee, an international judge and member of the Calcutta Kennel Club for the last 40 odd years, opined that they are nowhere near their Western counterparts. He ridiculed the psychology among the common Indian people that keeping a dog makes one's position higher in society. "Dogs in our country are made to be tied in chains and kept in corner of the room," he said bitterly. Unlike the dogs in Western countries who are useful to the people in numerable ways, Indian dogs rarely helpful to us.

Indranath Chattopadhyay

7 DAYS

ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

•**Dariya-dil** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 254956) Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033)—all 4 shows Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417)—2 30 5 30 8 30 Malancha (Regent Park)—1 30 4 30 7 30

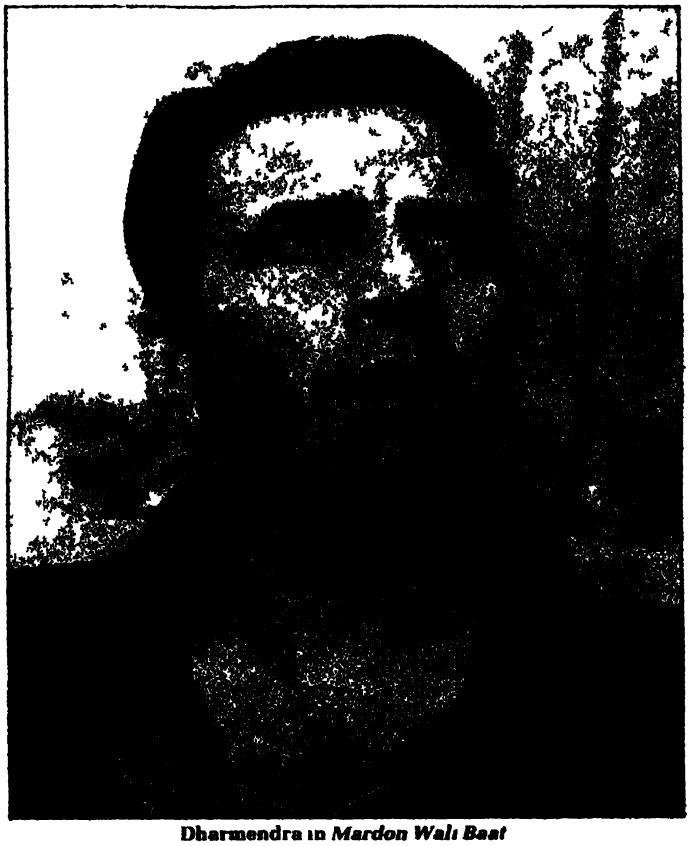
Directed by K Ravi Shankar and with music by Rajesh Roshan the cast includes Govinda Kimmy Katkar Shakti Kapoor Raj Kiran Shoma Anand Gulshan Grover Asrani and Kader Khan

•**Ghar Grihasthi** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road 242664) Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552932)—4 shows

Directed by Dilip Bose and with music by Chitragupt the cast includes Sujit Kumar Rakesh Pandey Jai Tilak and Bandini Misra

•**Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein Shyam** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266) Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road 474403) Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road 392250)—4 shows Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108)—3 shows Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417)—noon

Govinda Neelam Khushboo and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this film directed by Subhash Sonik The music is by Amar Utpal



Dharmendra in *Mardon Wali Baat*

•**Mardon Wali Baat** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue 272473) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522) Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133) Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464440) Krishna (T C Dutta Street 250437) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road 311090)—4 shows Madhuban (Regent Park)—3 shows

Dharmendra Shabana Azmi Jaya Prada Sunjay Dutt Preeti Sapru and Danny Denzongpa comprise the cast of this film directed by Brij The music is by R D Burman

•**Nastik** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani 270147) Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 249828)

A film by Promod Chakraborty starring Amitabh Bachchan Hema Malini Deven Varma Amjad Khan and Pran The music is by Kalyanji Anandji



Mel Gibson in *Lethal Weapon*

BENGALI FILMS

•**Amar Sangee** Radha (Bidhan Sarani 553045)—2 30 5 30 8 15 Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 271282)—2 5 7 45

Vijayeta Pandit and Prasenjit are the lead pair in this film directed by Sujit Guha Others in the cast are Subhendu Chatterjee Shakuntala Barua Ruma Guhathakurta Ishani Banerjee Rabi Ghosh and Soumitra Banerjee The music is by Bappi Lahiri

•**Dolon Champa** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 473462)—3 5 45 8 30 Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740)—2 30 5 15 8

Ranjit Mullick Sandhya Roy Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury Aruna Irani Prasenjit Sandhyarani Dilip Roy Gita Dey Bankim Ghosh Satya Banerjee Chinmoy Roy and Anup Kumar comprise the cast of this Sujit Guha film whose music is by Kanu Bhattacharya

•**Gurudakshina** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 553413) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 359561) Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road 474686)—all 1 4 7

Tapas Paul Satabdi Roy Ranjit Mullick Ishani Banerjee Kali Banerjee Shakuntala Barua Bhabesh Kundu and Soumitra Banerjee comprise the cast of this film directed by Anjan Choudhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

•**Kalankini Nayika** Sree (Bidhan Sarani 551515) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680) Ujjala (Russa Road 478668) Alochhaya (Bellaghata Main Road 355059) Mini Jaya (Lake Town 573936)—all 3 shows

Directed by Subhen Sarkar and with music by Tarun Ranjit the cast includes Alpana Goswami Ranjit Mullick Anup Kumar Sumitra Mukherjee Sandhyarani Lily Chakraborty and Biplab Chat-

•**Partipakkha** Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522)—3 shows

Rameshwari Prasenjit, George Baker and Utpal Dutt are the chief attractions in this film directed by Rathish De Sarkar The music is by Ajoy Das

• **Maan Abhiman:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2 30, 5 30, 8 15

A re-release of this Sukhen Das film whose chief attractions are Sumitra Mukherjee, Santu Mukherjee and Anil Chatterjee The music is by Ajoy Das

FOREIGN FILMS

• **Conan the Destroyer** Light house (Humayun Place 291299)—12, 3, 6, 8 30

• **Fast Forward** Globe (Lindsay Street, 296845)—12, 3, 5 45, 8 30

• **Frankenstein 90 (A).** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141)—4 shows

• **Lethal Weapon** New Empire (Humayun Place, 291051)- 4 shows

Directed by Richard Donner the film stars Mel Gibson, Danny Gloer, Darlene Love, Gary Busey Mitchell Ryan and Tom Atkins

• **You Can Do A Lot With 7 Women (A)** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715)—4 shows

NEW RELEASES

HINDI FILMS

• **Hum Farishte Nahin** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road 27/273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue 553046) 4 shows, Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249826) Kalika (Sadananda Road 47/8111), Madhuban (Regent Park) 3 shows

Directed by Jatin Kumar and with music by Manoj Gayen, the film stars Raj Babbar, Om Puri Smita Patil, Rameshwari, Poonam Dhillon and Amrish Puri

• **Kaal Chakra** Roxy (Chowringhee Place 284138), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464440) Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road 474403)- regular shows Moonlight (I C Dutta Street 254956) noon

A film by Dilip Shankar, starring Suresh Oberoi, Madan Jain Soni Razdan, Priya Tendulkar and Sadashiv Amrapurkar

• **Karma** Majestic (Rafi Ahemd Kidwai Road 242266) Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757) Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552932) 4 shows

A re release of this Subhash Ghai film starring Dilip Kumar Nutan Jackie Shroff, Anil Kapoor, Sridevi Poonam Dhillon Anupam Kher and Naseeruddin Shah The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Solva Sawan** Opera (Lenin Sarani) 4 shows

A re release starring Sridevi and Amol Palekar The film is directed by Bharathi Rajaa and the music is by Jaidev



Suman Dutta

A drawing by Nikhil Biswas

SPECIAL EVENTS

7 February. 6.30 pm

Padatik will stage *Salim Sherwani Ki Shaadi* The cast of this play includes Shakil Khan Vinay Sharma Ashok Walia Sanchaita Bhattacharya B M Hada, Pradip Roy Sanjay Mathur Nandini Roy Neetu Khilani, Md Naseem and Arun Sharma

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

9 February· 6 30 pm

A classical vocal recital by Sangeeta Chatterjee

At Padatik Little Theatre (6 7 AJC Bose Road, 446087)

10 February. 6 pm

Mouna-Mukhar presents a pantomime show by Santimoy Roy



Santimoy Roy

Also a programme to felicitate Anil Chatterjee and V Balsara

At Gorky Sadan (Victoria Terrace)

11—13 February

The 33rd session of Park Circus Musical Conference features vocal recitals by Munawar Ali Khan, Sunanda Patnaik, Maskoor Ali Khan Raza Khan and members of Kingshuk, instrumental music by Brij Narain and Deepak Choudhuri and dances by Sanjukta Panigrahi, Indrani Choudhuri and members of Padatik

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani 449086)

12 February onwards

A fortnight-long exhibition of drawings by Nikhil Biswas

At Chitrakut Art Gallery

13 February 6.30 pm

A Manipuri dance recital by Shayantini Chowdhury, Chandrani Ghosh and Suchandra Chakraborty

At Padatik Little Theatre (6·7 AJC Bose Road, 446087)

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU-588 at 1005, Dep (1) JU-588 at 1105

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU-589 at 2350, Dep (2) JU-589 at 0050

Calcutta-Bombay-Dubai-London-New York Dep (1) AI-103 at 2330

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (3) AI-307 at 2005, Dep (3) AI-307 at 2105

Hong Kong-Calcutta--Delhi Arr (4) AI-325 at 2320 Dep (5) AI-325 at 0030

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI-324 at 1150, Dep (4) AI 324 at 1250

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo. Arr (2) AI 316 at 1830 Dep (2) AI-316 at 1930

Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU 537 at 1655, Dep (4) SU 538 at 1955

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1545, Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1) RA-214 at 1040 Dep (3) RA-214 at 1100 Dep (2, 4 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3) RA-213 at 0940 Arr (2 4, 7) IC-248 at 1525, Arr (3, 6) IC-248 at 1425

Calcutta-Dhaka. Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305 Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555

Calcutta-Bangkok. Arr (1, 3 6) TG-313 at 1240, Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Dep (1 3 6) TG-314 at 1355, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3 5 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi. Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1710 and IC—263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210

Calcuta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730, Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (1, 3 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay. Dep (2 4, 6) IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair. Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi. Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620, Arr (2 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC-270 at 2100

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3, 5 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320 and IC-203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC-249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 and IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat--Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6, 7) IC 201 at 0535 Arr (2 4 6 7) IC-202 at 1240

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily)) IC 255 at 0530 Arr (2 4 6, 7) IC 256 at 1000 Arr (1 3 5) IC-256 at 1230

Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep IC-221 at 1145 Arr at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala Dep IC 243 at 0610 and Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1035 IC 242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar

(1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-733 at 1600, Arr (2, 4 6) PF-734 at 1855
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat. Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555 Arr (1, 3 5) PF-732 at 1000
Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 717 at 0600 and PF-717A at 1600, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800 and PF-718A at 1755
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna. Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0600, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar. Dep (daily) PF-701 at 0830, Arr (daily) PF-702 at 1550
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-727 at 0940, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-707 at 0610, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailasahar: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-729 at 1130, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-730 at 1610
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi. Dep (2, 4, 6), PF-715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-721 at 0800, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-722 at 1645
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-723 at 0800, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-724 at 1715
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh Dep (1, 4, 5, 7) PF-735 at 0530, Arr (1, 4, 5, 7) PF-736 at 1545
Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu. Dep (2, 3, 6) PF-735 at 0530 Arr (2, 3, 6) PF-736 at 1650

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21-10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon, Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs, Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arri —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-30	304

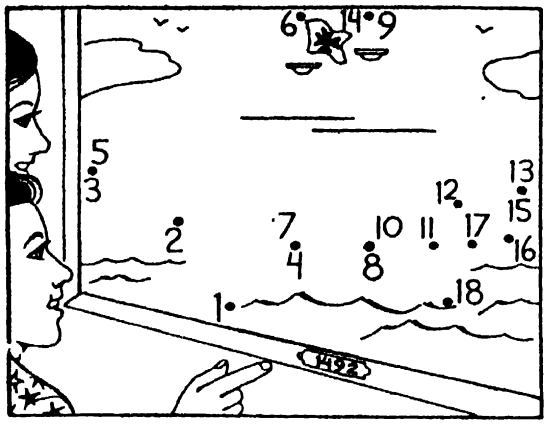
SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14 15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Fri, & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4-00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

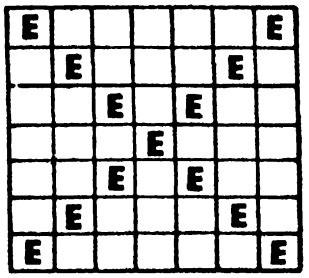
ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



OPEN DATE! What can you draw to complete the dated canvas above? To find out, add lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc

• ARM TWIST! Stand with feet together, bend knees slightly Reach around left leg with right arm and try to touch heel of right foot



E-WORD TESTER

Challenge Insert seven words containing letter E's in order shown to fill blanks horizontally above Definitions (from top down) are

1 Very learned
2 Said "No "
3 Make Believe
4 Kind of a limo
5 Here, here!
6 Inhabitant
7 Give a big hug

Remember, words are to read horizontally

After completing exercise, see if you can find other words to fill blanks similarly

In order Erudite refused pretend stretch present denizen embrace

• LESS FUN! Substitute digits 1 to 8 for letters in diagram below to complete a poser in subtraction Use each of the eight digits just once

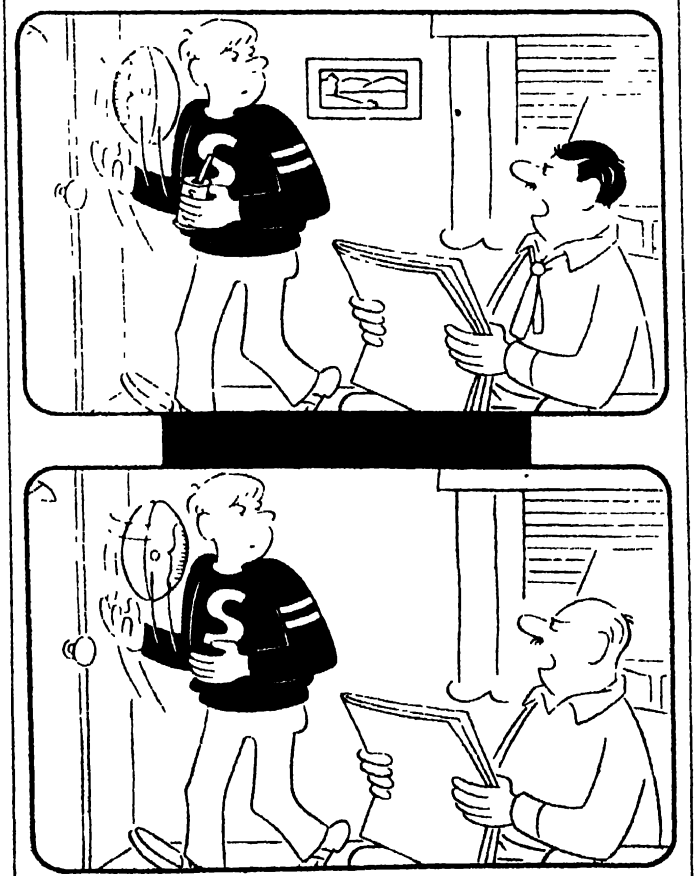
Clue Use 1 for N

How quickly can you effect the changeover? to numbers?

P S More than one answer is possible



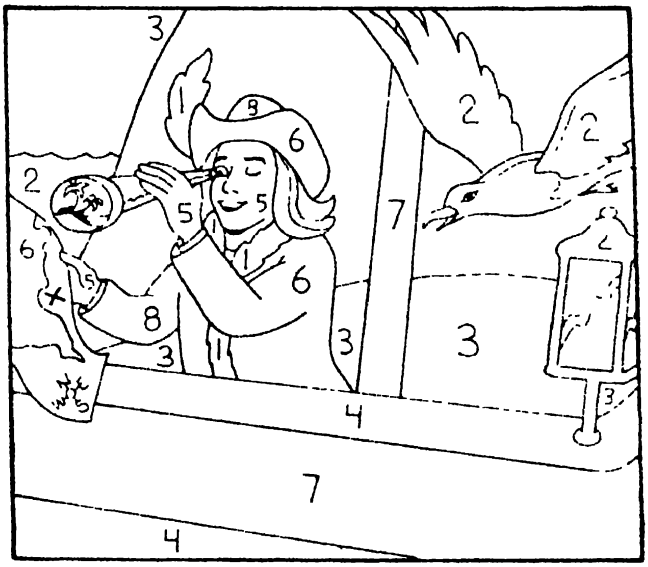
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

(Interpretive 1 Football is reversed 2 Can is missing 3 Picture is missing 4 Paper has fewer pages 5 Hair is missing 6 Tie is missing

FUNSPOT



HERE 'TIS! It's "land ho" for Columbus, above Simply add these colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk. Green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

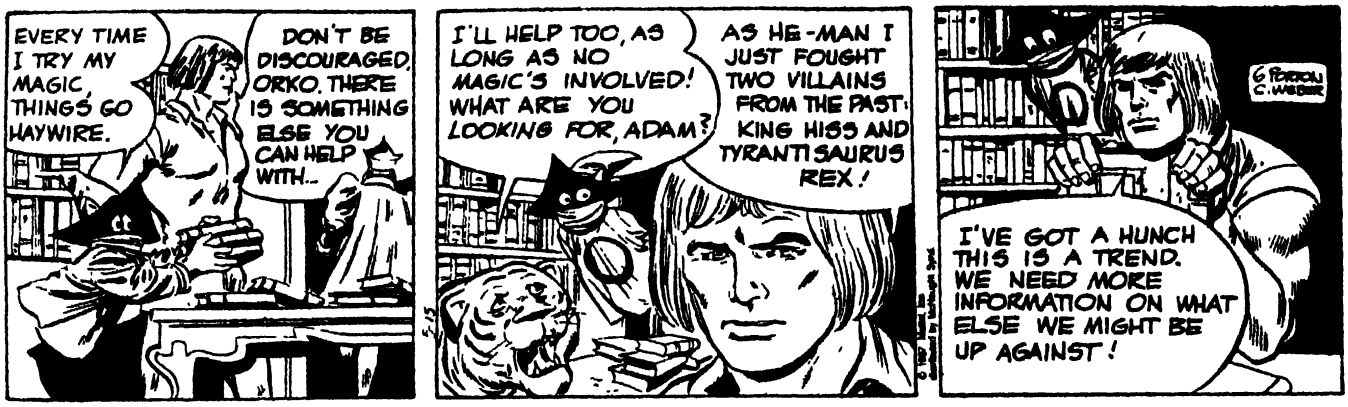
REUNITED

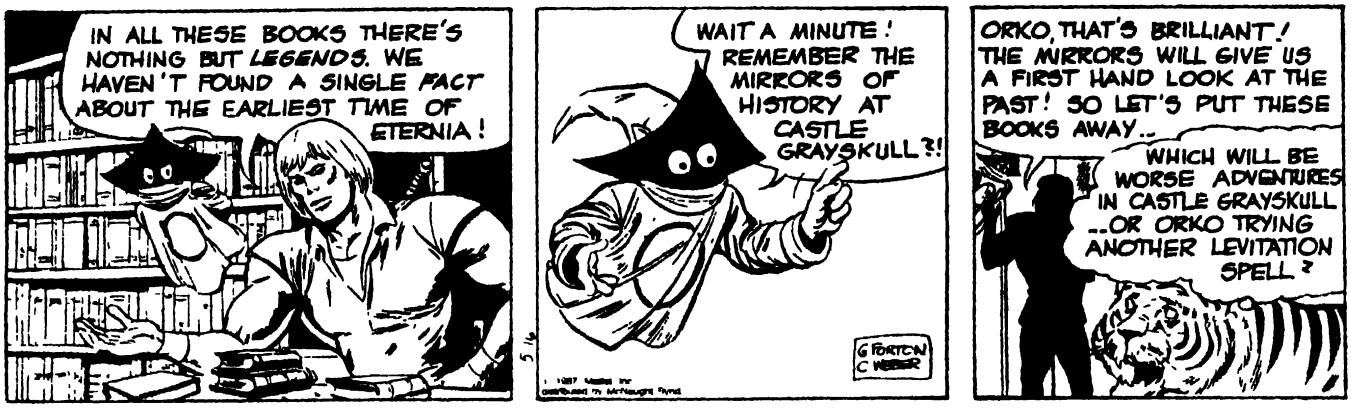
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Duet rein

HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

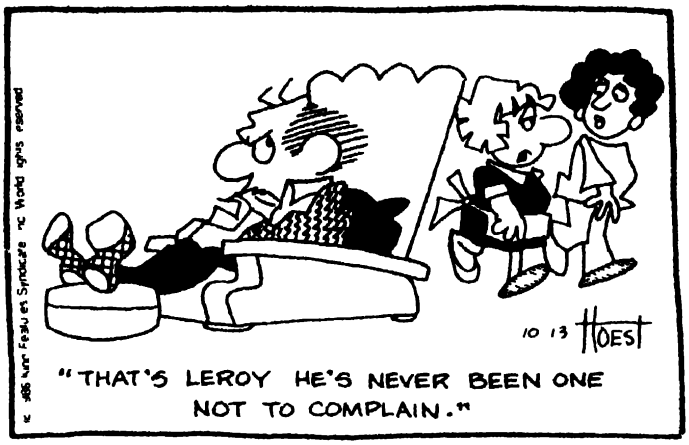




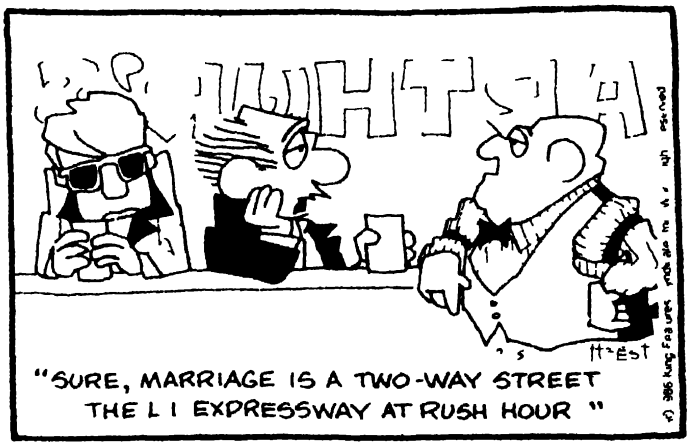


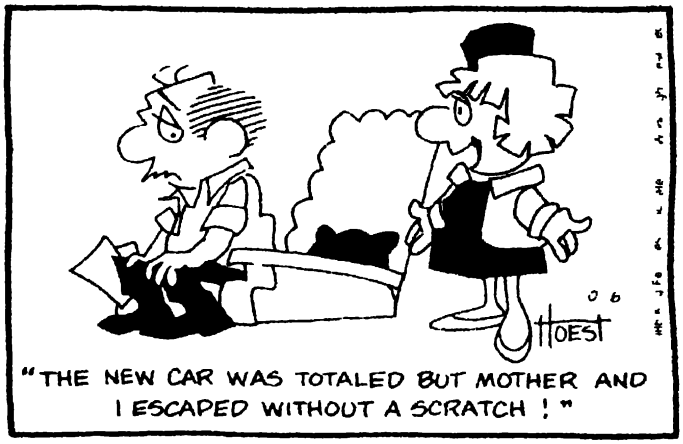


THE LOCKHORNS









MANDRAKE By Lee Falk









Subroto Mukherjee

You cannot but feel a little sorry for another guy – our very own Tarzan from Pune, **Hemant Birje**, who today goes about wearing the sad looks of one lost in the vast steel-and-asphalt urban jungle of Bombay.

Not that he is not doing well enough in his profession. He is. But the reason is his legendary beloved Jane continues to elude him in this harsh and heartless city. He did chance to meet her some time back – only her name was not Jane, but Julie. She was an Indian working in the USA as a fashion designer and down here on a visit.

Hemant happened to meet her at a party and at first sight fell head over heels in love with her in the apt apeman style. But all along their romance was fated to be sentimentally short spanned. She had to return to her country and career recently, leaving our he-man in a sorry state all lost and lonesome right in the midst of our overpopulated metropolis.

Then, there is *Waaris* which is being publicised as **Smita Patil's** last major starrer, a film on the lines and scale of *Mother India* and based on the true incident of a family land feud which occurred somewhere in Punjab.

This may be excellent publicity, but it's also an equally excellent joke. It may be Smita's last starrer and it may also bear similarities to *Mother India* – accepted. But the film has diluted and distorted the original factual contents to such an extent in order to conform to our ancient box-office formula of melodrama and vendetta that it retains hardly any realism.

A talented actress, **Salma Agha**, is back on the screen once again, and surely to her advantage, with a movie like *Jungal Ki Beti*. All her experiences of the monkey business for survival in the jungle is bound to come in handy here in our extremely tough and combative filmland where only the laws of the jungle seem to prevail.

And while shooting for *Ganga Jamuna Saraswati*, **Amitabh Bachchan** made a wrong move and was promptly landed with a blow from Amrish Puri on the right side of his face. The impact split the macho megastar's cheek, drawing blood in profusion. But before the panic stations could be sounded and a state of countrywide crisis declared, it was discovered – to a collective sigh of great relief – that not much damage was done to the famous multicrore face.

Kalyan Chal

If you talk macho, the only ones in tinsel town who really impress you are the faceless daredevil stuntmen who brave it all through blood, sweat and tears and double for our hoarding-size heroes who only look for a minor mishap as a safe excuse to opt out of action.

The other day while shooting for *Mahaveera*, **Dharmendra** took a tumble from the mobike and landed with a swollen leg – out of job for the time being. And, as usual, the tinsel towners came quite near to treating the mishap on the scale of a national calamity.

Filmmaker **R.K. Nayyar** enjoys the distinction of having the highest number of incomplete films to his credit. So much so that the joke in tinsel town is that when you meet him, you ask, "So, Nayyar *Saab*, when are you going to incomplete your next project?"

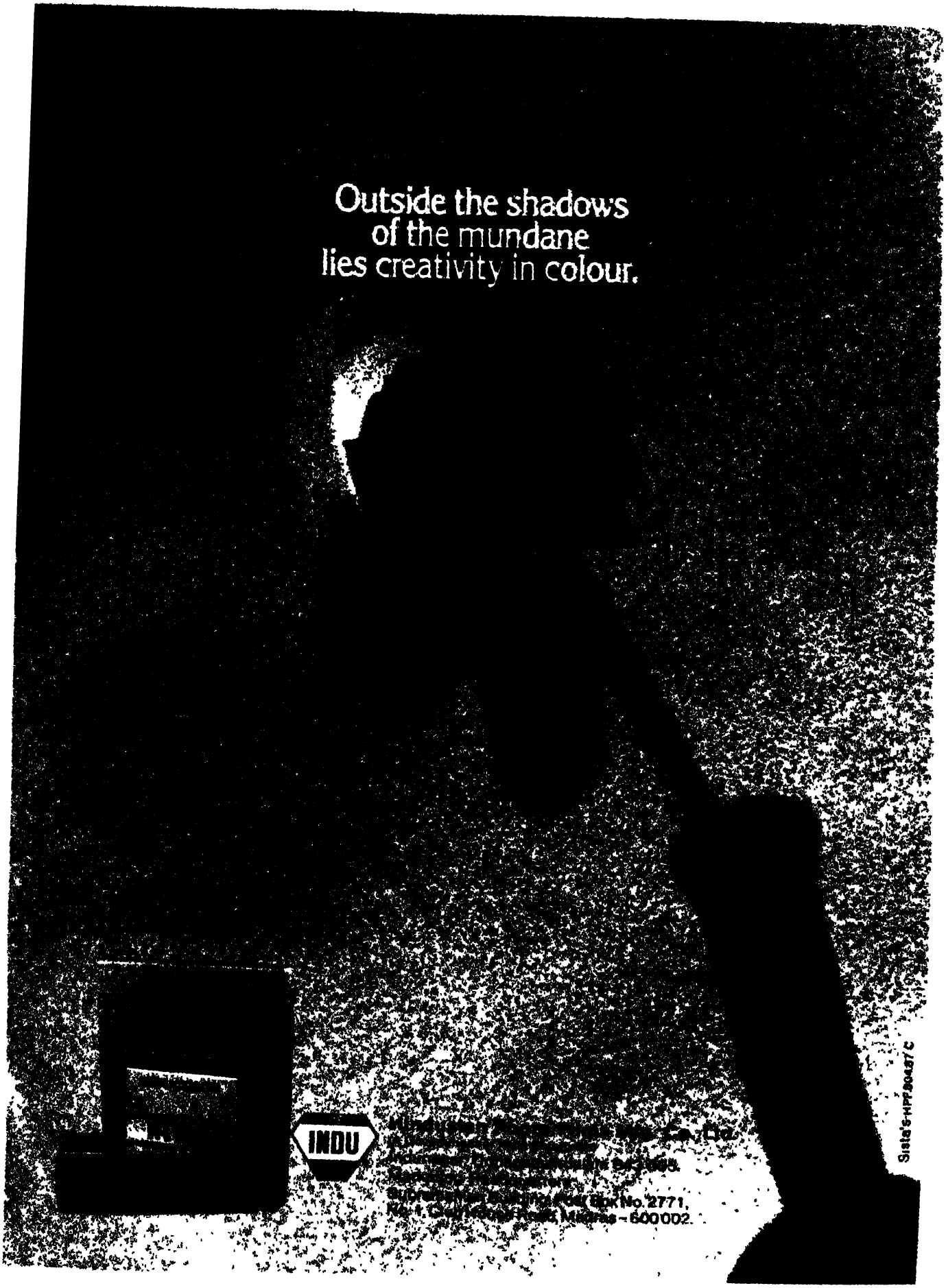
Not that completing a film seems to be helping matters either, thanks to the censors who have slapped a ban on his latest (and miraculously completed!) production, *Pati Parmeshwar*.

Anyway, every time the censors ban a film (or even impose solid cuts on it) our film folks invariably raise quite a hullabaloo against what they consider an outrageous lack of consistency, logic, aesthetic sense, fair-play and what have you. *Pati Parmeshwar* has been banned (and quite rightly so) not only because it reverses the process of our women's emancipation on the screen way back to prehistoric times, but also because it has its entire edifice propped up on the foundation of myths and miracles, curses and coincidences. But, then, come to think of it, so do most of our mainstream movies. What about them? ■

Smita: Of *Waaris* and realism

Hemant: Of Jane and Julie




Outside the shadows
of the mundane
lies creativity in colour.
INDU
Sista's-HPP 804587 C

RIDE ON ATLAS. RIDE ON AIR



NEW SPORTSTER 5-SPEED

IMPORTED GEAR SYSTEM

*Imported Sun Race system incorporating Sarro Fonte mechanism.

*Gear 1 and 2!
Take off to a flying start.
Ride against the wind.
Race up a hill.
Gear 3! Cruise along at a racy pace.

*Switch to Gear 4!
Gain more speed.

*Gear 5!

Atlas
«FUNFLEET»

POST MORTEM

Which One?

'What the Stars Foretell for Politicians' (January 17) made amusing reading. If the track records of our astrologers are any guide, then their predictions are not to be taken seriously. There are millions of people born under a particular 'star' and a few lines of astrology as regular columns of periodicals can hardly be considered correct

The predictions of astrologer Acharya Raj and numerologist Amritlal have been published. Ironically enough, the predictions made by these two in the case of Mikhail Gorbachev and Benazir Bhutto vary while in the case of other politicians, there are some striking differ-

I feel that instead of the predictions, or along with the predictions, you could have carried the opinion of the masses, and found out the percentage of successful guesses

Before the semi-finals of the Reliance Cup, one of the Bombay astrologers predicted that India would lift the cup beating Pakistan at Eden Gardens, if the place and date were not altered. Neither India nor Pakistan made it to the finals.

B. Ganesh,
Jamshedpur

■ Acharya Raj has said that V.P. Singh was born on June 31, 1931 while Amritlal has given his date of birth as June 25, 1931. Which one is correct?

Rajendra Mohan Kapoor
Navapalli (West Bengal)

The correct date is June 25 We regret the error — Editor

Dignity in Work

Thanks for telling the world that our leprosy patients do find meaning and dignity in work, that they are willing to give up begging provided there are people willing to believe in their ability to be productive members of the community ('An Oasis of Dignity,' January 17).

It was the patients who first saw the article and pictures And they rushed to show them to us. Some of them went out to buy a few more copies of The Telegraph.



Anil Grover

Prem Nivas, Titagarh

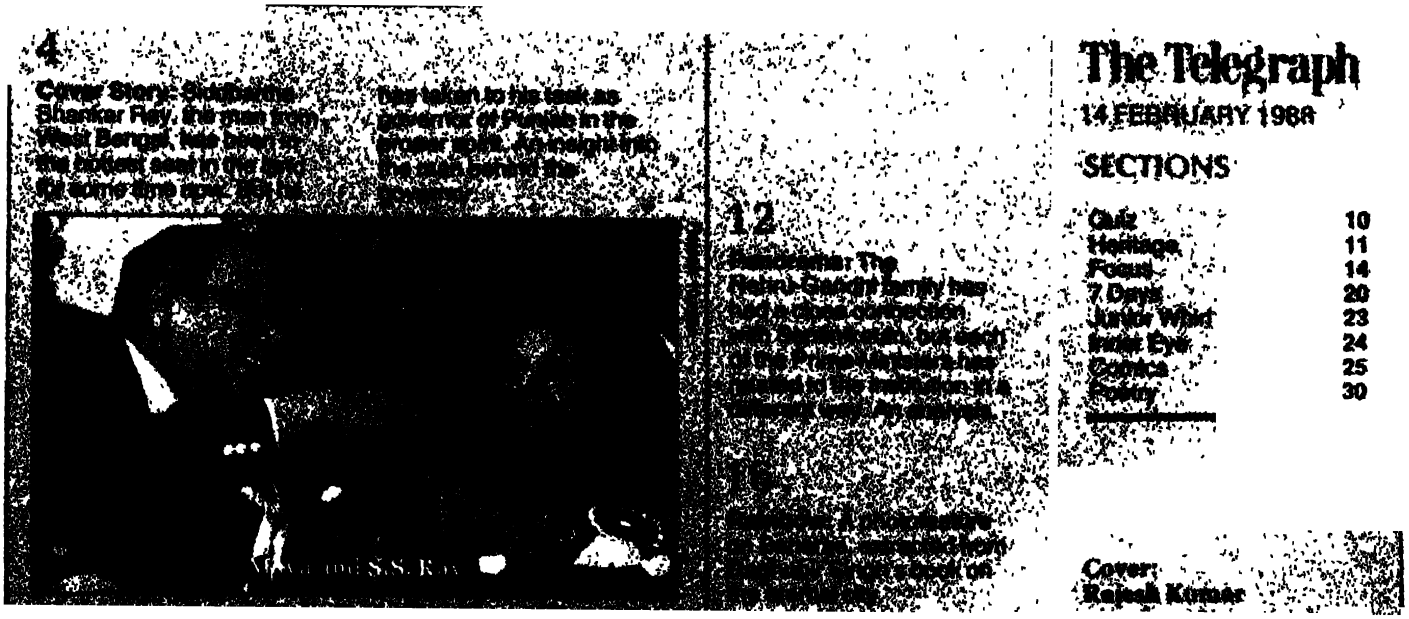
Bro. Prem Anand, MC,
Gandhiji Prem Nivas Leprosy Centre, Titagarh

■ Anil Grover's focus on 'An Oasis of Dignity' showed that though many countries have successfully eradicated leprosy, there are still over four million patients in India Taking Prem Nivas as a model, more rehabilitation centres should be established to rebuild the leprosy patients' shattered personalities. They must also offer an intensive therapeutic programme that comprises a broad range of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social services—so that the patients can become fully active again.

A very commendable effort has been made by the Colour Magazine in drawing attention to this institution and creating an awareness among us to treat and love the leprosy patients as human beings

Preetam Kar,
Baripada (Orissa)

CONTENTS



FACING TERROR

The governor of Punjab's must be the hottest seat in the country today. But **Siddhartha Shankar Ray** remains undaunted by the herculean task ahead. TARUN J. TEJPAL brings out the man behind the governor. Photographs by RAJESH KUMAR



The man knows no Punjabi, but claims that it is no handicap For "he speaks the language of the mind and the heart" The man was out of the hurly burly of daily politicking for some years, and is now enjoying the ceremonial preoccupations of a governor after catapulting himself into the hottest political seat in the country Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray comes from far off West Bengal, but claims an association with Punjab that extends back to his grandfather and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre The man is soft-spoken, but presides over an administration that is widely regarded as tough, no-nonsense and even ruthless

Eight months into heading President's Rule in Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray's reputation is not as sullied as that of most who have tried to run this trouble-torn state in the last few years (including the redoubtable machinator, Mr Arjun Singh). What is



more impressive is that under Mr Ray the Punjab administration has, for the first time in recent years, shown a sense of direction, even if it be controversial. Among the most important things Mr Ray has done is to draw the battlelines clearly. There will be no soft-pedalling on the law and order front and the iron-mailed fist of the state will descend on blood-thirsty terrorists, and not an inch of Indian territory will be compromised, leave alone the idea of Khalistan being entertained.

Perhaps, that was his brief. But along with spelling out the inflexible premises and reiterating them at every possible juncture, Mr Ray, from the very day he assumed office as governor under President's Rule, embarked upon a strenuous effort aimed at assuaging and winning over the people of Punjab, especially the Sikhs. The most obvious means was adopted: provide an efficient and responsive administration or, at least, make it seem so, and then try and identify with the Punjabis. Mr Ray admits it has been very difficult, certainly hard work, but he also calls it very exciting.

The amount of travelling he does appears to give credence to his claim that "it is very exciting in the sense that the people here are very interesting. I enjoy going to the rural areas and meeting people... it's a pleasure being with them." The Bengali governor claims a genuine fondness for Punjabis, and exhibits this not merely through repeated assertions, but by taking an active interest in the state's cultural affairs. He patronises various cultural bodies in the state, inaugurates their projects, speaks at their seminars, and encourages fresh endeavours. This propensity had, in fact, made a number of people ask whether a culture-toting governor could brook the myriad, deathly serious problems of the state. The quiet efficiency and involvement of Mr Ray has at least established his commitment. Moreover, the governor does not see his taking interest in cultural affairs and his moving around the state to meet people, to know their problems first hand, to be merely an exercise in gloss. The interaction, he reckons, is relevant because it offers him continual insight into the "multi-dimensional nature of the Punjab problem." The problem, as he is fond of saying, "has to be tackled on the emotional front, the law and order front and the psychological front."

Mrs Maya Ray and the governor routinely travel hundreds of miles to attend the cremation of terrorists' victims, and to condole bereaved relations. Even before the imposition of President's Rule, the state's first couple was doing this. They have often faced hostility. Last year, after the CRPF outrage in Brahampura village in Amritsar district, humiliated villagers initially refused to speak to them but opened up later when the couple persevered sincerely (on the governor's urging, an inquiry was instituted). In another incident last year, the couple were sloganeered against and virtually roughed up by agitated mourners when they went to attend the cremation of Congress (I) leader Joginder Paul Pandey, slain by terrorists at Ludhiana.

Truly to the bucolic Punjabi the governor must constitute a strange and, most likely, amusing sight. Tall, wide at the shoulders and heavy at the torso with relatively weak legs (reminiscent of Hemingway), speaking an appealing pidgin of English, Hindi and Punjabi to erect across reassurances and homilies, Mr Ray would appear to have his communication problems cut out for him. But he avers with a smile: "I may not speak the language very well, mouth but I speak the Punjabi from the heart and the mind. I can understand Punjabi now, and though my Hindi is also very poor, with a little bit of Hindi and Punjabi I get on well. And then there are some people to translate for me too." Nevertheless, the impact is initially unsettling. At Longowal village on August 20, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal's death anniversary, as Akali MP Balwant Singh Ramoowalia translated Mr Ray's lyrical English into Punjabi, there could be espied on the faces of the tens of thousands of Punjabis listening traces of bewilderment and merriment.

Later, whether the message or the medium is anybody's guess. The governor candidly admits: "I do not know what is happening inside them. But we meet warmly, embrace each other and talk." What remains indisputable is that the governor does not allow the language problem to become a barrier, and travels around the state meeting people in, perhaps, unprecedented fashion. Mr Ray also displays a tremendous pride in Punjab and Punjabis, especially when it comes to achievements in the agriculture sector. Astutely, the governor realised from Day One that his administration would have to be extremely responsive to agricultural needs if the people were to be appeased and the situation calmed.

As things would have it, the rabi crop had been badly damaged by untimely rains in April. May when Mr Ray took over as president's rule governor, and he wasted no time initiating three state procurement. More than Rs 1 billion worth of [illegible] was disbursed and the operation was labelled the largest in Punjab's history, covering 8.16 million tonnes. In keeping with the general drought in the country, the next crop, the kharif, too floundered. Relief measures were again taken up promptly, and the farmers assumed bonanza proportions. The Rs 100 crores already [illegible]

The man from West Bengal [illegible] tures of saying: "He brought back Punjab badly. Punjab farmers work so hard that we are the [illegible] the country that is not only meeting its quota to the central pool, has topped it by two million tonnes. We were to give 70 lakh tonnes and we've achieved [illegible] praises the Punjab farmers. [illegible] spent on aggregate of Rs [illegible]

Mr Ray, from the very day he assumed office as governor under President's Rule, embarked upon a strenuous effort aimed at assuaging and winning over the people of Punjab, especially the Sikhs. The most obvious means was adopted: provide an efficient and responsive administration or, at least, make it seem so, and then try and identify with the Punjabis



S.S. Ray with wife Maya

THE OTHER SIDE OF RAY

The governor has other interests, too, apart from politics

The one activity which the governor is immediately identifiable with is lawn tennis He plays as often as he can and carries his kit when on tour, playing whenever the opportunity arises. He wields a neat racket and can, even at his advanced age, flatten younger and fitter opponents. He regards his tennis as yet another means of communication with a large number of people. He reads books in whatever little time he gets, normally the last thing at night, the life-long habit being necessary to induce sleep

His wife, Maya, and he form the icon. She accompanies him everywhere, giving the soft touch while he goes about his business. Mr Ray says about her, "She is quite brave and facing everything with a great deal of dedication and devotion" Mrs Ray is the archetypal hostess, laying out tasteful spreads for the hectic entertaining they do She is also an active social worker and culture enthusiast.

The governor claims to be quite "fond of Mr Barnala," while he reckons DGP Ribeiro's presence and contribution to Punjab to be "tremendous." Of the hundreds of officers he has seen during the course of a lifetime all over the country, he declares the DGP must be the most outstanding. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, he repeats endlessly, knows what has to be done in Punjab and is doing it

He dismisses speculation about a midterm poll in Punjab and states that till conditions are restored to normalcy, it is out of the question. He also refuses to give any currency to the theory that the Centre wants to prolong the Punjab problem so that it can use the Khalistan bogey at the next general election

He claims to have no idea about how Bengalis feel about one of them heading the fight against the greatest challenge to have confronted post-Independence India He says he has been to Calcutta only thrice since taking over, twice for one-and-a-half days each, and once for five days

The governor thinks that contrary to popular quips, Punjab has one of the richest cultures in India—"beautiful traditions, the Patiala *gharana*." The Naxalite problem was purely a law and order one, everybody was against it. But Punjab is a multi-dimensional problem. The only similarity he sees is in the odyssey of grief both have brought in their wake.

He declares that he does not want to stay as presidential Rule governor a day longer than necessary and would eventually like to return to the Bar.

He is, however, insistent that the Prime Minister has a definite plan for Punjab and "it will unfold slowly, but surely" This has fetched brickbats, with the leading English daily of this region, *The Tribune* questioning in an editorial after the killing of SSP Brar and SP Gill, as to how long the plan would take to unfold, and what the final price would be. Another senior journalist, the editor of a leading English daily, dimisses such reactions as disproportionate outbursts He reckons that there is no other alternative to that being pursued now, and abandoning it mid-way for another option—a political,or otherwise—would amount to undoing all that has been achieved in the last seven months Mr Ray, in turn, sitting behind his big desk in the huge, high roofed, solemn office at the secretariat, asserts with quiet satisfaction that, barring Mr Barnala's recent outbursts, no one has decried the imposition of President's Rule

The man from West Bengal, who also claims an affinity for Punjabis because he comes from a *para* in Calcutta—Bhawanipore which is teeming with Sikhs, is not in the process of getting complacent Corruption charges against the police and bureaucracy are mounting, and Mr Ray declares in his office, outside which stengun-toting guards dot the corridors, "Combating corruption is my New Year resolution" He, however, dismisses charges of police-bureaucracy friction, insisting instead that never before has he seen the two arms of the government work in such harmony He displays a similar knack, a sophistry in dealing with the Akali leaders, and keeps them from becoming personally antagonistic towards him The Congress(I) leaders have been given short shrift, and been told clearly to keep their hands off the administration. Initially, this caused bruised egos, but now they have got used to the idea, especially since they know Mr Ray has the Prime Minister's ear.

The governor does not display undue worry about the fact that he has become a marked man, perhaps for life. In fact, he says, "I'd like to go back to the Bar, but I don't mind staying here as long as necessary, as long as the people of Punjab want me to stay. I love Punjab and the best part of this whole assignment has been that Maya and I have come to know hundreds and hundreds of very good people." The chances are that the earnest desire of the governor will come to pass for, in Punjab the light at the end of the tunnel still appears to be too dim ■

BARTER BANK

• **Books** I would like to exchange *Higher Secondary Mathematics* by Bhanja Ganguly *A Class Book of Botany* by A C Dutta *Elements of Higher Secondary Physics* by Dutta Chowdhury and Pal *Model Problems in Physics* by Chakraborty *Numerical Problems in Chemistry* by Sarin and Sarin *Physics* by Kohli Mittal Singh and *Advanced Accounts* by Shukla Grewal for Tintin comic books novels by Sidney Sheldon and Harold Robbins and non fiction books Contact Kasturi Nag 69 B Palm Avenue Calcutta 19

• **Novels** I offer 50 Agatha Christie novels for Tintin and Asterix comic books Contact Avijit Basu 71 Citizens Cooperative 103 Manicktala Main Road Calcutta 54

• **Study material** I offer ICSI test papers from 1975 to 1987 for bestsellers by Jeffrey Archer Robert Ludlum Irving Wallace or anything of corresponding value Contact Minesha Agarwal post box no 1021 Ballygunge Calcutta 19

• **Stamps and greeting cards** I offer 2 300 foreign and Indian stamps 180 greeting cards and 80 picture post cards for a Wolf cub master drill AC fans or curios or anything of corresponding value Write to G C Mukherjee 12 1 Duff Street Calcutta 6

• **Cane furniture set** I offer four raised back cane chairs two stools two side tables one centre table and one divan (all with cushions) for anything of corresponding value Contact Anshuman Roychowdhury 7 Aswini Dutta Road Calcutta 29

• **Novels** I offer novels by Desmond Bagley James Hadley Chase Alistair Maclean and Earl Stanley Gardner for novels by Sidney Sheldon Robin Cook and Harold Robbins Contact Manjula Saha 8 Krishna Mullick Lane Calcutta 37

• **Walkman** I offer a Walkman for a large carrom board or anything of corresponding value Contact Ramji Gupta 9 Brindaban Pal Lane Baghbazar Street Calcutta 3

• **Records** I offer the following records *Duke* by Genesis *The Sound of Bread* Simon and Garfunkel's *Greatest Hits* *Best of the Beach Boys* and a Klass Khiladi with volume control for an equal number of records or anything of corresponding value Contact Kalyan Kamal Roy 5 Anil Roy Road first floor Calcutta 29

• **Electronic piano and song book** I would like exchange a mini electronic piano and mini song book for a Casio watch or a Casio solar system calculator or anything of corresponding value Contact Pinaki Nandy c/o P K Nandy P 128 Kalindi Housing Estate Calcutta 89

• **Camera calculator and cassettes** I offer a Hot Shot 110 camera a Casio electronic calculator and 10 cassettes of Hindi film songs in good condition for a 35 mm camera of any make with flash Write to Shriram Kesari c/o S N Kesari S 219 Lichu Bagan Lane P O Belgharia Calcutta 44

• **Motorcycle** I offer a BSA motorcycle for anything of corresponding value Contact V K Maity 181 Maharshi Debendra Road Calcutta

THE VINEET GUPTA MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR SHORT STORIES AND POETRY

RESULTS OF THE CONTEST 1987



Poetry

First prize (Rs 2,500) Suma Josson (for *The Sparrow's Nest*)
Second prize (Rs 1,500) Prabhanjan K Mishra (for *The Wound*)
Third prize (Rs 1 000) Robin S Ngangom (for *I am Sorry to See Poetry in Chains*)

Short Stories

First prize (Rs 2,500) Pampa Chakraborty (for *Made for Each Other*)
Second prize (Rs 1,500): Anonymous* (for *For Joy or Sorrow*)
Third prize (Rs 1,000, to be shared equally) Subrata Chakrabarty (for *Scientific Explanation*) and Shams Afif Siddiqi (for *The Language of Love*)

* The author of this short story should either send a carbon copy or the gist of the story earliest to *The Telegraph* for identification

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Jayanta Mahapatra (*poetry*) The response to this first contest was very positive and hundreds of entries were received Many of the original poems and translations submitted were of exceptional quality The selection became difficult because of the high standard of the poems and I looked for both poetic compression and a direct human voice For me perhaps the lyrical element became essential and the ease with which the thinking of the poet had gone into the words of the poem

Khushwant Singh (*short stories*) Almost 200 entries were received from all over the country the largest being from West Bengal followed by Bombay Delhi Assam and Orissa The standard of stories was mediocre I just hope the competition will generate better craftsmen in the years to come

Prizes will be distributed on July 14 Vineet Gupta's birth anniversary We will be publishing the prize winning entries in our forthcoming issues Please await further details

K S Murty, Salkat [illegible], asks, "Which two European cities have been preserved in volcano ash?"

August 24, 79 AD,was an ordinary summer's day for the people in the neighbouring Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum They went about their business as usual, and walked the streets in the sunshine

But less than a mile from the centre of Pompeii stood the dark shadow of the volcano Vesuvius Although its slopes were covered with rich vineyards and all seemed well, below the earth's surface white-hot lava rushed and bubbled, forcing its way upwards .

With a deafening roar, the lava erupted from Vesuvius and swept down the mountain side into the towns of Herculaneum and Pompeii There was no time for escape, 200 people died while trying to rush through one of Pompeii's exits, and many more died where they had fallen After the lava came a soft white film of ash which covered the destroyed cities and its inhabitants like snow.

In the silence of that summer's day nothing moved in either Pompeii or Herculaneum Homes, streets, people, animals, all lay under the blanket of lava and ash Soon rain came, and by a strange quirk of fate, it combined with the ash to make a kind of cement, so that the victims and their lost cities were trapped forever

Pompeii and Herculaneum lay like this for centuries, forgotten and abandoned until 1763, when the first real excavations were undertaken by an archaeologist, Giuseppe Fiorelli Work has continued ever since but even now there are parts of Pompeii and Herculaneum which are still undiscovered.

The fascinating thing about these cities is that they were not lost through the gradual passage of time. They were struck down in a single day, and because of the ash, left intact.

Pompeii was a typical Roman city, well laid out with symmetrically planned streets, a theatre, pagan temples, industrial buildings, markets, baths, and beautiful sculptures and paintings in luxurious and comfortable homes. Pompeii, in fact, provides an excellent view of the Roman age; it is a monument which, because of a natural disaster, gives archaeologists a valuable perception into the past

Baboo Mukherjee reports "The first ever open quiz organised by S Association, Calcutta 9, on the grand occasion of Fest '88 was held at Rammohan Mancha, Calcutta It was a three-round competition in which eight teams (5 members each) participated. Pirnial Nandi, Pradipta Chatterjee, Sanjoy Pandey, Subrata Saha and Tanmay Mukherjee were the winners The contest was conducted by S Jaiswal "

CBS

11th Question: **Where would one expect to find a "careless hole"? (Saikat Sengupta, Flat No. 45 E, Ganga-Jamuna, 84B, C.G. Road, Calcutta 700 040).**
Ans: **In a garment or in bed-covers; these are the holes made carelessly when the lighted cigarette touches one's own or other clothes or the bed-cover and makes holes in them.**



Pompeii's House of the faun lay for centuries under ash and lava that erupted from Mount Vesuvius seen in the background

QUESTIONS

1. Which city is known as the gambling centre of the US? (Ashutosh Shalabh, Dhanbad 3)
2. What is common to Louis XVI, Queen Anne, Georgian, Victorian, American Traditional, Mediterranean and Scandinavian Modern? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)
3. In Greek mythology, what was the name of the dog which guarded Geryon's cattle? (G. Rajeev Pillai, Calcutta 25)
4. Who was known as "the second Aristotle"? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)
5. Who said, "I need only three things in life—books, books and books "? (Suptendra Nath Sarbadhikari, Calcutta 45)
6. What are "Slickket" and "Slogget"? (Natarajan Anand, Howrah 1)
7. By what name is the Young Men's Progressive Civil Association now known? (Pradeep Kedia, Siliguri 5)
8. In *The Sussex Vampire* Sherlock Holmes mentions a case for which the world is not yet prepared. What is it? (Anika Roy, Calcutta 9)
9. Why was cricketer Roy Fredericks of the West Indies nicknamed "Cement" during Kerry Packer's circus? (Indranil Basak, Ranchi 5)
10. What is common to Reach for the Stars, Romantic Water-colours, Cool Drama, Business Affairs, Manhattan Skyline, and Romantic Affairs? (Arindom Das, Calcutta 19, Tathagata Chatterjee, Calcutta 64, and Dharamendra Nath, Guwahati 1)

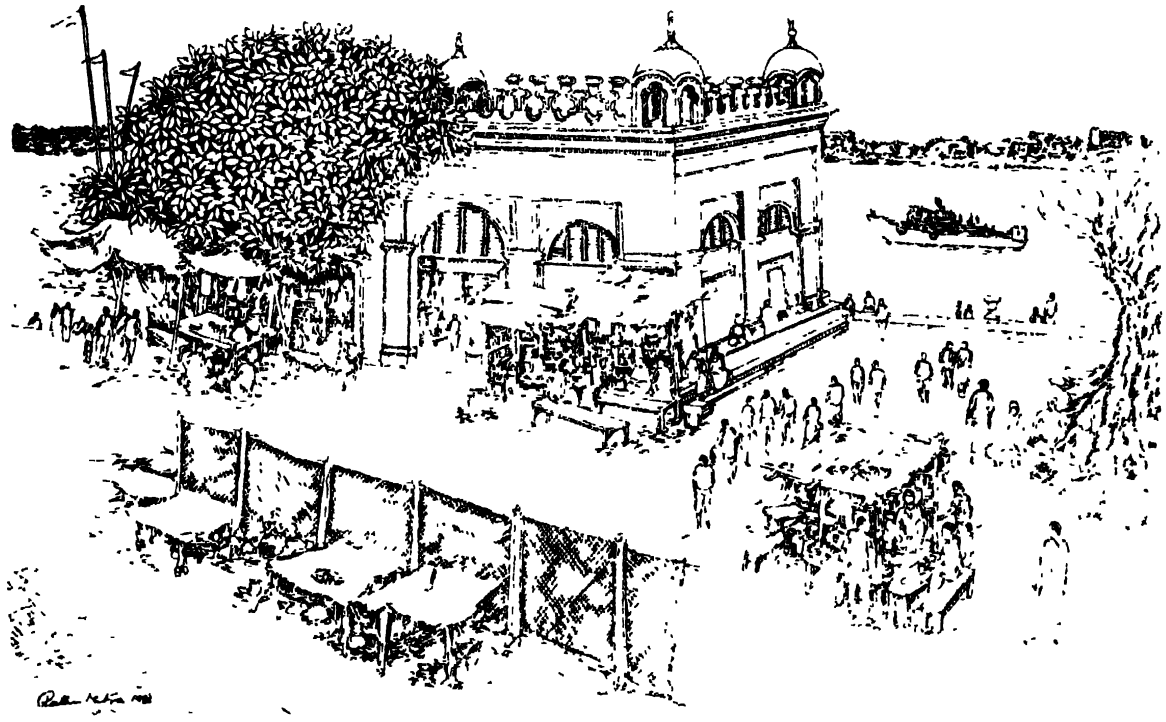
ANSWERS

1. Las Vegas.
2. They are furniture styles.
3. Orthus.
4. Alexander of Aphrodisias. He was one of the most important commentators who taught in Athena from 198 AD to 211 AD and was known as "the second Aristotle" because of the clarity of his exposition.
5. Leo Tolstoy.
6. One-day cricket as described by Sir Neville Cardus
7. Jaycees International (JCI).
8. The tale of the giant rat of Sumatra
9. Because he scored a head-bye boundary off Jeff Thomson at Brisbane
10. They are all sans designed by Zandra Rhodes



Rathin Mitra

MANIKBABUR GHAT



The ghat (sketched above) is named after Manikram Basu. It is located on the eastern bank of the Hooghly in north Calcutta. Manikram was a wealthy businessman and had a zamindari in Dhaka district. Manikgunge is also said to be named after him. Manikram's great grandson, Shibnarayan, had four daughters. The youngest, Kailashkamini, was married to Peary Charan Sarkar. Her sons inherited the huge property which she had received from her father.

Manikram Basu owned a palatial building and five bighas of land at Hatkhola. The Calcutta Improvement Trust later purchased the land for Rs 45,000. Two illustrious descendants of Manikram Basu were Dr Chunilal Basu, a chemical analyst of the Bengal government, and the renowned barrister, H D (Haridas) Basu.

THE SANTINIKETAN CONNECTION

Tarun Ganguly analyses the differences in the relationships of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi with Tagore's famed institution

The Nehru-Gandhis are now attached to the Visva Bharati for three generations. It started with the grandfather, Panditji who despite his hectic schedules, used to take the train to Bolpur from Calcutta, whenever he was in the city, to sit with Gurudev Rabindranath in the sylvan surroundings of Santiniketan. Tagore hailed him as "Rituraj" (spring, the precursor of youth). Towards the end of his life, Tagore was worried about the future of Visva Bharati after his death and he had requested Panditji to take interest in the institution. And that perhaps led to the conferring of Central university status to Visva Bharati.

The three generations have reacted differently to Santiniketan. When Pandit Nehru first came to Visva Bharati, he was not the Prime Minister, but one of the top Congress leaders. He had no official authority, and he could give very little to the organisation. But the philosopher-politician found something in the informal atmosphere of the place. He may have found a spiritual peace or a respite from the rough and tumble of politics. To men of his generation, Tagore represented the spirit of India, and quite possibly during his visits to Santiniketan he would recharge his frayed nerves. He kept his pledge to Tagore and saw to it that the institution did not suffer in the absence of the poet, and that is, perhaps, why he agreed to be the Acharya of the university.

But Santiniketan was something different to Mrs Indira Gandhi. She was a student here in her formative youth. She had old associations and till her last she had a soft corner for the institution. In her days at Visva Bharati, she had seen the privations from which the institution suffered. So, once in power, she saw to it that the institution did not suffer for paucity of funds. Perhaps, that resulted in the unprecedented building spree which has totally changed Santiniketan. In place of an institution specialising in humanities, during her time Visva Bharati introduced courses in science and technology which, no doubt, once and for all broke the institutional unity of the setup.

If Nehru had accommodated men like Anil Chanda and others whom he came to know in Santiniketan, Mrs Gandhi had always had a weakness for the students and friends of her time. It will be impolitic to name all of them, but old hands at Santiniketan are always ready to supply the details.

Indira Priyadarshini spent about a year of her troubled adolescence in the mid-thirties, at Visva Bharati. A sick mother and father away in jail had made Indira an introvert child, and old timers still remember her as a frail looking, withdrawn girl who had quietly settled at Sribhavan, the girls' hostel. But then when she came to power, she had made it a point to spend a couple of days at her *alma mater* every year during the convocation. During her annual visits to Visva Bharati, as the chancellor, she used to visit her old classmates or enquire about them. And Visva Bharati acquired its present status mainly during her prime ministership. The building spree pursued during those days has definitely deprived the institution of its quaint, old-world charm and made it into just another university which produces so many graduates every year. The old rituals like Vasant Utsav, Pous Mela or Maghotsav are still observed, but these are considered more as tourist attractions than an integral part of the university, say the cognoscenti.



Indira Gandhi conferring the Desikottama on Sudhiranjan Das in December 1966

Rajiv Gandhi started basically as an outsider in Visva Bharati. During his student days, he had no connection with Visva Bharati. He had his schooling in the Doon valley where the atmosphere was different. Both Nehru and Indira had seen Santiniketan in pre-Independence days when running the institution was considered an act of defiance against the British Raj. Both the father and the daughter appreciated the inherent spirit of defiance in Santiniketan.

But, for Rajiv, brought up in free India, things were different. He was born the grandson of a Prime Minister and passed his youth as the son of another Prime Minister. Things were not as difficult for him as for the earlier generations. He became the Prime Minister as well as the Acharya of Visva Bharati by a quirk of fate. But he maintained the usual practice. He exudes the same *bon homie* among students as his mother and the grandfather did. Hemmed in by his security guards and the complexities of running a huge country like in India, Rajiv perhaps finds it quite relaxing at Visva Bharati.

That he likes the atmosphere at Santiniketan is evident from his impromptu

visits to students' hostels, his carefree answers at question-answer sessions, and the luncheon get-togethers with the student community. Perhaps, only in Visva Bharati, the Prime Minister takes off his visor of chief executive of the country. Quite often at Visva Bharati he has been seen to give a slip to his security-men. All this only proves the point that already Visva Bharati is getting under his skin.

The young Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, being a chip of the old block, got easy acceptance in Santiniketan when he came here three years ago. His youthful looks, benign demeanour and easy grace made him popular both with the boys and girls. Despite the consternation of his security guards, he mingled freely with the students, had lunch with them and readily agreed to a question-and-answer session with them. He liked the eager boys and girls and they liked him for his free, fair and frank disposition.

But that was three years ago. The educational atmosphere at Visva Bharati has showed no signs of improvement despite the Prime Minister's personal interest. It is true, travel from Calcutta to Santiniketan has become easier, but Visva Bharati continues to linger in the backwaters of rural West Bengal.

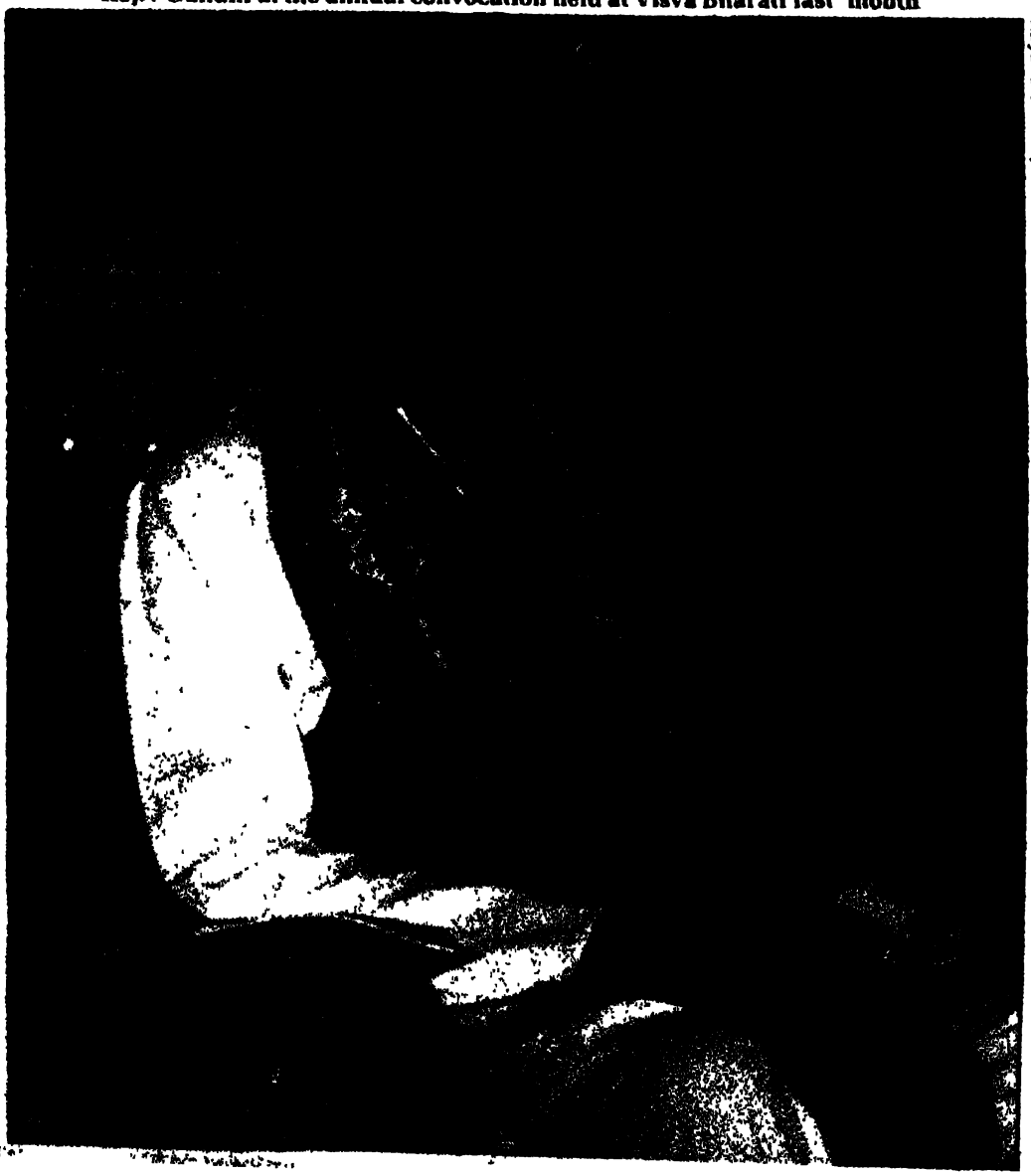
Classes are still held under the huge trees, but the quarters and roads have eaten up most of the shrubs. Tourists in bus loads descend upon the campus every winter, and the Prime Minister, who is also the Acharya of the university, delivers the usual convocation address One somehow misses the spirit of Tagore in the campus, as old Vedic *mantras* have been replaced by the late 20th century chants of "Cholbe na *cholbe na*."

The city of Bolpur is spreading its tentacles towards Santiniketan, and now the vast expanse of Bhubandanagar Math has become a huge housing colony. If the Centre and the state governments do not agree to declare Santiniketan a notified area, the institution will soon be swamped by urban Bolpur. Santhal villages, made so popular in the paintings of Nandalal Bose and Ramkinkar Baij, have already disappeared, and the quiet avenues of the university town now reverberate with sounds emitted by roaring motorcycles, buses and trucks.

The Prime Minister no doubt has established a rapport with the students of Visva Bharati The eagerness shown by students to see him was evident from the fact that when security men obstructed some boys coming close to him, one of them shouted at the special guards, "We will not kill the Prime Minister. If anybody does that, it will be you." But then the euphoria generated by the Prime Minister's visit is always allowed to degenerate into despondency. Followup action is never taken. After the visit, things have returned to the usual squalor. The spruced-up lawns and whitewashed buildings already show signs of neglect. But one feels and expects that only he, as the Prime Minister and as the Acharya, can get things moving at the campus. The infrastructure is there, and the political will can do wonders with Visva Bharati. It is not possible for any Prime Minister to keep track of the day-to-day happenings at the institution but he can get things moving, and that would go a long way in fulfilling the poet's dream and making Visva Bharati, a "Yatra Visva Bhabatyekaniram"—where the world unites.

For despite the attempts of well-meaning vice chancellor, Dr Nema Sadhan Bose, Visva Bharati bumbles on as any other degree-churning university The institution is still to make up its mind which way to go Will it be allowed to carry on the way it is doing, or will the much awaited changes take place? Will it specialise in fine arts, crafts and performing arts or continue to be a jack of all trades master of none ■

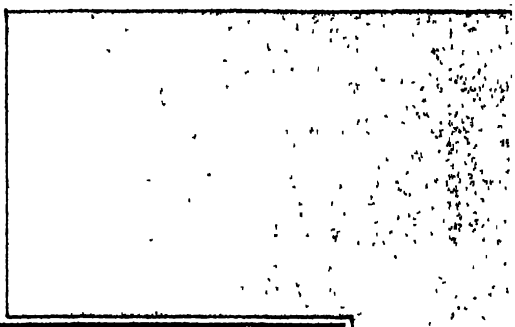
Rajiv Gandhi at the annual convocation held at Visva Bharati last month



Kalyan Chakravorty

LASH OF THE HUNGRY

A herd of wild elephants is causing considerable distress to the people of Midnapore by destroying the standing crop. But the animals are starving, and, asks Barun Ghosh, are they really to blame?



What does one do when one is a poor, marginal farmer, and a herd of 54 hungry, thirsty and wild elephants invades one's little plot and destroys the meagre crop standing there? Does one curse them and call for their blood or does one sympathise with the destructive but innocent animals which have left their shrinking habitat in a desperate search for food and water?

Such is the dilemma which has confronted the villagers dwelling near the forest divisions of Midnapore district for the past two months In early December, an elephant herd led by a giant tusker descended from the nearby Dalma hills of Bihar, and, in its frenzied, starvation-driven journey from forest block to forest block, has wreaked havoc with the standing crop Virtually the entire district administration, apart from the local forest officials, has been pressed into dealing with this unusual problem



Barun Ghosh

The range officer placating irate villagers

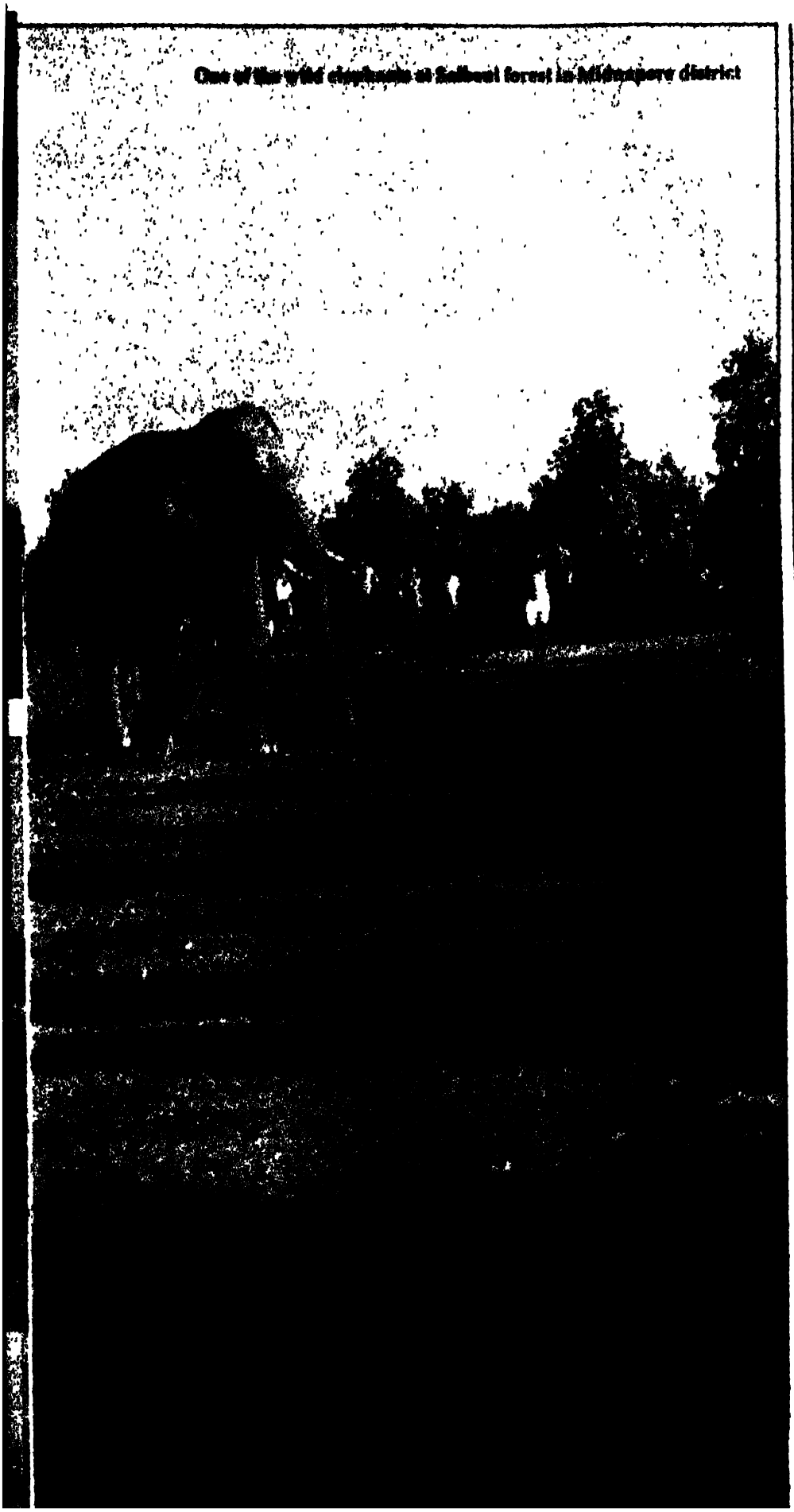
Electric fences and barbed wire have been tried at a number of places but this is only a partial solution because the mobile herd moves to fresh areas each day At the time of writing, it had already been sighted in 10 different forest areas, including Mirga, Godapiasal, Shagiasol, Jamboni and Arabari "One morning they are spotted in one forest block, but the next day they surface somewhere else," observed Mr Pijush Majumdar, range officer at the Arabari forest research centre He said the herd had entered the social forestry area of Keshpur and damaged some sal trees

A pair of trained elephants from Baldapara was pressed into service, and attempts have been made to scare the herd by firing blank cartridges and bursting crackers Even these have not helped

But the authorities' biggest problem is the people themselves A huge crowd gathers wherever the elephants are observed, and from the safe distance of about 100 metres, shouts, throws stones and generally disturbs the already nervous animals in a bid to drive them away Fearful of the elephants running amok, the authorities have sounded a general alert and have even clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC, but to no avail

Mr Sundar Hazra, the CPI(M) MLA of Salboni, said he had been touring the villages and warning the people that the elephants could turn violent at any time But the people are understandably incensed with as many as 450 villages in the Salboni and Keshpur blocks having been affected by the animals' movements Prohibitionists can argue that a positive spin-off has been that the people have stopped brewing the local liquor, *hariya*, as they are aware that the elephants are attracted by the smell of alcohol

One drunk, however, has met his end at the hands of the elephants. Swapan Duley, 30, a resident of Goaltore, attempted to capture one of the calves at the Batsole forest area on



One of the wild elephants at Salboni forest in Midnapore district

January 26. All he succeeded in doing was anger the herd, and one of the tuskers pulled him down from the tree where he had sought refuge and trampled him to death.

But an interesting feature of the people's behaviour, revealing both their humanity and their dilemma, is that many among them are sympathetic to the animals. Ironically, the pachyderms attacked two such "friends" late last month near Keshpur when the crowd's teasing got too much. The two, Nanda Mandal and Kalipada Mahato, had tried to feed the herd with bananas. But they approached too close and were injured when the edgy animals charged. They are now undergoing treatment at the Midnapore Sadar Hospital. "They were repeatedly told not to go near the elephants but they insisted on feeding them," said Mr Hazra.

The more superstitious among the villagers, particularly the women, feel that harming the elephants will invite divine retribution. This caused considerable tension when a female adult member of the herd was found dead on December 14. Recounted Mr P.K. Bhattacharya, additional divisional forest officer: "The people's sentiments were hurt and they blamed us for killing the animal. The tension subsided only when the post mortem report revealed that it had died of disease."

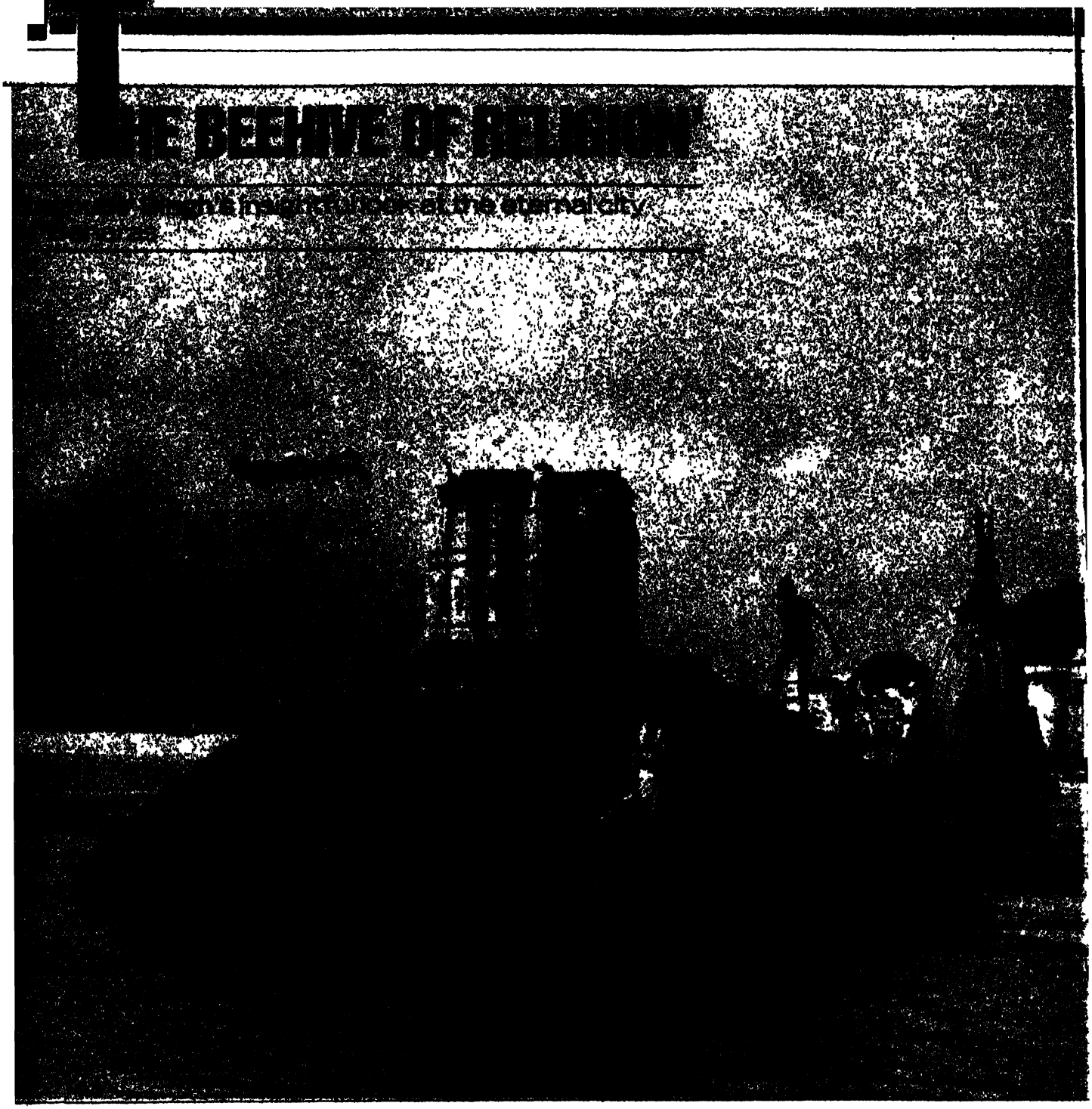
The elephants are all said and done, refugees. Their Dalma home has been ravaged like almost all other forest areas in the country. The herd usually made an annual migration to Bankura, and this year too, it initially entered the Mathgora forest range of that district. But the drought there compelled the animals to invade Midnapore in search of sustenance. The herd's desperation was compounded after its initial population of 37 adults and a handful of juveniles swelled with the birth of five calves.

The farmers of Midnapore are irked. They have been dashing off complaints to everybody from the chief minister down and claim that over 15,000 acres of crops have been damaged. The hard-pressed divisional forest officer, Mr D.N. Shukla, has written to his counterpart in Bihar to arrange for the herd to return to Dalma. A number of experts, including Mr D.K. Lahiri Chowdhury, a specialist on elephants, have been called in to find ways of guiding the herd home.

It is a serious and emergent problem. The people of Midnapore are in need of urgent help. But so are the starving and thirsting elephants. ■

THE BEEHIVE OF RELIGION

Singh's insightful look at the eternal city

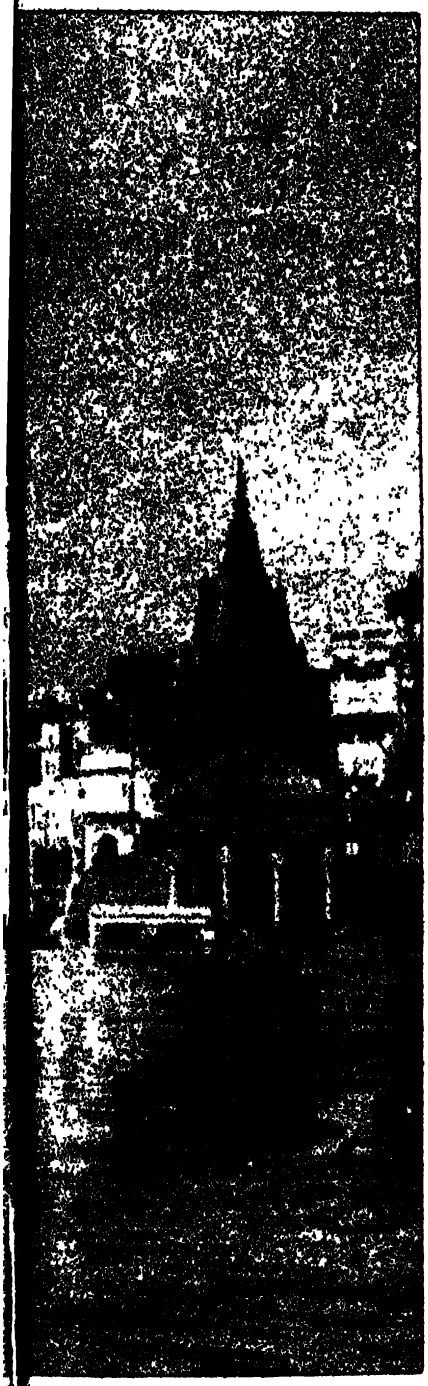


No one knows the precise date of the city's foundation, but Banaras is as old as Peking, Athens and Jerusalem. In one sense it is older, because it has an unbroken living tradition. In this respect it is the oldest city in the world. Through its continuous calendar it spans all the centuries of Indian civilization. Sensing this, Mark Twain, after a visit in 1896, wrote in *Following the Equator* (1897): "Benares is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend, and looks twice as old as all of them put together!"

At the northern edge of the city, overlooking the Ganges, is the Rajghat plateau, a place of partially excavated ruins. It is speculated that as early as the end of the second millennium BC this was an outpost of an Aryan tribe. The Aryans first worshipped the elements: the forests, the rivers, the sky, the earth, the air and fire. From this heritage Banaras came to be known at an early stage as the Forest of Bliss. The Aryan tribe was the Kashis and from them Banaras gets its other name—Kashi: 'the Luminous' or the 'the City of Light'. Modern India officially uses the name Varanasi, an ancient name found in the *Mahabharata* and the Buddhist Jataka tales. From the Pali version of Varanasi emerged the corrupted name: Banaras—the city's most popular name today. The Kashi kings probably par-

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Text and photographs from *Banaras: Sacred City of India*, Thames and Hudson, distributed in India by UBS Publishers' Distributors Ltd, £28





Musicians leading the funeral procession of a female saint



[illegible] at Lolark at the Kunda ghat

ticipated in the great war immortalized in the epic *Mahabharata*. As Hinduism evolved, so did Banaras, until it became "the chief city of all India." In a religious sense it remains so today, drawing people from every corner of India. But the city we see today is physically less than 300 years old. Ancient and medieval Banaras, with all its monumental temples, was destroyed by waves of Moslem invaders. In 1194, when Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the Commander-in-Chief of Mohammed Ghuri, wreaked complete destruction, the city was shifted southwards to its present location on the vast bend of the Ganges, which flows south to north at Banaras. While Hinduism continued to resist and revive, Aibak's destruction was a death blow for the Buddhism of Banaras.

From Aryan times to Moghul times and from Moghul times to modern times, despite repeated ups and downs, this tenacious city has given itself a new lease of life. This is of course due to the nature of its people. In Following the Equator Mark Twain called Banaras a "beehive of religion" The worker bees the priests, the *pandas*, the pilgrims, the dyers, the weavers, the sculptors, the silversmiths, the jewellers, the musicians, the holy men, the writers, the poets and so many others who make up Banaras hail from all parts of India They have settled in Banaras through the ages bringing with them customs, manners and names. They have even developed whole neighbourhoods which are characteristic to their origins In view of this, one Banarasi, hailing from



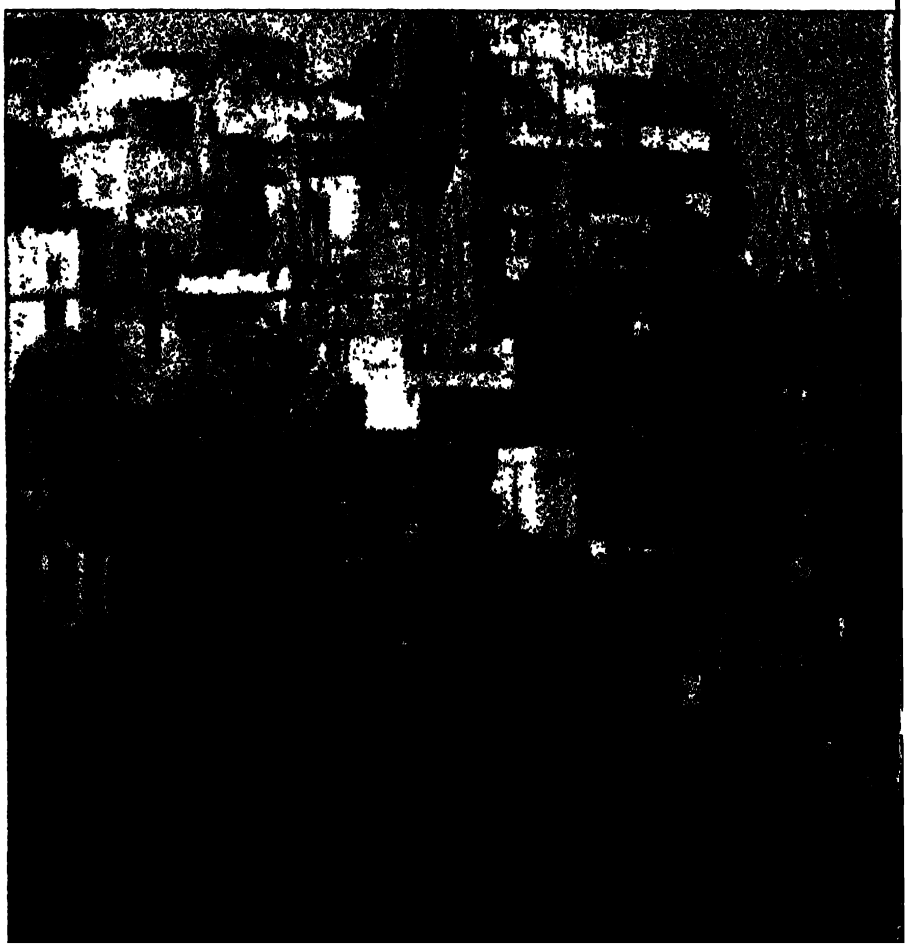
Street singers entertaining passers-by

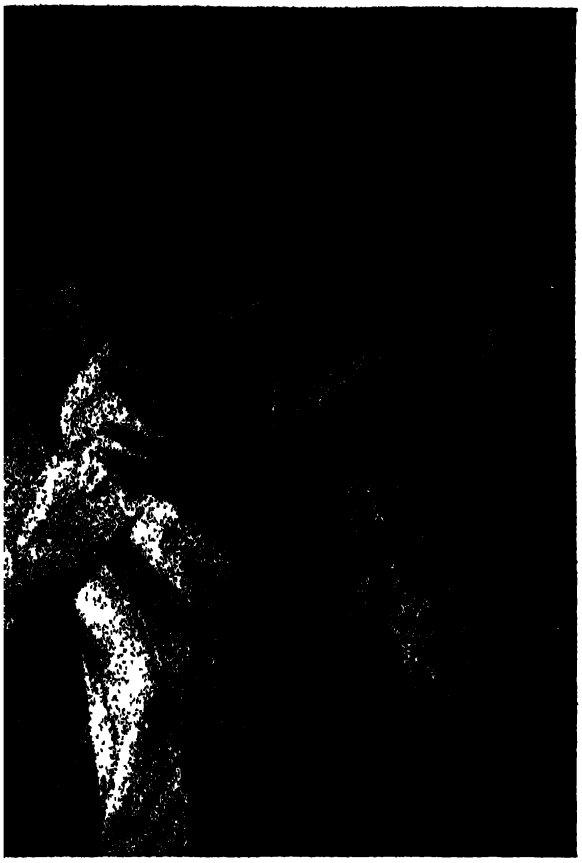


Banarasis celebrati

Gujarat state in western India, told me, "All Banarasis are outsiders," though he and his family consider themselves quintessential Banarasis

With this all-India assemblage of people in Banaras came the various gods of India, supposedly 330 million of them. But the presiding deity is Shiva, who guards and protects Banaras Shiva emerged from the Vedic god Rudra In the *Rig Veda* there are several hymns to Rudra-Shiva. Shiva, the mountain god who dwelt at Kailas, the most sacred mountain for Hindus and Buddhists, came down to the Gangetic Plain to become a city-dwelling family man in the very heart of this city of culture· Banaras. Here death is not to be feared, for with Shiva himself as guru, Kashi has the power of bestowing liberation from the cycle of reincarnation not only on human beings but also on animals, birds and insects. Therefore thousands of Shaivite shrines dot Banaras but the most important place of worship, the Vishwanath Temple, is dedicated to Shiva as the Lord of All. Vishwanath. When Aurangzeb, the Moghul Emperor, ordered the destruction of three important temples and the building of mosques on their sites, in 1669, a priest salvaged the Vishwanath *lingam*, representing the divine energy of Shiva, and hid it. After

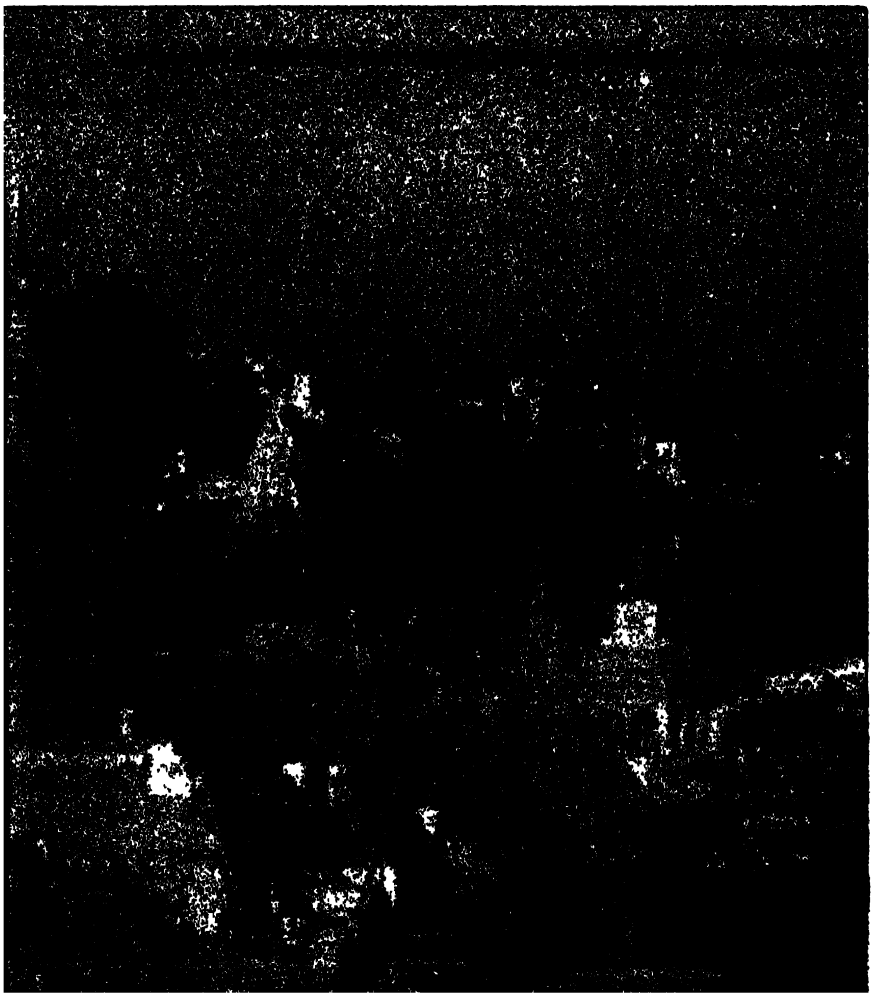




he spring harvest festival



Muslim women shoppers



the event a small shrine was erected where today's Vishwanath Temple stands The Maharani Ahilya Bai of Indore, a devotee, built the present temple in 1777 The Sikh ruler,Ranjit Singh,gave a donation in 1839 to gild the roof of the temple

But time has been good to Banaras The city will survive as it has survived for over 2,500 years The belief is that Banaras (Kashi) transcends time, and will transcend even the present Age of Strife (Kali Yuga), at the close of which the world will end Pilgrims will continue to come as they have always done Holy men will continue to make their presence felt *Pandas* will continue to pounce on pilgrims Newly married couples will continue to be blessed by Baba Vishwanath Childless women will continue to worship the Sun God during the Lolarka Shasthi festival Widows will continue to seek death in the city of liberation The dead will continue to be cremated by the Ganges The devout will continue to worship at the Vishwanath Temple Banaras sits on the trident of Shiva, a spiritual manifestation of the Lord of All It is for this sacred sight that the people of India will always pour into Kashi to seek the inner vision of the unbounded *lingam* of light the axis of the Hindu universe. ■

7 DAYS

ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Dariya-dil:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956)—3 shows.

Directed by K. Ravi Shankar and with music by Rajesh Roshan, the cast includes Govinda, Kimmy Katkar, Shakti Kapoor, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Gulshan Grover, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Ghar Grihasthi:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932)—4 shows

Directed by Dilip Bose and with music by Chitragupt, the cast of this Bhojpuri film includes Sujit Kumar, Rakesh Pandey, Jai Tilak and Bandini Misra

• **Hum Farishte Nahin:** Orient (Bentinck Street 281917), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046)—4 shows

Directed by Jatin Kumar and with music by Manoj Gayen, the film stars Raj Babbar, Om Puri, Smita Patil, Rameshwari, Poonam Dhillon and Amrish Puri

• **Kaal Chakra.** Roxy (Chowringhee Place 284138), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403), Mini Gem (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 249828)—regular shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956)—noon

A film by Dilip Shankar, starring Suresh Oberoi, Madan Jain, Soni Razdan, Priya Tendulkar and Sadashiv Amrapurkar

• **Mardon Wali Baat:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437)—4 shows

Dharmendra, Shabana Azmi, Jaya Prada, Sunjay Dutt, Preeti Sapru and Danny Denzongpa comprise the cast of this film, directed by Brij The music is by R.D. Burman

• **Meri Awaaz Suno:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue, 390762), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)

A re-release, starring Jeetendra, Hema Malini and Parveen Babi

• **Solva Sawan:** Opera (Lenin Sarani)—4 shows.

A re-release of this Bharathi Raja film, starring the lead pair, Sridevi and Amol Palekar The music is by Jaidev



Jeetendra and Rajnikant in *Tamacha*

BENGALI FILMS

• **Boba Sanai:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—3 shows

Directed by Ajit Ganguly, the cast includes Rameshwari, Chiranjeet, Anil Chatterjee, Anup Kumar, Chhaya Devi, George Baker and Sukhen Das The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Chhannachhara:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757)—3 shows

The film, directed by Anjan Mukherjee, stars Prasenjit, Satabdi Roy, Tapas Paul, Sanchita Bose and Anup Kumar The music is by Mrinal Banerjee

• **Dolon Champa:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road; 473462)—3, 5 45, 8 30; Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—2 30, 5 15, 8

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Aruna Irani, Prasenjit, Sandhyarani, Dilip Roy, Gita Dey, Bankim Ghosh, Satya Banerjee, Chinmoy Roy and Anup Kumar comprise the cast of this Sujit Guha film whose music is by Kanu Bhattacharya

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—all 1, 4, 7.

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Ranjit Mullick, Kali Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua, Bhabesh Kundu, Soumitra Banerjee and Ishani Banerjee. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Kalankini Nayika:** Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350660), Ujjala (Russa Road; 476666), Alochhaya

Shabana Azmi in *Mardon Wali Baat*



(Bellaghata Main Road 355059) Mini Jaya (Lake Town 573936)—3 shows

Alpana Goswami Ranjit Mullick Anup Kuma Biplab Chatterjee Sumitra Muk erjee Subhendu Chatterjee and Ai p Jalota are the chief attractions n this film directed by Subhen Sarkar The music is by Tarun Ranjit

• **Pratipakkha** Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522)—2 45 5 45 8 30

Directed by Rathish De Sarkar and with music by Ajoy Das the cast includes Rameshwari Prasenjit George Baker Niranjan Roy and Utpal Dutt

FOREIGN FILMS

• **Conan the Destroyer** Light house (Humayun Place 291299) 12 3 6 8 30

• **Lethal Weapon** New Empire (Humayun Place 291051)—4 shows

Directed by Richard Doneer the film stars Mel Gibson Danny Gloer Darlene Love Gary Busey Mitchell Ryan and T n Atkins

• **Loaded Guns (A)** Soc ety (Cor poration Place 241002) 4 shows

• **No Time to Die (A)** Hind (Ganesh Cha dra Aven e 272473) 4 shows

• **The Man Who Loved Women (A)** Globe (L ndsay Street 296845)—12 3 5 45 8 30

• **You Can Do A Lot With 7 Women (A)** Jar t na (Marquis Street 243715) 4 shows

NEW RELEASES

HINDI FILMS

• **Shahenshah** Elite (S N Baner jee Road 241382) Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwa Road 242266) Opera (Lenin Saran) Krishna (T C Dutta Street 250437) Ganesh (Upper Ch tpur Road 392250) Uttara (B dh an Sarani 552200) Sree (B dhan Sarani 551515) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417)

Amitabh Bachchan stars n this Tinnu Anand film whose music is by Amar Utpal

SPECIAL EVENTS

14 February 6 30 pm

Padatik presents the play *Kanyadaan* directed by Shyama nand Jalan The cast includes Shyamanand Jalan Chetna Jalan Jitender Singh Shakil Khan Shar mila Das Semi Ahmed and B M Hada

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

14 February 6 30 pm

Indian Council for Cultural Rela tions Sanskriti Sagar and Nandi kar present *Khanuma* a play by



Satabdi Roy Prasenjit and Irani Mukherjee in *Chhannachhara*

Leningrad Gorky Drama Theatre

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 449937)

16 & 17 February 6 30 pm

Indian Council for Cultural Rela tions Sanskriti Sagar and Nandik ar present *Uncle Vania* a play by Leningrad Gorky Drama Theatre

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 449937)

17 February 6 pm

Sangeet Research Academy presents a sarod recital by Christ opher Ris

At Aldeen (1 N S C Bose Road Tollygunge)

19 February 6 30 pm

Indo Amer can Society presents a solo sarod rec tal by Christopher Ris and Kathak dance by Marni Ris

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretor a Street)

THEATRE

• **Bilkis Begum** Kashi Biswanath Manch (Canal West Road 355598) —Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun and holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Subhendu Chatterjee Lily Chak raborty and Jnanesh Mukherjee play the lead in th s play directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee

• **Dampati** Rangana (153 2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 556846)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Directed by Dilip Roy and based on a story by Manoj Mitra who also makes in a special appearance the cast includes Dilip Roy Gita Dey and Basabi Nandy

• **Kaker Basha** Tapan Theatre (37A & 37B Sadananda Road 425471)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Directed and acted in by Satya Bandopadhyay the cast also in cludes Shakti Thakur Ratna Ghos al and Tarun Kumar

• **Phera.** Biswaroopa (2A Raja Raj Kissen Street 553626)—Thurs at 6 30 pm Sat Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm

Drama direction and music are by Soumitra Chatterjee The cast Soumitra Chatterjee Madhabi Mukherjee Devika Mitra Gautam Chakraborty Srirup Mitra and Pre mangshu Bose

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU 588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU 588 at 1105

Beijing Calcutta Belgrade Arr (1) JU 589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU 589 at 0050

Calcutta-Bombay Dubai London New York Dep (1) AI 103 at 2330

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (3) AI 307 at 2005 Dep (3) AI 307 at 2105

Hong Kong Calcutta-Delhi Arr (4) AI 325 at 2320 Dep (5) AI 325 at 0030

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI 324 at 1150 Dep (4) AI 324 at 1250

Bombay-Calcutta Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (2) AI 316 at 1830 Dep (2) AI 316 at 1930

Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU 537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1955

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1) RA 214 at 1040 Dep (3) RA 214 at 1100 Dep (2 4 7) IC 247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC 247 at 151' Arr (1 3) RA 213 at 0940 Arr (2 4 7) IC 248 at 1525 Arr (3 6) IC 248 at 1425

Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1145 IC 223 at 1340 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG 694 at 1715 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1045 IC 224 at 1540 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1615

Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG 698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC 225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG 697 at 1220 Arr (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (1 3 6) TG 313 at 1240 Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640 Dep (1 3 6) TG-314 at 1355 Dep (2 4 7) IC-231 at 1050

Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 3 5 6) GQ 102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ 101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7 GQ 101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 402 at 1710 and IC—263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210

Calcuta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC 295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC 296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4 6) IC 295 at 1640 Arr (2 4 6) IC 296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC 287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC 288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400

Calcutta Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC 278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC 270 at 2100

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC 229 at 1320 and IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 and IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati Tezpur-Jorhat--Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) ICC 213 at 1130 Arr (dai ly) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6 7) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (2 4 6 7) IC 202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar Imphal Dep (daily)) IC 255 at 0530 Arr (2 4 6 7) IC 256 at 1000 Arr (1 3 5) IC 256 at 1230

Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC 243 at 610 and IC 241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC 242 at 1640

Calcutta Agartala Silchar De

(1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650 Arr (1, 3, 5). IC-238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-733 at 1600, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-734 at 1855
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 731 at 0555 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-732 at 1000
Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 717 at 0600 and PF-717A at 1600, Arr (2, 4, 6). PF-718 at 0800 and PF-718A at 1755
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5). PF-725 at 0600, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar: Dep (daily) PF-701 at 0830, Arr (daily) PF-702 at 1550
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur. Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-727 at 0940, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar. Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-707 at 0610, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailasahar: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-729 at 1130, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi. Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-721 at 0800, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-722 at 1645
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-723 at 0800; Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-724 at 1715
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 4, 5, 7) PF-735 at 0530, Arr (1, 4, 5, 7) PF-736 at 1545
Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep (2, 3, 6) PF-735 at 0530, Arr (2, 3, 6) PF-736 at 1650

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9 15	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep — Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21-10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon, Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs, Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs. & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arri —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

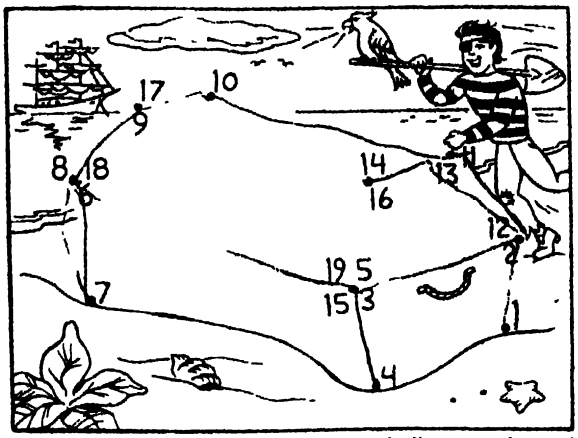
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

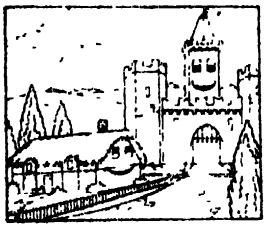
3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Fri, & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4-00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



WHAT HO! What has our pirate pal discovered on the beach? To find out, add lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc.

• **TEA TESTER! Given a golf ball and a teacup, how can you push the ball through the cup's handle? Alakazam! Hold the ball beside the handle, reach through with a finger and push.**



WORD HUNT CHALLENGE

Each of the first four lines of this verse-riddle provides a clue to one letter of a certain word. See if you can discover the word

My first is in chair,
but not in bed
My second's in nose,
but not in head
My third's in flame,
but not in fire
My fourth's in wheel,
and also in tire
My whole is my castle,
large or small,
In summer, winter,
spring or fall
What word am I?

Remember each sentence provides a letter clue in order

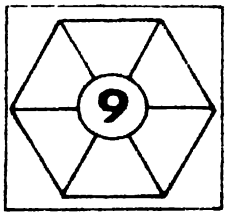
The word is home

• **SUM FUN! Insert six consecutive numbers under 10 in blanks of the diagram below as necessary so that any three numbers in a row across, including 9, will total 20.**

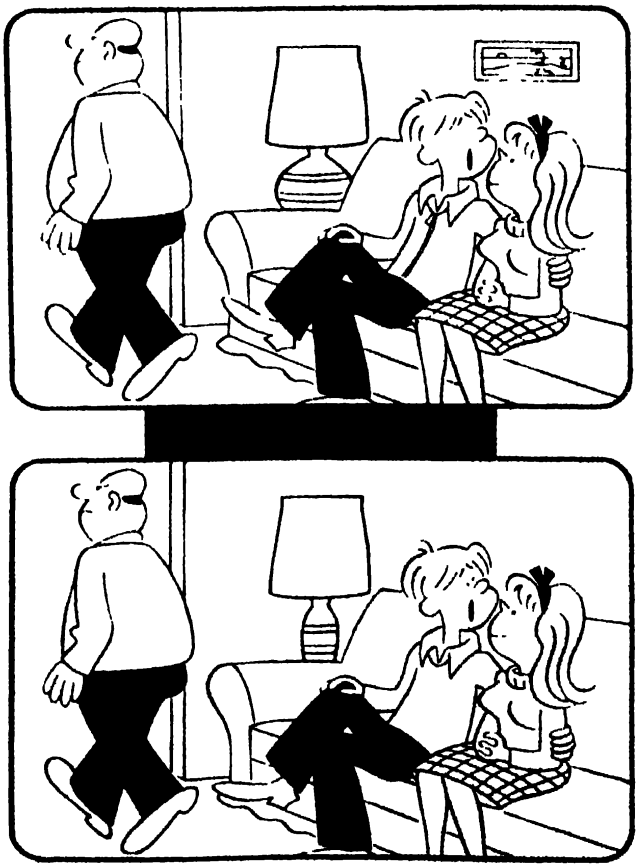
Remember, the consecutive numbers used must be between 1 and 10.

How quickly can you discover the six numbers?

Use numbers 3 through 8. Top clockwise 7 5 8 4 6 3 in one possibility



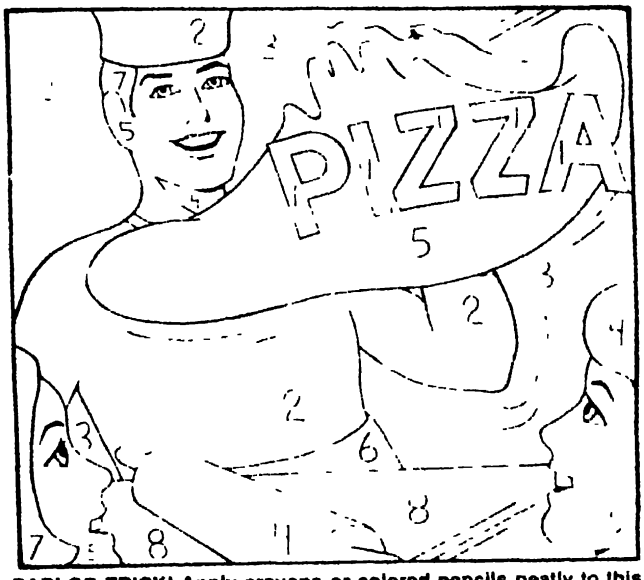
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences 1 Stomach is slimmer 2 Lamp base is smaller 3 Foot is moved 4 Zipper is missing 5 Picture is missing 6 Hand is lowered

FUNSPOT



PARLOR TRICK! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to this pizza-making scene: 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh. 6—Dk blue. 7—Dk brown 8—Lavender

SPELLBINDER

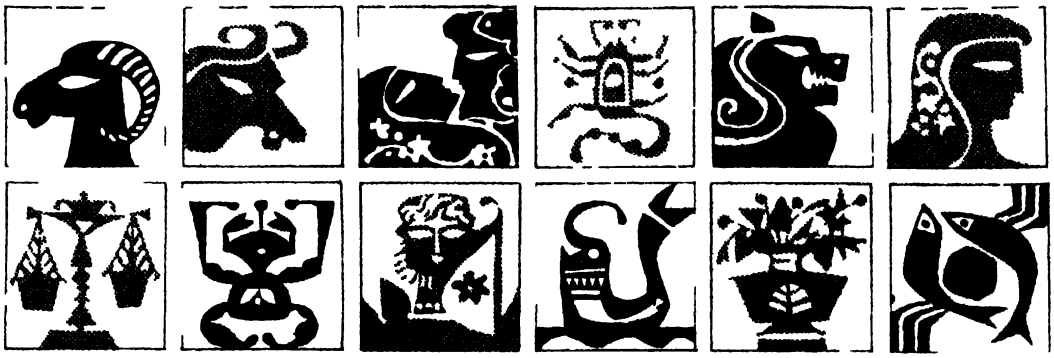
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SPOILAGE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Soil pegs



ARIES

March 21 April 20

There is a strong likelihood of meeting someone with whom you will build up a long lasting friendship Romance blooms for the fancyfree and eligible You may be promoted at work Long awaited news is likely to reach you as sun sextiles Jupiter Put in your best at work

TAURUS

Apr 21 May 20

Expansion and progress are fated so put your best foot forward Success is assured in all that you do and Lady Luck now smiles on you The moon s last quarter assures alliances and collaborations The health of parents and in laws may cause concern A visit to the hospital is due

GEMINI

May 21 June 21

Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way People will go out of their way to help you You will receive encouraging news soon Use all the spare time on hand to complete pending chores A journey is in the offing Rites and rituals are highlighted

CANCER

June 21 July 20

Matters pertaining to joint finances legacies insurance loans and funds will demand attention now A promotion with increased responsiblities and perks is on the cards A shift cannot be ruled out This is the right time to sign deeds and documents Romance in the offing for the eligible

LEO

July 21 August 21

The Mars trine Jupiter formation will give you the necessary impetus to go ahead with your plans Romance group activity and reaching out to people and places are destined Friends and relatives will now recognise your worth The domestic front will contribute to your happiness

VIRGO

August 22 Sept 22

News and views will now hold a special significance for you Put in your best to the matters at hand and you are bound to meet with success Changes in your work schedule are fated so get prepared Romance blooms for the fancyfree and eligible Entertainment and socialising are indicated

LIBRA

Sept 23 Oct 2

You will meet with success in all that you set out to do A lucky time ahead for politicians editors lawyers teachers and artists You will finally come into your own The time is right to give full expression to your creativity However learn to be guarded in your reactions to people

SCORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 22

Domestic and personal issues will now be resolved happily A lucky time ahead for those involved in property real estate buying selling and joint finances Sun sextiles Saturn and the next three weeks promise to be memorable Rely on your instinct and forge ahead Guard health

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

The moon Mercury conjunction will help you to win friends Relatives foreigners and friends will now come forward to lend support This is the time to circulate and make your presence felt If you have to do not hesitate to pull strings to get your work done Catch up with pending correspondence

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

This is the time to score financial gains Traders businessmen entrepreneurs and those in real estate will make it big now Buying selling entertaining and signing deals and documents are highlighted Romance is also on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible Guard health

AQUARIUS

Jan 20 Feb 19

The new moon in your sign indicates new beginnings both on the professional and personal fronts You are bound to be successful in all the contracts and deals that you may now sign Rely on your intuition entirely and grab every opportunity that comes your way Romance blooms

PISCES

Feb 20 March 20

There is likely to be a great deal of behind the scene activity now Transfers shifts and promotions are also possible Foreign connections cannot be ruled out and you must be prepared to go on an extended trip abroad Collaborations contracts and ventures are highlighted

BIRTHDAYS

February 14

Moon conjunction Neptune Collaborations and trade fall under this conjunction as do travel agencies and commission work Artists will make it big Expenses will mount Keep your lines of communication clear now

February 15

Sun sextile Jupiter A change of scene for most Expect rewards awards and responsible positions in 1988 Travel ceremonies romance and publicity are foretold

February 16

Mars trine Jupiter Those in the media will do well Teachers and researchers also have it made Travel is likely Contracts will be signed Friends and loved ones will stand by you This is the time to win friends and influence people

February 17

New moon Aquarius Friends supporters and people in authority will rush to your rescue This is the right time to launch a venture or enterprise You will rout opposition Fun and fanfare in good measure in store for Aquarians

February 18

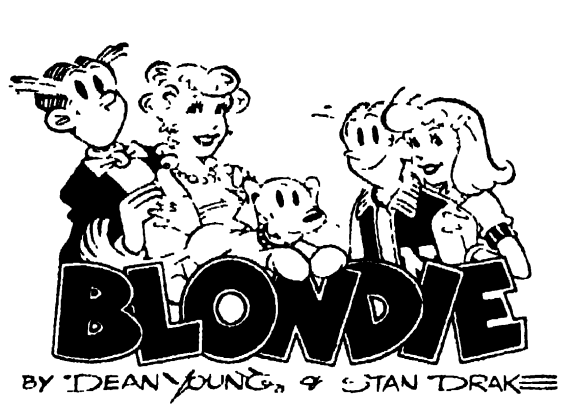
Moon trine Pluto Money will pour in Those in import export travel trade medicine chemicals electronics rubber paper and printing will do well Singers broadcasters public entertainers showmen and artists will make it big

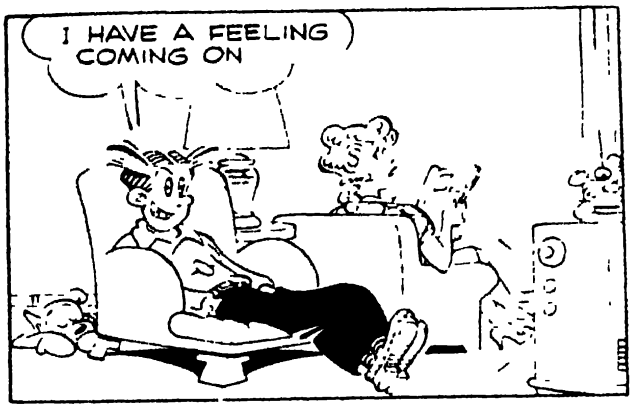
February 19

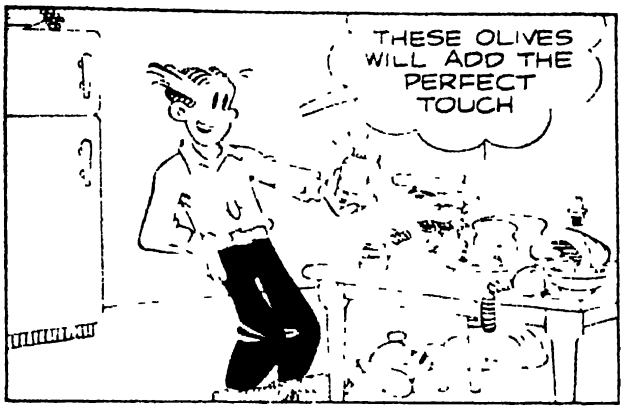
Sun sextile Saturn Uranus Long range planning is the key Those in travel trade collaborations and import export will win acclaim Financial muddles will have to be resolved Family posers will have to be resolved Given time victory will be yours

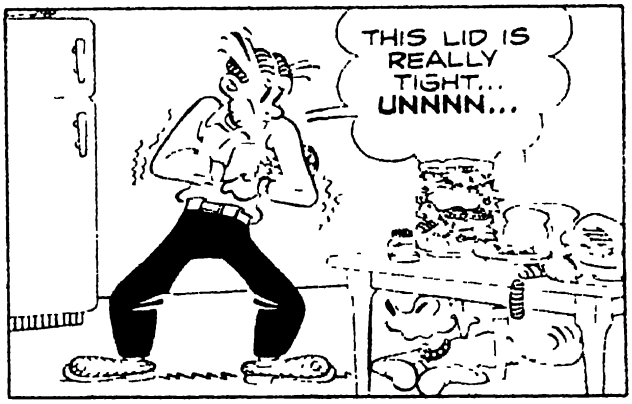
February 20

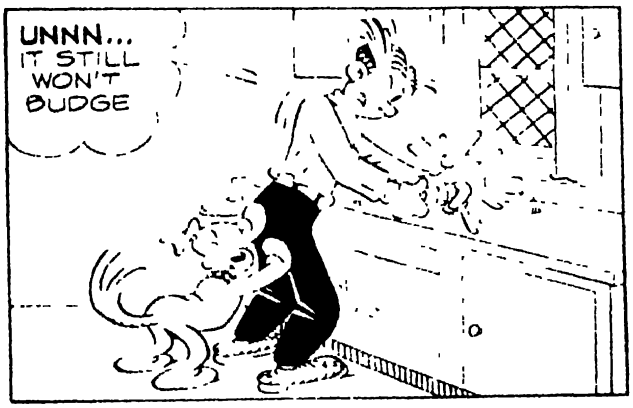
Mercury sextile Venus Excellent sextile for reaching out to people and places Politicians salesmen artists editors writers pilots and those in the computer industry electronics films publicity iron and steel plastics,perfumes beverages and chemicals and nuclear fission will win recognition

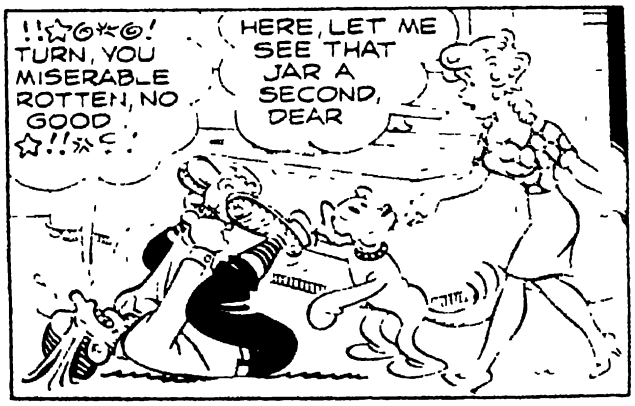

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

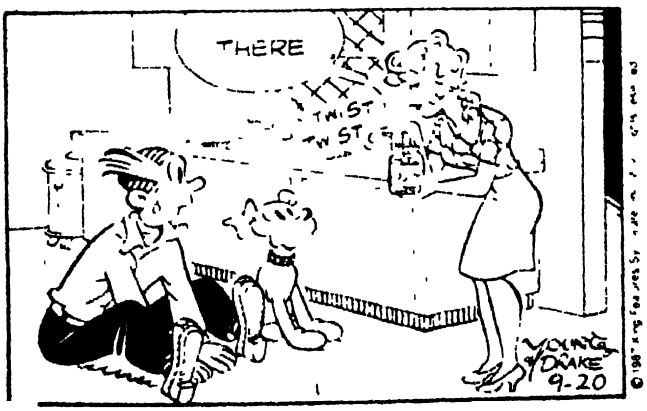

I HAVE A FEELING COMING ON

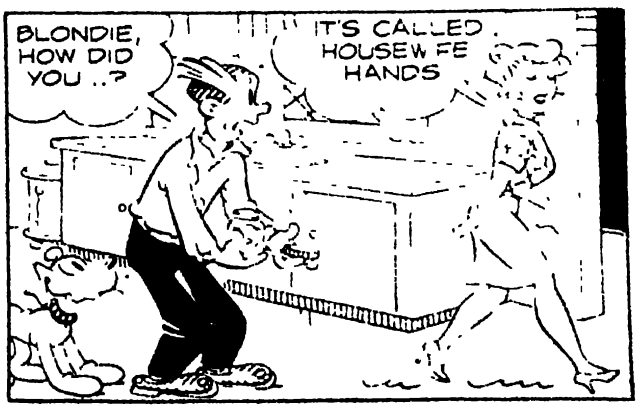

THESE OLIVES WILL ADD THE PERFECT TOUCH


THIS LID IS REALLY TIGHT... UNNNN...


UNNN... IT STILL WON'T BUDGE


!!☆⊙*⊙! TURN, YOU MISERABLE ROTTEN, NO GOOD ☆!!*⊂!
HERE, LET ME SEE THAT JAR A SECOND, DEAR


THERE
TWIST
TWIST
YOKOTA & DRAKE 9-20


BLONDIE, HOW DID YOU ..?
IT'S CALLED HOUSEW FE HANDS

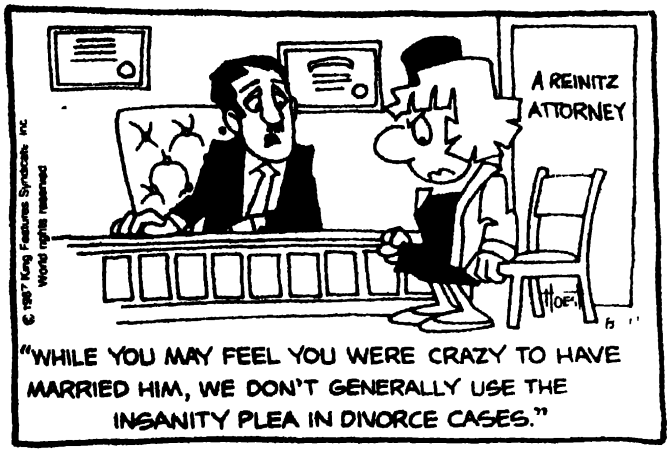
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



THE LOCKHORNS



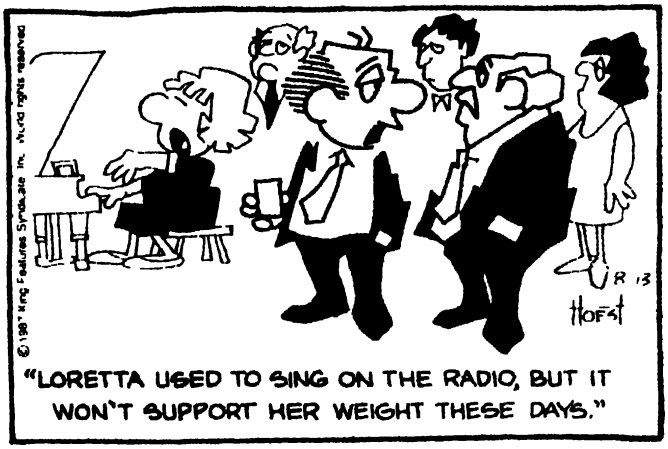
"NO, I DON'T CARRY MALPRACTICE INSURANCE TO COVER MY COOKING."



"WHILE YOU MAY FEEL YOU WERE CRAZY TO HAVE MARRIED HIM, WE DON'T GENERALLY USE THE INSANITY PLEA IN DIVORCE CASES."

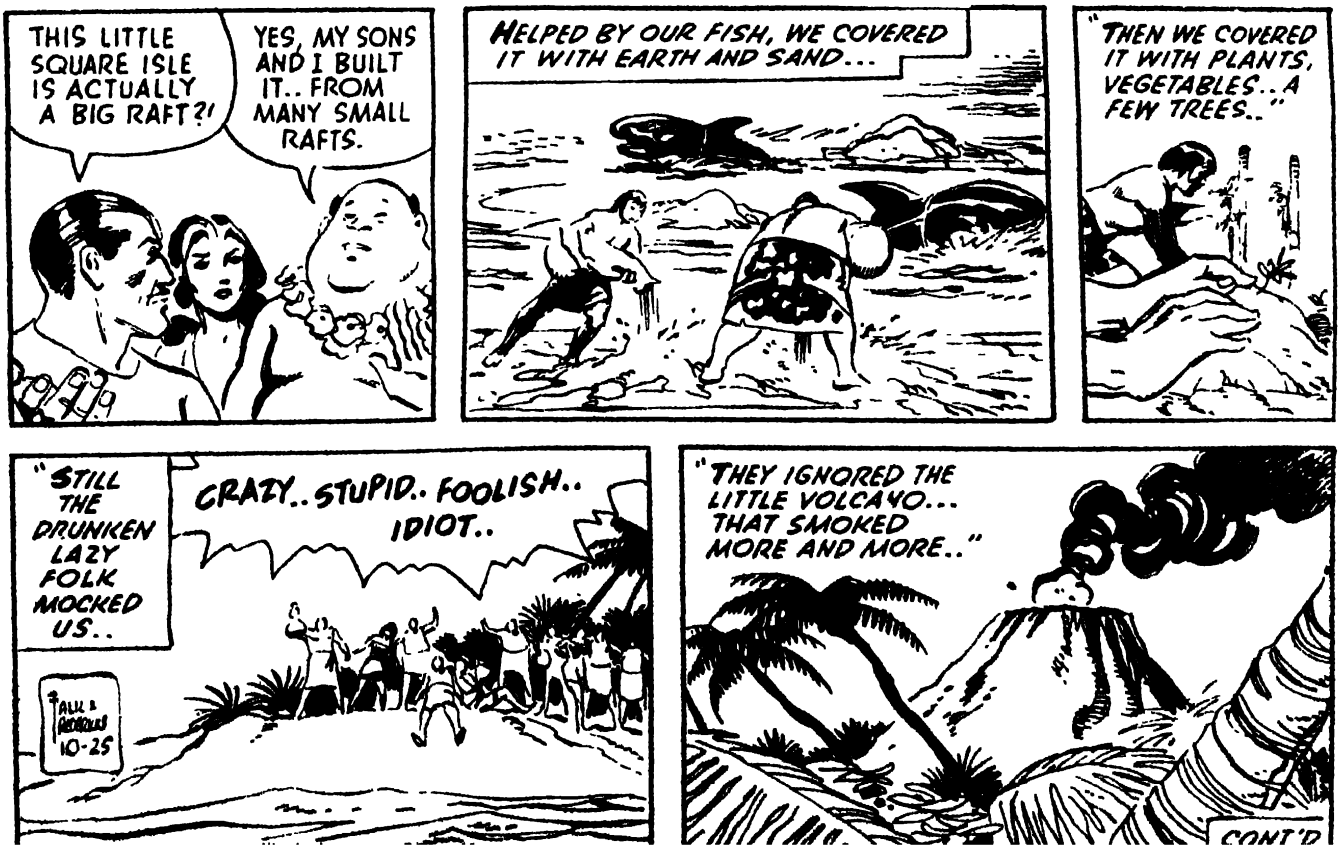


"SO WHAT IF YOU'RE A FAIR-WEATHER FRIEND AND A TERRIBLE HUSBAND? YOU'RE A DARNED GOOD CUSTOMER!"

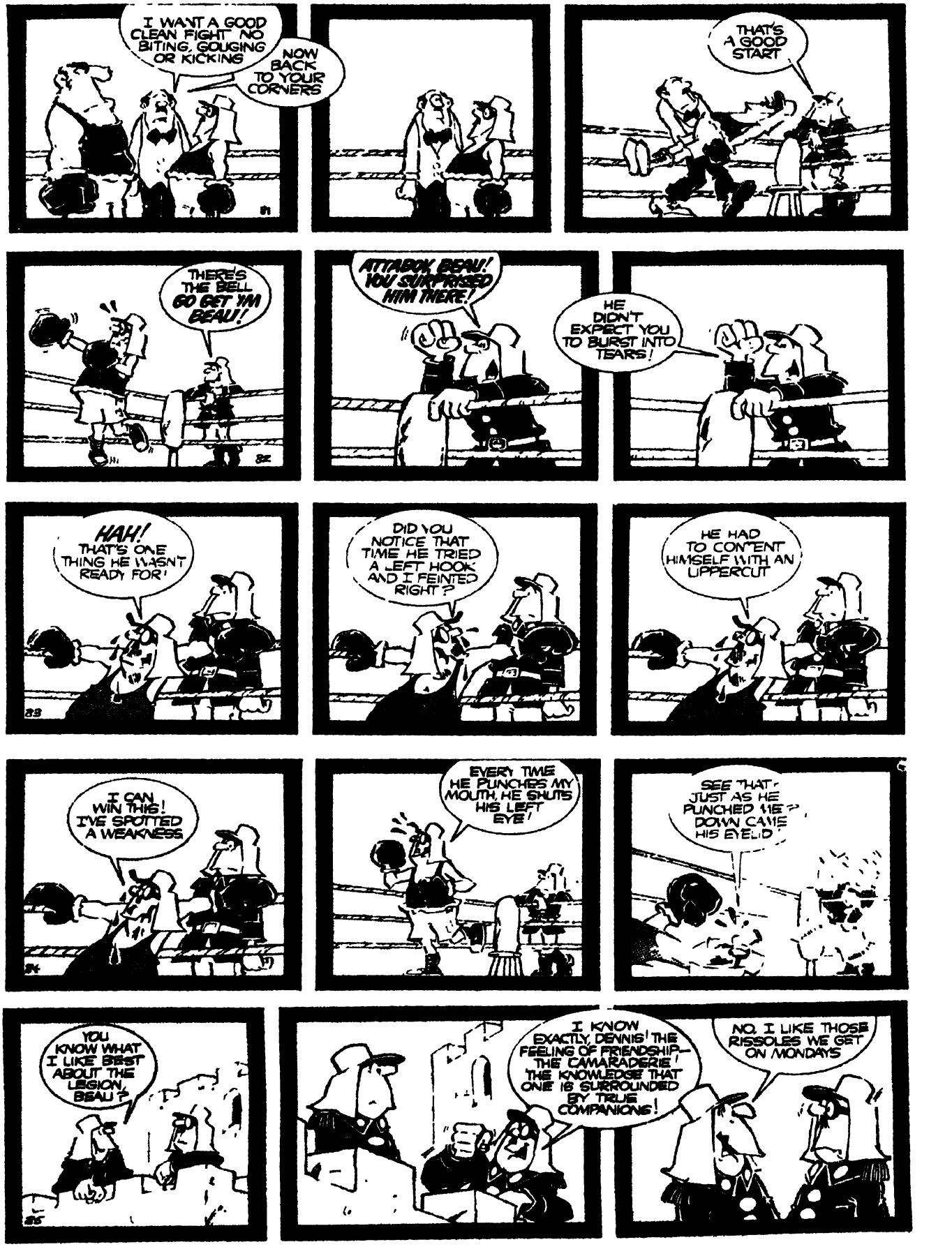


"LORETTA USED TO SING ON THE RADIO, BUT IT WON'T SUPPORT HER WEIGHT THESE DAYS."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE



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Village Sleep

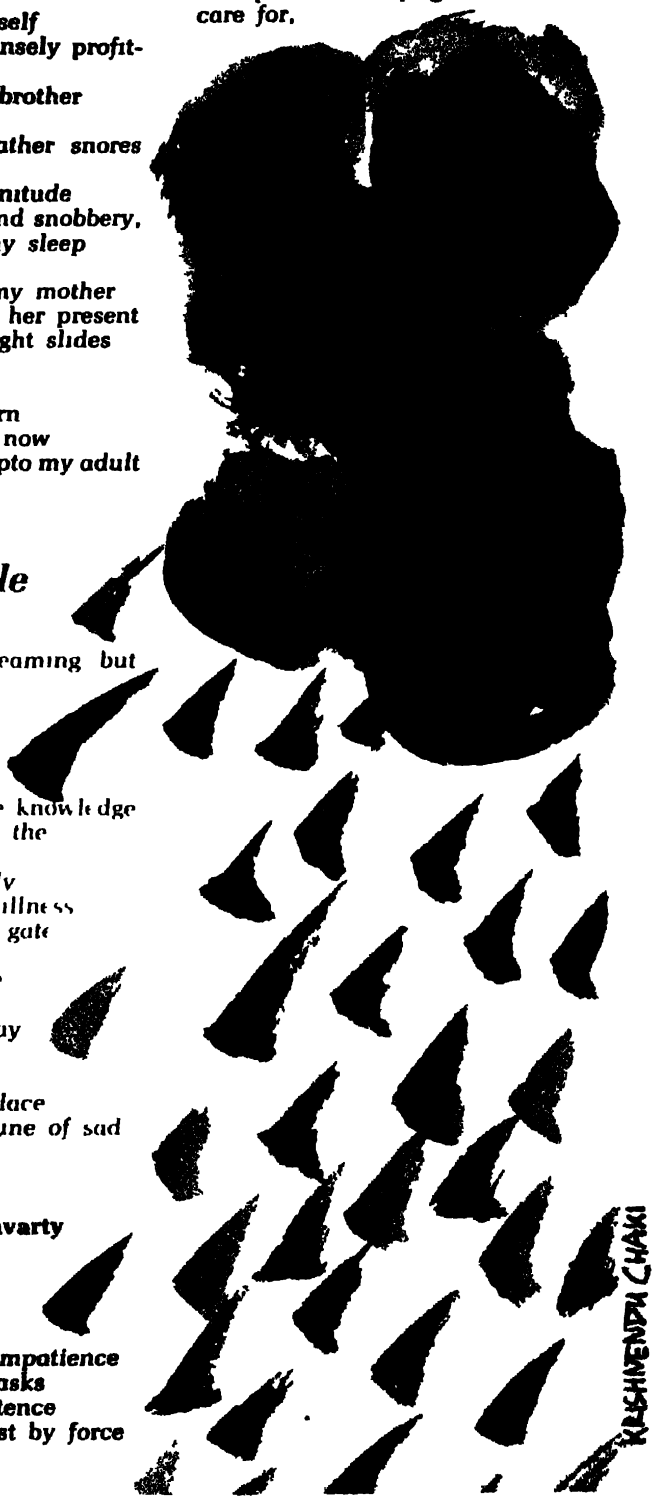
This is the place
to where I come back more than once
in a month to sleep out my luck.
To be here wanting love and leisure
is to disrupt the already-settled
layers of certain certainty and the past,
is to fling on the face
the mud of a dug-out self
Here the night is immensely profitable
In the other room my brother
plays with his kid
Here beside me my father snores loudly
that measures the magnitude
of his lack of dreams and snobbery,
only that I interrupt my sleep
to write poetry
At a sleep's distance my mother
is a thorny contrast to her present
with her constant thought slides
This village of sleep
where I was born,
to where I always return
does not recognise me now
now that I have grown upto my adult fantasy
Rabindra K. Swain

Beyond My Little Knowledge

Who exists in this gleaming but solitary
house
You or my other self
Death or another
life?
It goes beyond my little knowledge
yet making a knock at the
gate of the house
I am waiting for a reply
Stillness heaps upon stillness
And nobody opens the gate
saying—
You are welcome here
as a guest
Having got no other way
To touch nothing
like a straight line
I decide to leave the place
Only harped a sharp tune of sad music
In my faltering way of
mind
Manishi Prasad Chakravarty

The Deluge

The heart throbs with impatience
When incessant rain masks
The windscreen of existence
Ambitions are set to rest by force
Clouds condensed on our evaporated propriety
Come hovering on our own sky
We have our way through pools and drains
Or wade along the pre-destined path
Our cool and comfortable home
Is now soft and pliable
For us to mould and reconstruct
The persons we feign to love and care for.



Are now aghast, deeply frightened
Ask them what they want
In these wet, slovenly and sluggish days
More than food to eat or shelter dry
They want warmth of life
Do we have it in our heart of hearts?
Our heart is wet with saturated jealousy
It is sluggish with multiple rifts
We have no warmth of life to share
Yet we try to mould our home
Raise the plinth, put sloping drains
Pump the filthy water out
And build lofty bundhs of isolation
And dry our home and dirty linens
But can we now sleep in peace
That our home is dry and safe?
We have already spent our little fortune
Our pursuit of ambition and jealousy,
On vain megalomania
Viscous fluids would move slowly again
To deluge our existehce
Amar Nath Ray

Promise

I shall sing no more
of dying and death, no more of silence
sleeping summarily within stones
No more of the tiger dark nights
which have already deciphered
parts of myself

I will sing of the living
of my country men who starve by day
and dream in the night
of catching golden deers
in the busy market place
I'll sing of my people
who choose begging as the easy way
of breathing and passing time
as if in a pilgrimage

I will sing of my leaders
who lead their ways to the light
but take the country in to the dark
where endless cries are heard
ravenous eyes flounder about

I will sing of the poets
who sitting under their cosy towers
sharpen the images of poverty
hunger and hunger of my people
whose dreams have been sullied
by the sheer game of politics
and mud-throwing of rioting, rotting

I will make my hands clayey
to feel the wheel of the potter,
the nowhere god
Niranjan Mohanty

■ Experience the Blue Diamond

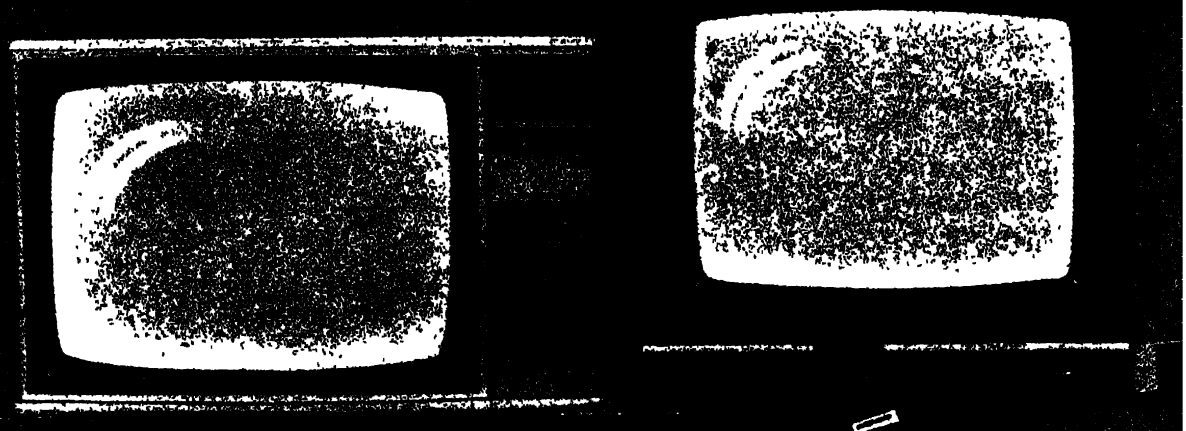
■ Compare the Blue Diamond

■ You will buy the Blue Diamo

TRUST YOUR EYES ONLY!

WARRANTY 3 YEAR ON PICTURE TUBE

Now also
Nelco Blue Diamond Vertical



NELCO

BLUE DIAMOND

TATA

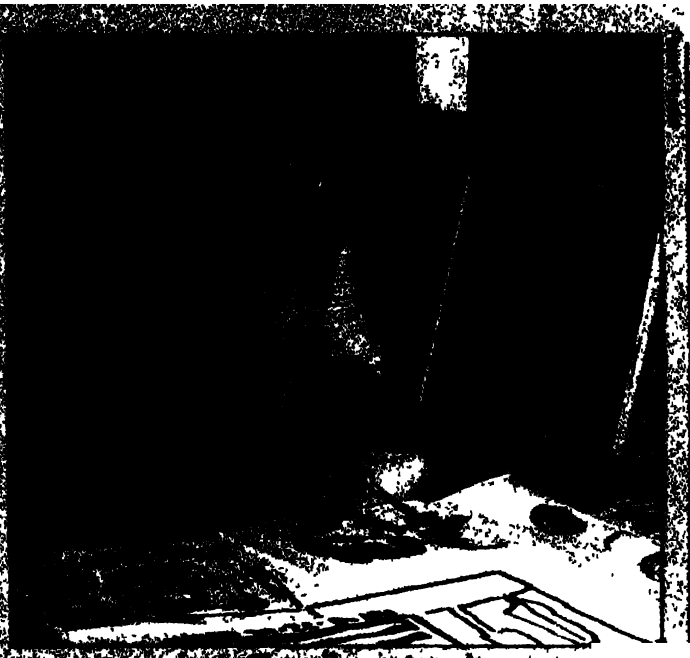
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POST MORTEM



Jogen Chowdhury at work

...mankind
...ology is said to
...ology is the
...ology is the
...ology is the

LEARNING BY THE RIVER

The Hooghly Collegiate School observed its 175th anniversary earlier this month. A report on the *alma mater* of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Syed Amir Ali and Ashutosh Mukherjee



Sabal Das

Rehearsing for the school play



Sabal Das

Demonstrating an experiment to a rapt audience

Set in an idyllic environment, reminiscent of the concrete version of a *gurukul*, is the Hooghly Collegiate School, now celebrating its 175th anniversary. As its name suggests, the Chinsurah institutionis situated on the banks of the Hooghly, adjacent to the renowned Hooghly Mohsin College.

There is no plaque or inscription to suggest when the institution originated, save the memoirs of a certain Mr Fisher, which states that an institution, previously associated with the Hooghly Imambara, took shape in 1812 Following the report of the existence of a small school in 1817, is the mention of another school which subsequently came to be known as the "branch" school. Both these schools were attached to the Hooghly Mohsin College which was established much later (on August 1, 1836).

A series of cultural events heralded the 175th anniversary celebrations that began on February 2 Debates, recitation competitions, extempore speeches, music contests, a sports meet, quiz and an education-oriented tableau were organised on the occasion

A noteworthy feature was the science and art exhibition which ingeniously depicted Star Wars much to the delight of visitors

The celebrations drew to a close on February 14 with a reunion, graced by the vice-chancellor of Vidyasagar University, Mr Manas Chattopadyay.

It was obvious that all the students had been involved in the anniversary celebrations. Pratik Deb, a student of Class XI (science), enjoyed demonstrating the "magic" tests of the chemical world Having studied at the school from kindergarten, he said "Initially, I took the fact for granted, after all, one is enrolled into a good school to excel at examinations Today, I am filled with pride at the thought of being a part of this institution, and the respect that it ensures."

Debashish Bose of Class IX was less sentimental. "Of course it is good to be one of this school's distinguished alumni," he said. I saw the new buildings sprout up during my younger days. But we never manage to complete the syllabus although our teachers are extremely good and cooperative The library, specially maintained for the morning sections, never functions," he complained But there he was, all smiles, geared to make the school proud

Indeed, to all educationists, the Hooghly Collegiate School is a reminder of the glorious Bengal that was. For this is the school that moulded Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Romesh Chandra Mazumdar, Syed Amir Ali, litteraturer Ashutosh Mukherjee, Birahma Bandhav Upadhyay and Akshoy Chandra Sarkar

In its hallowed portals, where the scamper of little feet have, in time, been transformed into firm treads and sturdy hearts, has pulsated the quest for a free India. Today, as one muses in these surroundings, one hopes for, and envisages future citizens who will continue to do their nation proud.

Sudipta Bhattacharjee



Sabal Das

Students gather outside the school building

HERITAGE



Rathin Mitra

ST MARGARET'S SCHOOL



There is some confusion about the exact year of the school's inception. Mrs Charles established an orphanage for girls in 1838, and some time before 1843 when she left Calcutta she vested its administration in Mrs Joan Macdonald. During her time, a small school was opened at the orphanage. When the church in Scotland got divided, the school came under the purview of the Church of Scotland. Missionaries of Mrs Macdonald's school established an independent institution which chiefly imparted training for teachers. In 1872, it earned government approval. It was then known as both Free Church Normal School and Miss Wright's School (for its former principal). The teachers' training department functioned independently till 1915-16.

In 1929, when the two churches of Scotland united, the school was renamed after St Margaret, the Scotswoman who had devoted her life to the cause of the poor and suffering. The school's motto has thus been "By love serve one another". The institution functioned from Beadon Street for a long period with the help of the Scottish Ladies Association. It was later shifted to 19 Duff Street (sketched above), adjoining the Duff Church and Scottish Church College.

Initially, a hostel was opened only for Christian students, but the number of both non-Christian students and teachers gradually increased. Labanyaprabha Mullick became the first Indian principal in 1950. At present, St Margaret's offers courses up to the Madhyamik level.

A SIGN OF OUR TIMES

It all began, typically enough, with a spate of contradictory letters to *The Times of India*. Since then, Russy Karanjia has blitzed through life with scoop and scandal, accompanied by friends in high places and beautiful women. LEKHA DHAR pays tribute to a truly Grand Old Man to mark his 50th year in journalism and 75th on earth

Champagne and vitriol, women and blockbuster news stories, libel and humourless high living and friends who made history: this collage of sheer drama, where communism and campari are soft pedalled with the same verve, can have only one real signature: Russy Khurshedji Karanjia. Unquestioned king of racy journalism, he has given the Indian press 50 years of explosive stories, where scoops and scandals have come in equal measure. Russy "Blitz" Karanjia. The man and his tabloid are synonymous. Negative or positive, they provoke reaction, usually extreme.

Remodelling Egyptian history over dinner with Nasser, keeping Iranian air bases out of bounds for Pakistani warplanes courtesy the Shah of Iran, or more recently, being wined and dined aboard Adnan Khashoggi's *Nabila*, might be pipedreams for most, but are real adventures in Russy Karanjia's colourful career. Conservatives are left spluttering into their pen mouths; Outrageous, irrational, scandalous, yellow.

The man who has wielded India's most sensational pen over "four lighting decades," wandered into the profession in an appropriately colourful and controversial manner. Tehmina and Dr Khurshedji Karanjia would have liked their son to join the Indian Civil Service or better still, the higher echelons of the military via Sandhurst. They least expected him, at 19, to be marking time before qualifying for admission at Cambridge, by writing letters under different names and each contradicting the other to *The Times of India*.

Russy, with his pointed letters, added spice to an ongoing controversy about Hollywood, but was soon found out when Nowroji Dumasia, a family friend who was looking after the Indian section of *The Times* invited him for a dinner party at his Juhu residence. Russy, in the style characteristic of him, took attractive Freny "Babs" Talyarkhan along. The lady's presence, or so claims Russy, brought the paper's deputy editor, Ivor Jehu, to his side. When Jehu asked him what he did, Russy proudly declared, "I write for the *Times of India*." Jehu wondered aloud, how he as deputy editor, had never seen his articles. Russy admitted his role in the letter controversy with customary aplomb. Jehu told off the young man, warning that he could be held for impersonation, but asked to see him the next day.



Answering the summons at *The Times* offices, Russy Karanjia was initiated into a rather sober brand of journalism by Jehu.

From proof reading to subbing and reporting, to correspondent in Delhi and Simla, Russy learned the ropes. "I didn't come down from the World Bank," he says in an obvious dig at Arun Shourie.

Realising his potential, the management sent him to London's *Evening Standard* which Karanjia with his unborn urge for the outrageous found too staid. "I preferred to serve as a coffee boy in the *Daily Mirror*," says Karanjia, who managed some stories and a warm friendship with the tabloid's editor, Hugh Cudlipp. *Publish and be Damned*, Cuddlipp's famous book, became his credo for life and to "humanise, dramatise, pictorialise and personalise every story" the foundation stone of Karanjia's tabloid journalism.

Russy's return to India was not so fortunate. Frank Moraes had become the editor of *Times of India*, a post, Karanjia felt rightly belonged to him. But the turning point came when the then Bombay home minister, K M Munshi, called one night regarding labour trouble in a Sholapur mill, and suggested that the people there were asking for prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC. Karanjia put his foot down at this obvious method of paving the way for such a situation, only to find the editor-in-chief, Sir Francis Lowe, asking for a separate item to the same effect with a Sholapur dateline.

Russy made a break from "staid" journalism and joined Norman J. Hamilton who had been brought from London to push up *The Times* circulation but had resigned to start his own *Sunday Standard*. When Hamilton asked him to replace his alcoholic editor, Fredrick Mulalley, Karanjia protested because Mulalley and "more so his Anglo-Indian wife" were friends of his. Hamilton merely guided him to Mullaley's Marine Drive residence, where he, in the altogether, was painting on his naked wife. "I tried to get the gin out of his hands, got



With Fidel Castro

him into his clothes and back to the office with the warning that he would otherwise lose his job to me. He told me to get lost, using a four letter word. Well, I got out, and on to his chair," recalls Karanjia.

Hamilton and Karanjia swung into action in a backbreaking effort to bring out the *Standard*, spiced by two stories from Russy's Fleet Street days: the first about preparations for World War II which had already begun in the mid-Thirties and the second about Edward VIII's insistence on marrying Wallis Simpson. What he did not reveal was that "the two stories were interconnected, as Edward Windsor, a known homosexual, was reportedly having an affair with Hitler's ambassador in Britain, resulting in British top secret leaks and the country's total lack of preparation for the Third Reich."

The weekly was reborn as the *Morning Standard* which became the country's first tabloid morninger and was a forerunner to Karanjia's own dream child of later years, *The Daily*. Karanjia then had friends like Krishna "Betty" Hutheesing (Nehru's sister), most of whom dated back to his days in Quetta where his grandfather, Burjorji Patel, better known as the master builder of Quetta, lived, and where people like Sarojini Naidu dropped by. The day before *Morning Standard* was to make its debut, "Betty" Hutheesing told him, "Wait until morning, Nehru's going to be arrested." Russy recalls, "I made headlines in a bold type, 'Nehru arrested?' And he was. We sold more than 40,000 copies, almost challenging *The Time of India*'s leading position."

Later, continues Russy, "There was a strike at our newspaper and I joined the workers because I took upon the



Young Russy at the start of his career

job as that of a commander-in-[illegible] an army. If the army goes on [illegible] cannot go the other." But [illegible] remembers that Norman Hamilton settled the strike with aplomb addressing the workers with a Gandhian [illegible] borrowed from one of them. His identification with the Indian [illegible] and attacks on the Raj, landed Hamilton at the deep end where advertising revenue was concerned. Russy [illegible] his attempts at working out a [illegible] arrangement with Jinnah but [illegible] scene before Hamilton sold out to Ramnath Goenka, saving himself from becoming a 'galley slave' editor on Goenka's *Express* empire.

But before he resigned, on [illegible] Roger Lumley, governor of Bombay put it, became "The first and only India to 'fall' to Hitler's war. Russy and Hamilton were on a collision course about the Third Reich. When Paris fell to the Nazis, Karanjia's editorial said, 'The lights have gone out.' At least it did say so the night before. For when he arrived in the morning it had an altogether different angle. First blow for India's freedom." Hamilton argued that a Nazi victory would free India from British imperialism, but Karanjia who was influenced by Nehru's anti-fascism, argued otherwise and ultimately resigned, suspecting that Hamilton's father-in-law who was managing director of the IG Farben establishment in India was actually directing the newspaper's policies.

Strictly going by the incidents in the high flying editor's diary, the next chapter should be entitled "Russy's part in the War." The British government sent him, uniform and all, to the war front. The "WC" on his lapel invited nasty cracks from many who did not know, or pretended not to, that it stood for 'war correspondent.' London in the early Forties was hotbed of operation, and pursuing a [illegible] upright figure in uniform, General Charles De Gaulle, the symbol of fighting France, Karanjia's main bustac[illegible]

Europe's leaders had converged at London rather than give into the Nazis, De Gaulle being the most formidable. Many warned Russy that it would be easier to get the Cross of Lorraine into a dialogue than "the megalomaniac who would crucify himself [illegible]." Fatigue and the hope of a good cup of Indian tea took Russy to V.K. Krishna Menon's India League office where he was surprised to see Krishna entertaining Andre Malraux, one of De Gaulle's principal aides. The rest needs no guessing. Russy remembers De Gaulle making just one statement

'IF PEOPLE CALL ME A CHAMCHA, SO WHAT?'

Excerpts from an interview with Russy Karanjia:

Blitz has the unfortunate reputation of publishing sensational or invented stories and people tend to disbelieve it. What do you feel about this?

Invented stories? I must be a messiah, because *Indian Express* today is built on inventions. It is inventive and not investigative journalism that it carries. Whereas, in our case, even during the Thackersey case, it was Feroze Gandhi who passed on the documents to us. We were in a fix when he unfortunately died. Thackersey offered me Rs 5 lakh to settle the matter but I refused. And got lammed with the biggest suit at that time. Because of Feroze Gandhi's death we could not get hold of the documents.

There have also been accusations against the tabloid and you, as its editor, of blackmail and corruption. What are your comments?

People have accused me of corruption? I would say this: The office you see is rented, my house is rented. It was my luck to get it during my war correspondent days. I may corrupt a woman *(laughs)* but corruption as such—no. Where is the need for it? I come from a fairly rich family. My father was an ophthalmic surgeon from Edinburgh and my grandfather was the biggest builder in Quetta. I am sure if there was anything against me, Ramnath Goenka would have splashed it on the Express front page by now.

What about some of the stories in Blitz?

The instance of the vanaspati scandal which we exposed? Well, when it was pointed out to me that we had carried the story one week and the advertisement the next, I immediately made amends. That was a bad instance.



Time magazine had given me a whole page once as the father of yellow journalism. But if, for instance, I had been paid the first time I attacked Morarji, how could I have attacked him the next time?

Why have you become such an ardent supporter of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi?

I dislike the (idea of a) victim of a witch-hunt. I would go to the rescue of anybody being 'character assassinated'. It was an international conspiracy with the CIA, Mossad, international arms dealers and others involved. If people call me a *chamcha* so what? They should read the *Blitz* stories, 'Prices don't fall, governments will', the one on medicine or the detailed story on housing by our deputy editor Sainath. But in the other case it had become like a witch-hunt. Look at what Ramnath Goenka did to Girilal Jain—being shown like a dog on a leash. Vulgar, I call it. Let him dare do it to me. He did it once, saying that I had forged Shastri's letter. Indira Gandhi ordered an inquiry which cleared me. And we called him a liar.

You saw potential in V. P. Singh once. What now?

V. P. Singh was a great man. He was a definite alternative. But look what the Opposition made of him—a joker. Others like Jaya Prakash Narayan who left the mainstream, collapsed in Opposition politics which is fragmented.

In the Bofors controversy, you say the Prime Minister is not involved and neither is Amitabh Bachchan. Where, in your opinion, did the money go?

Rajiv Gandhi is not involved, neither is Amitabh. The money went back from the party in Panama to the Socialist International, to which the late Olof Palme belonged. That's why George (Fernandes), poor chap, is not opening his mouth these days.

Also in the CIA plot but which I learnt about on Khashoggi's yacht (published in 'On Guard Rajiv' in 1986). Chandra Swami knew all about the CIA involvement. When I got to know the lot, I sought an appointment with Rajiv at Congress House here. He arranged that I should go to Goa and from there fly back with him to Delhi. I told him of the CIA, of Arun Nehru and Zail Singh and the CIA infiltration of Rashtrapati Bhavan. He may not have believed me, but the events that unfolded proved me right.

You haven't mentioned Sonia Gandhi?

They blame Sonia Gandhi for everything. Where is her father's will which Ram Jethmalani promised to make public? Where are the answers to his questions? Indira Gandhi herself used to say that Sonia was the ideal daughter-in-law and more Indian than her other one. Sonia was the one who wanted Rajiv to become Prime Minister.

'We have made representations to the Allied governments for a direct offensive through France. This will not only help to relieve the Russian people of the massive German onslaught which they are heroically resisting, but also end the tragedy of Europe and particularly France.'

The encounter with Churchill at a press conference was more general and uneasy. Churchill mistaking him for a French correspondent, threw back the argument for a second front in Europe rather than North Africa with the remark "We do not propose to let our war plans be diverted by anybody's ambitions on behalf of his country or his personal glory." Karanjia received Churchill's most contemptuous look when he retorted "You are wrong, sir. I happen to be an Indian. And since you have locked up the national leadership of my country in jails, it is unlikely to divert your war plans."

Russy leans back in his chair and recollects. "I saw the Reichstag still burning." And then: 'Made a lot of money selling souvenirs from the Reichstag.'

Evidently, it was not James Augustus Hickey, the pioneer of tabloid journalism, who inspired Russy's style of writing. "I was never influenced by him. I had two gurus: Benjamin Guy Horniman and Jawaharlal Nehru, who introduced me to the history of India and the world. The two affected me tremendously.

'I used to meet Nehru at Betty Hutheesing's place. I remember when I wrote a nasty piece on Mahatma Gandhi in the evening newspaper, Nehru pulled my ear and made me apologise. He also made me give the Rs 300 I earned from the article to Mahatma Gandhi's Harijan Seva Fund.'

Through people in high places, Russy Karanjia flirted with history. "I think journalists today are alienated from the decision making process," says Russy, who in his words, "has been involved because of Nehru. I've been used for very sensitive issues.

"At one time, Ali Yavar Jung wanted a second line of approach, other than the diplomatic, to Nasser and Soekarno. Frank (Moraes) and I were chosen. Frank for Nasser and me for Soekarno. But Nasser didn't get along with Frank, he thought he was talking down to him, you know with his pipe and all that. He got along with me and invited me to spend the day with him. When he had bad relations with Khrushchev, it was I who was asked to repair the breach. 'Tell your friend I will get all three stages of the (Aswan) Dam constructed,' Khrushchev said. Nasser invited me to dinner and without my knowledge gave me the highest order of merit in Egypt. I was taken by surprise. I felt newspapermen shouldn't be given such honours.

'When I came back, Lal Bahadur Shastri called. He quoted a Sanskrit verse: 'If your neighbour is your enemy, see that your neighbour's neighbour is your friend.' What he wanted was for me to meet the Shah of Iran as Pakistan was about to go to war with us. I asked how I could do it when Nasser had called the Shah a bastard. But then I got to meet the bastard and the Shah did not allow Pakistan to use Iranian airfields for bases.

'When I met Fidel Castro, he first mistook me for the Indian ambassador. While he was introducing me Chagla, the ambassador to Cuba, ... on his way. I remember we spoke for eight hours.'

Recounts Russy of his encounter with the famous 'If you are nervous, you tend to mess up things.' He remembers the occasion when his tape broke and he (the Shah of Iran) sat on the ground to help me mend it.

Karanjia's trip aboard Adnan Khashoggi's yacht *Nabila* also created a stir. 'People thought it was a great achievement to be on Khashoggi's boat. To me it was nothing. I have known other Khashoggis,' scoffs Russy. 'I knew Aga Khan, he was the world's greatest lover.' Noticing the disbelieving look, Russy shakes a head which is more salt than pepper and adds calmly: 'He was trained in the Cairo school of love, you know.'

At home, Russy has had his typical



Russy at war: As a correspondent during the second world war

love-hate relationships with the greats "I was close to Indira Gandhi but I attacked her. I was close to Sanjay but I attacked him. I brought down Morarji twice: when he was the chief minister of Maharashtra and when he was the deputy Prime Minister of India. Yet, when he became the Prime Minister, I was the first to get an interview with him on the Gandhian form of government. I respect him, he was an enemy worth having." He denies the possibility of Morarji having any links with the CIA. Morarji cannot be anybody's agent. He was cussed and dogmatic. We would get on wonderfully even today, if it was not for his son," Russy says.

Sensation, outrage, libel and scandal are by-words in *Blitz* which Russy Karanjia started in 1941. Legal notices are nothing new to *Blitz*, and the sensational tabloid has had its high watermarks in court which Russy is evidently proud of. "They are my magnificent defeats. Ask me about them," he dares.

One of the more famous cases was that filed by Krishnaraj Thackersey and his brothers against *Blitz* for its frontpager 'Scandal bigger than Mundhra'. Justice Tarkunde found the *Blitz* allegations baseless after a 130-day case and passed his decree. Rs 3 lakh, the full amount of damages demanded by the plaintiff - with costs, and even six per cent interest from the day of judgement till the total amount was paid.

Recalls Russy, "That was the highest fine in the history of the British judicial system. I thought I was finished. Someone even published my obituary and there were calls wondering if I had committed suicide. The next morning when I came to work I found people like Balraj Sahni waiting with their cheque books. My employees also came forward, giving up their gratuity and provident fund. I could have wept. That is why they have meant so much to me. Even when *The Daily* people went on strike, I found myself taking up their defence where my family was concerned.

Karanjia loves converting his defeats into triumphs. After his Delhi bureau chief V. Rachavan's frontpager 'The Kriplani impeachment' had black, bald lies, Russy was asked to apologise in Parliament. The story referred to Acharya J.B. Kriplani's speech during a debate on defence in April 1961. Recalls Russy: 'I was reprimanded in both Houses of Parliament. But before that I had met Speaker Anand Swami Iyengar who said 're primandum' in a typical Tamil accent, instead of 'reprimand.' Since I had attended hypnotism classes, I kept looking at him and asking him 'When you repritanandum me what do I do?' The next day he said 'repriman dum' in Parliament and there was laughter and applause when I apologised.

The style is the man. And for the last 47 year Russy Karanjia's tabloid has sought reaction. So it was nothing new for *Blitz* staffers when Jayaben Karanjia wanted to serialise Irving Wallace's *Celestial Bed*. The public reaction was overwhelming but not entirely what Russy had sought. The West Asian countries censored three issues of *Blitz*.

If his publication has been colourful and controversial, so has his lifestyle. "You gave me the reputation, I tend to live up to it," he shrugs. And he does. One of his close friends discloses, "He makes a woman feel as though she was the most precious thing on earth. At other times he makes her feel as if she is the only person in a crowded room. And most times women tend to use his shoulders to cry on and he has real 'broad' shulders." No names are attributed to the quote. The only hint is that she should know.

Seventy-five years of "yoga and women" have kept Russy going, but he does not like to name the ladies who have added to the reputation. "They are fleeting moments in my life really. Like, Piloo, Bhutto and I used to chase Nargis 'successfully' until Raj Kapoor stepped in." And then he adds, "I met Bianca what-s-her-name on the *Nabila*. She played Josephine in the film *Napoleon and Josephine*. She is very beautiful, but we had one hell of an argument when I insisted that the real Josephine was dark. Bianca is fair." But he refuses to disclose anything more about the women in his life because "that's something private."

After 50 years of journalistic vitriol life for Russy Karanjia is a love affair. "I realised that after 50 years of hatred I am a lover. While he is probably more mellow about having had to sell off his dream child *The Daily* (the mascot was aptly, a bulldog) the fire has still not died in the man himself. The acid continues to flow through his pen, burning paper, delving slumps in circulation for his Blitzes in English, Hindi, Urdu and Marathi have had to give space and readers to the newspaper and magazine boom. ■

BARTER BANK

• Wickets: I offer a pair of brand new wickets for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sunil Naliath, P-17, S.M.Nagar, Sarkarpool, 743382, 24 Parganas.

• Cricket bat: I offer a Power English willow bat in good [illegible]. The Cricket[illegible] Jyotsana [illegible] Subhas [illegible] Picnic Gardens, [illegible]bat, Tagore Park, [illegible]utta 32.

• Coins: I offer coins of the US, Canada, Australia and some European countries for coins of central [illegible] and south American countries, Africa, Mongolia, New Guinea, West Indies, Cuba, Iceland and Ireland. Write to Sourav Bhanja Chaudhury, 73, Kankulia Road, Calcutta 29.

• Bicycle: I offer an Atlas sports bicycle for a Walkman in good condition. Contact Anil Chhaperia, 21, Burtolla Street, Calcutta 7.

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Why **Morarji Desai?** Why not, to use his own style. Tomorrow, this leap year, the crusty old man of Indian politics turns 92. A file picture shows him getting ready to swim against the tide

QUIZ

Neil O'Brien

"Was there a real Faustus?" asks Partha Lahiri, Calcutta 31

Faust in literature stands as a symbol of modern man striving for higher knowledge along forbidden paths That he has became such a figure is largely the work of the German poet, Goethe, whose dramatic poem of 12,000 lines was the first complete attempt to present the salvation of Faust

George (or Jonann) Faust was born in Knittlingen (Wurttemberg) According to contemporary sources he studied magic in Cracow and travelled widely in Germany practising his art However, he did not command any respect and was frequently attacked as a mountebank and charlatan After his death, tales of his enterprises in magic were collected, the first printed collection appearing in 1587 This was translated into Dutch and French, and in England, where the legend had been known since 1588 The *Historie of the Damnable Life and Deserved Death of Doctor John Faustus* translated into English by P F Gent appeared in 1592 This was the source of the *Tragical History of Dr Faustus* by Marlowe The drama was taken to Germany by a company of strolling players who travelled on the Continent in the 17th century There it eventually became a puppet play, and in this debased form was known to the young Goethe

CBS

11th Question: **What are "Jane Fonda backs"? (Ashok Thakwani, 75, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Calcutta 700013.)**
Ans: **They are backaches caused by doing the famous aerobic exercises popularised by Jane Fonda.**

In 1759 the German writer, Lessing, in a scene of a projected drama which he never completed, restored the Faust tradition to serious literature He was the first to attempt the salvation of Faust. Marlowe and the authors of the early book had no hesitation about Faust's fate, he was a sinner, and Marlowe portrayed his "damnable life and deserved death" with matchless poetic power



The German poet, Goethe, whose poem was the first complete attempt to present the salvation of Faust

However, in the 18th century, the Age of Enlightenment, when striving for knowledge was ranked among man's hightest aspirations, writers such as Lessing thought that Faust deserved to be saved, and it fell to Goethe to work out his salvation. Goethe began his Faust in 1772 and only ended it in 1832, the year he died After a *Prologue in Heaven* in which the Lord gives Mephistopheles permission to tempt Faust by any means he may devise, we first meet Faust, the discontented seeker after knowledge, and also Gretchen, whom Faust seduces and deserts Gretchen is imprisoned and executed for killing her child by him The first part of the tragedy, the most poignant that Goethe ever wrote, ends with Faust's vain attempt to rescue Gretchen from prison The second part describes how Faust, having overcome his sense of guilt, visits the Emperor's Court, is associated with the resusciated Helen of Troy, and carries out colonising and war campaigns He dies at the age of 100, and in heaven Gretchen intercedes with the Virgin to obtain his salvation Although many critics still hold that the first part is a far greater work than the second, the true meaning of the drama as a whole has become more widely recognised Faust's salvation cannot be divorced from his life and character as presented in the earlier part of the poem

Since Goethe, many writers, especially in Germany have used the Faust theme mainly in dramatic form Notable versions are Lenau's tragedy (1836), Heine's "dance-poem" (1851), Thomas Mann's prose work *Doctor Faustus* (1947), and the French poet Paul Valery's unfinished comedy, *Mon Faust* (1946) The 19th century French composers, Berlioz and Gounod, wrote operas on the Faust theme

QUESTIONS

1. What is conchology? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
2. Which controversial book by Seymour Hersh caused former Prime Minister Morarji Desai to sue him for defamation in a Chicago court? (Bijay Kumar, Baripada 1)
3. What is the literal meaning of Sputnik? (Sandeep Kumar, Sindri)
4. What is common to *Vyas, Betwa, Brahmaputra, Trishul* and *Talwar?* (Rajendra Gadar, Dhanbad)
5. The film *The Deceivers* produced by Ismail Merchant is based on whose novel? (Alok Verma, BIT, Sindri)
6. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan edited which magazine? (Sailesh Kr Singh, BIT, Sindri)
7. In the motorcar industry, what is the *Marriage Act?* (Sanjeev Kr Singh, Godda)
8. Who modelled for the following advertisement "Towels so good you want to wear them"? (Ajay Kr Chokhani, Guwahati 1)
9. What is a mixture of boiled pig's blood and pork fat called? (Swapan Mitra, Nadia)
10. What are Dundrearies? (Master Chicku, Calcutta 22)

ANSWERS

Jean Cousin, written in 1858.

1. The study of shells.
2. *The Price of Power.*
3. Travelling companion.
4. They are all the fingates of the Indian Navy
5. John Masters
6. *Pakhtone*
7. The final assembly of engine to chassis (body).
8. Menaka Gandhi (*nee* Anand)
9. Blackpudding
10. The term generally applies to long flowing side whiskers after Lord Dundreary a character in John Taylor's play, *Our Amer-*

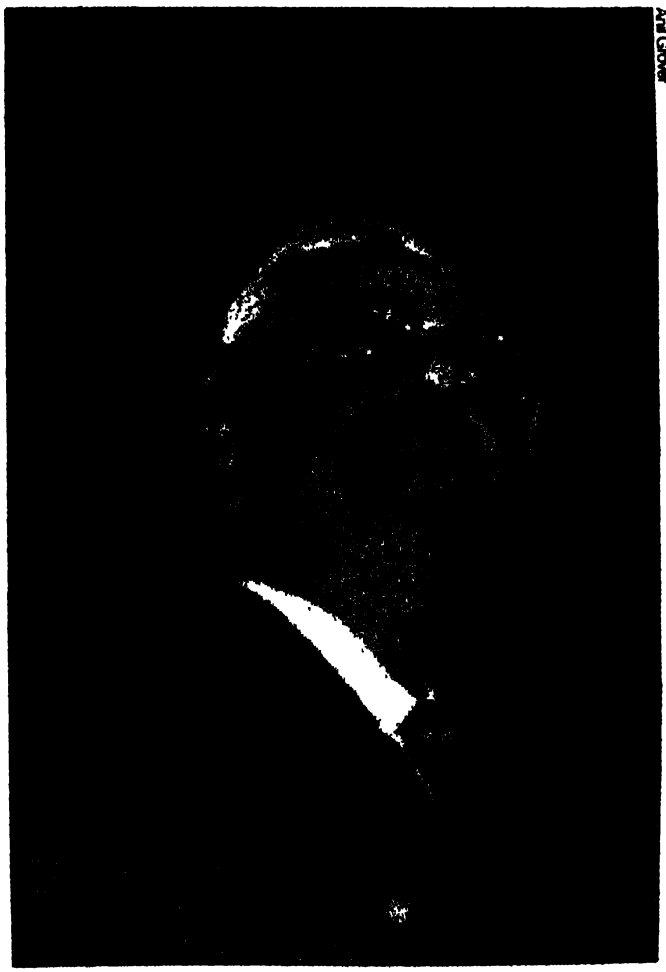
MOST PEOPLE IN INDIA HAVE STILL NOT GONE BEYOND THE COMICS AGE'

Said eminent scientist **Raja Ramanna** at the Calcutta Book Fair recently. This is the full text of his speech

It is such a pleasure to be back in Calcutta, particularly in connection with one of the greatest assets of the nation for which this city is famous, that is, the love of reading One visit to the second-hand bookshops at College Street is sufficient to initiate one to the atmosphere of enjoying the company of books Even as you enter the place, some people find out what your interests are and before you know anything, all the booksellers will be offering you printed matter of value from among the piles and piles of books and do not seem to be annoyed when somebody pulls their books down I do not believe that such a welcome is possible anywhere else But that is only a second-hand welcome Here I am to receive a first-hand welcome to inaugurate an important event

The book exhibition is a special event of the times we live in and may be an answer to what has been worrying many people. It is the general impression that reading of the classics has declined and though there are more people who can read and write than ever before, the input to our culture through Sanskrit and English has drastically waned. It seems to have become the age of the glossy magazine. It is generally believed that serious reading has always been the interest of the "elite" and the tendency nowadays is to avoid lengthy reading. Even if there is one who wishes to do so, he is strongly influenced by his surroundings, just as in the case of a normal young student who succumbs to drugs only because it is fashionable, the drug in this case being video films or TV

From what I see of most bookshops, the type of books that are being printed in large numbers in the country seem to be college and other notes for passing examinations While we pride ourselves with increased literacy even among classes who usually take reading seriously, less people know of Brathrunari, Chaucer and even Dickens and Thackeray, unless of course it be through the comics Not that one should have anything against comics or generally other packaged foods The comics have the honour of having replaced the old and respected traditional figure in joint family houses, the widowed aunt,who used to keep the children in a spell by telling them all the Puranic stories Her disappearance is a blow to the continuity of our culture and a great loss to the education of our children



AJIT GOWE

I can only hope that since there are visibly no longer aunts who have had an unfortunate deal in life, they are now all happily remarried Though the personal contact of a close relative is no longer there, the comics as Puranic storytellers for the children, however impersonal, have turned out to be a good and more accurate medium But I must add that the "success" of the *Ramayana* on TV is a measure of how most people in India, including grownups, have still not gone beyond the comics age Though the great Max Mueller called mythology as the dustbin of civilisation, television is one of the great ways of expressing profound thoughts which ordinary words and thoughts cannot.

It may just be that our universities no longer correspond to the universities that Carlyle had in mind How many university students, specially science, students have heard of Carlyle or, for that matter, Dante, Goethe, Voltaire or Pushkin, except as 10-second answers to TV quiz questions? Such questions on TV impress the viewer by the technology of time measurement, rather than by shedding of any light on the thoughts of Dante and others, or how they influenced European thought. Perhaps it no longer matters as we now consider either all European thought as already being in our ancient writings or we have absorbed so much of European thought as to consider as though it is all our own!

But why has all this happened? The question, of course, presumes that people of my generation are all better and much wiser. Otherwise why would you have invited me here at all

AND THEN CAME 'SHAHE

Amitabh Bachchan has come back with a bang—literally. The release of the Tinnu Anand film last fortnight met with fevered protests. Vignettes of the action in Bombay



Mud on the film posters at Capitol' near Victoria Terminus



The police maintain vigil outside a Bombay theatre

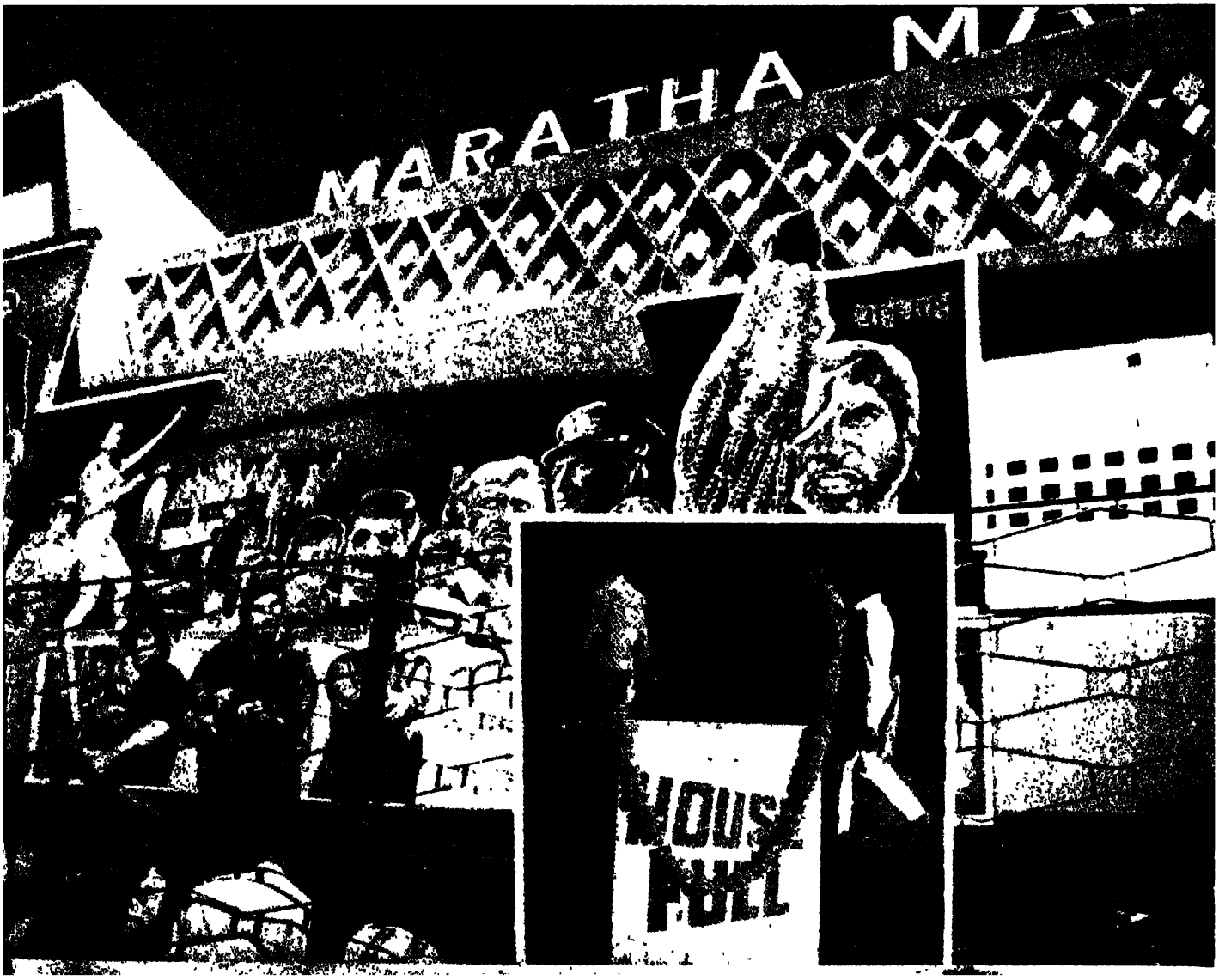




here Forward Bloc activists protested



Forward Block protestors with effigies of Amitabh and Ajitabh Bachchan



MADE FOR EACH OTHER

This story won the first prize in the 1987 Vineet Gupta Memorial Short Story Contest

By PAMPA CHAKRABORTY

It gave me quite a start when, looking up from my knitting, I saw Rony on television. Even after 10 years there was no mistaking him. That muscular, well dressed figure, poised and assured, casually stepping into his Mercedes could only be Rony.

I listened to the narrator's voice describing the lifestyle of today's playboy millionaires. As the car speeded through Marine Drive, my mind drifted back to the time when Rony had not yet made it big, to the night he proposed to me and I turned him down.

He had been incredulous, unbelieving. "You surely can't mean you are going to marry Vijay, not me?" he asked and I nodded.

"But with me," he gasped, "you'll see life. We will go places together—high places because I'm going to get to the top, right to the top."

Finally Rony realised I was going to wait for Vijay, and so he left me alone. Everyone said we were made for each other. They said I was a fool to turn him down. He was a real go-getter, who was going to rise in the world, and they were convinced I had missed my big chance.

Perhaps, I had, I thought, as I watched Rony on the screen. He stepped out of the Mercedes and disappeared into a huge, whitewashed house, surrounded by tall trees.

We live in this ownership flat in Worli. Our flat is well furnished and comfortable, but nowhere near the style of Rony's. Still, we were doing quite well, Vijay and I. We had married when he finished his engineering course. Vijay had worked hard, hard, and now he [illegible]

in his company.

I watched as Rony moved through the large elegant rooms and out onto the terrace. He walked confidently towards the men and girls sunning themselves by the side of a swimming pool. He stood there for a moment, tall and relaxed, the centre of it all, with his jetset friends chatting around him. Then he slowly turned, his eye roving beyond the group, obviously looking for someone who should have been there to greet him, but wasn't. Soon he spotted her, judging from the look of joy that lit up his face.

He moved past his friends and the television camera caught a closeup of him. His arms opened and a loving smile appeared on his handsome face. I waited jealously. I admit he had been my Rony, after all, even though I had turned him down—as the cam swung to show the girl he approaching.

She was gorgeous, lounging there by the diving board. For a few seconds, pangs of envy and regret hit [illegible] blonde in the





, could have been
cards right. Then,
my kids beside me,
I'd made the right
What a pity he was
te tonight, and could not
Rony on television!
, I could have my moment of
with the children, letting them
know their mother had once been
acquainted with at least one millionaire

"Ranu, Chottu," I said, "this man used to be a friend of mine."

Surprisingly, I heard no shouts of disbelief greeting my unlikely story Instead, a loud "Shush" came in unison from them

Ranu whispered, "We've seen it before, Mummy We are coming up to the best bit now Look!"

I watched The girl rose, and Rony's arms went around her smooth shoulders, his face close to hers Then suddenly her hands pushed hard at his chest Rony stepped back, lost his balance and toppled backwards into the pool

He surfaced, spluttering and threshing about "What have I done" he gasped

The girl motioned her finger at him "I told you," she said sternly We are finished unless you get the same after shave lotion Mohan uses."

She turned, putting her arm around the litttle guy with glasses standing next to her, inhaled the fragrance from his chin appreciatively and together they walked off into sunset There was one last shot of Rony still struggling in the water then a big bottle of after shave flashed on the screen and the advertisement faded

My kids roared with laughter and I must admit I laughed as loud as them

7 DAYS

ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Dariya dil** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) 4 shows Midnight (T C Dutta Street 253456) 3 shows

Directed by K R Vijay Shankar and with music by Rakesh Roshan the cast includes Govinda Kimmy Katkar Shakti Kapoor Raj Kiran Shobha Anand Gulshan Grover Aruna and Kader Khan

• **Hum Farishte Nahin** Orient (Bentinck Street 9191) Mitra (Bidhan Saran 551133) Kalika (Sadananda Road 478111) 4 shows

Directed by Jatin Kumar and with music by Manoj Gayen the film stars Raj Babbar Om Puri Smita Patil Rameshwari Poonam Dhillon and Amrish Puri

• **Kaal Chakra** Roxy (Chowringhee Place 281138) Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 249828) 4 shows Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 35108) Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270)—3 shows Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 251956) noon

A film by Dilip Shankar starring Suresh Oberoi Madan Jain Soni Radha Priya Tendulkar and Sadashiv Amrapurkar

• **Shahenshah** Majestic (Raffi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266) Elite (S N Banerjee Road 241384) Opera (Lenin Sarani) Krishna (T C Dutta Street 250137) Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road 392250) Uttara (Bidhan Saran 552200) Punjab (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417) 4 shows

Amitabh Bachchan stars in this Tinnu Anand film whose music is by Amar Utpal Also in the cast is Meenakshi Seshadri

• **Shrant (A)** Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) Bina (Bidhan Saran 311522) Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033) all noon show

Om Puri and Geeta Khanna play the lead in this film directed by G G Banerji The music is by Raghunath Seth



Om Puri and Geeta Khanna in *Shrant*

BENGALI FILMS

• **Boba Sanai** Radha (Bidhan Sarani 553015) 2 30 5 30 8 15 Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 471493) 2 5 7 45 Purna (S P Mukherjee Road 474567) 3 5 45 8 15

Directed by A I Ganguly the cast includes Rameshwari Chranjeet Anil Chatterjee Anup Kumar Chhaya Devi George Baker and Sikhar Das The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Chhanna Chhara** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani 558080) 3 6 8 30 Indra (Indra Roy Road 471757) 1 5 45 8 30

The film directed by Anjan Mukherjee stars Prasenjit Satabdi Roy Tapas Paul Sanchita Bose and Anup Kumar The music is by Mrinal Banerjee

• **Dadar Kirti** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 473462) Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740) 3 shows

A re release of this Tarun Majumdar hit starring Mahua Roy Chowdhury Tapas Paul Debashree Roy Ayan Banerjee Anup Kumar Satya Banerjee Sandhya Roy and Ruma Guhathakurta The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Gurudakshina** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 553413) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 359561) Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road 474686)—1 4 7

A film by Anjan Choudhury starring Tapas Paul Satabdi Roy Ranjit Mullick Kali Banerjee Shakuntala Barua Bhabesh Kundu Soumitra Banerjee and Ishani Banerjee The music is by Bappi Lahri

• **Kalankini Nayika** Sree (Bidhan Sarani 551515)—3 6 8 30 Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road 355059)—2 5 8

Alpana Goswami Ranjit Mullick Anup Kumar Biplab Chatterjee Sumitra Mukherjee Shubhendu Chatterjee and Anup Jalota are the chief attractions in this film directed by Subhen Sarkar The music is by Tarun Ranjit



Kimmy Katkar, Sumeet Saigal, Bhanupriya, Jeetendra, Amrita Singh and Rajnikant in *Tamacha*

• **Lookochuri:** Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522)—2.45, 5.45, 8.30

A re-release of this Kamal Majumdar film, starring Kishore Kumar, Mala Sinha and Anita Guha. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

FOREIGN FILMS

• **Crazy Boys of the Games.** Jamuna (Marquis Street 243715)—4 shows
• **Firestarter (A)** Lighthouse (Humayun Place 291299)—4 shows
• **Invincible** Metro (Chowringhee Road 280141)—4 shows
• **No Time to Die (A)** New Empire (Humayun Place 291051)—4 shows
• **Out of Bounds (A)** Globe (Lindsay Street 296845)—12, 3, 5.45, 8.30

NEW RELEASES

HINDI FILMS

• **Tamacha** Orient (Bentinck Street 261917), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 254956), Gem (Acharya Jagdish Chandra Road, 249828), Iqbal (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464440), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road 474103)

Directed by Ramesh Ahuja and with music by Bappi Lahiri the film stars Jeetendra, Rajnikant, Sumeet Saigal, Bhanupriya, Kirmy Kat[illegible] and Amrita Singh.

SPECIAL EVENTS

28 February-5 March

The second Chhayapath exhibition of photography 1988 at the North West and Central galleries.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 444205)

29 February 6 pm

Narendra Seva Trust presents Tagore's dance drama *Chitrangada* with Jayasree Dasgupta, Asish Bhattacharya and Jayanti Purakayastha in songs and Subhasish Bhattacharjee and Sushmita Bhattacharjee in dance.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 449937)

29 February 6.30 pm

Nandan and Alliance Francaise present the gold award winning French film at the Cannes festival 1987 *Sous le Soleil de Satan* with English subtitles.

At Nandan 1

29 February and 1 March 6.30 pm

Anamika Kala Sangam presents *Son of Bottoms Up*, a play by the Bijoy Patel Productions (Bombay). It is written and directed by Bharat Dhabolkar and has music by Louis Banks. Dance choreography Karla Singh.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani 419086)

4-6 March 6.30 pm

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Anamika Kala Sangam present a classical ballet by a group of award-winning Soviet ballet artistes.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani 419086)

4 and 5 March 6.30 pm

ICCR and Anamika Kala Sangam present the Republican Dolls Theatre of Uzbekistan. The repertoire includes *Fatima's Adventures* and cartoon series *Just You Wait* and *The Magic Chamois*.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 449937)



Tapas Paul and Mahua Roy Chowdhury in *Dadar Kirti*

A scene from the play, *Son of Bottoms Up*



TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350
London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta Arr (1) AI-132A at 1805
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910 Dep (2) AI-316 at 2020
Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay. Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015 Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115
Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI-324 at 1050 Dep (4) AI-324 at 1150
Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay. Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235 Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330
Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU-588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU 588 at 1105
Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU-589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU-589 at 0050
Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU-537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU-538 at 1955
Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0925
Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1) RA-214 at 1040 Dep (3) RA-214 at 1100 Dep (2 4 7) IC-247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC 217 at 1510 Arr (1 3) RA-213 at 0940 Arr (2 4 7) IC-248 at 1525 Arr (3 6) IC-248 at 1425
Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145 IC-223 at 1340 Dep (1 2, 4 5 6) BG-694 at 1715 Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045 IC-224 at 1540 Arr (1, 2 4, 5 6) BG-693 at 1615
Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC-225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG-697 at 1220 (1 4 7) IC-226 at 1555
Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640 Arr (1 3) TG-313 at 1240 Dep (2 4) IC-231 at 1050 Dep (1 3) TG-314 at 1355
Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 3 5) GQ-102 at 0730 Arr (1 2) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 402 at 1710 and IC 263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210
Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855
Calcutta-Madras Dep (Daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225
Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC 295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC 296 at 1635
Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4 6) IC 295 at 1640, Arr (2 4 6) IC 296 at 2105
Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC-541 at 1240
Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2235
Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1145 Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC-278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC-276 at 1915 Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC 270 at 2155
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 263 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay. Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1810
Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320 Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC-203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610 Arr (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6) IC 201 at [illegible] Arr (2 4 6) IC 202 at [illegible]
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC 255 at 0530 Arr [illegible] 7) IC 256 at 0700 Arr [illegible] IC-256 at 1215
Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC-222

at 1405
Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640
Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep (1 3, 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5) IC-238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625 Arr (7) IC 220 at 1105

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (2 4 6) PF-717 at 0600 Arr (2 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna. Dep (1 3 5) PF 725 at 0600 Arr (1 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Zero-Daparizo. Dep (1 3 5) PF-721 at 0645 Arr (1 3 5) PF-722 at 1530
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5) PF [illegible] at 1130 Arr (1 3 5) PF-730 at 1610
Calcutta-Guwahati Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh Guwahati-Calcutta (2 4 6) PF 723 at 0645 [illegible] (1 3 6) PF 724 at 1730
Calcutta-Aizawl Silchar-Guwahati Dep (daily) PF 705 1030 Arr (daily) PF [illegible] at 17
*** Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat** Dep (1 3 5) PF 741 at 0555 Arr (1 3 5) PF [illegible] at 1000
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2 4 6, 7) PF-727 at 0940. Arr (2, 4 6 7) PF-728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (2 4 6 7) PF-707 at 0610 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi. Dep (2 4 6) PF-715 at 0555 Arr (2, 4 6) PF-716 at 1010
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) PF-701 735 at 0830. Arr (daily) PF-702 736 at 1705
* Temporarily suspended

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10 40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21-10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep.—Mon, Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs, Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Fnday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues., Thurs & Sat Arri.—Mon., Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arri —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

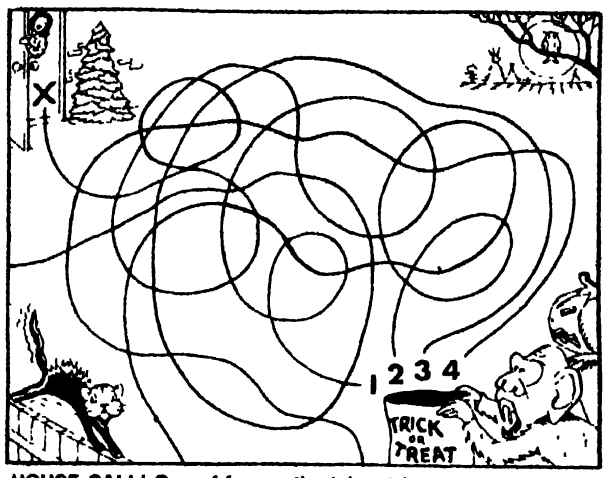
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20 45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18 15	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20 25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13 50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep Mon, Tues Wed, Fri & Sat Arri Mon Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	20 50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri - Tues, Wed, Fri & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4-00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22 35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203546-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



HOUSE CALL! One of four paths takes trick-or-treat callers to doorway at upper left above Which path?

• **SAY WHAT!** Say fast and repeat faster:
Winnie the witch wished a wicked wish Green-gray ghosts gathered grimly in the graveyard

G				T
T				E

CHOICE WORDS

Complete this word square poser (above) with five words that read the same both across and down Four corner letters are already in place.

Definitions (top-down) in order are
1 Haunted house dweller
2 To cook up, as a scheme
3 Playful sea creature
4 Drama setting
5 This many on a match is bad luck

Remember, words read across and down

Time —

1 Ghost 2 Hatch 3 Otter 4 Scene 5

• **SQUARE DEAL!** Remove all the aces, kings, queens, and jacks from a deck of cards Arrange the aces and kings in diagonal rows, as shown below.

Now, fill blanks with queens and jacks so that no two cards of the same value or suit appear in any row, across or down.

Time limit 2 minutes.



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Hat is different 2 Coat is shorter 3 Flask is different 4 Phone is missing 5 Sign is missing 6 Donation box is missing

FUNSPOT



SCARE RAID! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to the Halloween scene above 1– Red 2– Lt blue 3 - Yellow 4 Lt brown 5—Flesh, 6—Purple 7—Orange 8--Dk blue

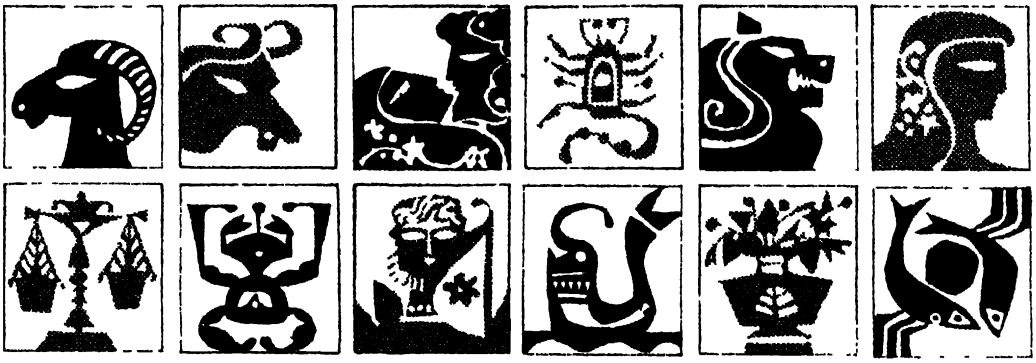
SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

GAUNTLET

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points



ARIES

March 21 April 20

There will be a marked spurt in activity as sun trines Pluto This is the opportune time to launch a new project Venus remains in your sign and romance is strongly indicated for the fancyfree and eligible Entertainment and socialising are on the cards

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

The moon's first quarter in your sign further emphasises buying, selling and signing contracts and deeds Look into all aspects of any deal that you intend to sign before committing yourself Collaborations and joint ventures are signified Travel is on the cards

GEMINI

May 21 June 20

The Venus Jupiter union will ensure that you will get all possible support in any ventures that you intend to undertake A job change is on the cards Do not overstrain yourself Family affairs are likely to demand attention Children, romance and hobbies are highlighted

CANCER

June 21 - July 20

This is the right time to finalise deals and complete projects. With the Mars-Saturn-Uranus-Neptune formation in your seventh angle, recognition and fame will finally be yours There may be slight opposition to plans from friends but given patience, you will overcome it.

LEO

July 21 August 21

There will be tremendous pressure on you to show results but try and keep a cool head Success is assured in all that you do While you should give your best to matters at hand, take care not to overdo it Gauge situations thoroughly before making changes.

VIRGO

August 22 Sept 22

A rethinking of goals and ideas is called for There will be several changes on both the proffessional and personal fronts However, the complete impact of the current state of affairs will be felt only in the coming weeks The health of family members may cause concern

LIBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22

Publishing, printing, advertising, creativity, marketing and sales promotion are highlighted now This is the time to work towards an ideal or goal Home, property, renovation, decoration refurbishing and legal disputes will demand attention Romance is in the air

SCORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 22

The moon trine Jupiter-Saturn-Uranus formation signifies lucky times ahead Help is at hand so go aheadwithall projects and ventures that you have been planning Loans, funds, joint finances, insurance and taxes will demand attention This is the right time to sign deeds

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

The moon's first quarter implies partnerships, ties and attachments Property matters and job transfers are on the cards Monetary gains are in the offing for most Expect a breakthrough towards the end of the week This is the right time to entertain and socialise.

CAPRICORN

Saturn Uranu Neptune and Ma in your sign will change yo outlook towards life and pe ple Put in your best at wo but take care not to overstrain yourself You may receive important news now Health precautions are called for Home will demand attention

AQUARIUS

Mars and Saturn in your twelfth angle will make you undergo bizarre and extraordinary experiences A burst of creativity is also foretold Catch up with all pending correspondence in the first half of the week Monetary affairs are highlighted A checkup is long overdue

PISCES

Feb 20 March 20

Home, property affairs and children will continue to demand attention Elders may take an undue interest in your affairs You may have to give in to their opinions temporarily to avoid an open confrontation March will be a pacesetter for the rest of the year

BIRTHDAYS

February 28

Moon square Venus Do not be over-sentimental. Stay away from financial muddles If you exercise caution, you are assured of success In May, July and November, deals and promotions are predicted Moderation in all matters will ensure happiness

February 29

Sun sextile Neptune This sextile signifies opportunities for advancement Promotions, romance and independent business ventures are possible For some governmental recognition and rewards are also foretold This is certainly a year of power and success

March 1

Moon opposition Mercury As Mercury signifies travel and messages take care to bridge all communication gaps Goods and valuables may be lost misplaced, damaged or stolen Extra care in the signing of documents and contracts is advisable

March 2

Moon trine Jupiter Your work will be done whether you are a housewife or an executive Buying and selling will be important Prospects for the employed are splendid It will pay to socialise and win friends

March 3

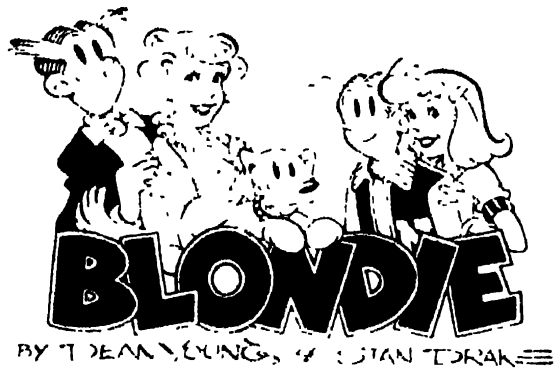
Full moon Virgo Wishes will be granted If eligible a marriage proposal is likely Another outstanding feature is travel Shifts and collaborations are also foretold This is an important year

March 4

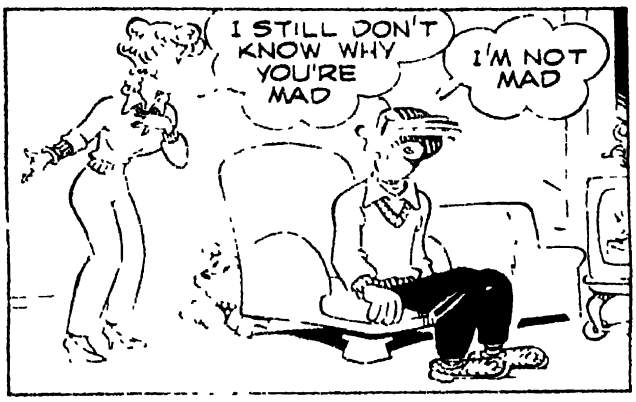
Virgo moon strong aspect You will have the freedom to move, manipulate and manoeuvre Consequently, you will be successful as well as happy Strong and lasting attachments are also possible A shift transfer and a journey are distinct possibilities

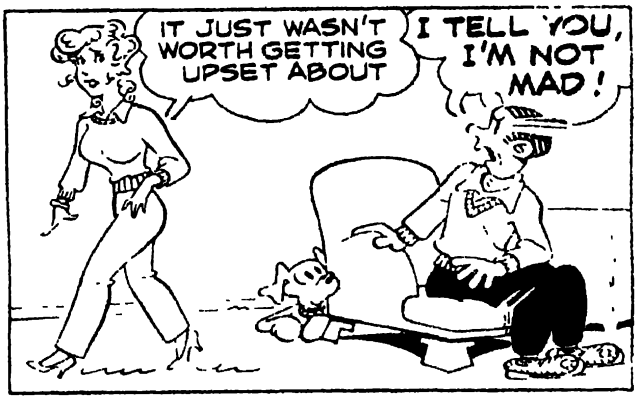
March 5

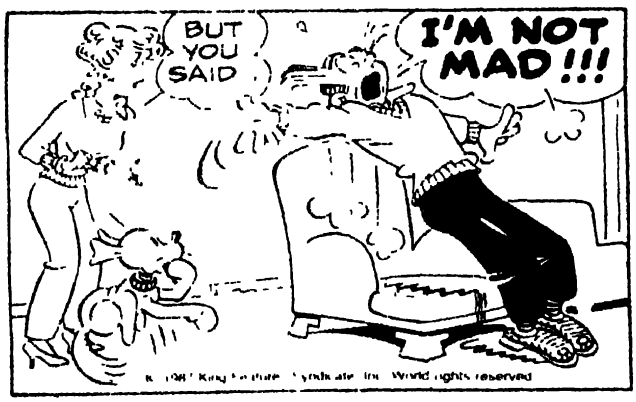
Venus conjunction Jupiter, moon square Saturn Be careful of deceit or double talk in partnerships and matters pertaining to joint-finances On the positive side, you will go in for buying, selling and trading Commentators, jewelers, caterers and entertainers will be in their element

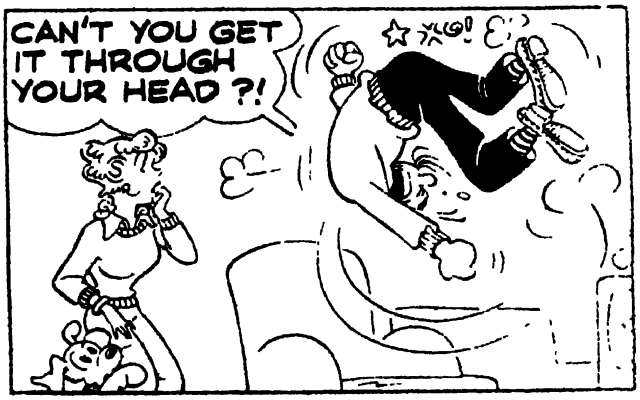

BLONDIE

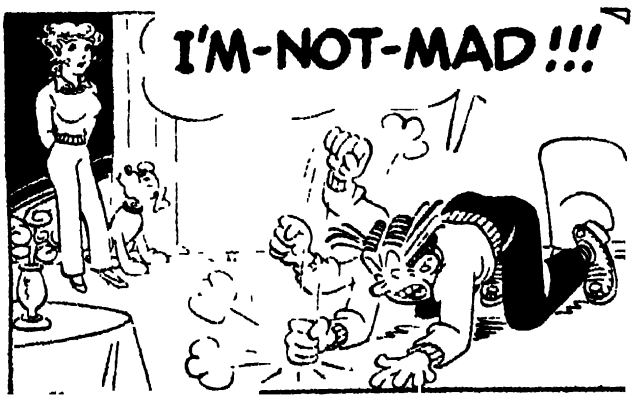

DAGWOOD, WE NEED TO TALK

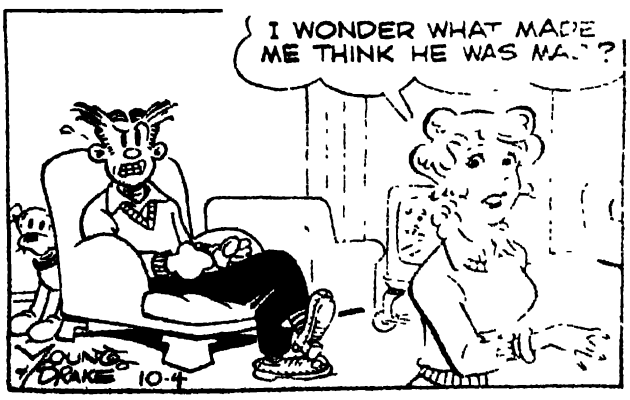

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE MAD
I'M NOT MAD


IT JUST WASN'T WORTH GETTING UPSET ABOUT
I TELL YOU, I'M NOT MAD!


BUT YOU SAID
I'M NOT MAD!!!

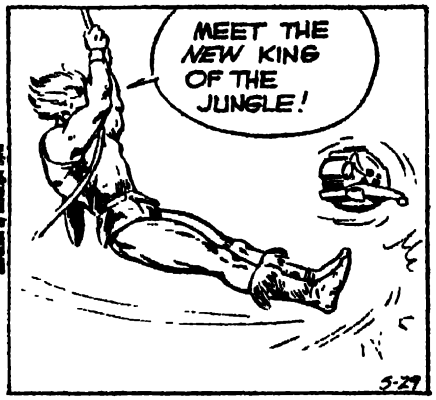

CAN'T YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD?!


I'M-NOT-MAD!!!

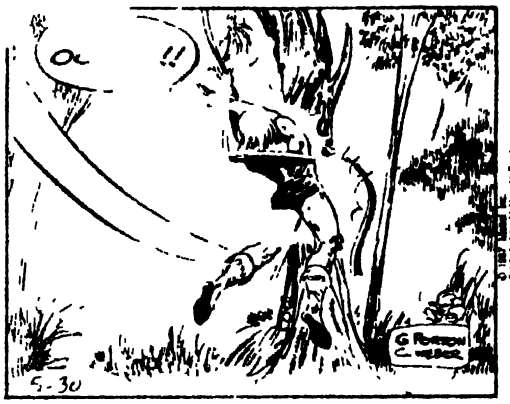

I WONDER WHAT MADE ME THINK HE WAS MAD?
10-4

HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

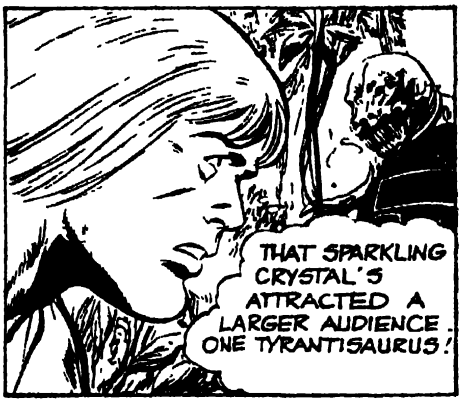




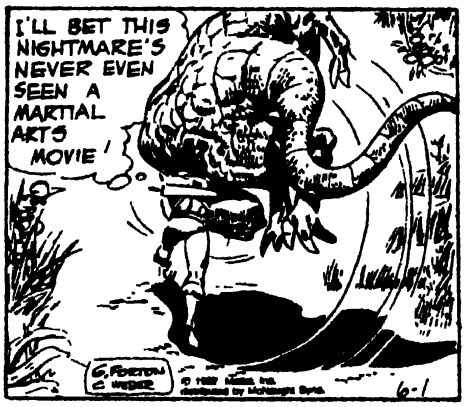






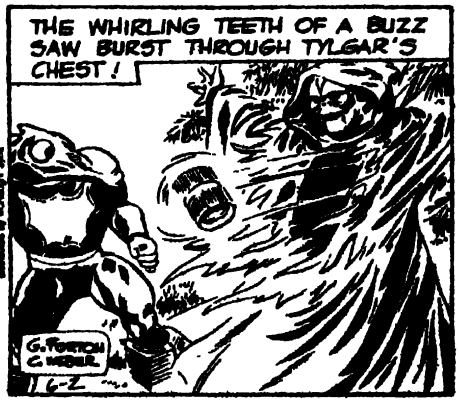






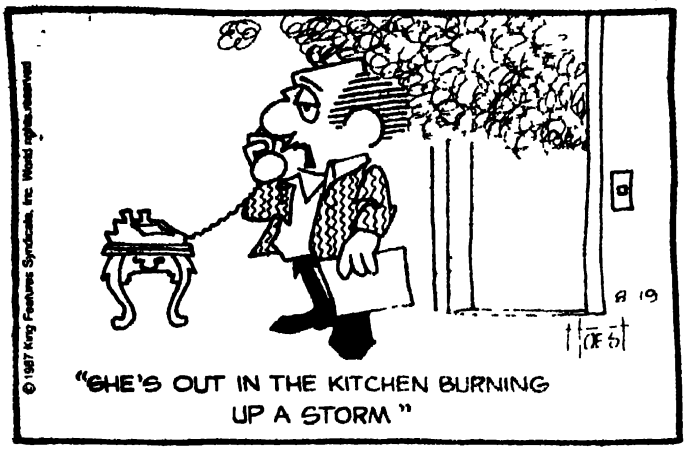




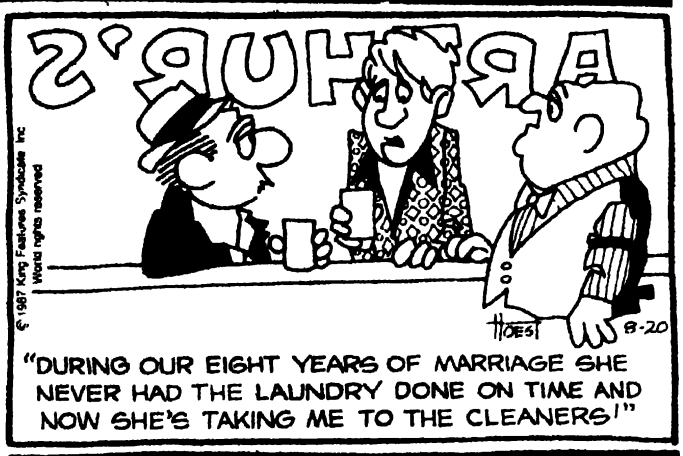




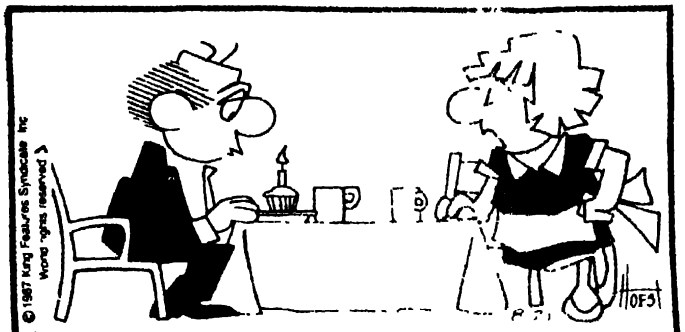
THE LOCKHORNS



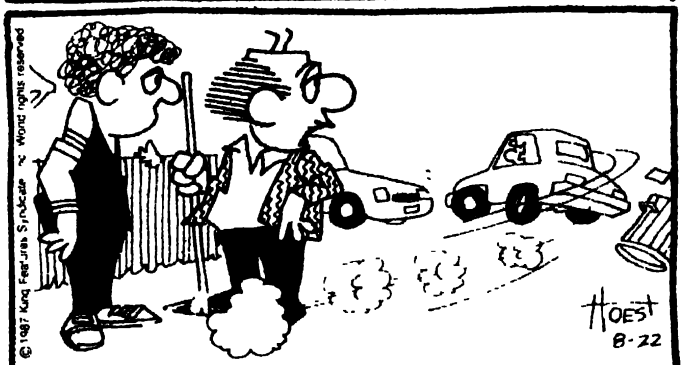
"SHE'S OUT IN THE KITCHEN BURNING UP A STORM."



"DURING OUR EIGHT YEARS OF MARRIAGE SHE NEVER HAD THE LAUNDRY DONE ON TIME AND NOW SHE'S TAKING ME TO THE CLEANERS!"



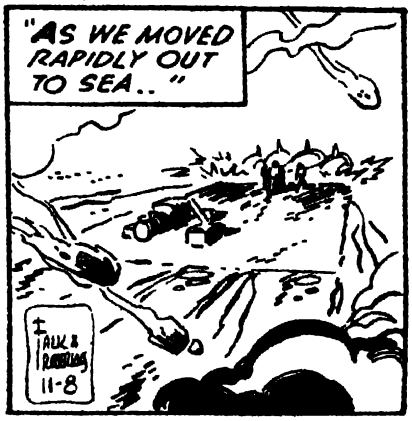
"IT ISN'T A BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IT'S JUST A DAY IN WHICH YOU HAVEN'T BELLYACHED ABOUT ANYTHING SO FAR."

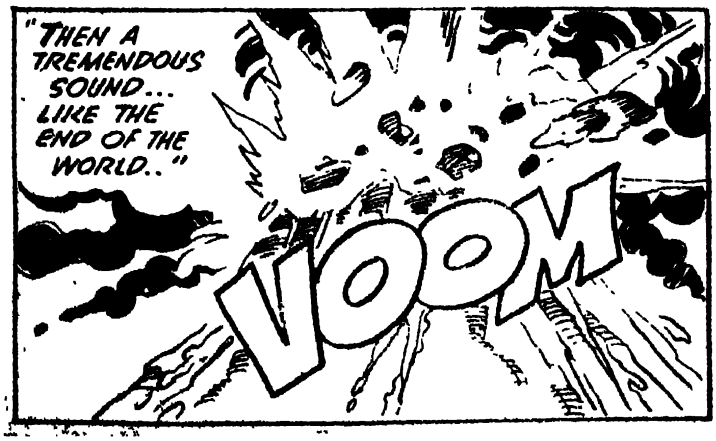


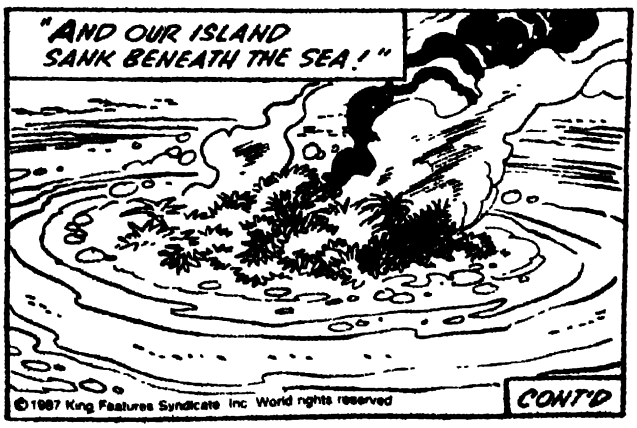
"LORETTA'S THE KIND OF DRIVER WHO GETS WORSE WITH PRACTICE."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

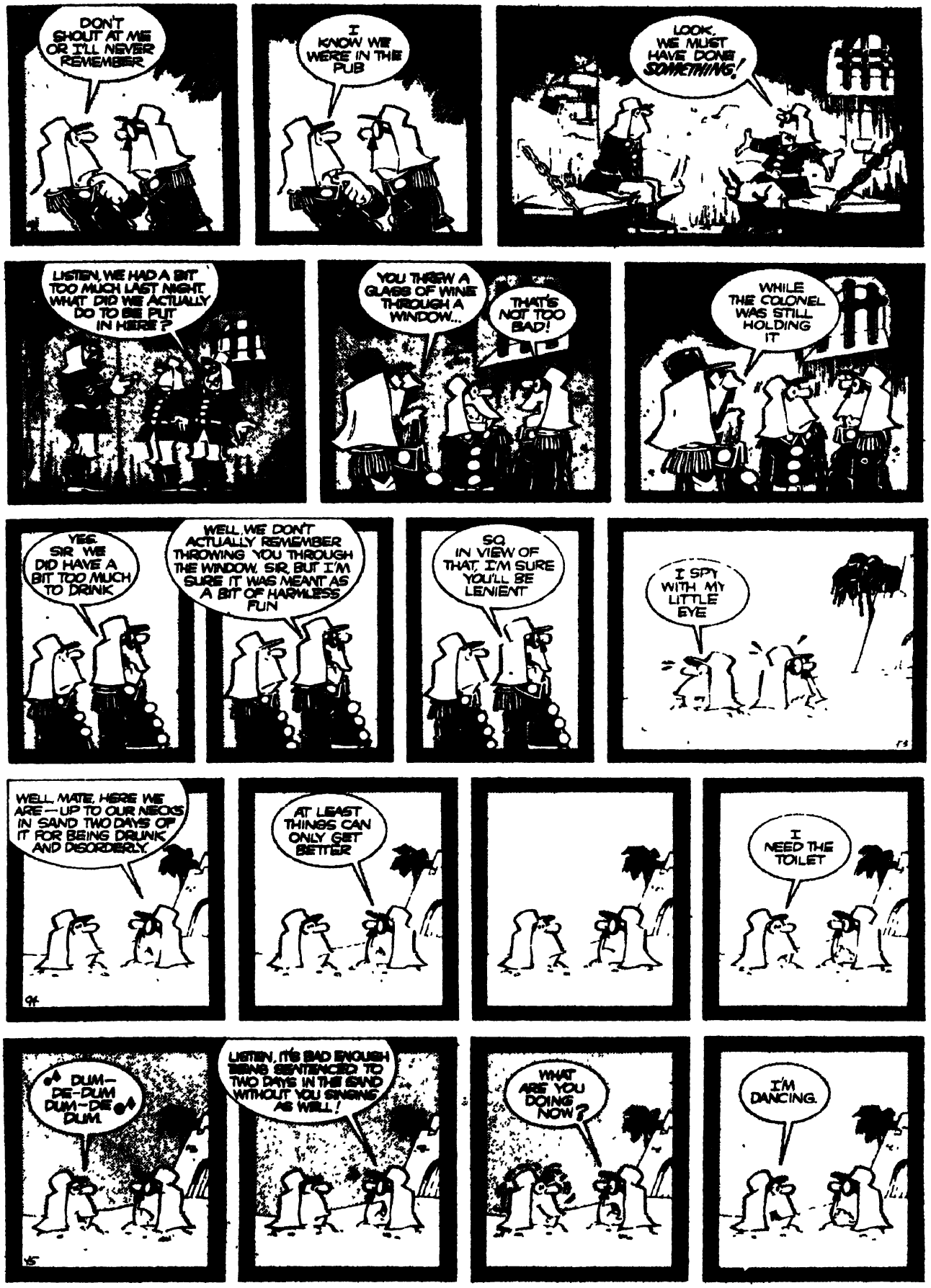




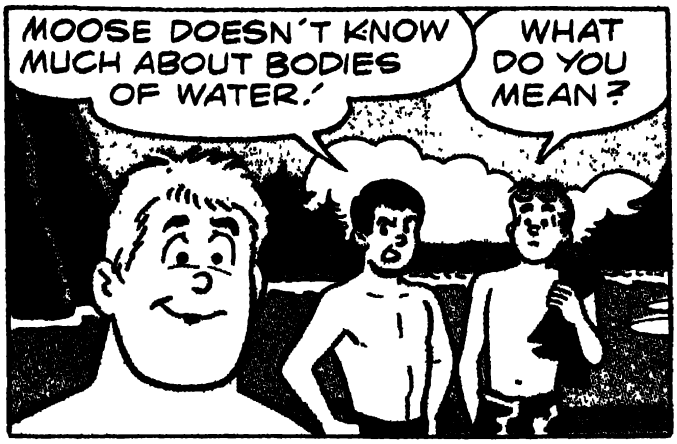


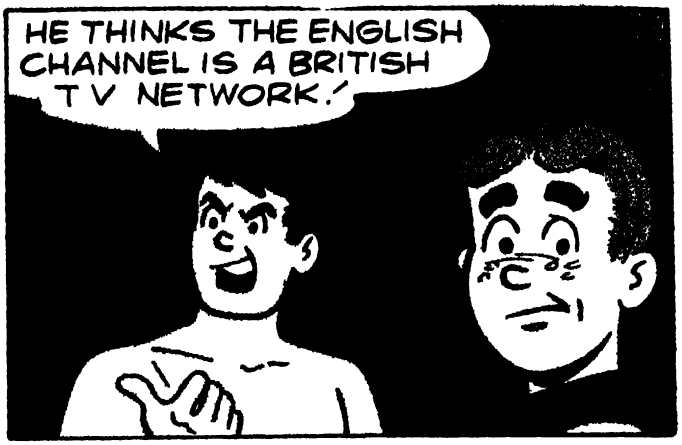


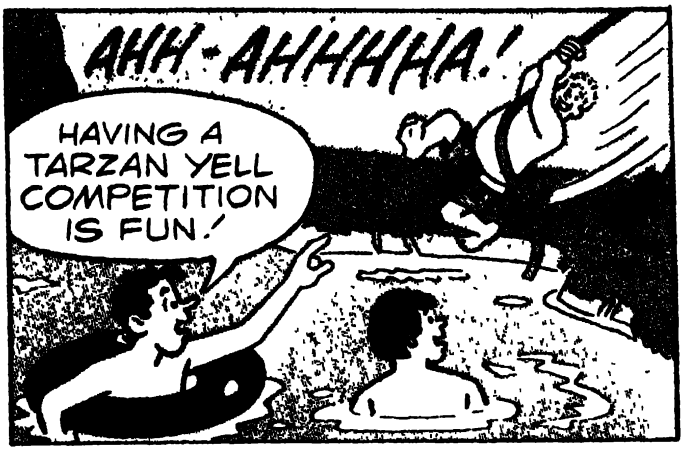
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


MOOSE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BODIES OF WATER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


HE THINKS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL IS A BRITISH T V NETWORK.


AHH-AHHHHA!
HAVING A TARZAN YELL COMPETITION IS FUN.


HERE COMES ARCHIE.
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AHHHIE AHHOOOOOO


SPLASH!
SUPER.
IT'S A SURE WINNER.


GREAT JOB, ARCH. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD YELL LIKE THAT.
NEITHER DID I...


UNTIL MY BATHING SUIT GOT CAUGHT ON THAT BRANCH.

MAN OF MUSIC

Hemant Kumar is a talent that has been with us for decades now. A talent that was heralded, but is now going a little unsung

Hemant Kumar. The legend on the unfashionably simple nameplate on his door speaks volumes about the living legend himself. Having two personae, one Bengali and one Hindi, the name roughly painted on a come-loose-at-the-hinges letter box outside says: Hemanta Mukherjee The legend, the mark. Hemant.

We congratulate him for having refused the Padma Shri—that itself being an honour—specially if he did it on behalf of music lovers. He says a quiet thank you and sits down on a green, steel, folding chair He has accommodated us in view of the deadline, but warns that in his state of health, he cannot speak too much or for too long In any case, he is known to be a man of few words and a pretty tough customer. We are warned about his irritability, his reticence, but Hemant Kumar comes off at his charming best

He is a grandfather today, but what were days like when he was a grandchild? we ask. *"Woh zamana to bahut hi achha tha,"* he says, preferring Hindi to English most of the time. "It was a very happy time we had in our childhood. There were no worries—what the world is doing, where the food is coming from...and we were very poor. My first eight years were spent in a small village called Baharu in 24-Parganas. A little after that comes a better known place called Joynagar. We had never seen paper, we didn't know what paper was. *Jab hum pathshala mein they,* we would take the soot from lanterns, mix it with water and make ink out of that. *Kalam ke liye,* we would use sharpened bamboo pieces and write on palm leaves."

That was in 1924-25 Today, we have progressed to word processors, leave alone ball-point pens and felt pens and electronic typewriters "*Woh sabhi kuchh aa gaya hai,* but the difference is that it's getting suffocating. Because of the population, the cars...When I want to go out, *dil mana karta hai, mat jao.* All over it is *bhaag-daur, bhaag-daur, idhar-udhar,* everyone is rushing about. *Achha nahin lagta* " Since 1983 when Hemant Kumar had a heart attack, his movements have been further restricted on medical grounds. At home, he works on his music, watches a film on the VCR sometimes or reads books. There are no favourites he has; "any novel, or Vivekananda or Ramakrishna." Everything is still in Bombay, but today there is no work for Hemant Kumar there, so he is in Calcutta more often now. I had migrated to Bombay in 1951 and even now, every three months, I go there." But *chup hai dharti, chup hai chand-sitare...*

"I used to listen to the songs of K.C. Dey, Pankaj Mullick, S.D. (Burman) and learn. In school, we played badminton, cricket, football, but music seemed to be the only real interest Cinema wasn't much those days and theatre was in Calcutta, but we went to the *jatra* to listen to songs," continued Hemant Kumar. "Those days, it was 2nd class, 1st class, then matric. When I was in 2nd class (equivalent to class 9), my very good friend and great poet now, Subhash Mukherjee, forcibly took me to the radio station and after an audition, I got one programme That was in 1935. Next year, another one. In 1937, I passed my matric. He took me to many places, but I was rejected by all of them So I decided to take up engineering, it was a good line, and joined Jadavpur University. From the Nasiruddin Memorial High School near home in the village (class four to seven), it was Mitra Institution in Bhowanipur where we stayed later (upto matric). Then, the electrical engineering course at Jadavpur. By then, I had given up hopes of getting a break in singing. But my father's friend, Santi Bose, was a cello player who would go for rehearsals to Columbia after work. He took me there one day and introduced me to music director Sailesh Dutta Gupta. He heard half a song of mine and approved. And recorded in December 1937; the record was released very fast, as was usual in those days."

It was then that Hemant Kumar gave up Jadavpur for joy. The joy of music. And began learning shorthand and typing to get himself a job for security. Being a robust village boy, did he not have any other—naughty—interests, we asked tentatively? He shook his head. "No " What about politics then? "Gandhiji was there and politics was very simple then, remove the British There ws no *mara-mari* like today Gandhiji would tell us to picket some place and we would do that for an hour or two I didn't know what I was doing--because Gandhiji has said it, it has to be done " Later came the Progressive Writers Association and the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) which had Ravi Shankar as its president, and Salil Chowdhury and shailendra Shankar.

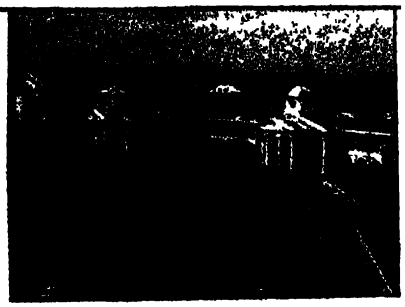
Would he call himself a man of simple habits? *"Log kehte hain, main kya bolun?"* he replies. Perhaps, he is an introvert? we press on. "I'm more of an introvert I think." Whatever he is—an introvert, an extrovert or something in between. But he is a man of music, he is our man, and that is enough, we tell him. He smiles benignly in reply. As if to say:

Na yeh chand hoga, no tare rahenge,
Magar hum hamesha tumhare rahenge...

Anil Grover


Anil Grover





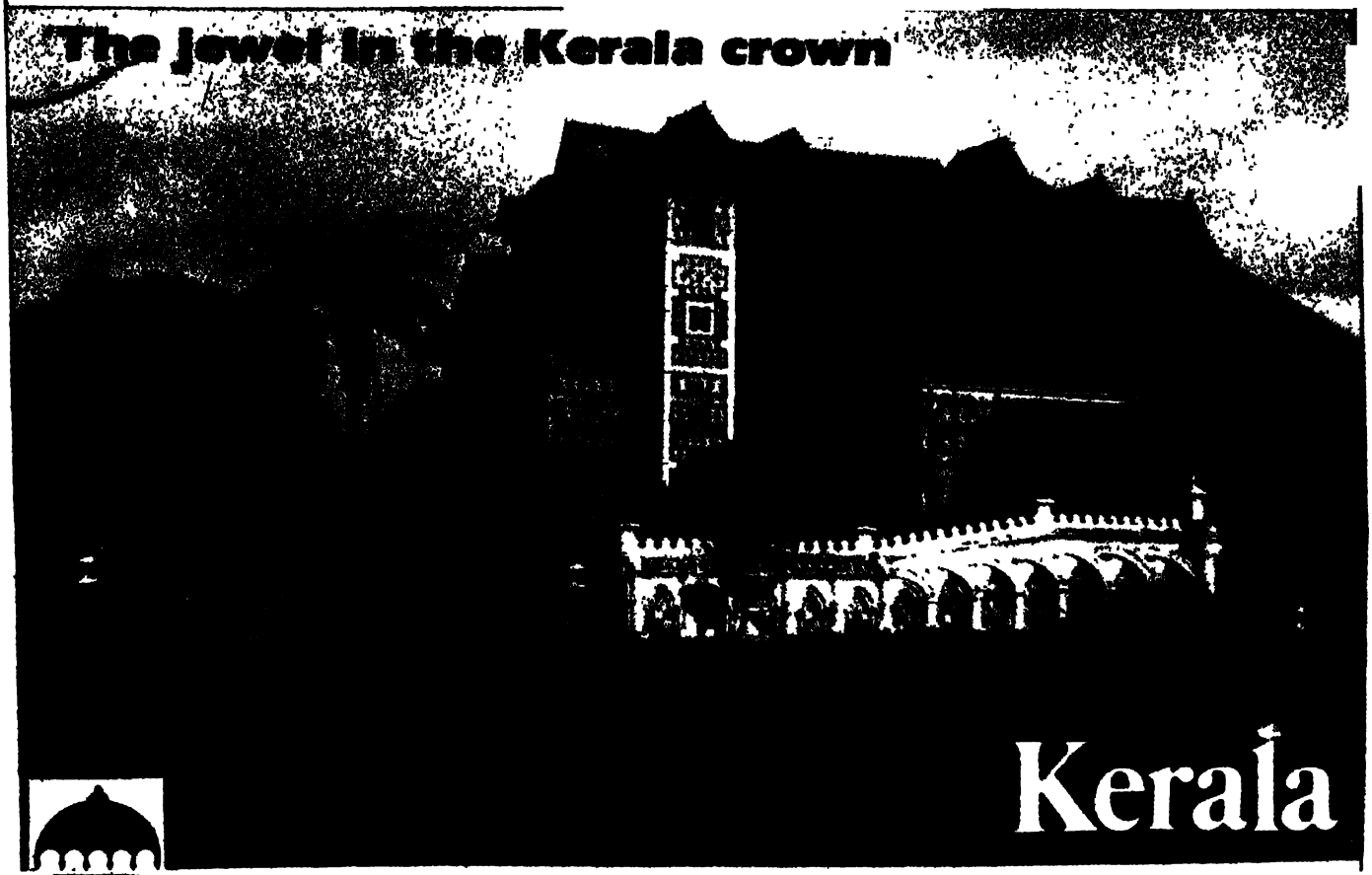
Trivandrum.

Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala has a wide variety of interesting sights: a century-old museum with its art gallery, zoo and acres of parklands right in the heart of the city, colourful buildings such as the museum itself and the Public Library and College of Fine Arts nearby, green paddy fields strewn all over the many valleys, the busy Fort area with its Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple from which the city derives its name, the Sankhumughom beach and the Tourist Village under development at Veli lagoon nearby — ideal for boating by unique hovercraft, row boats, dinghies and outboard motor boats

Kovalam, the renowned beach for sun, surf and sea is just a half-hour drive away And for nature's own air-conditioned comforts you could spend the night at Ponmudi Tourist Com— plex, 60 km by road A 90-minute drive through colourful countryside takes you to a height of no less than 1000 metres!

For extra excitement visit Neyyar Dam, 30 km from the capital, notable for its reservoir, gardens, lion safari, crocodile park and other attractions. An ashram, too, is a stone's throw from there

The jewel in the Kerala crown



Kerala

KERALA tourism

For more information, contact
KERALA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE (Department of Tourism, Govt of Kerala) 219, Kanishka Shopping Complex, 19, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001, 28,C- in—C Road Madras-600 105, Tel 479862, Old Collectorate Building, Broadway, Cochin-682 011 **Kerala Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.,** P.B. No. 46 Behind Secretariat, Trivandrum - 695 039, Tel . 64261, or your nearest **Govt. of India Tourist Office**

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emami FOR MEN With herbs that stop your skin from darkening

FM 331

POST MORTEM

Krishnanagar

Sunday Supplement's report on the clay modelling of Krishnanagar ('The Doll Makers,' February 21) was an insightful coverage of this traditional art. But how could she opine that only the availability of suitable clay had made the art so popular?

The artistic inheritance has come down from the period of Maharaja Krishnachandra who himself was a genuine critic of the fine arts. Please do not mix up this doll making with a jute industry.

Kaushik Muhwir,
Krishnanagar (W.B.)

■ I was disappointed over the report. It left a great deal unsaid. No mention was made of the doyens of the art—Kartick Pal and Mukti Pal—whose names have become synonymous with clay modelling in Krishnanagar. Such articles should provide a real 'Panoramic' view and not just an incomplete glimpse.

S. Basabi Venkatesh,
Calcutta

Facelift

The facelift and glossy paper that you are now giving us is appreciated.



We are specially happy to see Archie in colour.

Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ It is good to see the Colour Magazine without 'Tinsel Town'. It had become really boring to read about the deeds of infamous persons who have little respect in society.

Dibyendu Lall Seal,
Howrah

■ The Colour Magazine seems to have undergone a change in its style and contents. But the trend to cater to Calcutta readers has not been completely discarded. We still see columns like '7 Days' which are irrelevant to readers outside the city.

Monojit Mohapatra,
Cuttack

Saluting the Soldier

The Indian soldier rightly deserved to be the Man of the Year, 1987 (January 3). The year has seen the Indian soldier's activity in various fields—flood and drought relief, quelling riots, protecting our frontiers at the Siachen glacier, keeping peace in Sri Lanka and so on.

Anjana Sinha,
Calcutta

Heal Thyself

In 'Staying Alive' (February 7), Soumitra Sinha has very effectively unveiled the corruption and malpractices of the medical centres and doctors in Calcutta. The family members of the patients are exploited and money literally robbed from them.

My father was recently admitted to a wellknown nursing home of Calcutta and the doctor-in-charge would only drop in during visiting hours as if to say 'Hello' to my ailing father. After two or three weeks of unnecessary and futile treatment, when my father was discharged, the doctor himself charged a fee that was double the amount that the nursing home charged! And three months have passed, but he is still to present the bill.

Dibyasree Adhikary,
Calcutta

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Cover Story: Mrs Smith of Calcutta's Parsi Colony, a charming symbol of an elderly good neighbour. Photo:



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[illegible]

The Telegraph
13 MARCH 1988

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Cover:
Sunil K. Dutt

WARRIORS BY PROXY

In the second of the series on Women in Opposition, SAYED KAMALUDDIN profiles the Bangladesh duo of **Hasina Wajed** *and* **Khaleda Zia,** *and analyses why they have failed to put up a united front*

Sheikh Hasina Wajed usually wears cotton saris Begum Khaleda Zia's tastes run to more expensive apparel Hasina, 40, is homely, lively and at times frolicsome Mrs Zia, 43, is composed and soft-spoken

There is, indeed, a long list of things which the two women, the most strident political foes of the 58-year-old Bangladesh President, Hussain Muhammad Ershad, do not have in common They sharply differ in their political ideologies,for instance Hasina, daughter of Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,who was killed in the 1975 coup, favours a parliamentary system while Mrs Zia upholds the presidential system which her soldier-turned-politician husband, Lt-Gen. Ziaur Rahman, had promoted before he was killed in the 1981 army rebellion. Then, Hasina participated in the 1986 parliamentary polls which Khaleda rejected as a farce.

But three months ago the two ladies found a common objective: the ouster of President Ershad who seized power in a bloodless military coup in 1982 And then they share a more empathetic bond: Personal tragedy forced both to turn from housewives into politicians. Both are big crowd-pullers though some have said that in Mrs Zia's case it is more due to her looks

The Awami League chose Hasina as its leader in 1980 when her father's colleagues failed to agree on a successor The responsibility of leading the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was similarly virtually thrust upon Mrs Zia

Though the charisma of the two assassinated Presidents has been the chief source of strength for the two ladies, they have, nonetheless, made an indelible impression on Bang-

Sheikh Hasina Wajed (left) with Begum Khaleda Zia



Pavel Rahman

ladesh's volatile politics.

"Hasina seems to have attained a certain degree of political maturity," Nirmal Sen, a left-leaning politician, now in jail under the Special Powers Act, had once remarked. A journalist-turned-politician, Sen differs sharply with Hasina on many fundamental issues. His Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal quit Hasina's eight-party alliance protesting her decision to participate in the May 1986 parliamentary poll. Yet, Sen and many others feel that Hasina is politically more shrewd than Mrs Khaleda Zia. Her Awami League is Bangladesh's largest political organisation with a strong grassroots network.

Mrs Zia, on the other hand, has the personal charisma that Hasina lacks. "Initially she seemed to be hesitant in her public appearances. Now she has turned into a real politician," commented political analyst Sadeq Khan But to her supporters, Mrs Zia is brave and true to her commitment to the nation "People come to listen to her, not for her beauty She is now the embodiment of people's hopes and aspirations," said barrister Rafiqul Islam, one of her close aides.

Much of what the two ladies are today has been shaped by their circumstances and past Hasina, mother of two teenaged children, had a political background As a college student, she was associated with the Bangladesh Student League, the student front of the Awami League, then headed by her father. Though her brief honeymoon with student politics ended after her marriage in 1969, Hasina had always been in the midst of a political atmosphere Her husband, Dr M.A Wajed Mia, senior scientific officer at the state-run Atomic Energy Commission, was also involved in Student League politics "I never wanted to be in politics But they killed my family The nation must avenge the killings," Hasina has often said

When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed, Hasina, her family and younger sister, Sheikh Rehana, were in West Germany. Dr Wajed had gone there on a government scholarship. Hasina came to India and stayed here with her husband till 1980 when she returned to Bangladesh as chief of the Awami League. Her children—Sajiv Wajed (Joy), 16, and Saima Wajed (Putul), 14—study in a public school in Nainital

Unlike Hasina who grew up in a politically-charged atmosphere, Begum Khaleda remained untouched by politics till her husband became the ruler of the impoverished nation of 105 million people Even as the First Lady she maintained a very low profile

But Mrs Zia adjusted quickly Soon after entering politics, she started establishing her authority in the party She then mobilised public support for her husband's ideals

While Mrs Zia's entry into politics was hailed by the supporters of her late husband, the event caused dismay in the Awami League camp Hasina considered Mrs Zia a formidable rival, and sometimes her dislike for her became more apparent than what it did for President Ershad. Insiders acknowledge that, on occasion, Hasina's rivalry with Mrs Zia has almost become an obsession

"The two ladies' mutual rivalry and dislike are the chief reasons why they are not coming on a common platform to fight the Ershad regime," said one close aide of Mrs Zia Despite repeated demands from their supporters, the two ladies have never appeared jointly at a public rally Their first-ever indoor meeting before launching the November 10 'Oust Ershad" campaign raised public enthusiasm and hopes But they have not gone beyond that.

For example, Hasina failed to join a national march to mourn the victims of January's Chittagong police firing, though she was in Dhaka. Insiders believe that she thought her presence would boost Begum Zia's image Mrs Zia stole the show by participating in the 30,000-strong procession

Hasina strongly feels that she and her partners in the eight-party alliance are the "main forces" in the current anti-Ershad campaign, and she may not be wrong. But many, including her supporters, feel that such assertions may harm the "unity of the Opposition"

There are no doubts, though, that the two ladies are forging ahead with their "Ershad-must-go" campaign. With Ershad failing to quieten his political opponents but yet far from being toppled, Bangladesh is in the midst of its worst political crisis ever.

Though neither Mrs Zia nor Hasina has emerged as a viable alternative, both command public respect and love. "I salute Hasina and Khaleda Zia," Abdul Rahim, a rickshawpuller in Dhaka said "It is because of them that voices of dissidents are heard," he explained

Even President Ershad admits a grudging respect for them While the ruler often criticises their politics, he never attacks them personally "I am respectful to women I do not even criticise the two ladies by name Gen Ershad once told a group of journalists working for foreign media in Bangladesh

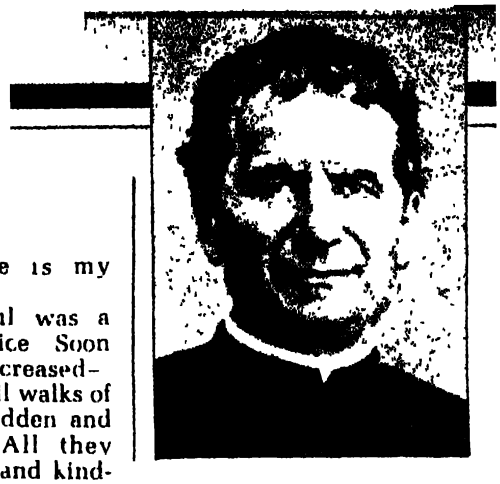
But what is their future? The Opposition has a better chance to win in a presidential race if it fields one of the two ladies They will lose in a triangular fight," observed Mahbub Zaman, an activist of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Bangladesh "Muslims (the majority) in Bangladesh may not choose a woman as their President" he added

One Hasina supporter argued "The two ladies are still dependent on the images of others It seems as though the two assassinated presidents Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are still fighting from their graves ■



Pavel Rahman

Sheikh Hasina addressing a rally: Politically more shrewd than Khaleda Zia



A COLOSSUS OF SANCTITY

A profile of John Bosco whose death centenary is being observed this year

January 31 this year was a solemn occasion for Don Bosco schools throughout the world. Church bells tolled after evening service and thousands walked out, sombre and lost in thought, they were commemorating the centenary death anniversary of their founder, John Bosco.

Born on August 16, 1815, in the little hamlet of Becchi about 20 km from Turin in Italy, John Bosco lost his father, Francis, when he was two. His mother, Margaret, who had to tend to her three children and her late husband's mother could barely make ends meet.

Living in such circumstances ruled out the possibility of any formal education for the young John. But his burning desire to educate himself and his prodigious memory, saw John leave home at 12. Two years later he found a tutor and did odd jobs to pay for his lodging and school.

In October 1835 armed with an outfit provided by kind neighbours, John Bosco gained admission to the Ecclesiastical Seminary at Chieri. On June 5, 1841, he was ordained a priest. Spurning all offers of sacerdotal work he went on to pursue a post-graduate course in theology with practical training in priestly duties. Finally, in December 1841, Don Bosco, as he was now called, launched his life's mission with the underlying motto "Any boy in trouble is my friend."

His first pupil was a mason's apprentice. Soon his students increased—they came from all walks of life, the downtrodden and the fortunate. All they sought was love and kindness. The spirit of providing education to the less fortunate has since been a hallmark of all Don Bosco institutions. The concept of a night school for poor boys who worked by day, continues even today.

Don Bosco's method of education is called the "preventive system." This is based on religion, reason and kindness. He demanded of the teacher a selfless dedication to the pupil. He believed that a teacher should have a moral presence over the mind of the students rather than a physical one over them to make them aware of their duties.

Don Bosco was declared a saint of the Catholic Church on April 1, 1934, 46 years after his death. He had, in fact, foreseen his death. "Do you know where I could buy a new pair of bellows?" he had asked, pointing to his lungs, "for these won't work much longer." At 4.45 am on January 31, 1888, he breathed his last, thus bringing to an end a lifetime of caring and selflessness.

Deepesh Misra

BARTER BANK

- **Study material:** I offer Agarwal classes papers for IIT-JEE with solutions for a camera with flash or anything of corresponding value. Contact Krishnendu Chakraborty, c/o Prof Baharati Chakraborty, Guwahati Commerce College, Chandmari, Guwahati 781021.
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- **Magazines:** I offer 25 issues of *Sportstar* for 30 Indrajal comics. Contact Suraj Jain, 6/south, The Park, Ichapur, West Bengal.
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- **Books:** I offer *Elementary Physics* and *Concise Physics* for *Practical Biology* and 20 issues of *Competition Success Review*. Contact Abhijit Shanker, MIG-A 37, Sardar Patel Nagar Housing Colony, Dhanbad 826001, Bihar.



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*Manufactured by Voltas under licence from Danfoss of Denmark.

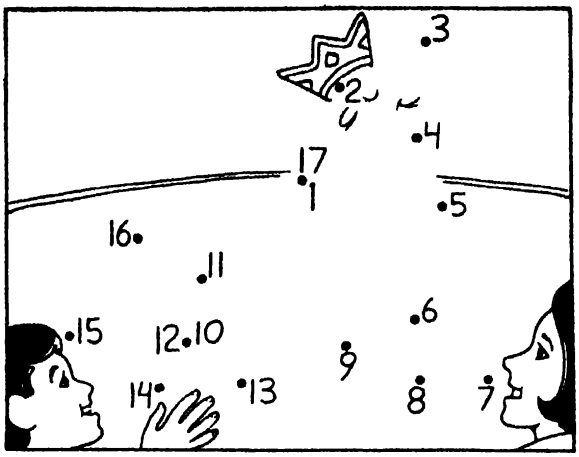
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ON STAGE! What can you draw to complete this dot picture? To find out, add lines from 1 to 2, 3, etc

• **NAME GAME!** Six girls and six boys in the Hildebrand family have first names consisting of letters in their last name All are fairly short names Can you find a name for each?

Ida, Ina, Edna, Dinah, Hilda, Brenda, Ben, Dan, Brian, Ian, Ned, and Neil are some possibilities

FAST ENOUGH

```
  E S O
  T A N
S A T F
E S O
A S U G
A T E A H F
```

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Numbers of a simple multiplication problem are replaced by letters above Digits range from 0-9 How quickly can you restore the problem?

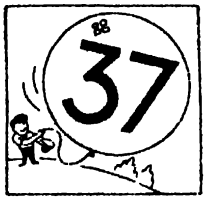
Solve this by experimentation if you like However, there is a key to a quicker solution in letters of the words FAST ENOUGH, at top

Simply assign the numerical sequence 0 9 to these letters Replace letters with numbers below, and the problem is restored

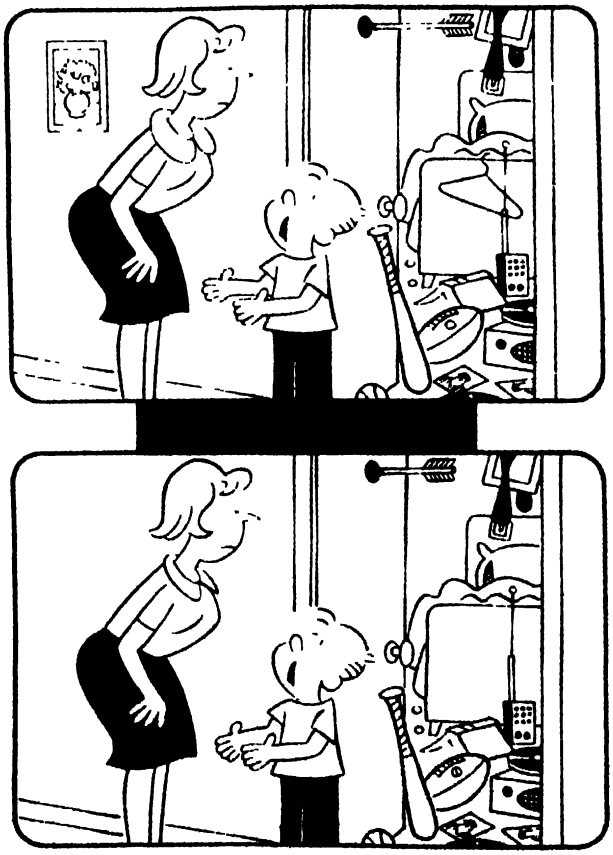
Assign zero to F, one to A, two to S, et cetera, 426x315 equals 134190

• **SUM MAGIC!** The prime number 37 has an unusual characteristic. Multiply it by 3 and the result is 111 Multiply it by six and the result is 222.

Now then, try multiplying it by 9, then 12, 15, 18, 21, 24 and 27 In each of these steps, the result is the same—a trio of similar numbers



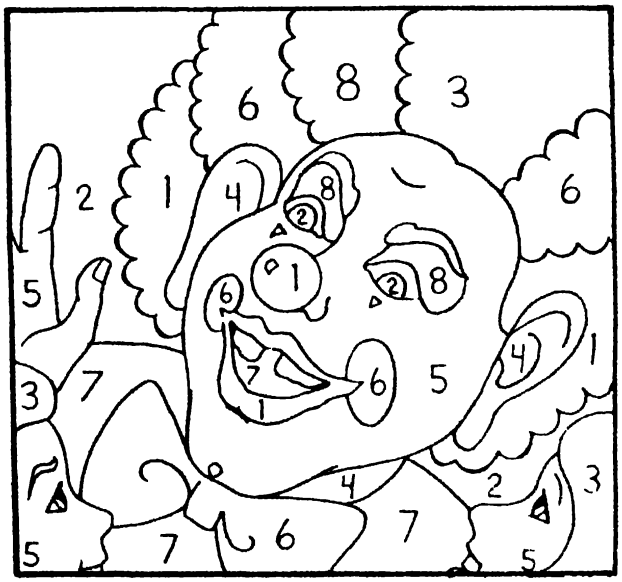
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Picture is missing 2 Collar is smaller 3 Arm is moved 4 Arrow is shorter 5 Bat handle is shorter 6 Hanger is missing

FUNSPOT



FUNNY FACE! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to this circus scene. Code 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Dk. brown 8—Orange

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

MUCILAGE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible answers due, mice

QUIZ



Neil O'Brien

"Why is a 'school of art' called a 'school'?" asks Chandan Bagchi, Calcutta 54

The word 'school' used in connection with art may refer merely to a building in which art is taught, but it is used specially to denote the work of all artists of one region or nation, or of the followers of one great master

The first of these two special meanings has long been in use The 18th-century painter, Sir Joshua Reynolds, refers in his writings to the 'Dutch School' and the 'French School' Such terms, however, are vague when applied to painters of widely differing periods Yet some tendencies recur repeatedly in the works of artists of the same country It is natural that the French school should differ from the Dutch, since the forms of government, religion, climate and the conditions of artistic life were different in the two countries

But what is astonishing is that in Italy, in the 15th and 16th centuries, there were many schools flourishing at the same time within a few miles of each other Ferrara, for instance, which was never a very large town, had a school of painting of a high level which was quite distinct from the Venetian school flourishing less than 100 miles away. The towns of Florence and Siena, where distinctive schools of painting flourished at the same time, are equally close together

Artists who live abroad often retain the characteristics of their homeland The 17th century French painter, Nicolas Poussin, spent his adult life in Rome where the style of painting was diametrically opposite to his Yet he is, perhaps, the most typical representative of the French school

Terms like 'School of Rembrandt' and 'School of Rubens' are comparatively modern, they describe paintings by unnamed artists working in the style of the master The art critic who attempts to find out who painted such works can, in many cases, judge only by style Pupils in the studio of a famous painter, on completing their training, were often expected to help him to paint unimportant parts of his picture (such as clothes or the background) Rubens, in particular, whose works were in heavy demand, often asked his pupils to help him When these pupils started painting pictures of their own it is not surprising that they imitated the peculiarities of the master's style, and that their works, consequently, are difficult to tell from inferior works of the master himself

Peter Paul Rubens





Rembrandt

CBS ***11th Question:* Which Indian actress is nicknamed 'Mrs Tree'? (Natarajan Anand, 25/2, Nepal Saha Lane, Howrah 1.)**
***Ans:* Shabana Azmi. In Aparna Sen's forthcoming film *Sati*, Ms Azmi gets married to a tree!**

QUESTIONS

1. What is common to the actresses Devika Rani, Kanan Devi, Durga Khote and Sulochana? (Prosenjit Ganguli, Calcutta 22)
2. What is sometimes known as white gold? (Sumit Shah, Guwahati 9)
3. India has asked a West Asian country to pay compensation to the families of Indian citizens who have been killed in the current fighting in that country What is the name of the country? (Indranil Ray, Calcutta 32)
4. Which sportsman is nicknamed 'The Bangalore torpedo' ? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
5. Which is the only film directed by Amjad Khan? (Dipta Sen, Uttarpara)
6. Which is the first country in the world to open a bank in Antarctica? (Dipesh Bhowmick, Howrah 4)
7. What is the significance of the sentence "My Very Educated Mother Just Showed Us Nine Planets"? (Suptendra Nath Sarbadhikari, Calcutta 45)
8. What is a Meissner motor? (Ashutosh Shalabh, BIT, Sindri 23)
9. In a bomber aircraft what is a Mickey Mouse? (Rajesh Kapoor, Calcutta 89)
10. The British police operation code-named "Operation Own Goal" was designed to trap whom? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)

ANSWERS

1. They have all won the Dada Saheb Phalke Award
2. Platinum
3. South Yemen.
4. Prakash Padukone
5. *Chor Police*
6. Argentina.
7. The name of the planets in order, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto
8. It is the name given to the world's first electrical motor based on new superconductor ceramics
9. An electrical distributor which releases the bombs
10. Football hooligans

The 1988 open quizzing year begins at the end of April with the Dalhousie Institute's invitation quiz for the Errol Cowper Trophy The quiz will run over three evenings—April 27, 29 and 30

The entries, which are to be sent to the junior vice president, Dalhousie Institute, 42, Jhowtola Road, Calcutta 19, should contain the team's name, names of participants, and the telephone number, address and signature of the person to be contacted, in separate lines

Entries close on April 8, 1988

A quiz report from Manjul Saha:

"A quiz with a difference—that is what the Honk Honk Quiz organised by the Motor Industries Association turned out to be.

"Calcutta Boys' School (CBS) was in the lead from the very start and it was smooth going for them till the last two rounds. When the last round began, CBS and St Xavier's (SXC) were separated by a single point with Don Bosco (DBPC) and La Martiniere for Boys (LMB) fighting for third place.

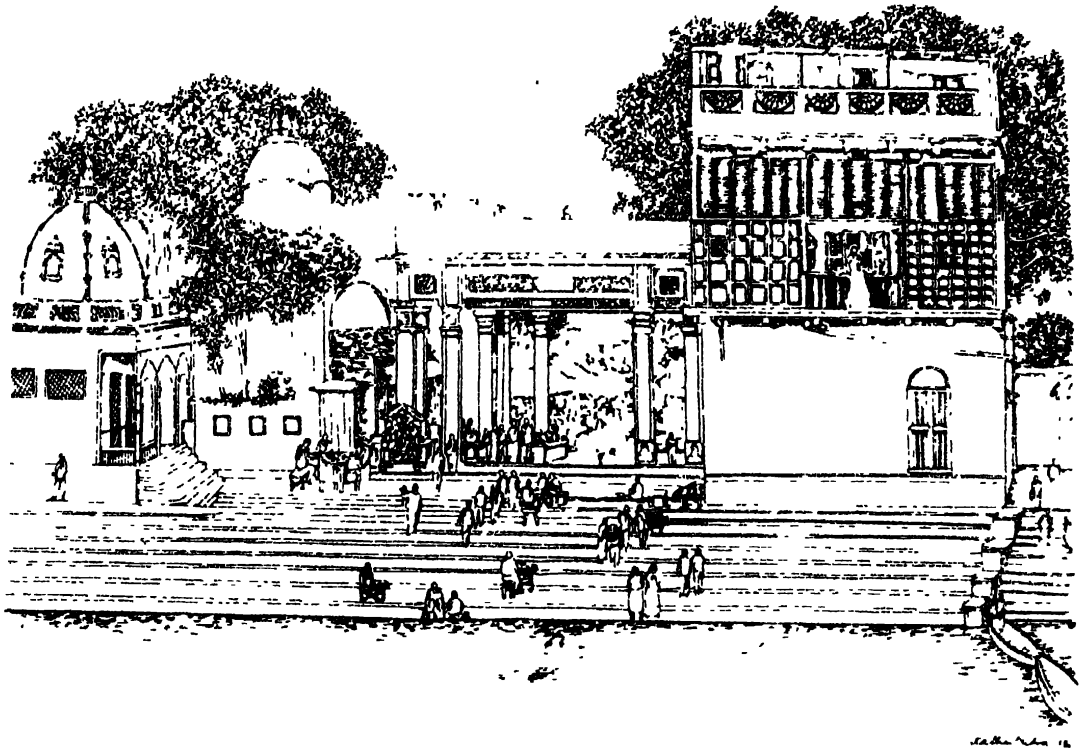
"The final positions were: St Xavier's (43), Calcutta Boy's (42) and Don Bosco (32). The quiz, which contained questions pertaining only to auto mobiles, was conducted by Alban E. Scott.

HERITAGE



Rathin Mitra

KALIGHAT



The Kali temple has made Kalighat one of the foremost pilgrim spots in India. It is situated on the eastern bank of the old bed of the Ganga, in south Calcutta. A massive structure of small bricks, its height is about 90 feet and it stands on a base 75 feet square. There is a long aisle to its south and raised platforms all around.

The present temple is of recent date, built by the Sabarna zamindars of Barisha around 1809. It is a renovation of an old temple whose existence can be traced to the mid-16th century. The triangular-shaped face of goddess Kali is made of fine black marble, resting on a huge square-shaped block of red granite that forms the trunk. The idol's hands, tongue and eyebrows are made of gold.

According to legend, Daksha, father-in-law of Shiva, had once hosted a feast where he spoke ill about Shiva in presence of Sati (Shiva's wife). Unable to bear her husband's insult, she dropped dead. On hearing of this, Shiva, who was not invited, rushed in a fury to Daksha's place, placed Sati's corpse on his shoulders and stormed across the world. Sensing imminent destruction and realising Shiva could not be pacified till he was separated from Sati's corpse, Lord Vishnu used his *sudarshan chakra* to chop Sati's body into 51 pieces which were scattered all over the earth. Every spot where a fragment fell immediately became a sacred place. The little toe of Sati's right foot is said to have fallen at Kalighat.

Here Sati's spirit (divine energy) is worshipped along with a Bhairava (Shiva) in the shape of a *lingam* which occupies a site to the north-east of Kali's shrine.

THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

This short story tied for the third prize in the Vineet Gupta Memorial Contest 1987

By Shams Afif Siddiqi

"Hand me the packet, Arpita," he said pleadingly, "I have had no cigarette this half-an-hour. You said, I can smoke after this. I want nothing else from you except my own cigarettes."

He giggled in his usual manner.

"No Joy," she said, imitating his manner of speech with a stress on the last word.

She swiftly placed her green vanity bag towards her left so that it was beyond his reach and then slowly pressed it with her open palm.

"Ah! you'll crush the cigarettes inside, my dear," said Joy with a quivering voice that was full of concern. "They are as delicate as your fingers." his face slowly seemed to brighten with delight.

"You may have one after an hour," said Arpita removing her left hand from the leather bag and leaving it dangling on her lap.

The cute little finger ring glittered when placed on the dark sari that she wore. She never told him who had given her the ring.

"What's now!" he screamed, "Just now you said half-an-hour." he placed his loose spectacles properly in place.

"Now it's an hour," she said in a commanding manner.

He liked her specially for this. It made her more adorable.

"But why?" he asked.

"Because I say so," she replied simply.

"Please," he insisted, expressing himself through humble gestures.

"No," she stressed the word. "When I say no, I mean it." She completed the sentence and looked towards the river.

Joy knew that this was an indication of her displeasure. He had known her for the last two years and always thought that it was a period long enough to know the nature of a simple girl like her. So whenever he noticed her lips twitching and emitting sighs, he would stop bothering her.

He shrugged his shoulders.

"Alright," he said in a submissive tone. "Then what is to be done?" he continued after a pause and gazed at her young impressive face.

As far as Joy was concerned, looking at her face was always an experience for him. It was like enjoying the beauty of a rose, or feeling the thrill over one's face of an early morning breeze. Or, it was simply, like gazing into the vast, clear, blue sky and feeling happy.

He moved closer towards her on the wooden bench at the Outram Ghat.

Her open tresses were spread all over her shoulders. They also came streaming down her fair face. Symmetrically placed thin lips, a chiselled nose, dark brows and dreamy eyes were enough to thrill him.

"Sit back," she pushed him with her right hand. "There are so many people," she pointed towards the crowd.

There was a space of about 15 feet between the seat and the edge of the concrete railings. Pairs or in singles, people were thronging the place. Girls with their coquetry and youths with all their airs passed the sidewalk.

"I am not up to anything," he replied with a twinkle in his eyes.

"I don't like it," she said.

He gazed blankly towards the crowd.

She looked at him with a twinkle in her eyes. The slow twitching of her lips betrayed her emotion. She loved him not only because he was handsome, fair, well-built but also because of the fact that he was sober, gentle and submissive. She had always dreamt of a young man who would be easier to control. Women should always control men. The pleasure derived from controlling the menfolk is inexpressible. It is a sort of like, she thought.

She slowly lifted her eyes from his face and looked towards the river, trying to control herself. "No," she said, "there are so many people."

"For God's sake," he pleaded.

"Are you out of your self?"

"Last Sunday, there was nobody in your house. They were all out and you."

"Only Pinaki and mother went out," she interrupted. "They had gone to my sister's house. Father was there and the girl too."

"Don't tell a lie," he shouted. "Your father was not there and the girl was in the kitchen."

"Father had just gone for a walk. He could have returned any moment. The girl was round the corner," she tried to explain to him. "Moreover, it was such a sad occasion. The old man downstairs had died that day. We must pay our respects to the dead," she laughed.

"He had to die any way. But why should I suffer for his death. Pay respects to the living, madam," he changed the position of his legs.

A middle-aged man walked slowly past, surveying Arpita's features.

"What do you say?" he moved closer once again.

"No when I say no, I mean it," she said. "Sit back."

He reluctantly took his hands off her shoulders and sighed.

She cast a quick glance at him as if she had lost something. Then she looked towards the sidewalk. She noticed Joy looking at a beautiful young girl in a black dress walking down the track, with a youth. They were whispering to one another.

The long path went towards the second Howrah bridge. Crowds of well-dressed beautiful people kept on treading the path to their unknown destination. An empty train rushed passed behind their backs.

She is more or less like Rekha, he mused. Slim, bewitchingly attractive and possibly, unfaithful too.

"Look at the figure on the ship," Arpita said to draw his attention. "It looks so nice." She arranged the crease of her sari.

"Yes," he said and continued looking at the girl crossing over the stile.

The waters of the river kept on harping its musical strain.

"It's this way," she moved his head by turning his chin with her right hand.

Where can Rekha be now?

He looked nonplussed.

"What's the matter with you?" there was a sense of concern in her voice.

"Let's move," he said getting up. "It's getting late."

"Sit down," she brought him down on the bench by a single pull. "It's a romantic evening," she directed a playful look towards him.

He remained silent.

"Do you have anyone else?" she teased him.

"One is enough to tackle," he said losing interest in her. "Let's go."

"Wait," she held his hand. "Don't leave me."

This is her usual game, he thought and tried to be indifferent.

He is so different from Sukanta, she mused. He gets upset so easily. Sukanta was a great dissembler...



"Lila," she quickly resumed the conversation. "the girl of no 37 was at it again Yesterday I saw her from the top of the roof That new one came under the cover of darkness I saw them both. She is so shameless. She has no character," Arpita almost warmed up towards Joy

He felt something touch his sides

"What did she do?" he asked as if he was really interested in the affair.

'You know," she could not think about what to say next. "Nothing "

Her black dreamy eyes once again glistened

Arpita again searched for something in his eyes Their eyes met and she quickly averted his sight and stared at the ground Even after two years of intimacy she did not know why she could not gaze into his eyes, especially during these moments.

"Who was that boy?" he asked slithering towards her.

"I don't know," she felt him catching hold of her left shoulder. "He possibly comes from the suburbs. Tall, young, strongly-built. Not sophisticated. I did not like him," she said, though she knew she was not telling the truth

She could feel the warmth of his body.

"And.. .she was not there," he said, not sure whom he meant

"Who?"

"Her mother," he quickly found the word.

"No, she never returns before 9 pm. Nobody knows where she goes after office She has two girls at home but never bothers for their safety Goes early, returns late Father is a good man Works at Delhi Went last year. Didn't return," she went on speaking.

She could understand that something was happening to her.

"Do you remember the lines of that song?" he changed the subject knowing well how she always longed to hear those words

"Which?"

"That," he said with a pointed finger and succeeded in making her identify the song by drawing a figure in the air

"Ah...yes please, ' she behaved like a child.

"The moon is your bangle, the wind your breath,the stars your attire, rustle of leaves your footsteps...whither will I go, knowing that you are here," he chanted in his sonorous voice

Arpita listened to the words spellbound. It transported her to a gentle, tranquil, delicate world of imagination. Romanticism, love, sympathy and a peculiar desire ran down her veins and shook her up The whole place suddenly seemed transformed. The river, ship, sidewalk, people and even the trees seemed to be bathed with this new joy that permeated herself.

Suddenly the evening swam before her eyes when the girl of no 37 had laid her head upon the lap of the young man. The girl had put on her new dress and a strong [illegible] the air The silhouetted figure[illegible] for a long time Arpita felt a [illegible] sympathy for the girl and smiled [illegible] herself.

"Listen " she whispered.

"What's that?" he asked and was surprised by the strange meaning her voice

She hesitated for a moment

"Take it," she said with a slyne playing in the corner of her eyes

He looked at her puzzled and lo

"Thank you,' he said after a wh and picked up her vanity bag

He took out the packet of cigarett and lit one

A cloud of smoke trailed upward

She scrutinised all his movement

"Fool," she said and smiled at hi

He hesitated before another puff ar cast a look at her closely investigati the signs of emotion on her fa inflamed with passion Then, thinki himself capable of understanding h felings, he went to her

"No," she said and pushed h gently

He felt his face getting flushe feeling of hatred for her seemed to r up his heart He stared straight in her eyes He blinked He quickly stoo up and crushed the cigarette under h feet

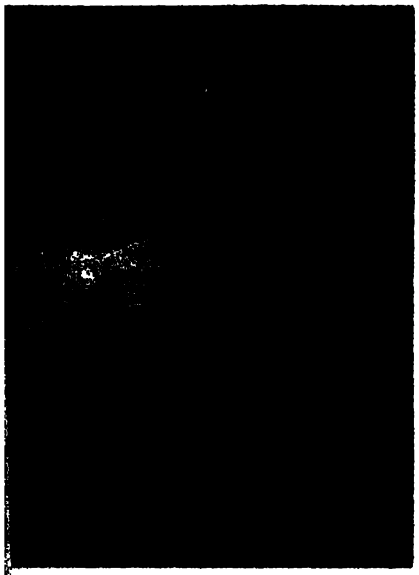
'Come along, ' he said and walke away

She sat there perplexed

"This time when I said 'no', I d not mean it,' she whispered to herse when he was out of sight ■

EASY MEAT

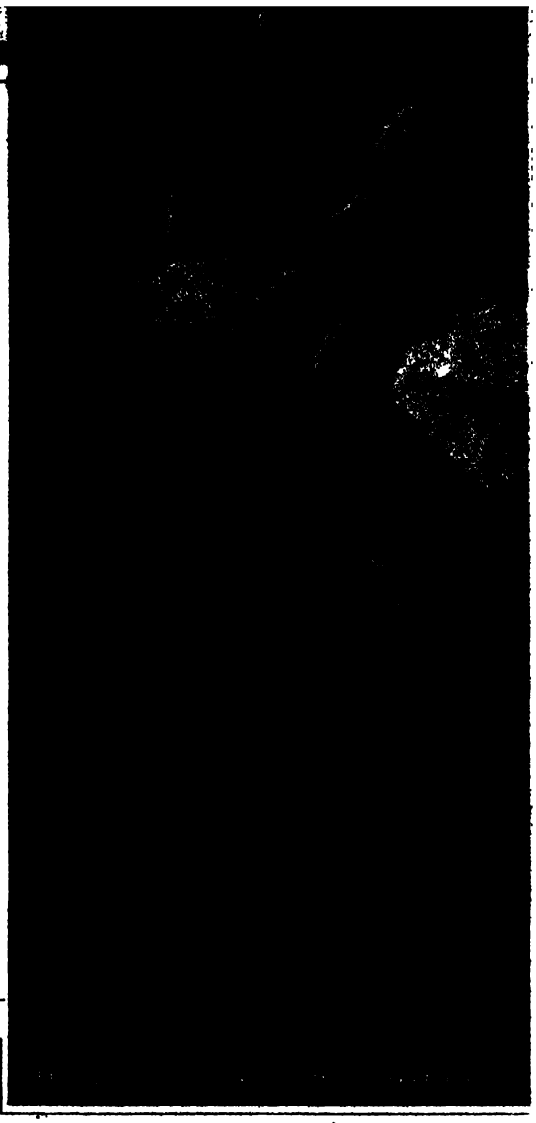
Unless the West Bengal government cooperates with its counterpart in Orissa in stopping turtle poaching, this endangered species may soon vanish. Samuel Gade reports with photographs



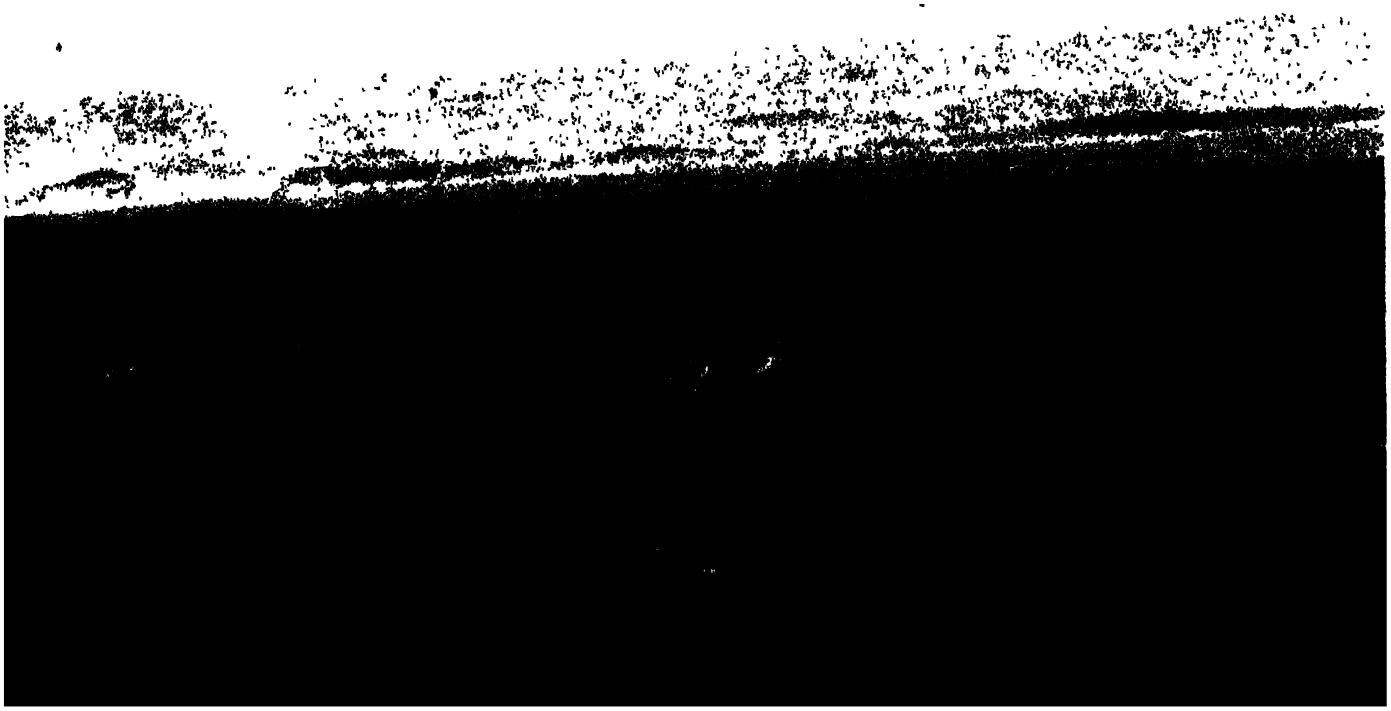
Turtles thrown into the hot sun

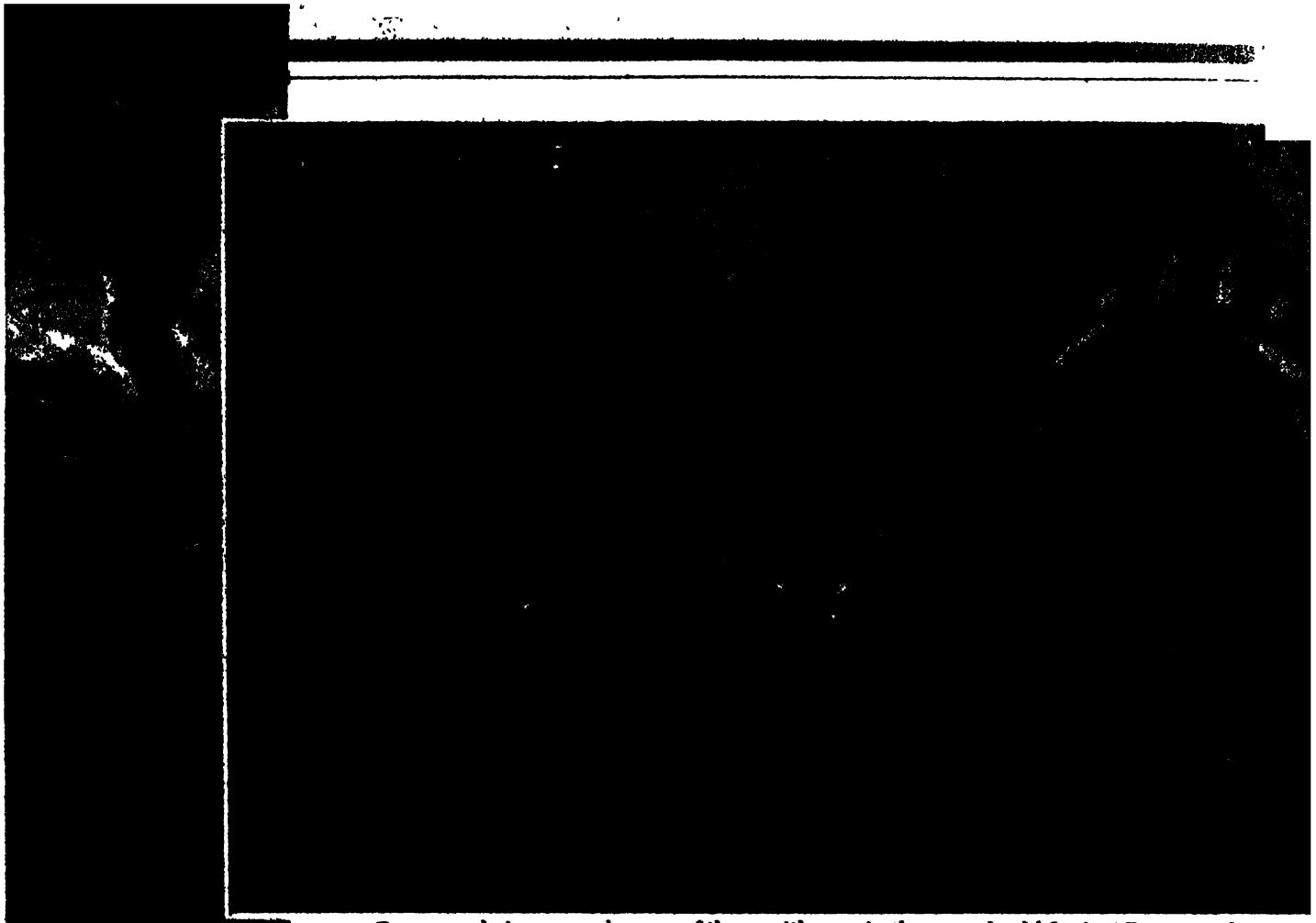
The Pacific ridley sea turtle *(Lepidochelys olivacea)* has begun to invade the sea coast at Gahir Matha, in the Balasore district of Orissa, in its thousands; the estimated number in recent years was upwards of 50,000. These turtles, averaging 40 kgs in weight, make an annual pilgrimage to their nesting site at Gahir Matha, having swum about 12,800 kms across the sea from the Pacific, and then, having laid their eggs, return by the same route.

Before the species was declared endangered by the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the erstwhile zamindar within the jurisdiction of whose territory the nesting site lies, sold the rights of egg collection at Rs 15 a cartload. Now, however, the forest department of the government of Orissa zealously guards the coast, and calls on the coast guard vessels to help apprehend the many motorboats from

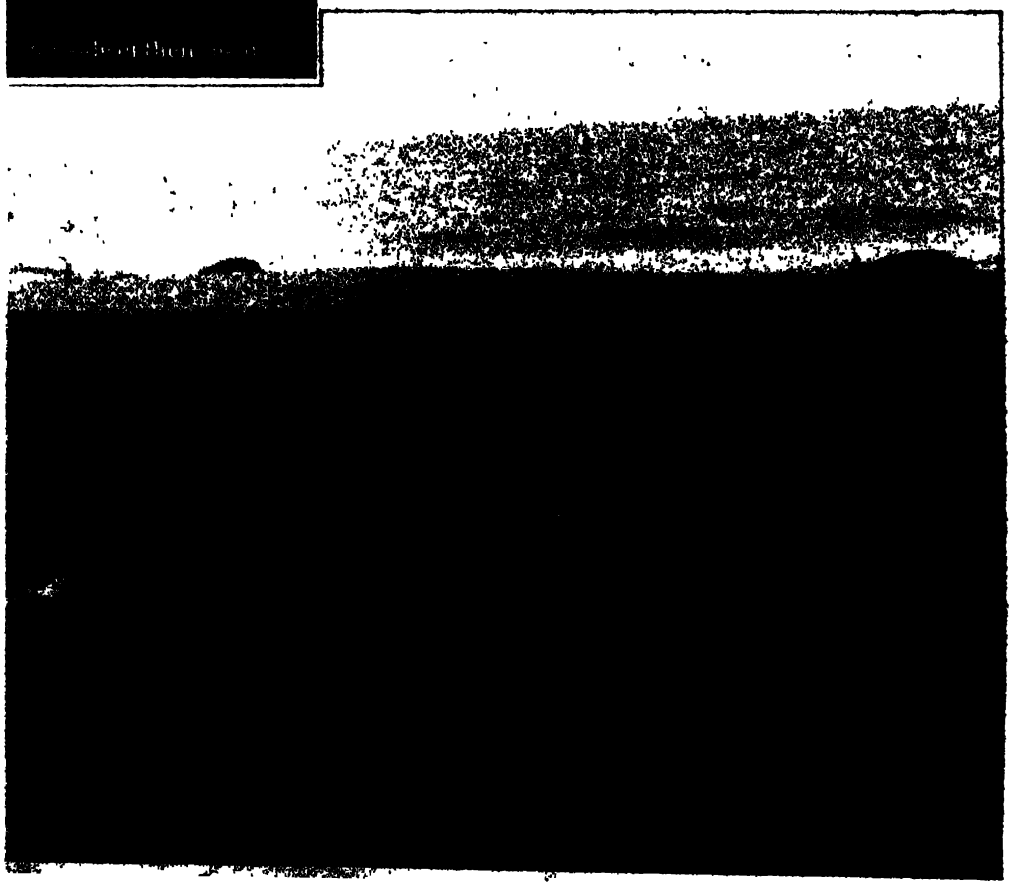


Some turtles are gashed by the knives of angry fishermen when caught accidentally in their nets; the injured animals then crawl onto the beach, waiting for merciful death





Carcasses being carved, some of them with eggs in them, and sold for just Rs 10 per kg

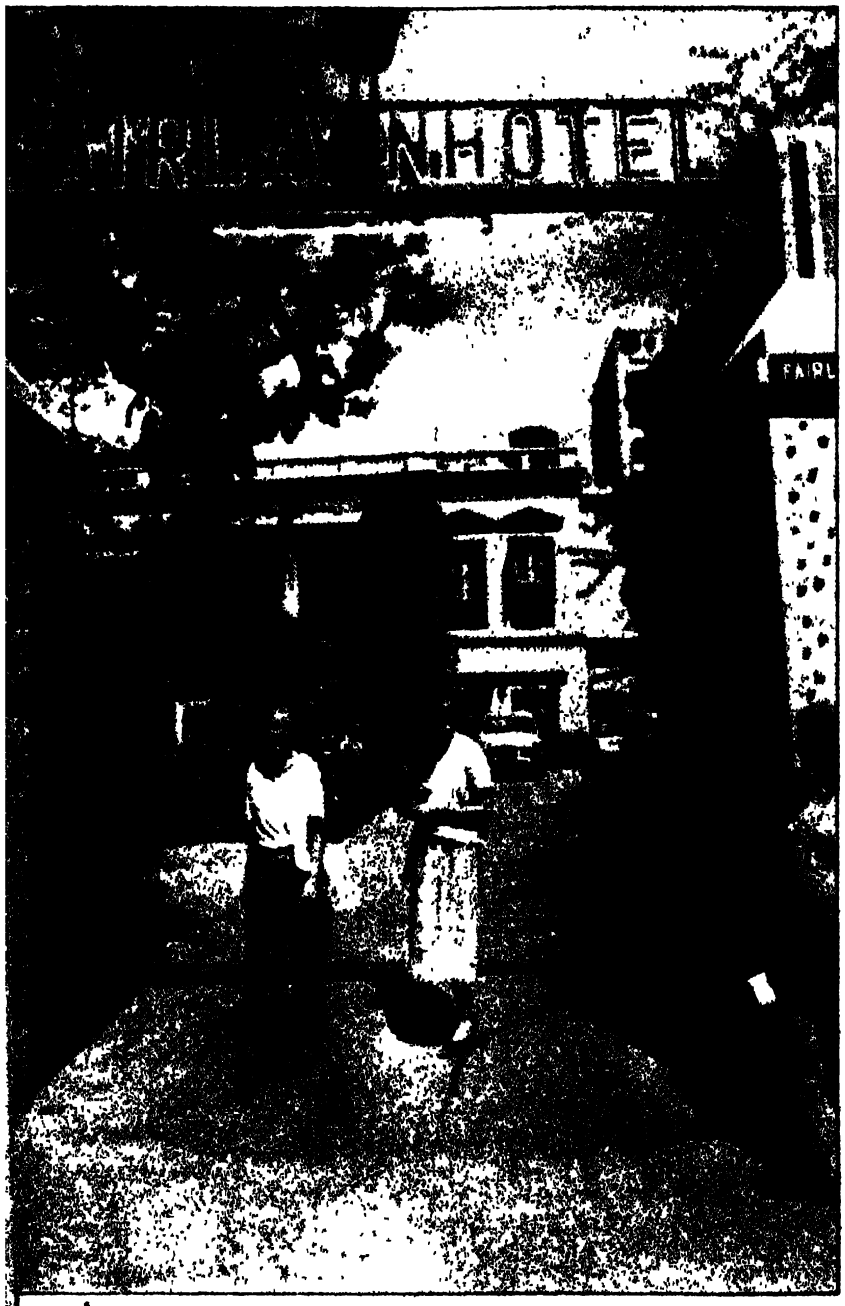


Digha, and even from Banglade
which come to poach the turtl
Some arrests have already been ma
but the gang which does the poachi
is well organised and the agents of t
poachers present themselves in co
to bail out the arrested crew of t
vessels. The forest department peo
confiscate the catches, and throw t
turtles back into the sea. Howev
those caught represent only a sm
fraction of the total trade. Large cat
es still slip through and are sold
meat in the markets of Howrah a
other suburbs. At a Digha meeting
November 25, 1981, representatives
the forest department of the gove
ment of Orissa requested their co
terparts in the government of W
Bengal to enforce the law prohibiti
the sale of turtle meat. The W
Bengal representatives, however, to
the extraordinary plea—according t
spokesman of the government of Or
sa—that this would be an extrem
unpopular step to enforce in the st
where turtle meat is popular, partic
larly with those from the erstwh
East Bengal, and that, therefore,
government of Orissa should arrest
offenders within its own territory

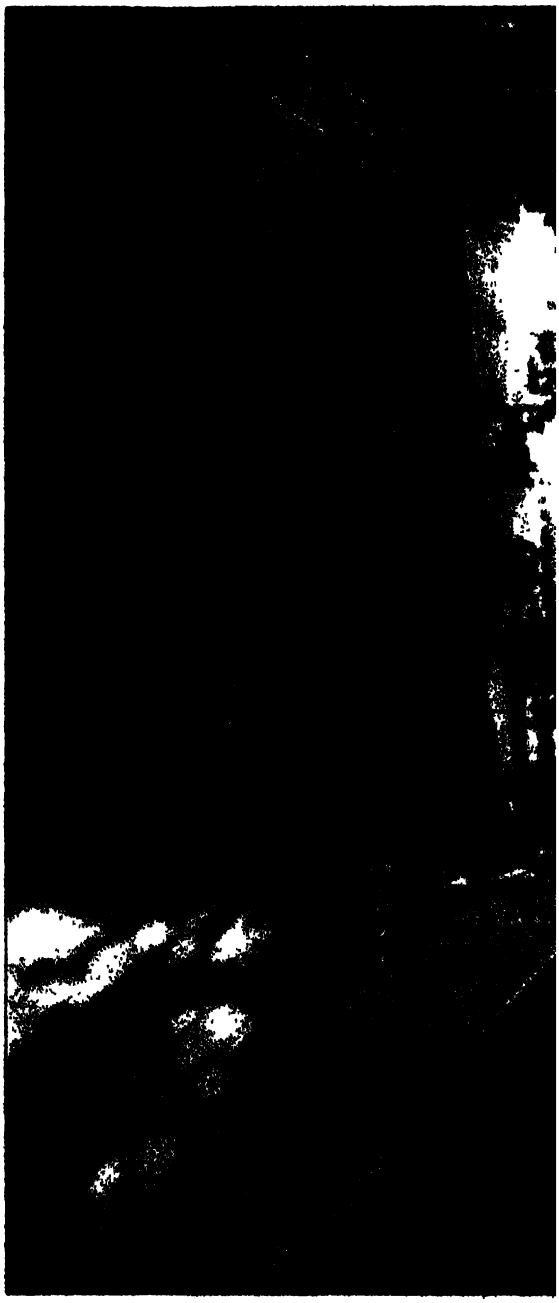
MRS SMITH OF FAIRLAWN

Violet Smith and her husband, Ted, are as much an institution as their hotel, Fairlawn. Together, they dwell in a corner of Calcutta which is forever England. MONISHA DAS GUPTA and lensman SUNIL K. DUTT meet the charming couple

A short drive leads to a low, gracious colonial-style building. Lace curtains hang over wire-mesh windows. Blinds half drawn across a wide verandah set off the vivid splash of bougainvilla climbing up graceful wrought-iron pillars. Sunshine filters through the slats of a covered courtyard and ends in pools of cool green light on the paved floor amid an attractive clutter



Mrs Smith's Fairlawn Hotel: 'More than a home away from home'



f cane chairs and tables. Money lants spill out of old liquor bottles nd tall palms in brass pots sway to a entle breeze. One can almost hear the trains of Mantovani and Victor ylvester waft down the wooden stairs nd fill the cool, high-ceilinged in- rior. This is no exotic locale in ermuda, nor is it a set out of one of ose grand colonial movies. This is npretentious Fairlawn Hotel, tucked way in a corner of Calcutta's Sudder treet. A place where the Raj simply ever ended.

Fairlawn is the foreign tourist's ream. As the proprietress, Mrs Violet Smith, puts it, for those who come to Calcutta from abroad, the hotel is "like an oasis in a desert; more than a home away from home," particularly because the "grace and style" that characterise it are almost extinct in the land they emote—Britain.

Fairlawn's guests are greeted by British royalty smiling down from gilt frames in the reception area. The hall is decorated with family photographs, personal souvenirs and bric-a-brac Violet and husband Ted have brought back from their travels, gracefully eliminating the stiff formality one might expect in a hotel. "I've never believed in locking away my treasures It is all out here to make my guests feel at home," says the chirpy Mrs Smith, who is rather well-preserved for her 60-odd years.

Laughing Buddhas and carved elephants inlaid with ivory co-exist with pretty porcelain. The fireplace in the television room is dominated by two huge Bankura horses. Each of the 20 rooms in the hotel has a distinctive touch. Standardisation is the Smiths' anathema. "You can't buy atmosphere," Violet asserts, her stylishness apparent, "and that is what we give you here."



Guests at the hotel

Small wonder the Smiths have a ng list of old customers for whom irlawn is a pilgrimage, a place iere they come to remember things ig past. One such visitor is filmstar ashi Kapoor who keeps coming ck to relive memories. "He is so ached to the place. He met Jennifer endal) here, you see. They hon-mooned in this hotel. Jennifer, ien she was in town, would never ly anywhere else. Shashi and Jennif- would always have room number . It's Shashi's room now. If he comes wn on a sudden visit and the room occupied, we go to the extent of reallocating the occupant another room," Violet muses.

The Smiths talk fondly of Geoffrey and Laura Kendal for whom Fairlawn was, for all practical purposes, the only hotel in Calcutta. "Every time they came to the city for a performance they would stay here. Why, Felicity and my daughter used to play down there in the courtyard," Violet exclaims and looks towards a framed poster of *Dear Liar* autographed by the Kendals.

Memories of the Kendals take the couple back to the days when parts of the Merchant-Ivory film, *Shakespearewallah*, was shot in the hotel. Ted laughs and says, "For those few days, we were mobbed by fans and autograph-hunters. There would be a crowd hanging outside round the clock. Once there was so much of a rush that the wicket gate on the side broke and I had to replace it with the wrought-iron one you see now. I still threaten to send the bill to Shashi."



Guests relaxing in the cool comfort of the hotel



Mr and Mrs Smith with their

Though one need not be a celebrity to feel welcome at the Fairlawn, Violet primly points out that she does not usually entertain "riff-raff,"—"the type who slum around on a shoestring budget." But there is a cheery wave, a kind word and useful tips for all her guests.

The one thing the Smiths are very particular about is meal times. Breakfast is at eight, lunch at 12 sharp and dinner on the dot of eight. Ted, a typical Britisher with a BBC accent, points out that the rigid timings are dictated more by necessity than by any British obsession with punctuality. The food till very recently had to be cooked on a huge old-fashioned coal stove and if it had to be served piping hot (the Smiths would not dream of serving it any other way) the meal hours would have to be fixed for the convenience of their guests.



a (behind the stool) and Fifi

he Smiths have applied for a licence or a restaurant where the guests could ave a bite between meals. "Things ook a lot brighter since we have a gas onnection now. But I don't know ow long it might take for the permis- ion to come. We had to wait six years r the gas," points out Ted.

Though prices have soared over the ars, the Smiths have not allowed andards to fall. The "style," as Violet ts it, is one thing neither of them ould compromise on "It does well because of its impeccable rvice. We are allowed to raise the riffs since we are the highest foreign change earner among the two-star otels. So we just about manage," Ted ys in a slow, deliberate manner.

But what made the English couple stay back in India even after Inde- ndence when many of their friends cked up and left for home? Violet's other, Rosie Sarkies, an Armenian, s based in Calcutta. She had bought irlawn, which is more than 200 ars old, in 1936 from the two En- sh spinsters who ran it. It was Rosie ho lent the British setting a touch of pical warmth, creating that distinct mosphere one associates with the j and which the Smiths have pre- rved. When the second world war broke out in 1939, Fairlawn was flooded with British Army officers on their way for training to different parts of India. Rosie never turned away anyone. "Because of the personal interest Rosie took in her guests, they called her 'Mum'," Violet recalls.

By 1940, the war was being fought in earnest and Rosie converted the hall into an infirmary for wounded soldiers, putting out beds for them. Ted was one of the English officers who passed by. Fairlawn Hotel stole his heart and so did Rosie's daughter. They got engaged in early 1944, but soon Ted had to leave for the Burma front where he fought for nine long months. Violet kept herself busy, helping her mother and socialising. Despite the war, the times were fun Evenings were a giddy round of hopping from Winter Garden to Scheherazade, Prince's to Golden Slipper—all of which, as Violet puts it, "made Calcutta the liveliest city in India!" She talks of Spanish bands and classy cabarets with longing in her eyes and a bubble of laughter in her voice

With the war over in 1945, Ted and Violet, married by then, returned to England. "But things in post-war Britain were terrible. There was scarcity



Mrs Smith with her mementoes of the British Raj



An unmistakable old-world ambience

and rationing. So we decided to come back," recalls Ted, still every bit the soldier (though the typical clipped moustache is missing). All this while Fairlawn was being run by Rosie Violet and Ted took over only in 1963. After Independence and demobilisation, Ted entered service with a British firm in India. The job took the couple away to Bombay and Delhi between 1956 and 1963. And then they were back in the city where they have lived more than 25 consecutive years. Both regard Calcutta their home. Though they are much-travelled, neither of them wants to settle down anywhere else.

Ask the couple what they like about Calcutta most, and snap comes the answer: "The people. They are so charming, warm, friendly and cooperative. We have never had to face any hostility. In fact, every one around here cares for us."

With Ted, old habits die hard. He still reads the *Daily Telegraph* in the afternoons, listens to the BBC in the evenings and takes his two miniature poodles, Nerissa and Fifi, for their constitutional. Being the *pucca sahib* that he is, Ted plays golf twice a week and is an avid follower of cricket and rugby, two games intrinsically part of the Raj nostalgia.

Violet likes to keep to the hotel, going out only for a spin in the evening. At times she drops in at the Saturday or Tolly Clubs but both miss their set of friends who have returned "home." Violet is always game for a dance, and though the days of the foxtrot and waltz are over, she sportingly gyrates to show she can move with the times.

Ted's pet passion, not all that surprising since he is a hotelier but not quite in keeping with his imperiou bearing, is the promotion of tourism i the country. He has facts and figures i his fingertips, rattling them off wit impressive ease. In fact, when th couple go abroad each year for the annual holiday, they spend conside able time exploring possibilities improving the tourist inflow. Aft each trip, Ted submits a report of h findings to the Union ministry tourism.

Do they ever plan to return Europe? The answer is a vehemen "Never! I feel I am so lucky to b busy with my work here, running th hotel and travelling across the cou try. I am always doing something, really haven't retired. I can't see m self sitting and watching the sea com and go somewhere on the Spanis coast. I am happy where I am," asser Ted as Violet smiles in agreement.

7 DAYS

SUN 13 MON 14 TUES 15 WED 16 THURS 17 FRI 18 SAT 19

ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOW

HINDI FILMS

• **Bhai Ka Dushman Bhai:** ...ta (Prafulla Sarkar Street, 275607), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)

Rameshwari, Puneet Issar, Sujeet Kumar, Raza Murad, Amjad Khan and Suresh Oberoi comprise the cast of this film, directed by Sudesh Issar The music is by Madheer-Jatin

• **Bijlee Aur Toofan (A).** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 244822) Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 55-046), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows, Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382)—3 shows

Directed by S R Pratap and with music by Anwar Ushman, the cast includes Homant Birje, Sri Prada Sonika Gill Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Raza Murad

• **Dariya-dil** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442)—12, 3 6, 9

Directed by K Ravi Shankar and with music by Rajesh Roshan the cast includes Govinda, Kimmy Katkar, Shakti Kapoor, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Gulshan Grover, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Kaalchakra (A)** (Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows

A film by Dilip Shankar, starring Suresh Oberoi Madan Jain, Soni Razdan, Priya Tendulkar and Sadashiv Amerpurkar

• **Shahenshah.** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266)—4 shows, Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)—3 shows

Amitabh Bachchan stars in this Tinu Anand film, whose music is by Amar Utpal Also in the cast is Meenakshi Seshadri

• **Tamacha** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917) Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue 272473), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956) Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Priya (Rishbehari Avenue, 464440)

Directed by Ramesh Ahuja and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Jeetendra, Rajnikant, Sumeet Saigal, Bhanupriya, Kimmy Katkar and Amrita Singh

BENGALI FILMS

• **Agnisanket** Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—3 shows

Directed by Arup Dutta, the cast includes Soumitra Chatterjee, Rabi Ghosh, Biplab Chatterjee, Satya Banerjee, Lily Chakraborty, Santosh Dutta and Satabdi Roy



Marsha Mason and Clint Eastwood in *Heartbreak Ridge*



Sri Prada in *Bijlee Aur Toofan*

• **Apaman** Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—3 shows

Sandhyarani, Prasenjit, Abhijit Sen Abhisek Chatterjee, Shekhar Chatterjee Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar Chandan Mukherjee Lolita Chatterjee, Indrani Dutta Master Manku and debutante Shania comprise the cast of this Chandan Mukherjee film The music is by Robin Banerjee

• **Gurudakshina** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road 474686)—1, 4 7

A film by Anjan Choudhury starring Tapas Paul Ranjit Mullick Satabdi Roy, Kali Banerjee Shakuntala Barua, Bhabesh Kundu Soumitra Banerjee and Ishan Banerjee The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Karoti** Radha (Bidhan Sarani 553045) Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757) Alochhaya (Bekaghata Main Road 355059) 3 shows

Directed by Ajoy Banerjee the cast includes Debraj Roy Anuradha Roy Ajoy Banerjee Rabi Ghosh Ketaki Dutta Manu Mukherjee Kalyani Mondol Arun Banerjee and Subrata Sen Sharma The music is by Pabir Majumdar

• **Kidnap** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—3 5 45, 8 30

Deepankar De Anup Kumar,

Tarun Kumar Abhijit Sen, Manoj Mitra, Chinomoy Roy, Shakuntala Barua and Piyu comprise the cast of this film directed by Abir Basu and music by Robin Banerjee

FOREIGN FILMS

- **Battle Creek Brawl (A).** Globe (Lindsay Street; 296845)—12, 3, 5 45, 8 30
- **Breakdance** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141) -12, 3, 6, 8 30
- **Heartbreak Ridge (A):** New Empire (Humayun Place, 291050)—12, 3, 5 45, 8 15
- **Terror in the Aisles (A):** Elite (S N Banerjee Road, 241382)—4 shows
- **Tommy the Tomboy (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715)—12 30, 3, 6, 8 30

SPECIAL EVENTS

13 March: 5 30 pm

The concluding session of Surdas Sangeet Sammelan's annual music conference features Ustad Halim Jaffer Khan (sitar), Sarmila Pal Chowdhury (bhajan) and dance by Chetna Jalan and Aparajita Sharma

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 449937)

13 March 6 30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the play, *Pratibimb*, directed by Satyadev Dubey

At Padatik Little Theatre (6 7 Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 446087)

14 March 6 pm

Konika's first anniversary programme in memory of Santosh Sengupta features choral Rabindrasangeet by members of Konika, recitation *sruti-natak* by Partha and Gouri Ghosh, and Tagore's dance drama, *Kalmrigaya*, directed by Shyamasree Dasgupta and dances by Jharna Dutta and her troupe, Nabankur



Arundhati Roy and Abhijit Roy

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937)

14 March, 7 pm

Cordelier presents *Shabdo-Abyakto*, a play based on Thurber's *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* Drama/direction Joydeep Bhattacharya Lights Joy Sen

At Girish Mancha (Bagbazar)

16 March: 6 pm, 17 March: 7 pm, 18 March: 6 pm

Oriental Forum's classical music festival features Kushal Das (sitar), Abhik Sarkar (sarod), Debajyoti Bose (sarod) Debashish Bhattacharya (guitar) and Sarathi Chatterjee (vocal), with Suven Chatterjee, Rajkumar Misra, Tanmoy Bose, Bikram Ghosh and Bivash Sengupta on the tabla

At Birla Academy (108-109 Southern Avenue, 467843/9802)

16 March 7 pm

New Age Theatre will stage *Roopkatha Noy*, written by Saila Chakravorty Drama/direction Subol Khan

At Girish Manch (Bagbazar)

18 and 19 March: 6.30 pm

Chandni's seventh annual festival of classical music and dance features Sandhya Goswami (vocal) and Abhijit Roy (Kathak) on 18th, and Arundhati Roy (Odissi), Harasankar Bhattacharya (sitar) and an Odissi-Kathak *jugalbandi* by Arundhati Roy and Abhijit Roy on 19th

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937)

19 March: 6.30 pm

Proscenium will stage Badal Sircar's play, *Yadi Ek Bar Phirse*, directed by Sheo Kumar Jhunjhunwala The cast includes Govind Jhunjhunwala, Dolly Basu, Ram Gopal Bagla, Sharmini Bhatnagar, Ashok Churiwal, Sunita Sen Gupta, Sheo Kumar Jhunjhunwala and Mollika Basu

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)



Anuradha Roy and others in *Karoti*

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York. Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350
London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta Arr (1) AI-132A at 1805
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910 Dep (2) AI-316 at 2020
Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015, Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115
Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong. Arr (4) AI-324 at 1050, Dep (4) AI-324 at 1150
Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay. Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235, Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330
Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-588 at 1005, Dep (1) JU-588 at 1105
Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade. Arr (1) JU-589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU-589 at 0050
Calcutta-Moscow: Arr (4) SU-537 at 1655, Dep (4) SU-538 at 1955
Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545, Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-248 at 1525, Arr (3, 6) IC-248 at 1425
Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615
Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555
Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4 7) IC-231 at 1050 Dep (1 3 5) TG-314 at 1355
Calcutta-Paro. Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1710 and IC-263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210
Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855
Calcutta-Madras Dep (Daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225
Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1 3 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1 3 5) IC-296 at 1635
Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2, 4 6) IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2 4 6) IC-296 at 2105
Calcutta-Port Blair. Dep (2 4 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC-286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras. Dep (2 3, 4 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5, 6 7) IC-541 at 1240
Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235
Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1 2) IC 278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC-278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad. Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3 5 7) IC-270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800 Arr (1, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2105
Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta. Dep (3, 5 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3, 5 6) IC-281 at 1850
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320 Dep (1, 2, 3, 4 5, 6) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (1 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (1 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh. Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-202 at 1040
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal. Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-256 at 1230
Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222

at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar. Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur. Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (2, 4 6) PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna· Dep (1 3 5) PF-725 at 0600 Arr (1 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100

· **Calcutta-Aizawl** Dep (2, 4 6) PF-705A at 1100, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-706A at 1450

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta Dep (1, 3 5) PF-729 at 1130 Arr (1 3 5) PF-730 at 1610

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-721 722 at 0630 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723 724 at 1915

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati· Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1745

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat Dep (1 3 5) PF-731 at 0655 Arr (1 3 5) PF-732 at 1000

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep (2 4 6, 7) PF-727 at 0940 Arr (2 4, 6 7) PF-728 at 1610

Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (2 4 6, 7) PF-707 at 0610 Arr (2 4, 6 7) PF 708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2 4 6) PF-715 at 0555 Arr (2 4 6) PF-716 at 1010

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) PF-701 735 at 0830 Arr (daily) PF-702 736 at 1705

· Technical landing at Agartala while returning

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues , Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon , & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri & Sun Arri —Tues , Wed , Thurs , Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues , Fri & Sat Arri —Tues , Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21 10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon , Wed , Fri Arri —Tues , Thurs , Sat	20-35	58
59	17 35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues , Thurs & Sat, Arri —Mon , Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arri —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

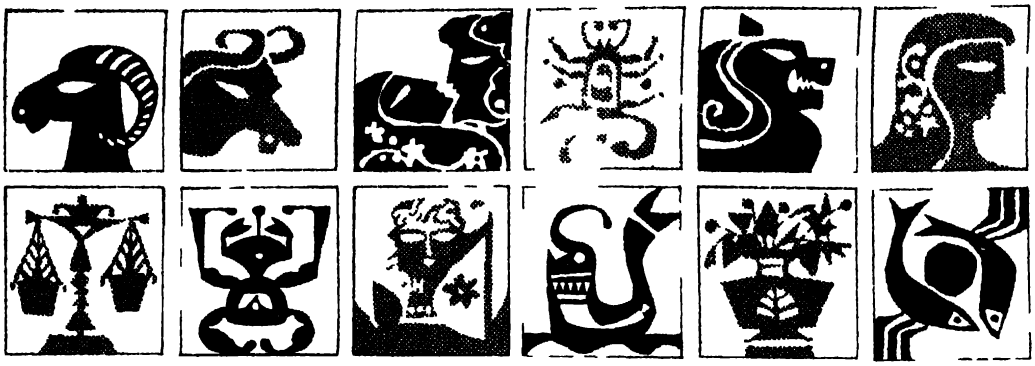
SEALDAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Wed , Fri & Sat Arri —Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri , & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues , Thurs , Fri & Sun Arri —Tues , Wed , Fri , & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4-00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



ARIES

March 21 April 20

The adventurous streak in you will urge you to take risks Children will demand a great deal of your time Jupiter in your sign will help you to sign deals and negotiations A close friend may fall ill A journey is in the offing for most Expect friends and visitors to drop in unexpectedly

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

The Venus trine Neptune conjunction will help you in securing loans and funds for starting a new business venture Friends will come forward to lend you all possible support Collaborations and contracts are in the offing Reach out to people and places in every possible way

GEMINI

May 21 June 20

Mercury sextile Saturn will propel you into intimate personal and professional relationships Gifts taxes investments and mortgages will also keep you busy now You will gain success in your professional life However learn to be discreet and do not take people at face value

CANCER

June 21 July 20

Jupiter trines Saturn and you will now be able to convert all opportunities into gains Learn to put your ideas across forcefully but politely Deals and settlements will now be finalised You are destined to take a prolonged trip abroad Romance is in the air for the eligible

LEO

July 21 August 21

Even though work pressures are bound to rise do not take your health for granted Intimate relationships are foretold A transfer or job hop cannot be ruled out Renovation decoration and refurbishing are foretold Learn to combine business with pleasure Guard against cheats

VIRGO

August 22 Sept 22

There will be many people who will now try to malign you so choose your friends with care Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication Salesmen editors travel agents and educationists will make it big Do not take anyone for granted Health may cause concern

LIBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22

The moon Mars conjunction highlights health domestic affairs and property matters The health of elders may cause concern Issues pertaining to joint finances investments mortgages and legacies will have to be dealt with Children and your spouse will contribute to your happiness this week

SCORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 21

Children and loved ones will give joy The time is right to indulge in creative pursuits and hobbies Socialising and entertainment are foretold Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way Romance is in the air for the fancyfree and eligible Health may cause concern

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22 Dec 20

The moon's last quarter emphasises the domestic and personal fronts The health of parents and in laws will cause concern Buying selling and shopping are highlighted There is a strong possibility of a job hop or transfer You may even shift your place of residence Expenses will rise

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

Mercury sextile Jupiter and news that you have been waiting for will now reach you Success is assured in all that you do The time is ideal to start a new venture or enterprise Politicians housewives bankers and lawyers will do well Travel is a distinct possibility Romance blooms

AQUARIUS

Jan 20 Feb 18

Socialising profits and friends are highlighted However do not enter into any business transaction without consulting experts Do not over indulge at parties Expenses are likely to mount but do not worry income will also increase accordingly A transfer or shift is on the cards Trips are destined

PISCES

Feb 19 March 20

Family affairs will demand attention Renovation refurbishing and a visit to the hospital or clinic is overdue Take care not to overstrain yourself The time is right to circulate socialise entertain and spend time with your family and friends Expenses will mount but income will increase too

BIRTHDAYS

March 13

Moon conjunction Mars Money will pour in now Friends will prove their loyalty A journey is on the cards A job hop or change in your profession is likely Learn to take chances

March 14

Moon square Jupiter Heavy expenses are likely Ardour and passion characterise your actions Doctors psychiatrists and lawyers will make it big See that goods and messages are not misplaced lost or stolen Rendezvous and liaisons are indicated

March 15

Venus trine Neptune The trine will help you in terms of creativity research and communication Educationists and politicians may face some opposition You may inherit or acquire property soon

March 16

Moon sextile Jupiter Saturn Uranus The sky's the limit Personal and professional matters turn out favourably Trust your intuition News view letter contacts correspondence and a possible shift are indicated

March 17

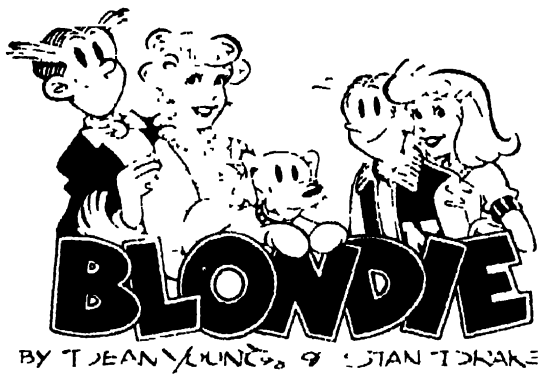
Moon sextile Mars Venus You will make your presence felt now Artists editors musicians real estate dealers journalists astrologers businessmen chemists and doctors will do well Journeys publicity collaborations and celebrations are indicated

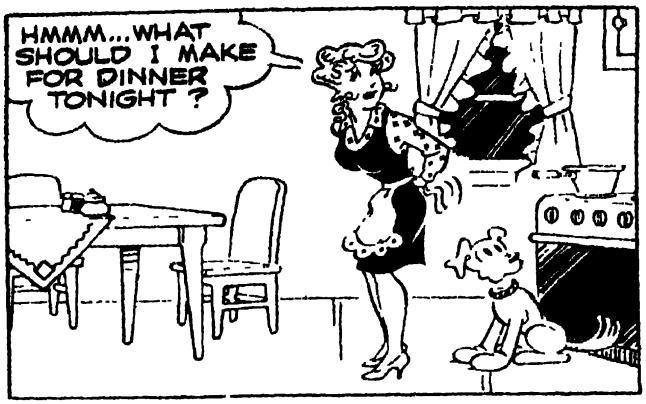
March 18

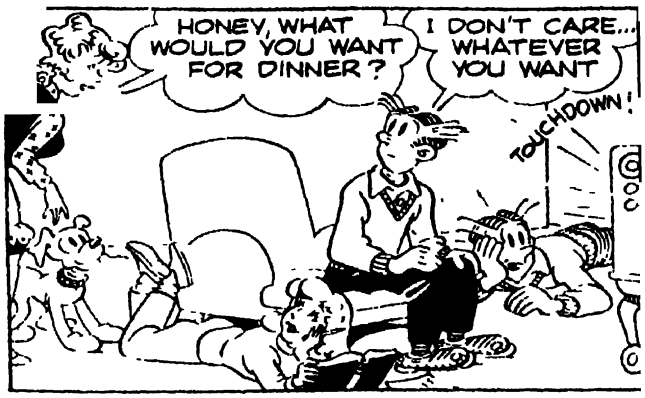
Eclipse Do not worry and just do your duty Changes in your life style are likely As Jupiter trines Saturn work with a will and keep your goals and targets in sight Hurdles are meant to be overcome and overcome them you will

March 19

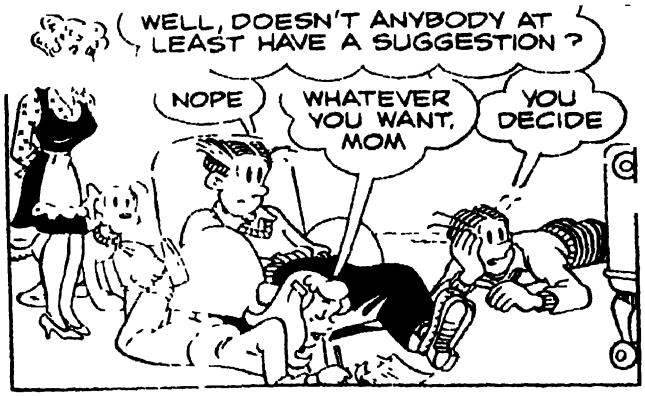
Moon square Mars Do not overstrain yourself Buying selling and entertaining are highlighted Contracts will be signed but you should take expert advice before doing so Do not have blind faith in anyone

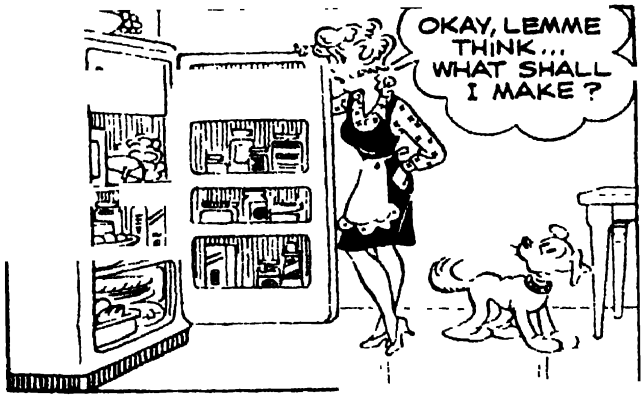

BLONDIE
BY T DEAN YOUNG & STAN T DRAKE

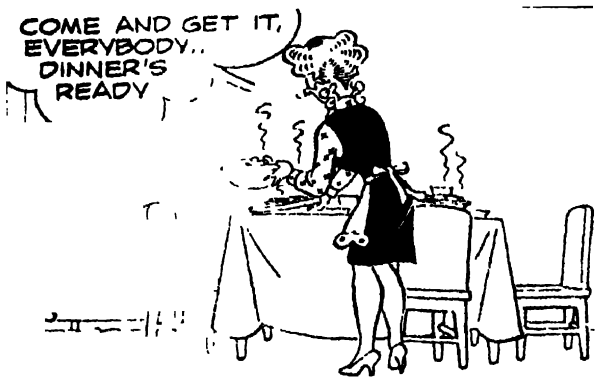

HMMM... WHAT SHOULD I MAKE FOR DINNER TONIGHT ?


HONEY, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT FOR DINNER ?
I DON'T CARE... WHATEVER YOU WANT
TOUCHDOWN!


COOKIE ? ALEXANDER ?
I'M SO HUNGRY, I COULD EAT ANYTHING
SAME HERE


WELL, DOESN'T ANYBODY AT LEAST HAVE A SUGGESTION ?
NOPE
WHATEVER YOU WANT, MOM
YOU DECIDE

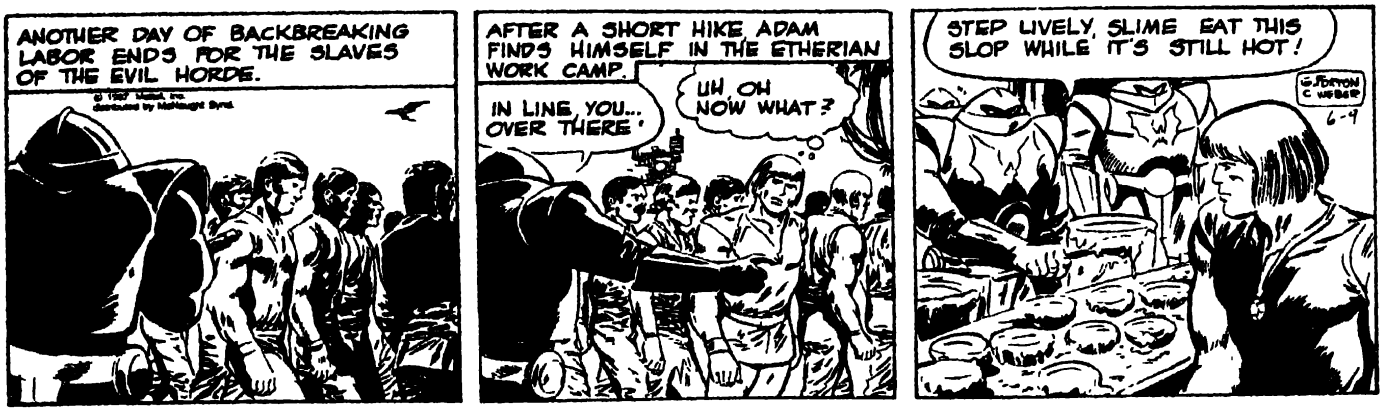

OKAY, LEMME THINK... WHAT SHALL I MAKE ?


COME AND GET IT, EVERYBODY.. DINNER'S READY

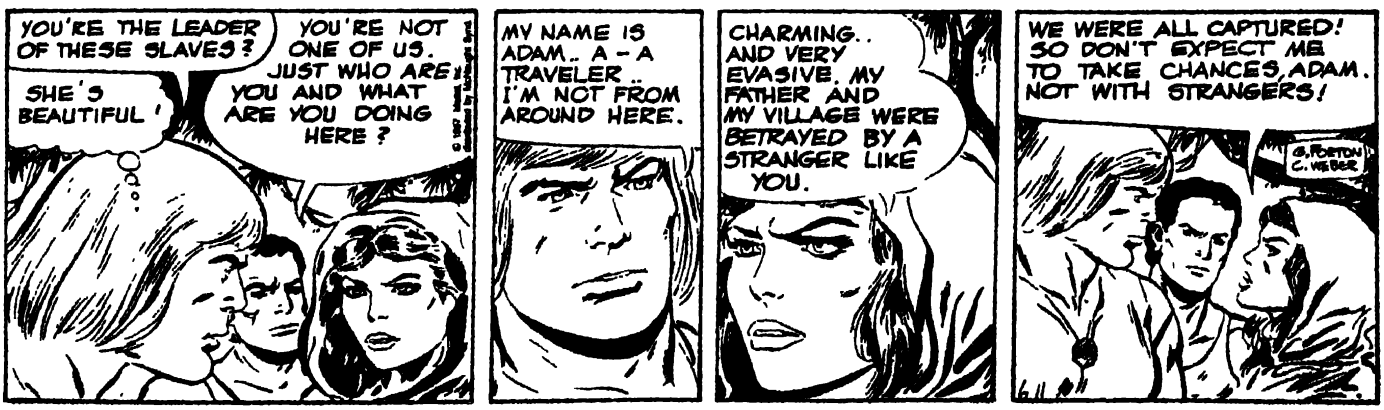

I WAS IN THE MOOD FOR BEEF
HOW COME WE'RE HAVING THIS ?
CAN'T WE EVER HAVE PIZZA ?
BROTHER !
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HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull





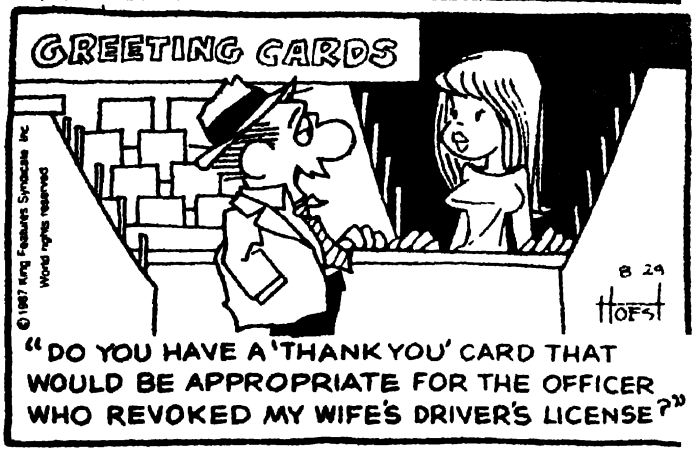




THE LOCKHORNS



"LEROY WILL BE ALONG LATER. HE NEEDS AN HOUR OR SO TO SULK."



"DO YOU HAVE A 'THANK YOU' CARD THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE OFFICER WHO REVOKED MY WIFE'S DRIVER'S LICENSE?"

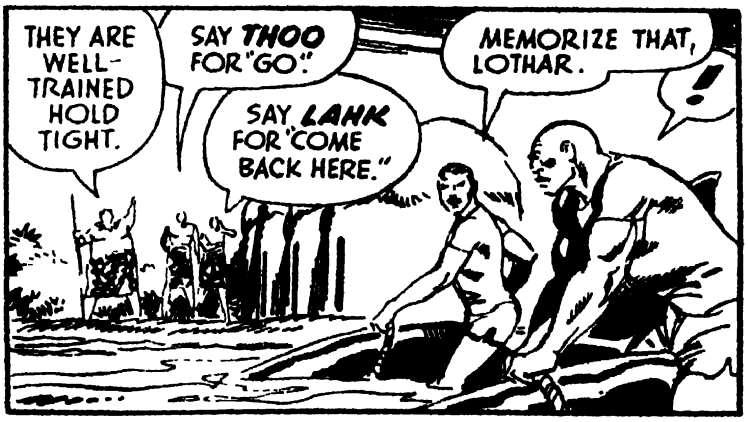


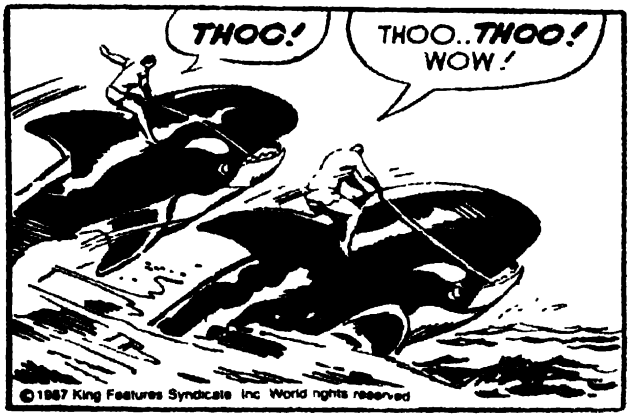
"LORETTA CAN TAME ANYTHING--- EVEN WILD RICE!"



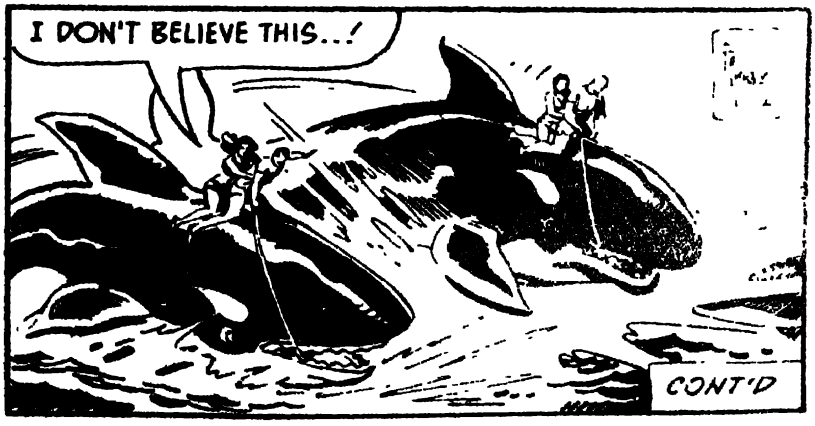
"I'VE DECIDED TO ISSUE AN EATERS ADVISORY."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk







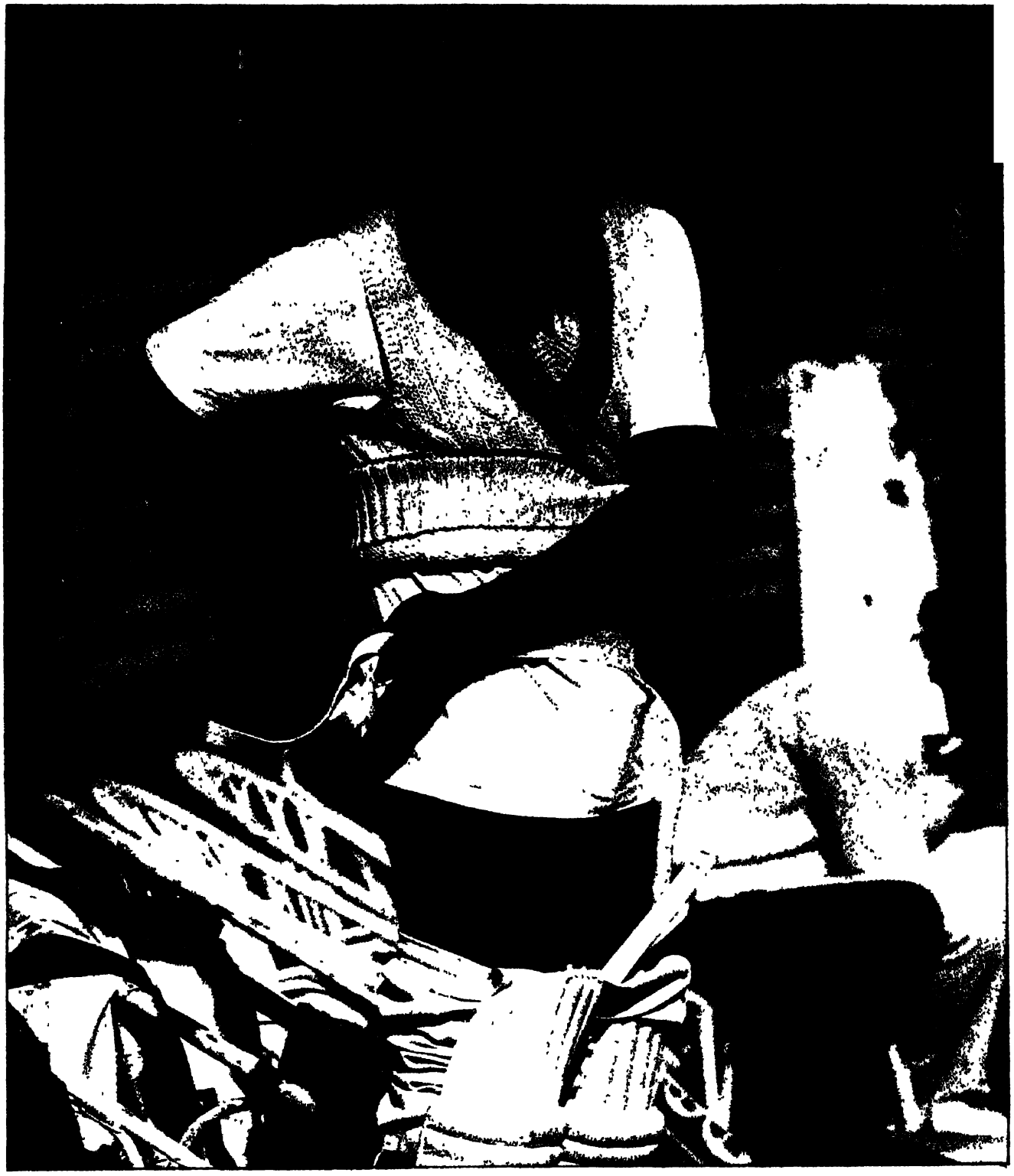


THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


SORRY, POP, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED ON THE BEACH!
HUH?! WHY NOT?!
NO TOPLESS BATHERS
VERY FUNNY, ARCHIE!
SNAP
CREEK
AHHA!!
YOUR DIAGNOSIS, DOCTOR?
THE USUAL... BIKINI WHIPLASH!
BEACH HOSPITAL UNIT
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When the Board of Control for Cricket in India decided to take the pants off **Dilip Vengsarkar** for breach of contract, it set a precedent. The Indian skipper, however, took the suspension for six months sportingly. Photograph by TARAPADA BANERJEE

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- KUSHINAGAR • LUCKNOW • MAHOBA
- MATHURA • MIRZAPUR
- MUZAFFAR NAGAR • NARORA
- NAWABGANJ • PEERAN KALIYAR
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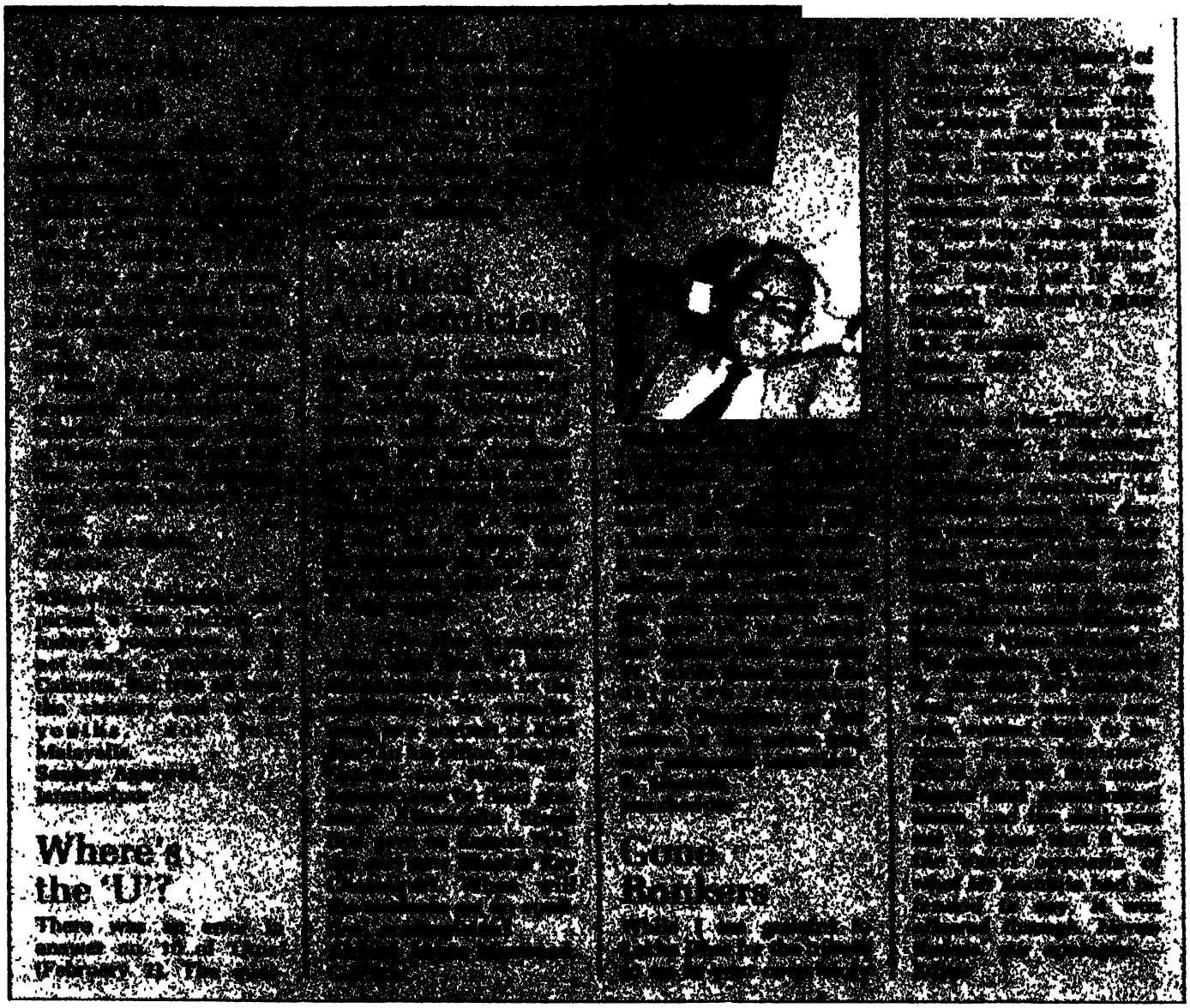
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POST MORTEM



CONTENTS

Cover Story: Last month's sensational murder of a Calcutta schoolboy by his classmate brought into sharp focus the tensions that prey on a teenager. A report and analysis.

14

Fiction: The short story which tied for the third prize in the Vineet Gupta Memorial Contest 1987.

16

Rainbow: A photofeature on Indian classical dance, extracted from the book, *Rhythm in Joy*.



Avnish Peerchs

The Telegraph

20 MARCH 1988

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Cover:
Amiya Bhattacharya and Sandip Bhattacharya

Nostalgia

We still ask
the same questions
about life, love, death
and the whole gamut.
We leave
only to return to our shells
feeling unwell in strange circumstances
more at home in the general situation
faceless in the crowd.
Emotions can share in the anger
and the bloodlust
to feel repentant as an island
hesitant, fearful, afraid.

I returned home, one late
summer day
to find not much has changed
in the city
The interlude of rural simplicity
a bare excuse to further
escapism
I returned home to the well-known
seeking comfort
in familiar smells
familiar anger, familiar walls.
Erwin K. Suchiang

Slide Show

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our
slide show in colour.
Rupees ten per viewing. Strictly for
adults.
No smoking while the show is on.

One. The blotches you see on the wall
Are not a spatter of ink-drops, but
The rusty blood of a lad spiked for an
emerald.

Two. Painful paroxysms contort
Ugly bride's face: a messenger
her man
Has tumbled off a DTC bus—dead.

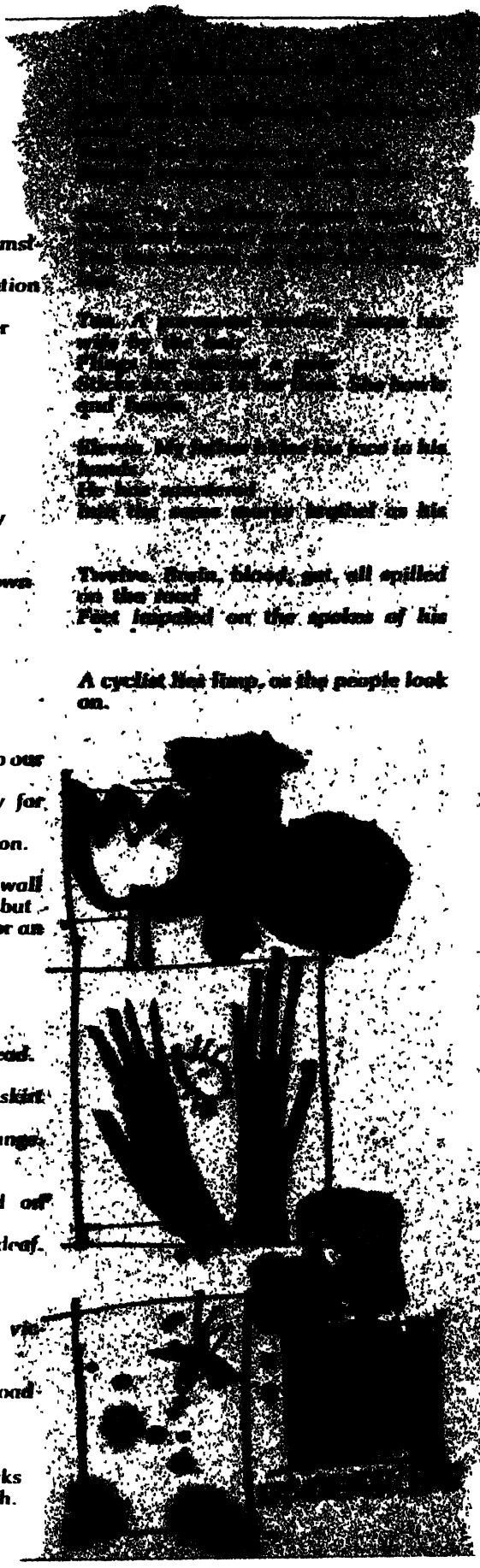
Three. A eunuch lifts her soggy skirt
To tar and feather romeos
Who refuse to part with small change.

Four. The traffic surges on.
Woman with the palsied child on
crutches
Gasps for taxi. But the city is deaf.

Five. Like a buzzing dragonfly
The sun-burnt helicopter
Carries cold chapatis to famine vic-
tims.

Six. Straggling past Falkland Road
I tweak a stumpy brat's nose:
Turns out to be a hoary dwarf.

Seven. A deluge of alien thwacks
Makes him kiss the slushy earth.



Not the end. Do visit again with
friends.
Pl se give our slide show
As much publicity as you can.
R. Raj Rao

And Then

What if the Master's works
adorn the walls inside.
Soft music alas!
I cannot soak up the atmosphere now.
My head is awhirl
with a surfeit of emotions
That are doomed to confinement
within the walls of decency.
Like a sealed bottle of soda,
Transient rules,
yet, omnipotent now.
And tomorrow
black letters dancing on white.
A page in the middle of a book
(among others)
on sociology.
And the pressure
keeps increasing.
The hand transmitting
the outpourings
Of enlightened minds
and debauched ones
Shake the bottle
furiously.
Oh the unbearable pressure!
What then?
Does it burst?
No, in the
nick of time
A kind considerate soul
Breaks open the seal.
To unleash the fury
, eat up inside.
It overflows and spends itself
on an empty table.
A little sip
and it is all gone.
Empty or frigid
with nothing left but (still life)
A few flowers on a grave.
Monali Chowdhurie

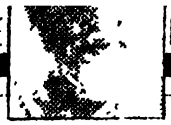
Alone, in the Circle

All left—one by one
beyond the circle

face by a desolate star
ps on floating

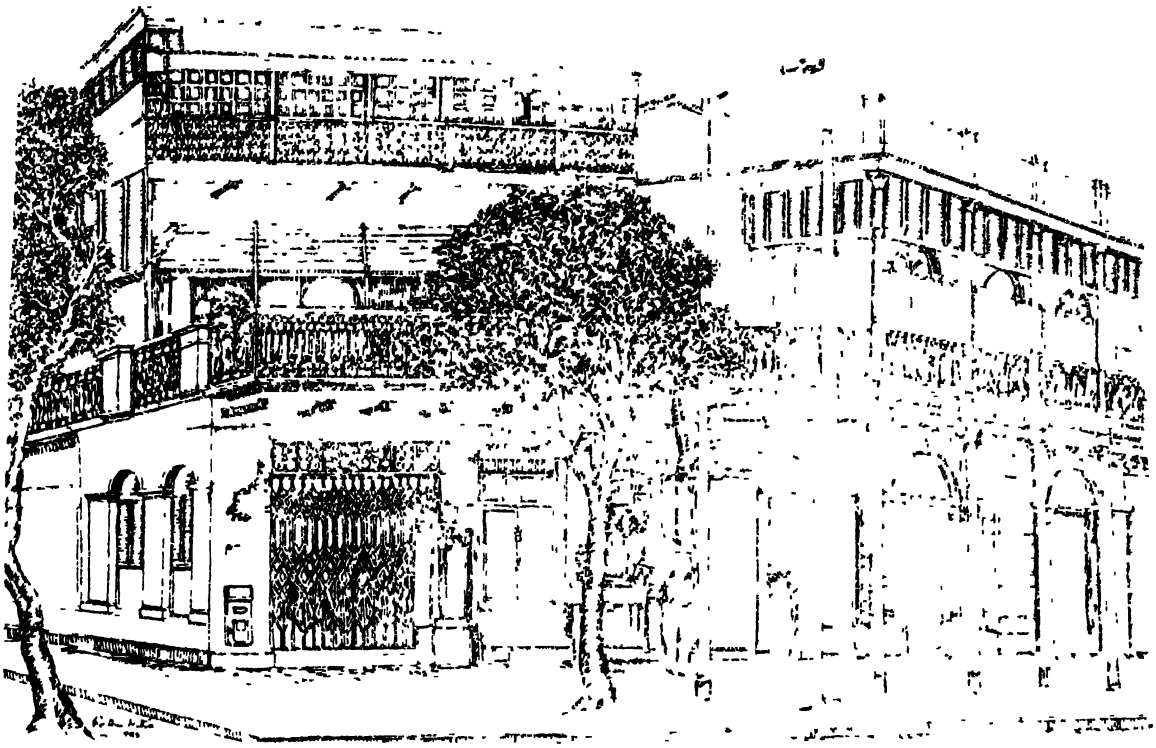
wake up
ing in the vibration
distant light

Nocturnal sounds
that gently ring
around
become audible.
Rathin Sengupta



Rathin Mitra

NIRMAL CHANDRA CHUNDER (1888-1953)



A man of mirth who never wore a sedate look, Nirmal Chandra Chunder was one of the leading solicitors of Calcutta high court. He was popularly known as one of the Big Five as he was one of the five close associates of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. After passing his MA and law examinations from Calcutta University, he enrolled as an advocate of the high court but later joined his father's solicitor firm G.C. Chunder & Co. He soon rose to a place of high distinction and was elected president of the Incorporated Law Society of Calcutta.

Nirmal Chunder launched his political career with non-cooperation movement under Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das' influence with whom he organised the Swaraj Party and the struggle against diarchy in Bengal. One of the directors of *The Forward* (organ of Swaraj Party), he was the Swarajist member of the Bengal Legislative Council during 1923-26. He was also the president of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee for some time. He served as a member of the Central Legislative Assembly during 1926-30 and 1935-45.

Nirmal Chunder was a commissioner of the Municipality of Calcutta and was elected the city's first mayor in May 1952 after the corporation was reconstituted under the new Municipal Act. He enthusiastically promoted the cultural and educational activities of his countrymen. His keen practical sense and resourcefulness made him an indefatigable promoter of a large number of trade and business houses.

The sketch above shows his residence on Wellington Street which was later renamed after him.

COVER STORY

WHY CHILDREN KILL CHILDREN

Why, indeed? It is a chilling question but one society must face after the brutal murder of a Calcutta schoolboy by his close friend. Next time it could be closer home



"I want to take a unique photograph of yours," says 17-year-old Santanu Mitra to his friend and classmate, Sumit Chatterjee. It is a Friday afternoon and they have just returned from school. Santanu has cajoled Sumit to his house in Behala, Calcutta, which is empty but for them. "You sit on a chair and I will blindfold you and tie your hands," continues Santanu. "It will be good fun." Sumit requires some coaxing but finally agrees. He sits on a chair in Santanu's bedroom and submits to being tied and blindfolded.



Sumit Chatterjee at a younger age

Santanu then strangles Sumit with his father's necktie, bashes his head in with a cricket bat, stabs him with a knife, and pours muriatic acid on his face. It is a macabre, cold-blooded murder.

For the Calcutta press it is a sensation. But for Calcutta's middle-class, and indeed for families everywhere, it is a trauma. For Santanu and Sumit belonged to "decent" families, studied at a reputed school and were two perfectly ordinary teenagers. Says their school principal, Mr Samir Sarkar, "Their behaviour was absolutely normal at school and there were no fights between them... as students they were definitely better than average."

Shock waves travelled through Calcutta society. "I suddenly realised how unsafe we are," said Famika Banerjee, 16. "I cannot understand how the boy could do such a thing." Added Swarup Ratan Pal of the same age, "I do not rule out the possibility of a killing in our school." And observed a stunned Mrs S. Mukherjee, a mother of three, "I was quite disturbed... it only goes to show what our



Santanu Mitra being brought to the Alipore district court

society is doing to young children.

What exactly did go wrong to lead to the young Santanu Mitra? His friendship with Sumit Chatterjee dated back to two years ago when they met in St Paul's School, Kidderpore, Calcutta. They shared common interests and four years back, together transferred to the Cathedral Mission School on Elliot Road. They were good in all their books, and in the last examination, Sumit stood second in class and Santanu fifth. They both lived in the Behala area and their neighbours recall that they were "typical adolescents with no evident abnormal streak." Said Rupak Dutta, who married Sumit's sister just 13 days before the murder: "He was a lively innocent boy. He worked with such enthusiasm during our marriage."

Then what drove Santanu to kill his friend? The police has a number of theories to work on. The fact that there is a considerable difference in the economic status of the Mitras and Chatterjees families. Santanu's father works in the accounts department of a prestigious private company and takes home a comfortable salary, while Sumit's father is employed in a small private firm. In short, one is an upwardly mobile middle class family, the other a lower middle class one. Mr Chatterjee had even taken a personal loan from Mr Mitra to get Sumit admitted to the reputed St Xavier's School, and there had been some tension, since he was late in repayment.

Then, Santanu's father often ridiculed him for not faring as well as Sumit in class. The police firmly believes that this was a major source of tension between the two. Observes a senior official, "In schools the real tension is among the front-benchers because of the close competition. The constant prodding by the parents to get ahead in the race creates latent enmity."

Finally, there is Santanu's own confession that he was enraged by Sumit calling his mother a prostitute. Alongside are the more bizarre theories that the murder was motivated by drug addiction or rivalry over a common girlfriend or a dispute over proceeds from gambling. The meticulous manner in which Santanu planned the murder has caused some experts to point at a severe personality disorder. But whatever his actual motive, the fact remains that each of these theories is a severe indictment of a society which can provoke children to kill children.



Why and when does a child kill a child? Dr Panchanan Ghoshal, renowned criminologist, is of the view that criminality occurs when the cumulative effect of stimulus (greed, wealth, jealousy, [illegible] personality, [illegible] attitude) overcomes restraints (conditioning, association, [illegible] fear of consequences, etc). He [illegible] police and the media for [illegible] and devaluing [illegible] and says the [illegible] only take the



Three Cuttack schoolboys who killed a common friend last December. He had demanded Rs 100 from them in exchange for jewellery he had stolen from his mother

[illegible] of the lessons' from the [illegible] events around them [illegible] the psychology of a [illegible] are more specific [illegible] wealthy and [illegible] home environments, improper parental guidance and poor education are possible for juvenile crime," says the deputy inspector general of police (Presidency Range), Mr H N Sarkar, speaking from years of experience. Adds Mr Dhruba Gupta, an assistant commissioner at the detective department: "No child is born delinquent. Nor does delinquency stem out of poverty. Affluence also breeds conditions congenial to delinquency and neglect."

The psychology and the causes result in the immediate motives. Sex, theft, rivalry, influences. That children have actually murdered for these reasons is a chilling thought but here are real life cases (all names have been changed):

• One morning in September [illegible] four boys of Santragachi [illegible] Amit Raja, Tarun and Vikas, aged between 14 and 17, murdered a wife and two young daughters of Nemai Mondal, whom they knew well for a small sum of money. As Mr Mondal left home for work the boys went over to his house and the doorbell. Mrs Mondal recognised them and let them in. Once inside the house, the boys gagged the housewife and her daughters, and then systematically hacked them to death. They then ransacked the house for money. All they found was Rs 250. After their arrest, the boys told the police they had committed the crime because they needed the money to buy new dresses for the Pujas. They said they got the idea from the film Zanjeer.

• Within a month of the Santragachi killings, two brothers Tarun and Bibhuti, both school students, killed another housewife and her daughter in the Jagacha railway colony. After seeing some crime thrillers, the brothers decided to plan a perfect murder. That was their goal. They killed the housewife when she was alone at home. But her daughters returned from school while the brothers were still on the premises. They killed her too. After that, the brothers being nabbed in the evening. Their only reaction was one of amazement at the failure of their perfect murder.

• Indrajit is 20 according to the police



It is difficult to give a reason when a teenager murders. Perhaps it is films which give the idea of killing someone you do not approve of

Indranil Chowdhury, 17



but 17 according to his parents A resident of north Calcutta, he was arrested for the murder of his 14-year-old neighbour, Maumita Mukherjee, just this December The girl had been sent by her mother to retrieve a blanket that was drying in the sun on the terrace Neighbours rushed out on hearing a scream and found Maumita lying in a pool of blood near the stairs. Clues led to Indrajit, the landlord's son, who stayed on the groundfloor, being arrested After a night's interrogation he confessed "As Mau went to the roof, I followed her When she came out, I tried to hold and embrace her but she resisted I lost my cool and pushed her down the stairs I did not intend to kill her."

• This is not a murder but a crime of almost similar dimension One morning in 1983, Rajen Gupta, 17, a resident of Howrah, took his four-year-old niece to a nearby pond ostensibly to give her a bath. Instead, he led her to a secluded area, pinned her down and raped her. He was quickly caught. He confessed that 'some scenes in Hindi films" had prompted him to commit the crime.

• Girls can kill too In September 1982, Purnima Haldar, 16, a maid-servant, brutally hacked to death her mistress, a resident of a housing estate in Manicktala, Calcutta After her arrest, Purnima said she had done so because she was in love with her mistress' husband But it was possibly unrequited love because there was not a shred of evidence to show that the husband had a hand in the crime.



Prof. N. Dutta



These crimes have actually been committed The details are in police and court records and the offenders are in jails and remand homes The obvious conclusion is that these youngsters suffer from either severe personality disorders or extreme tension The disturbing factor is, as assistant commissioner Gupta has observed that juvenile crime is not only poverty or romance-related as would be most convenient to believe

Dr Amiya Basu, former head of Calcutta University's education department and a psychoanalyst, points out, "Santanu Mitra belongs to a generation of adolescents which is being brought up amidst transitional values The condition of such children is only slightly better than that of rootless street urchins who have criminal propensities because of their hatred of an establishment that has cast them off Better financial status has not relieved children of nail-biting competition from the very start of their





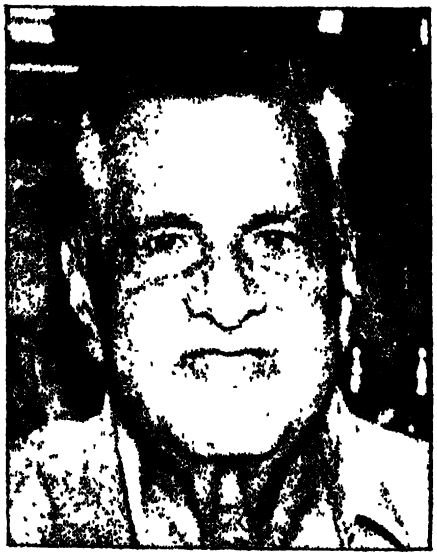
We are forced to study irrelevant things....Boys and girls indulge in frivolous thinking. They are totally misguided

Ashok Sanyal, 16

primary schooling, this is bound to cause some disorders in their mental make-up."

It is an oppressive tension that today's children experience. "I have come to realise that I will have to do extremely well in my exams to survive in this world," laments Diptesh Ghosh, 18. Adds Indrani Chowdhury, 17, "I am overburdened at school. We don't even have time to breathe. My parents insisted I should take science whereas I wanted arts." Ashok Sanyal, 16, objects to being "forced to study a lot of irrelevant things." Swarup Ratan Pal, 16, states tellingly, "I am sick and tired of exams. I have no social life and cannot even go out to play. the tension among students over academics is very high in our school." Mainak Chakraborty, 17, says his greatest worry is whether he will be able to complete his higher secondary syllabus while Anupem Das, a second-year college student, points to the tremendous rivalry among students.

Malabika Sengupta, a student of Class 10, makes the significant comment that "the sense of competition is unnecessarily exaggerated by parents. it gets on one's nerves." But parents seem quite helpless about this. Prof. Nirmal Dutta, father of a teenaged daughter, admits, "I do put pressure on her to get good results and hate myself for doing so. But since she has to exist in this society, I have to do it." Agreeing that academic jealousy did play a part in Sumit Chatterjee's murder, he says, "This should come as a warning to a society in which an excellent academic report seems to be the all-important thing."



Dr Panchanan Ghoshal

Dr Amiya Basu reveals the appalling statistic that at least 20 per cent of middle-class students and 10 per cent of the urban school population suffers from personality defects due to a failure to adjust to the acute pressure of competition. This manifests itself in unhealthy withdrawal symptoms, despondency and morbid impulses.

Apart from applying undue pressure to nose ahead in the rat race, adults can be culpable in other ways too. Major parental flaws, knowing or unknowing, are neglect and wrong example. This is particularly true among the upper classes. For instance, if a proper sense of ethics is not instilled, it can lead to youngsters cold-bloodedly committing murder and rape. This, for the simple reason that they are indifferent to the values which would make a normal person shy away from such deeds. Improper role models also lead to juvenile crimes, classic examples being adolescent family members aiding elders in bride-burning cases and young boys following local godfather heroes into smuggling and other rackets.

Overstrict parents can also distort



I am very lucky. I am not pressured by my parents as far as my studies are concerned
Tanuka Banerjee, 16



hildren's personalities Ms Keya Bose, magistrate of Calcutta's juvenile ourt, recalls the case of D C., 14, who vas hauled up before her on a disbedience charge by his own parents here seemed nothing wrong with the ather pleasant and intelligent boy but is entire family, including cousins, leposed against him. Investigations evealed that D., who had earlier ttempted suicide, had been subjected o severe mental and physical torture y his parents because they opposed is coming under the influence of his coutmaster D. had secured a first livision in his secondary examination ut the only reward he got from his arents was a display of anger for aving done well in life science, a ubject in which he had been tutored y his mentor. D attempted suicide nother child might have been driven o something else

Dr Dhiren Nandi, president of the ndian Psychoanalytical Society, lays naximum stress on communication nd affection from parents He says ove and appreciation is essential for dolescents who develop a hitherto nknown sense of power and energy fter their bodies undergo changes at uberty If they are not sensitively andled, they only begin devising ways to teach society or their parents a lesson."

Finally, as evident from the cases ited, many homicidal children have een influenced by films Observes parent. Mrs S Mukherjee [illegible] girls today are always subject to the trash which portrays a great deal of violence After continuous exposure to such cinema I think the young teenage generation views violence as the only solution to any problem it faces"

However, Dr Hironmoy Ghoshal noted psychoanalyst believes films themselves are only a reflection of a more frightful reality That in today's adult world you can break the rules and get away with it. Crime is commonplace, corruption the order of the



Dr Hironmoy Ghoshal

[illegible] deterrent fear Rather than [illegible] teachers go on [illegible] commercial cult [illegible] Eighty previous generations [illegible] children have no Vivekananda or Subhas to inspire them for [illegible] social discipline is [illegible] and it is unfair to blame children for turning delinquent when [illegible] can be like the chairman of the Royal Sabha without celebration



How does the law deal with juvenile murderers? Santanu Mitra, for example, is just 17 and still very much a boy But in the eyes of the law, he is an adult who will be tried in an ordinary court will be confined in a jail with hardened criminals, and is liable to receive the death sentence If he had been just one year younger, he would have been spared the rigours of being an "adult" undertrial For under the Juvenile Justice Act 1986, a "juvenile" is a boy below 16 or a girl below 18. If Santanu had come with the purview of the Act, the press would not have been allowed to publish his name, the police would not have been allowed to use its awesome third degree during interrogation, and he would not have experienced the trauma of jail.





I am sick and tired of exams. I have no social life. I cannot even go out and play

Swarup Ratan Pal, 16

In t one year has made the differ nce of a lifetime to Santanu. The Juvenile Justice Act is a protective piece of legislation which has replaced the Central Children's Act 1960 and other outmoded Acts in the states It stipulates welfare boards comprising experts in child psychology juvenile courts where trials are held in camera, and homes for rehabilitation It decrees that no delinquent juvenile will be kept in a police station be sent to jail or be sentenced to death Court decisions are to be based not only on the evidence of the crime but also on reports of trained officers who probe the antecedents of the offender

Significantly, the Act also lists offences against children for which adults can be punished Uncaring parents and guardians should note that they are liable to face six months' imprisonment, fine or both, if they assault, abandon, expose or wilfully neglect a juvenile; or cause him to be exposed, neglected, abandoned or assaulted in a manner which causes unnecessary mental or physical suffering Adults also face stiff penalties for using juveniles to beg, for supplying juveniles liquor and drugs, and for procuring juveniles for employment.

The tragedy is that all this is only on paper The Act is theoretically in force in West Bengal but nothing has been done to set up its machinery of welfare boards, juvenile courts and child experts Even the rules to make its implementation practicable have not been drafted The sad fact is that 30 years after the first Children's Act was passed, child welfare remains in its infancy

Let us visit West Bengal's sole juvenile court at Salt Lake The courtroom is tiny and a single magistrate sits on a raised platform The atmosphere is informal and the court sits only after "hakim saheb' arrives which might be at 11 30 am or 1.30 pm or even later The minors have been brought well in advance (the boys are locked in a room behind thick iron bars) but they and their guardians are so awe-struck that there seems hardly any need to impose order The proceedings are brief and the decisions quick



Dr Dhiren Nandi

Today the magistrate, Ms Bose, is trying two girls, B and S who are charged with stealing Rs 900 from a woman commuter in the Metro They plead innocent Ms Bose is willing to release B on a bail of Rs 200 but the girl's father a beggar cannot afford it The magistrate realises the absurdity of the regulations but has no option except sending the girl to the 'corrective" home at Liluah till the next hearing S a pavement dweller has no one to take care of her She too is sent to the home tears rolling down her cheeks

The police and the courts have a limited role in reforming-- or preventing juvenile delinquents The police can only charge the accused and arrest them," points out DIG Safwi The court, in turn, can only decide on the mode and severity of the punishment Who, then is responsible for preventing children from killing children? Perhaps every and every teacher can provide answer

Reported by Umesh Anand, Partha Pathik Guha, Sanjoy Basak, Soumitra Shantanu Datta, Tapas Chakraborty and Barun Ghosh, written by Sumir Lal

Illustrations. Subrata Gangopadhyay



Quiz Neil O'Brien

Sumita Sharma, New Delhi 14, requests, "Please write something about Francis Chichester."

Sir Francis Charles Chichester (1901-72), British deep sea yachtsman, was born in North Devon. It was expected that he would join the Indian Civil Service but he left school and at 19 worked his passage to New Zealand with only £10 in his pocket. In 1929 he returned to England, took flying lessons and bought a Gipsy Moth light aeroplane. In December the same year he flew the aircraft to Australia solo, the second man to achieve this feat.

His flying experience made him an expert on air navigation and with the outbreak of the second world war in 1939 he returned to England again to join the Royal Air Force (RAF). Much to his chagrin he was turned down as being too old at 37.

After the war he started his business in London as a map publisher. Turning to sailing as a recreation, he bought *Gipsy Moth II*, a 17 year-old sloop, in 1955 and won 16 Royal Ocean Racing Club races between 1956 and 1957. In 1959 doctors diagnosed that he was suffering from lung cancer but with encouragement from his wife and great personal determination, he made a remarkable recovery.



11th Question: **The legendary sex-symbol, Marilyn Monroe, described "it" thus—"It should be the national dress for women of all Third World countries. It is inexpensive, modest and yet highlights the exquisite sculpture of a woman's body like no other garment." What was this garment? (Anupam Bazaz, 161 Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta 7.)**

Ans: **The bikini (Later due to a public outcry, she had to retract her statement).**



Sir Francis Chichester on board *Gipsy Moth IV*.

With a new yacht, *Gipsy Moth III*, he won the first single-handed trans-Atlantic race in 1960, in just over 40 days. He crossed the Atlantic again alone in 1962, setting a record of 33 days 15 hours, and returned to Plymouth from Cape Cod in just under 27 days. In the next trans-Atlantic race in 1964, he finished second with a time of 29 days.

Chichester was now determined to carry out a plan he had long been nursing—to equal or beat single-handed the average passage time of the old clipper ships which sailed fully manned on the England to Australia passage. With a new yacht, *Gipsy Moth IV*, a ketch, he sailed single-handed in 1966 from Plymouth nonstop to Sydney in 107 days, celebrating his 65th birthday during the voyage. From Sydney he went on to complete the circumnavigation back to Plymouth in an astonishing overall time of 274 days, 48 of which were spent at Sydney. Sailing his yacht up the Thames to Greenwich, he was knighted by the Queen who used the same sword with which Elizabeth I had knighted Sir Francis Drake aboard his ship *Golden Hind* at Deptford in 1581. *Gipsy Moth IV* has since been preserved at Greenwhich close to the clipper ship *Cutty Sark*.

In 1969 Sir Francis had another yacht built, *Gipsy Moth V*. The next year in January he set himself a new challenge when he attempted to put up a single-handed record under sail of 4,000 miles in 20 days. Unfortunately, he failed by a small margin of just over a day. After another serious illness and against medical advice he participated in the 1972 single-handed trans-Atlantic race, but was forced to return due to ill health. He died in hospital in Plymouth later that year.

QUESTIONS

1. What is an accommodation payment? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)

2. Which Indian is popularly known as "Kipper"? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)

3. Which was the first country to resign from NAM? (Ashish Kumar Saha, Bargarh)

4. What computer (high-level) language is named after the celebrated poet, Lord Byron's, daughter? (Sumeet Budhraja, Chandigarh 22)

5. Who is a "California widow"? (Rajesh Kapoor, Calcutta 89)

6. In the West Indies cricket team who is the "Comedian"? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)

7. What is Eleutherophobia? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)

8. Who said, "This life is full of riddles, but divine riddles have divine solutions"? (Suman Paul, Dhanbad)

9. Whose autobiography is *Where's the Rest of Me?* (Santanu Mukherjee, Calcutta 47)

10. Which singing superstar is nicknamed the "Singing Barber"? (Ashok Malik, Calcutta 14)

ANSWERS

must be his best ever role in *King's Row*. The character he portrays awakes after his legs have been amputated and asks, "Where's the rest of me?"—O.B)

10. Perry Como. He was originally a barber by profession before he took to singing.

1. A bribe
2. Field-Marshal K M Cariappa.
3. Burma
4. Ada, to honour Lady Ada Augusta, Countess of Lovelace, for her pioneering work in programming
5. A wife deserted by her husband (originally the name was given to wives whose husbands had left them to go on the California Gold Rush).
6. Desmond Haynes.
7. The fear of freedom
8. Max Mueller
9. Ronald Reagan (He spoke this line in what

MASTERMIND

The 82-year-old Bejoy Singh Nahar was once the "strategy master" of elections. Today, he prefers to know nothing about politics

Around 2.15 in the afternoon, people like 82-year-old Bejoy Singh Nahar should have been taking rest. But we found him sitting on his sofa-cum-bed, possibly meditating. We introduced ourselves; there was no reply. He walked up to the wall clock hanging in the corner of the room and saw that it was only 2.20. He gesticulated to us, but we could not understand his sign language. A boy servant came in and asked us to wait till 3 pm At the stroke of three, his grandson informed us that he was ready to see us.

How is it that he observed silence till 3 pm? Yoga, or had he been medically advised? we asked. "No, no one has told me to do any such thing. I do it just to test how much restraint I can observe these days," Nahar replied.

Nahar lives in an old ancestral house at 48, Indian Mirror Street, a site where all veteran Congress leaders assembled on some occasion or the other. In earlier days, almost all important sessions of the Congress or party meetings were held at Kumar Singh Hall, a part of this house.

Bejoy Singh Nahar, the veteran Congress leader, is reputed to have got Dr B.C. Roy elected to the West Bengal Assembly from the Bowbazar-Chowringhee area in the most turbulent of times for the Congress. Nahar, in the seventies, also came to be known as the "great strategy-master of elections".

Today, the mastermind of politics has lost sight in both eyes because of cataract, but his memory is still in sharp focus. He recalled distinctly the days when he first took part in the Congress session in Calcutta as a volunteer in 1917 and saw Mrs Annie Besant as the president of the AICC Nahar had the opportunity to see other Congress luminaries like Nehru, Pant and Azad from close quarters, and later, drew very close to Nehru. He still maintains the highest regard for the first Prime Minister of India. His opinion of Mrs Indira Gandhi, however, is much lower. "I found her a bit self-centred," he said, "though she had become a successful politician"

Having held important portfolios like labour and industry in both Dr B C Roy's and P C. Sen's cabinet, Nahar was an MLA from the Bowbazar constituency for 20 years from 1957—and he used to know most of the electorate by their names. In 1977, he contested the Lok Sabha election against Ashoke Sen, as a Janata Party candidate and defeated him After the promulgation of Emergency, he developed "hatred" towards Mrs Gandhi, he explained, and switched loyalties to the Janata Party. "I came under the influence of Jayaprakash Narayan whom I still hold in great respect."

Today, Nahar cannot read newspapers nor watch TV "I must admit I have no knowledge of what is going around today," he said candidly "I'm also not interested" Maybe it was disgust with the current political scene that led to this disdain? "Yes, you may say that All the selfish and boneless people are in politics now My feeling is that those who are in power are destroying the country" Referring to Rajiv himself, he said, "What I gather is that he is young and energetic, but without any depth whatsoever. Moreover, he is surrounded by worthless men. I feel his days are numbered."

How would he compare the two former chief ministers of West Bengal, Dr B C Roy and P.C. Sen? "Dr Roy was great," he said, "while Mr Sen was an opportunist We saw him yielding to circumstances even on flimsy issues and this did not speak highly of him." And the man he defeated in 1977, Ashoke Sen? "He is a good barrister and that is all I had never considered him a politician," was the quick reply. "Pranab Mukherjee and Ghani Khan Chowdhury were never Congressmen and still are not," he went on He also dismissed the younger leaders like Priya Ranjan Das Munshi and Subrata Mukherjee as "disillusioned Young Turks" who "cannot deliver the goods." The current chief minister, Jyoti Basu of the Left Front, he felt was "something" when he was in the Opposition, "but now he is a tool in the hands of his partymen"

Excusing ourselves for the embarrassing question, we asked Nahar about his image of being a great manipulator in elections and of the charge that he introduced rigging "Rigging? What's that? I don't know what you call rigging," he said calmly "I admit that in those days I used to mastermind the entire electioneering for the Congress I can now tell you that I got many useless and unworthy candidates elected simply through manipulation and streamlining of the election machinery What the CPI(M) has been doing now, I introduced in the Congress about three decades ago."

Nahar elaborated that he would get cracking at least two years before the elections and formulate a strategy That strategy was preparing the voters list, identifying the non-Congress voters and trying to woo them That was all"

Subhransu Gupta



Ashoke Mitra

SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

This short story tied for the third prize in the Vineet Gupta Memorial Contest 1987

By
Subrata Chakrabarty

It was during a night-long train journey that I met him. As a professor of psychology I carry with me books and journals during my travels when I usually do a lot of reading. My added interest in the study of occult sciences for the past three decades has made me an avid reader of books on ghosts, poltergeists, ESP, reincarnation, telepathy and the like.

I was the lone passenger that night in the first class coupe. I had stretched my legs, and was relaxing with a book, when I perceived a slight movement in the opposite seat and noticed my co-passenger who had come in quite unobtrusively. I must have been deeply engrossed in my book not to have noticed his entry. My first glance revealed a pair of deep-set, penetrating eyes and the tired face of a man nearing 60. He noticed the title of my book and, although I was in no mood to chat, started asking questions on the subject. Soon he got around to asking the inevitable query—did I really believe in the existence of ghosts and spirits? I replied that I had no reason to believe in the existence of ghosts, either the popular variety found in fiction or the type we come across in 'real life' experiences. I spoke plainly and emphatically, because that was precisely what I felt about ghosts.

Thereafter, he appeared to be lost in his thoughts and I was about to pick up my book when he gradually began to narrate his strange personal experiences. It was a long and tragic tale which started with an accident that took place nine years ago. He and his only teenaged son, both expert swimmers, shared a common passion for rowing in the river near their country home. On that fateful afternoon, they went rowing in two small country boats, and almost impulsively, decided to race down the narrow winding river. The son was soon way ahead of the father. However, he tried to negotiate a sharp bend too fast and could not swerve away from a big jutting stone. He crashed hard against it, was thrown several feet off and died a painful death. All this happened right in front of the horrified father.

Since that day, according to my fellow passenger, his son's spirit appears before him, often with incredible clarity, at odd hours and communicates with him. A series of personal misfortunes have befallen him during these nine years which, he believes, have been under the influence of his son's spirit. The visions were so terrifyingly realistic that he had twice attempted to commit suicide.

The moment my companion stopped speaking I shot a question at him to catch him off-guard. "When was the last time that you tried to commit suicide?"

"Yesterday." His calm reply took me by surprise. Before I could recover, he asked, "How would you explain the visits of my son's spirit, sir?"

How, indeed, to a grief-stricken father? When he is a person so convinced about psychogenic souls and spirits? I began cautiously by conveying my heartfelt sympathies for all his sufferings. Then, in trying to answer his question, I explained that experiences of such visions have been recorded even in scientific journals all over the world. However, thorough investigations into these reports showed that most of these cases had simple explanations. There was nothing ghostly or mysterious in these so-called visions.

Although I did tell him, I knew that his experiences could only be understood through existing theories of psychology. Some of his visions, I thought, could be a type of hallucination.

"No, the visions are not hallucinations," he said. I was slightly taken



aback at his exact reading of my thoughts. It must have been a coincidence, I reasoned.

"These are my personal experiences, and surely I can trust my own senses?"

"I have no doubt that your feelings and experiences are alarmingly realistic to you, but to investigate such phenomena, a scientist has to consider several factors."

"What factors?"

"Well, if we analyse scientifically..." I started but was cut short

"I am neither a neurotic person, nor am I morbid enough to invent what I have just told you. Believe me, my dead son's soul has been tormenting me for years, it's all true."

"Yes, I admit it's all true to you."

It was pointless to argue. I could have said several things but decided to end the conversation with one last sentence. "There is always a scientific or logical explanation for those terrible visions."

I looked out of the window. The shadowy trees and posts sped by. It was becoming obvious that my companion was beyond the realm of logic.

Again he picked up the train of my thought. "Your rational logic could be restricted by your limited experiences. The physical sciences that you know are often useless in fathoming the simplest natural happenings, let alone comprehending truly great miracles." He paused and then spoke, almost to himself. "We have grown so proud of our little achievements that now we deny the real powers that guide the earth."

I did not make any comment. Over the years I have developed an enormous appetite for stories and reports on phenomena not easily understood even after detailed studies. I have crossed swords with various people from eminent specialists, academicians and genuine "believers" to psychotics and outright sensation-seekers. This man, somehow, did not fit into any category. In fact, I was feeling a bit uneasy.

Pointing to my book he spoke with a strange, quiet authority. "Please stop scratching at the mere surface of knowledge. Delve deep and find the truth. It is clear to any true [illegible] you choose to live in your world of pseudo-science, the choice is [illegible]. You men of science will not believe a miracle even if it happens right under your nose."

He shifted slightly in his seat and said, "Well, try and concoct a scientific explanation for this evening's experience."

I still did not speak. My uneasy feeling was crystallising into an idea I was trying to fathom the far away look in his eyes when for the first time, he smiled.

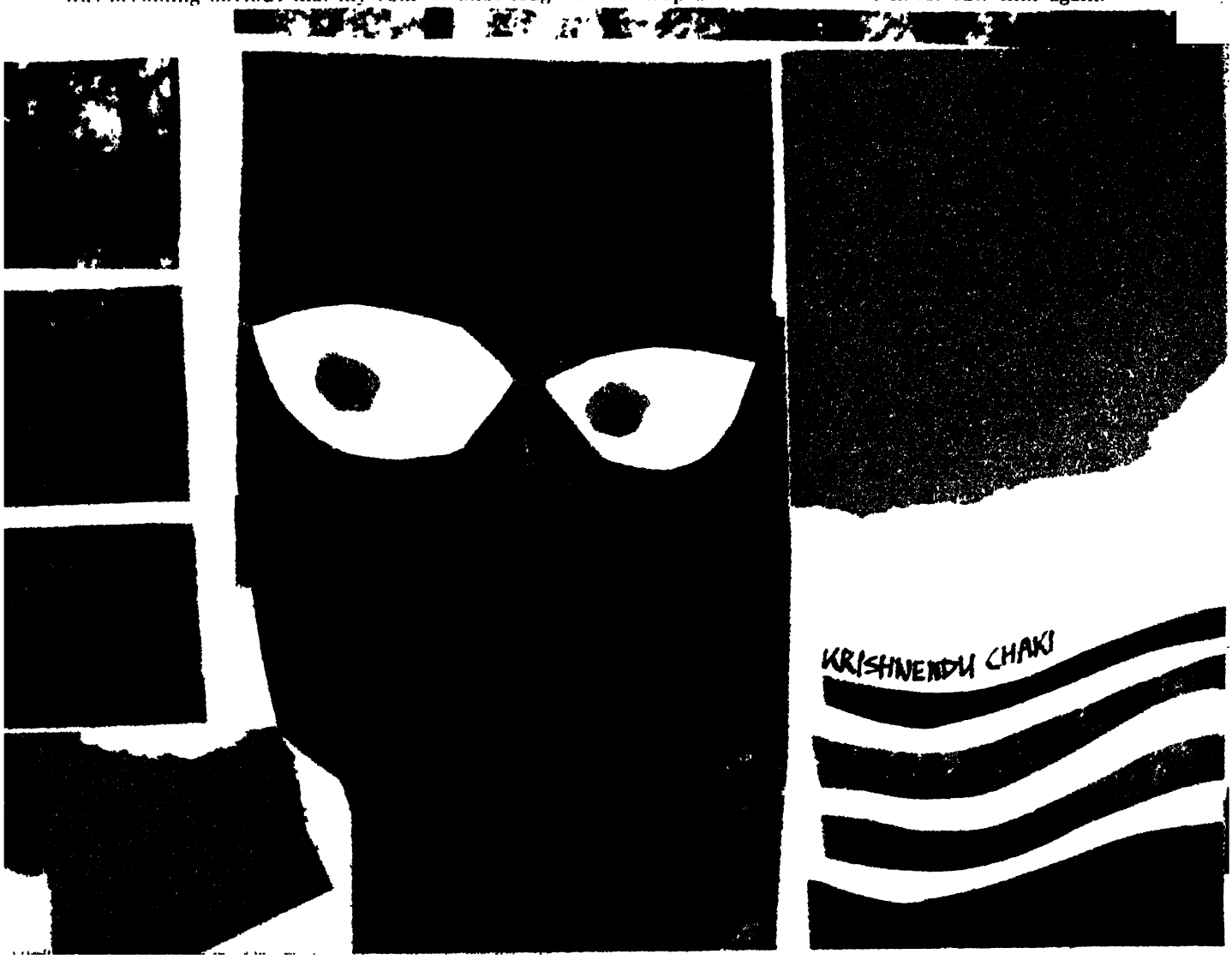
"Now look at me carefully," he said. "I am sitting just three feet away from you under bright lights."

I sat bolt upright. I had a feeling that I was about to witness something. I sensed it instinctively. I almost cried out, "Please don't go, I have so much to discuss with you."

But the outline of his body had taken on a softly luminous glow, and the next moment he was not there.

He had simply vanished.

I never saw him again.■





THE FIFTH VEDA

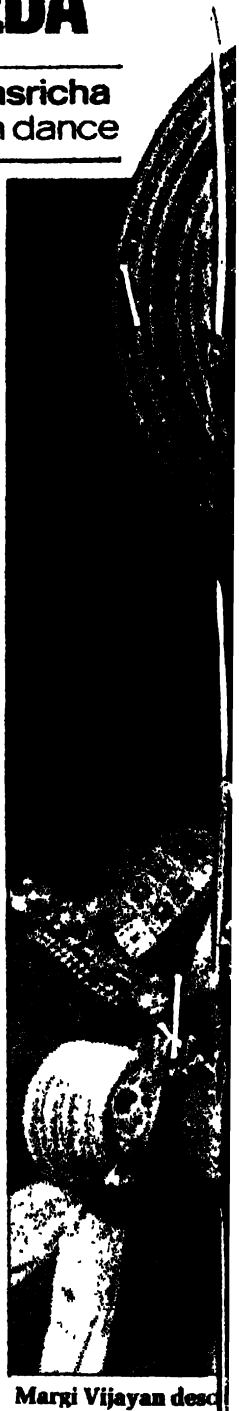
Photographer Avinash Pasricha celebrates classical Indian dance

Classical dance in India has aptly been termed a form of yoga in recognition of its synthesis of physical energy and spiritual power. The diverse forms of classical dance that have over the centuries proliferated, declined and been revived share a common transcendental impulse Although it manifests a strong foundation of physicality, the sensory celebration that is Indian dance is, in origin, in thematic content and in intention, a spiritual exercise Its mainspring is Hinduism and its vast reservoir of myths, legends, rituals and folklore

Dance is believed to have originated with Lord Shiva, the Destroyer Shiva was himself a dancer par excellence and he taught his consort Parvati the art that pleased him most

It is also told that Brahma, the Creator, was deeply perturbed at the strife and turmoil that prevailed on Earth As the four *Vedas* were kept a closely-guarded secret by the Brahmins, he decided to create a fifth *Veda* that would be accessible to all The science of dramatic presentation that was contained in the *Natya Veda* was first taught by Brahma to the sage Bharata Bharata presented his threefold art--drama, music and dance– to Shiva Reminded of his own vigorous dance, Shiva ordered his chief attendant, Tandu, to instruct Bharata in the art of *tandava*. Bharata combined this art with the knowledge he already had and wrote the *Natyashastra*, an exhaustive treatise on the art of theatre Bharata and other sages spread the knowledge of the art among the people of the Earth. Being visible and audible, this new aesthetic form brought culture within the reach

Text and photographs from *Rhythm in Joy*; published in 1987 by Lustre Press Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.



Margi Vijayan desc







the beauty and bashfulness of a woman in Kathakali style



With the left hand in *alapadma* and the right in *katakamukha*, the Odissi dancer depicts a bird



Birju Maharaj in a *Nritta* or pure dance sequence (Kathak)





of the common people who had been alienated from the exclusive and esoteric intellectual pursuits of the literati

Historically, the *Natyashastra* of Bharata is dated around the second century AD. The text deals not only with the arts of drama and dance but also with every conceivable related

topic, ranging from the architecture and design of an auditorium to minute details concerning the analysis of plots and the portrayal of particular characters. However, a large part of the *Natyashastra* deals directly with dance and has exhaustive material on particulars such as body positions, *hastas* (hand positions), the qualities essential for a good dancer and, conversely, disqualifications for an unsuitable dancer, and the use of different parts of the body which have been categorized as major and minor parts.

Another ancient text on dance is the *Abhinaya Darpana* by Nandikeshvara, dated around AD 1000. Tamil classics such as the 2nd century *Silappadikaram* contain valuable references to *natya* and, in some of these, the theory and art of dance are discussed.

All classical dance forms in India have two major aspects *nritta* and *nritya*. *Nritta* can be defined as pure dance, that is, a clear expression of movements of the body, coordinated with *hastas* or gestures of the hands. *Nritya* is a combination of pure dance

The vigorous jumps and whirls of the pung player in Manipuri require an athletic skill and a compact physique





Singhajit Singh and Charu Sija as Arjun and Chitrangada from a Manipuri ballet



An *abhinaya* item in Odissi style by Madhavi Mudgal



Vaswati Misra and Ram Mohan present an attractive Kathak duet

and interpretative dance. Interpretative dance should be clearly distinguished from mime It is not merely an imitation of human behaviour Mostly dependent on the accompanying verse, *nritya* makes great use of *hastas*, each of which conveys a different meaning.

Apart from *nritta* and *nritya* the dance tradition has a third aspect This is *natya* which refers to acting and gesticulatory exposition, with or without dance This is, in fact, the art of drama.

Bharata analyses the human form and divides it from the head to the extremities into *angas* (the principal parts), *pratyangas* (the subsidiary parts) and *upangas* (minor portions within major parts) All these are employed in dance, both in general and in specific movements The head, the hands, the chest, the sides, the hips and the feet are all *angas*, while the neck, the arms, the abdomen, the thighs and the knees are the *pratyangas* The *upangas* may be part of the *angas*—for example, the head includes the eyes, the eyebrows, the eyelashes, the pupils, the cheeks, the nose, the lips, the teeth and tongue, the chin and the face as whole, or the heels, ankles, soles and toes in the feet and fingers and the palms in the hands.

It is truly said that the dancer should 'sing with her mouth, express the meaning of the song with gestures of her hands, express *bhava* through her eyes, and beat the *tala* with her feet'. (Nandikeshvara's *Abhinaya Darpana*).

Leela Samson

7 DAYS

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REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Bhai Ka Dushman Bhai:** Janata (Prafulla Sarkar Street, 275607), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)

Rameshwari, Puneet Issar, Sujeet Kumar, Raza Murad, Amjad Khan and Suresh Oberoi comprise the cast of this film, directed by Sudesh Issar. The music is by Madheer-Jatin



Shekhar Chatterjee and Lolita Chatterjee in *Apaman*

• **Bijlee Aur Toofan (A):** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 55-046), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows, Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382)—3 shows

Directed by S R Pratap and with music by Anwar-Ushman, the cast includes Hemant Birje, Sri Prada, Sonika Gill, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Raza Murad

• **Dariya-dil:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442)—12, 3, 6, 9

Directed by K Ravi Shankar and with music by Rajesh Roshan, the cast includes Govinda, Kimmy Katkar, Shakti Kapoor, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Gulshan Grover, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Kaalchakra (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows

A film by Dilip Shankar, starring Suresh Oberoi, Madan Jain, Soni Razdan, Priya Tendulkar and Sadashiv Amerpurkar

• **Shahenshah:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266)—4 shows, Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)—3 shows



Amrita Singh and Jeetendra in *Mukkim*



Sri Prada and Hemant Birje in *Bijlee Aur Toofan*

Amitabh Bachchan stars in this Tinu Anand film, whose music is by Amar Utpal. Also in the cast is Meenakshi Seshadri

• **Tamacha:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440)

Directed by Ramesh Ahuja and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film

stars Jeetendra Rajnikant Sumeet Saigal Bhanupriya Kimmy Katkar and Amrita Singh

BENGALI FILMS

• **Antaranga:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740)—3, 5.45, 8 30

Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy are the lead pair in this Dinen Gupta film Others in the cast are Rabi Ghosh, Anup Kumar, Chinmoy Roy and Basanta Chowdhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Apaman** Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) & Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—2 30, 5 30, 8 30, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 8

Sandhyarani, Prasenjit, Abhijit Sen, Abhisek Chatterjee, Shekhar Chatterjee Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Chandan Mukherjee, Lolita Chatterjee, Indrani Dutta, Master Manku and debutante Shania comprise the cast of this Chandan Mukherjee film

NEW RELEASES

HINDI FILMS

• **Mulzim:** Elite (S N Banerjee Road, 241382), Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917) Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 311090), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)

Directed by K S R. Doss and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha Hema Malini Amrita Singh, Kimmy Katkar and Suresh Oberoi

SPECIAL EVENTS

20 March: 6 pm

A musical evening in aid of Thakurpukur Cancer Centre and Welfare Home features Satinath Mukherjee, Pronob Ghosh, Akhilbandhu Ghosh and Suprova Sarkar

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937)

20 March: 6 pm

Gitanjali Vidyamandir's evening of classical music features Sujit Saha (tabla lahara) Binapani Roy Chowdhury (vocal) and Aparna Chakraborty (vocal)

At Birla Academy (108-109 Southern Avenue 467843 9802)

20 March 6 pm

A musical evening by Pankaj Udhas, presented by Lions Club of Calcutta Ganga

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

20 March: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the play, *Salim Sherwani Ki Shaadi*

At Padatik Little Theatre (6 7 Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 446087)

21 March. 6 30 pm

In aid of Help-Age India, Pancnam Vaidic will stage Saoli Mitra's *Naathabati Anaathabat* produced by Sombhu Mitra

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

22 March. 6.30 pm

Uttarbanga Lokajaan presents the folk play of north Bengal, *Halua-Haluani*, by the folk artistes of West Dinajpur

At Jogesh Mime Academy (Kalighat Park)

24 March: 6.30 pm

Padatik presents a sitar recital by Partha Das

At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7 AJC Bose Road, 446087)

26 March: 6.30 pm

Proscenium will stage Badal Sircar's play, *Yadi EK Bar Phirse*, directed by Sheo Kumar Jhunjhunwala The cast includes Govind Jhunjhunwala, Dolly Basu, Ram Gopal Bagla, Sharmini Bhatnagar Ashok Churiwal, Sunita Sen Gupta, Sheo Kumar Jhunjhunwala and Mollika Basu

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

BARTER BANK

• **Motor cycle** I offer a BSA Bond motor cycle in good condition for a colour television Contact Dipak Kumar Maity, 181 Maharshi Debendra Road, Nimtalla, Calcutta

• **Radio:** I offer a radio for a Philips car stereo (with round speakers) Write to Abhishek Pramanik, Flat 1 G, Meghdoot, 12, Rowland Road Calcutta 20

• **Roller skates and camera:** I offer a pair of roller skates and an Agfa camera for a bicycle Contact Uttam Chhetri, c/o Leela Chhetri Sardar Police Station Officers Quarters Darjeeling 734101

• **Telephoto lens** I offer a Super Albinor F 3 5 135 mm automatic multicoated telephoto lens suited for all models of Nikon cameras for anything of corresponding value Contact Thakurdas India Gift House Grand Hotel Arcade 15 4, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 13

• **Movie projector, ice creammaker, juice extractor, hair curler and hot plate:** I offer an 8 mm movie projector, juice extractor, ice-cream maker hair curler and hot plate for a 35 mm SLR camera or slide projector in good condition Write to Ishwar Mahbubani 11 Lindsay Street, Second floor, Flat no 3, Calcutta

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York Dep (1) AI 103 at 2350
London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta Arr (1) AI 132A at 1805
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (2) AI 316 at 1910 Dep (2) AI 316 at 2040
Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (3) AI 307 at 2015 Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115
Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI 324 at 1050 Dep (4) AI 324 at 1150
Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay Arr (4) AI 325 at 2245 Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330
Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU 588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU-588 at 1105
Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU 589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU 589 at 0050
Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU-537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1955
Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1 3 7) RA-214 at 1110 Dep (2 4 7) IC-247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1 3 7) RA-213 at 1010 Arr (2, 4 7) IC-248 at 1525 Arr (3, 6) IC 248 at 1425
Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1145 IC 223 at 1340 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG-694 at 1715 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1045 IC 221 at 1540 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1615
Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC-225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG-697 at 1220 (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555
Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (2 4 7) IC 232 at 1640 Arr (1 3 [illegible] TG 313 at 1240 Dep (2 4 [illegible] IC 231 at 1950 Dep (1 3 [illegible] TG 314 at 1355
Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 3 5 6) GQ 102 at 0740 Arr (1 2 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta Delhi Dep (daily) IC 100 at 1710 and IC 263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC-264 at [illegible]
Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1355
Calcutta-Madras Dep (Daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225
Calcutta Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC-295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC-296 at 1635
Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4 6) IC-295 at 1540 Arr (2 4 6) IC-296 at 2105
Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC [illegible]87 at 0545 Arr (1) IC 288 at [illegible]
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 [illegible] [illegible]54, at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 [illegible] IC 531 at 1210
Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2245
Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC-278 at 2215 Arr (4 or IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar. Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC 270 at 2155
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC-281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850
Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC 229 at 1320 Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC-203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 Arr (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC-204 at 1255 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC-[illegible]13 at 1705
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6 7) IC 201 at [illegible] Arr (2 4 6 7) IC 202 at [illegible]
Calcutta Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC [illegible] at 0930 [illegible] IC 256 at 1000 Arr [illegible] IC 256 at 1430
Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr [illegible] IC 222

at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC 241 at 1140 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC 242 at 1640

Calcutta Agartala-Silchar Dep (1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5) IC 238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3 5) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (1 3 5) IC-202 at 0310

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (7) IC 219 at 0625 Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (2 4 6) PF 717 at 0600 Arr (2 4 6) PF 718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (1 3 5) PF 725 at 0600 Arr (1 3 5) PF 726 at 1100

Calcutta-Aizawl Dep (2 4 6) PF 705A at 1100 Arr (2 4 6) PF 706A at 1450

Calcutta Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5) PF 729 at 1140 Arr (1 3 5) PF 730 at 1510

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5) PF-721 722 at 0630 Arr (1 3, 5) PF 723 724 at 1915

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati Dep (daily) PF 70 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF 708 at 1745

Calcutta-Malda Balurghat Dep (1 3 5) PF 731 at 0515 Arr (1 3 5) PF 732 at 1000

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep (2 4 6 7) PF 727 at 0910 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF 728 at 1610

Calcutta Cooch Behar Dep (2 4 6 7) PF 707 at 0610 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2 4 6) PF 715 at 0555 Arr (2 4 6) PF-716 at 1610

Calcutta Shillong-Guwahati Jorhat-Lilabari Dibrugarh Dep (daily) PF 701 , 3 at 0800 Arr (daily) PF 702 12 , at 1705

Technical landing at Agartala while returning

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12 55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep - Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep - Sat up to Amritsar Arr -Tues Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep -Sun up to Amritsar Arr Mon , & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep - Mon , Tues Thurs , Fri & Sun Arr - Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep - Tues , Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep Mon & Thurs Arr -- Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21 10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20 50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep - Mon Wed Fri Arr - Tues Thurs Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arr —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep --Tues , Thurs & Sat Arr —Mon , Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express** Dep —Except Wednesday Arr —Except Wednesday	15-45	16
959	15 30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep - Thursday Arr —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

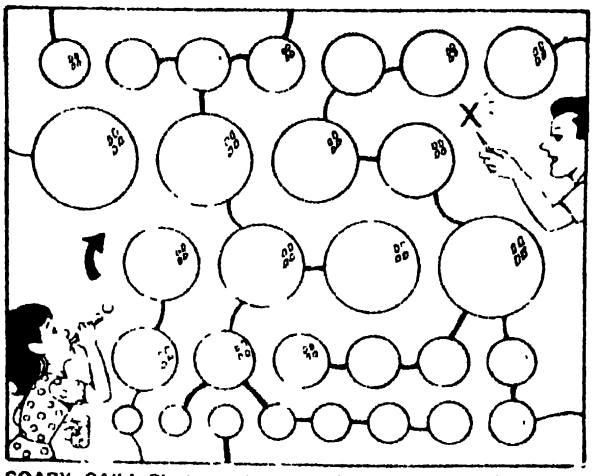
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19 00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6 10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16 10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 35	34
303	18 15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6 00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep --Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arr --Mon Tues Thurs , Fri , & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 day a week Dep - Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arr - Tues Wed , Fri & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	1 00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express**	1 00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21 50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5 30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5 45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8 15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11 30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	--
-	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	--
---	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arr —Tuesday only	13-45	951

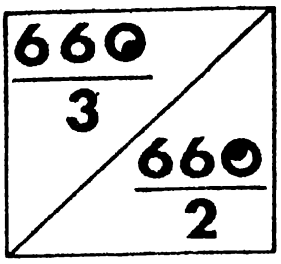
ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



SOAPY SAIL! Starting at arrow, find small bubble's path through maze to bursting point, X, at top right

• SUM FUN! A, B and C are consecutive even numbers One third A plus one-half B, plus one-fourth C totals 15 What are the numbers?

Numbers are 12, 14 and 16



VERSE POSER TWISTS MIND

You can solve this poser in your head if you turn things over in your mind It involves coping with some trick arithmetic

Six hundred and sixty so ordered may be,
That if you divide the whole number by three,
You'll find the result will exactly express,
The half of six hundred and sixty, no less
How quickly can you 'explain' it?

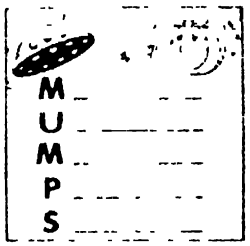
Three 220's or 660 to form 990 divide by three gets 330 and 330 divided by two gives 165

• **SWELL TRIP! Initial letters of the names of five planets visited on an imaginary trip through the solar system may be used to form the word MUMPS in the diagram below**

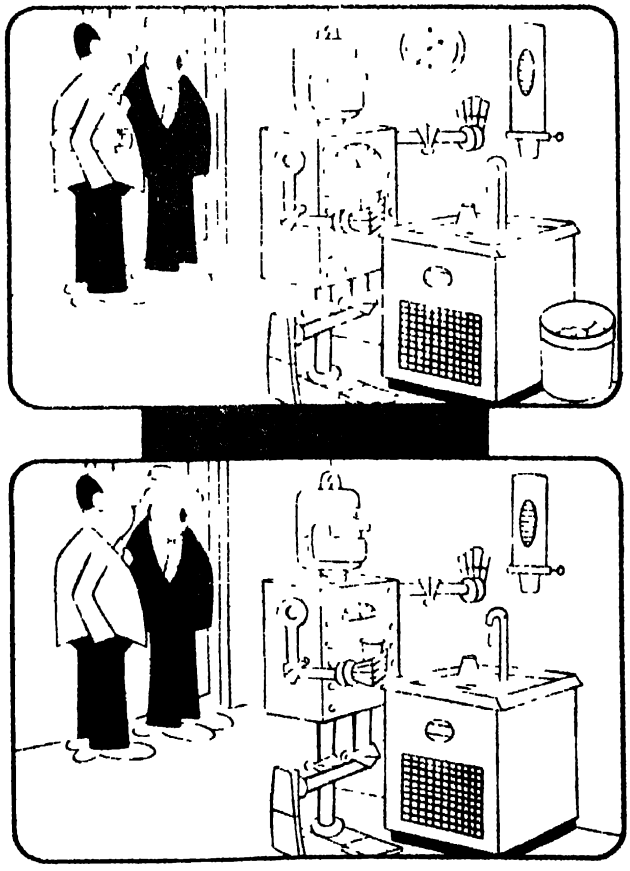
How quickly can you name the five planets?

P S Planets whose names start with letter M are interchangeable

Mars Uranus Mercury Pluto and Saturn may do it



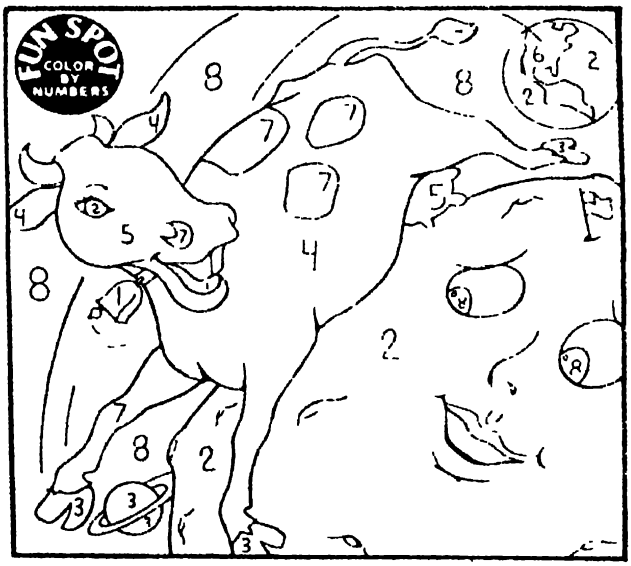
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference 1 Paper is missing 2 Dial is smaller 3 Robot's body is shorter 4 Clock is missing 5 Cup holder is shorter 6 Trash can is missing

FUNSPOT



MILKY WAY! Hey, diddle, diddle Bossie s jumped over the moon Add colors neatly 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Lavender 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

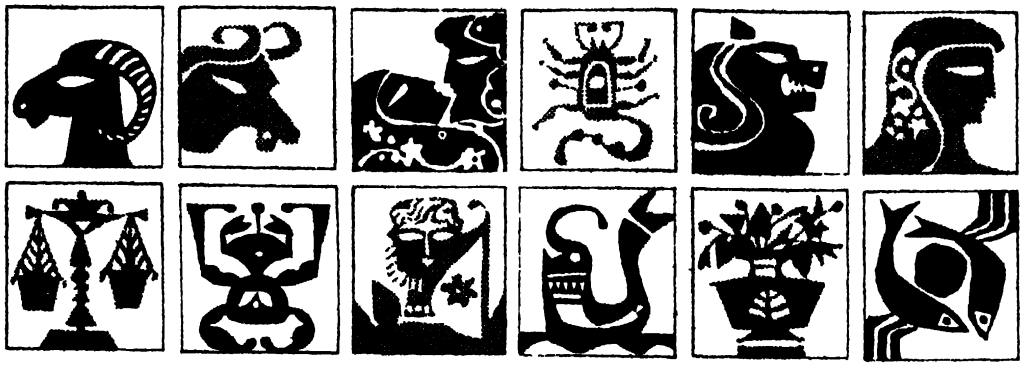
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

REGISTER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Steer grit



ARIES
March 21—April 20

The sun in your sign will revitalise you However, even then do not take your health for granted Contacts, messages and group activity are signified An intimate relationship with relative strangers is also on the cards. Romance is indicated for the fancyfree and eligible A celebration is likely

TAURUS
April 21 May 20

The new moon heralds wedding bells for the eligible and fancyfree Artists, singers, chemists, farmers, industrialists, film directors, entrepreneurs and students will make it big now Money and fame will be yours Friends will come forward to render all possible support Romance is likely

GEMINI
May 21- June 20

Work pressures will be there but they should not stop you from enjoying yourself A week of mixed fortunes lies ahead Health safeguards are called for and caution should be your motto You may feel financial pressures but do not let them bog you down as this is just a passing phase

CANCER
June 21—July 20

A week full of fun and frolic lies ahead The Mercury Pluto trine will ensure that you will shine at meetings and parties Socialise and entertain in style now This is the right time to make your presence felt Funds will be available to start a new venture now Friends will lend all possible support

LEO
July 21- August 21

Health will once again cause concern The moon conjuncts Jupiter and you will be caught in a controversy not entirely of your own making Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that presents itself Journeys, ceremonies, publicity and collaborations are highlighted

VIRGO
August 22—Sept 22

This is the time to assess and evaluate your gains of the last few months At work, a confrontation with colleagues cannot be ruled out News, views and collaborations are highlighted You may now enter into an intimate personal relationship which may culminate in marriage Learn to be decisive

LIBRA
Sept 23- Oct 22

The sun in your seventh slot will help you to reach out to people and places Matters pertaining to loans, funds, mort gages and collaborations are once again highlighted A transfer or job hop cannot be ruled out. The nature or scope of your work may change Expenses may suddenly rise

SCORPIO
Oct 23—Nov 22

You will gain further recognition at work The sun moon sextile indicates better job opportunities and professional recognition Learn to rely on your intuition and grab all opportunities that come your way You will strike relationships at all levels Romance with the possibility of marriage is foretold.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23—Dec 20

The health of parents and elders will demand attention Children hobbies and entertainment are highlighted this week However, last minute changes in your schedule may upset you Learn to take minor upheavals in your stride A job switch is on the cards Expenses may rise substantially

CAPRICORN
Dec 21 Jan 19

The Mercury sextile Venus formation will help you to ferret out important information Property disputes may worry you This is the time to launch new projects and business ventures A journey in the coming weeks is likely. The health of parents and elders is likely to be a source of worry

AQUARIUS
Jan 20 Feb 19

Do not over-indulge this week Buying and selling are emphasised but do not act without consulting experts. Visitors, relatives and friends will drop in unexpectedly Take care while travelling as you may be prone to accidents Delays and mishaps are likely as sun squares Saturn

PISCES
Feb 20—March 20

A medical checkup is on the cards Moon conjuncts Venus and buying, selling, trading, entertaining and socialising are on the cards. Children and relatives will contribute to your happiness. Editors, musicians, sculptors, salesmen and educationists will make it big. Health safeguards called for

BIRTHDAYS

March 20
Moon conjunction Jupiter. Travel agents, beauticians, commission agents, brokers, editors, astrologers and psychics will make it big now A successful year lies ahead.

March 21
Moon conjunction Venus Tailors, entrepreneurs, those in import and export, publicity agents, jewellers and media men have it made Buying, selling and partying are highlighted Collaborations and ventures should be started

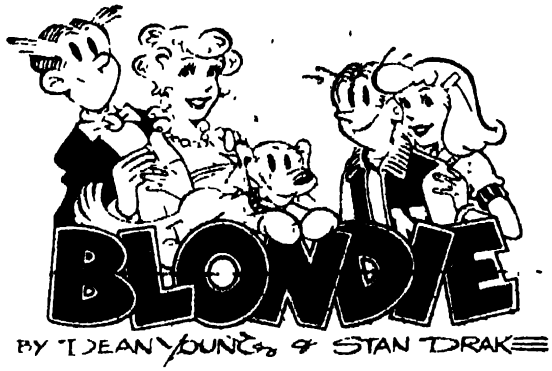
March 22
Moon sextile sun, sun square Saturn Take one step at a time Keep your options open Those in government service and politics should be wary Opportunities galore for poets, painters, farmers, artists and antique dealers

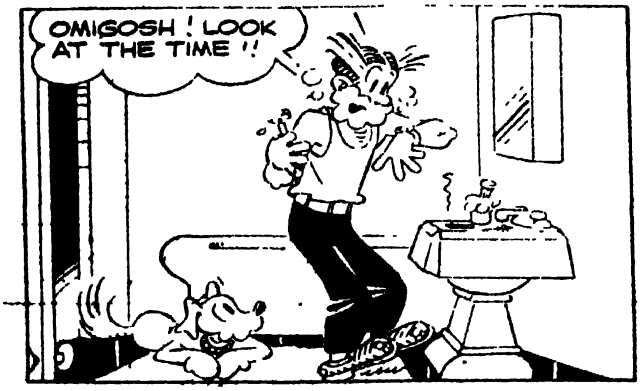
March 23
Mercury sextile Neptune This sextile means sudden or secret gains collaborations, negotiations and settlements Be cautious while travelling and commuting Delays should be expected Visits, interviews and signing of deeds and documents are foretold

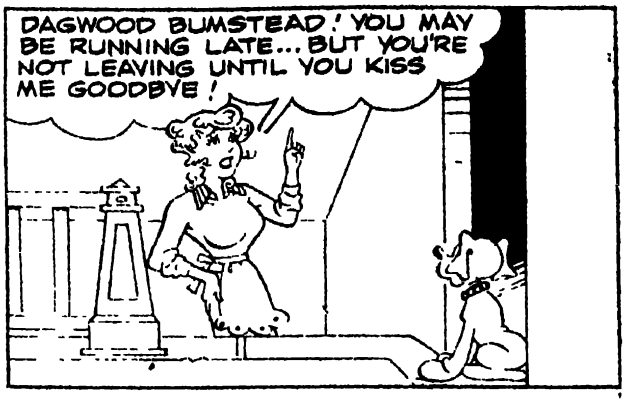
March 24
Moon opposition Uranus Take care while signing any joint ventures The accent is now on travel, collaborations, deeds, documents, contracts, security and mortgages Be precise and practical

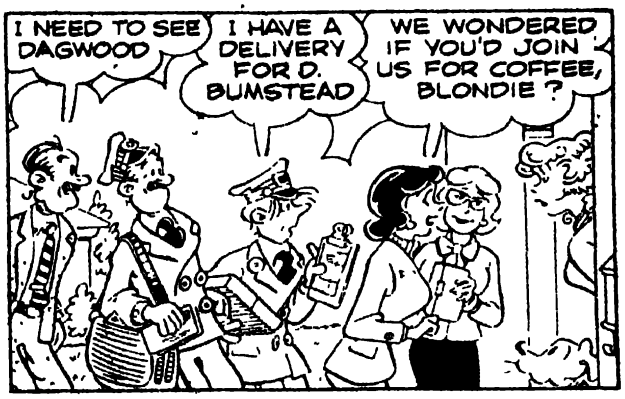
March 25
Mercury-moon both trine Pluto This will be a power-packed year. The domestic scene is also strongly highlighted This could well be a year of significant changes. Romance, children and elders will demand attention

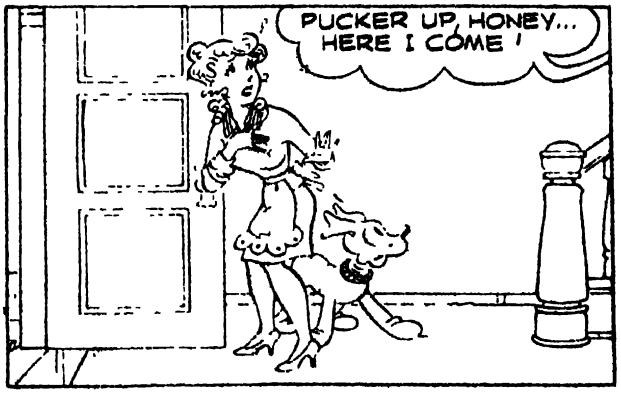
March 26
Moon sextile Venus, opposition Mars A year of mixed fortunes Romance and gaiety are foretold However, there will be opposition to plans at work and home. Be tactful in all your dealings.

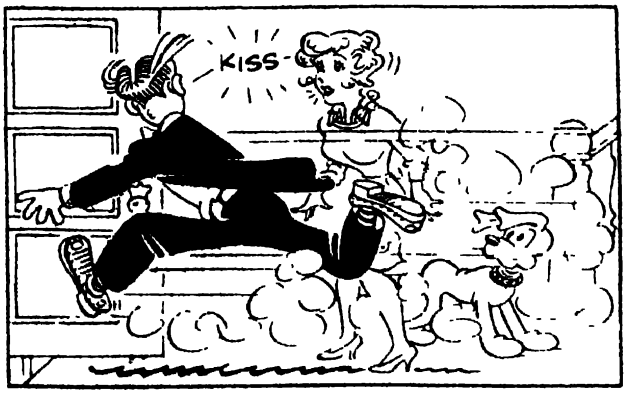


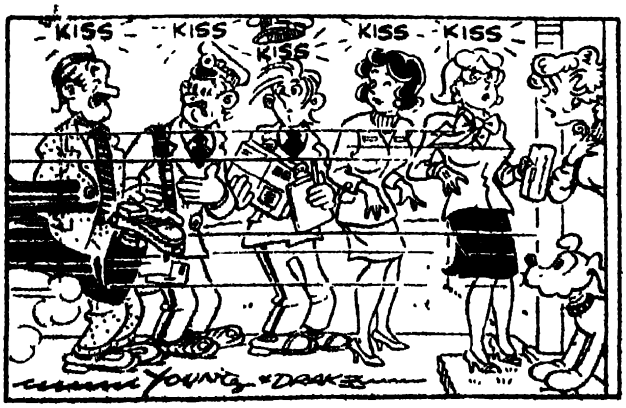


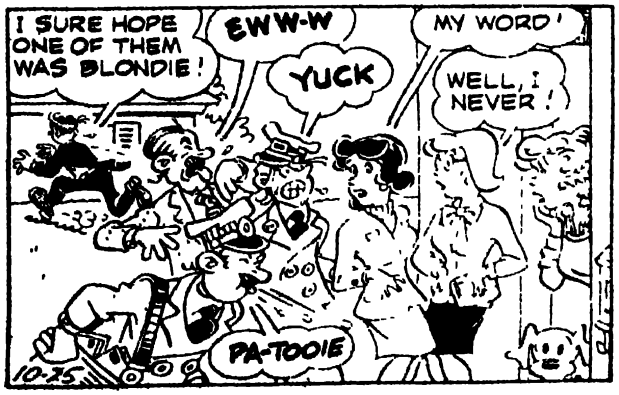






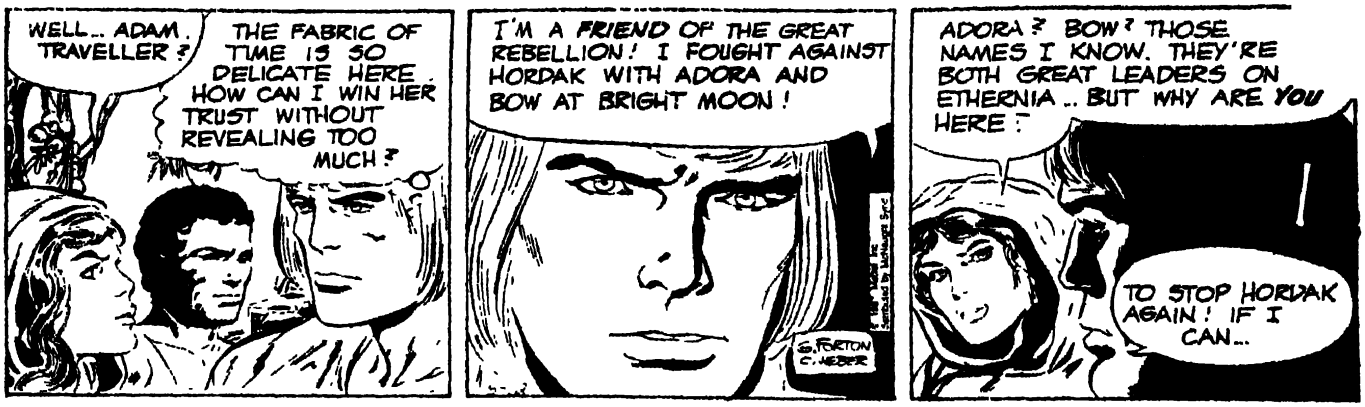




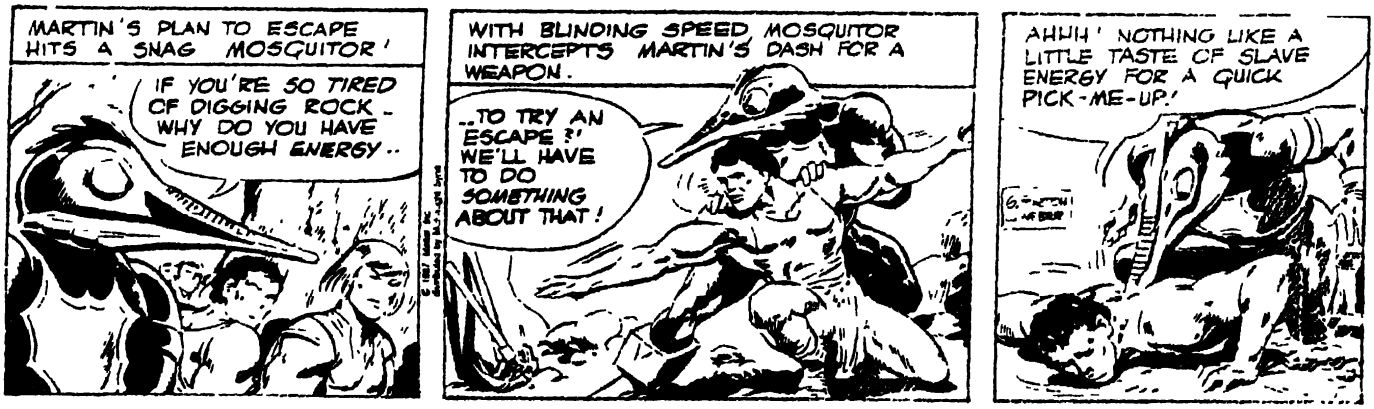


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HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



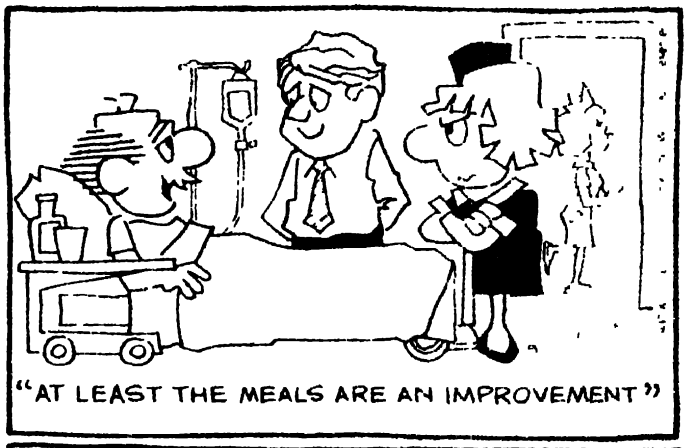


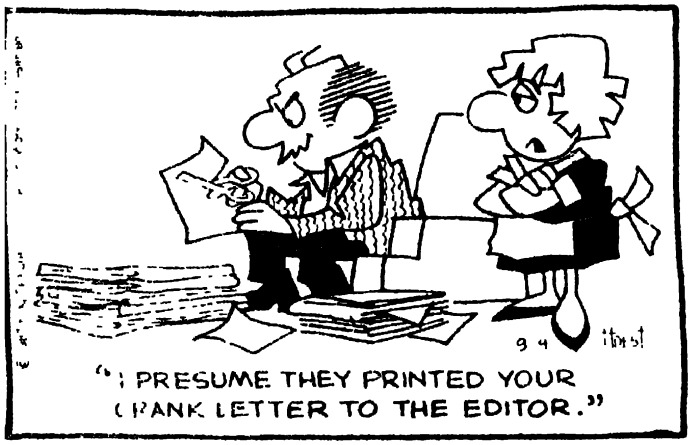




THE LOCKHORNS

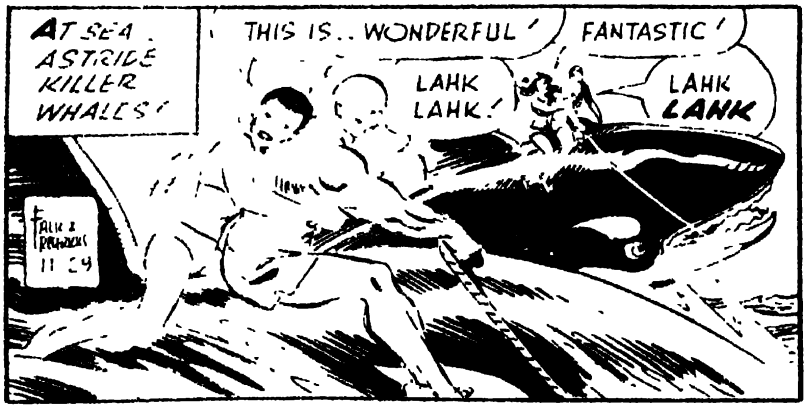


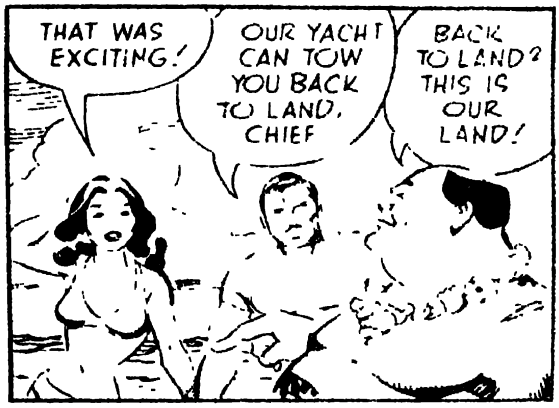






MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

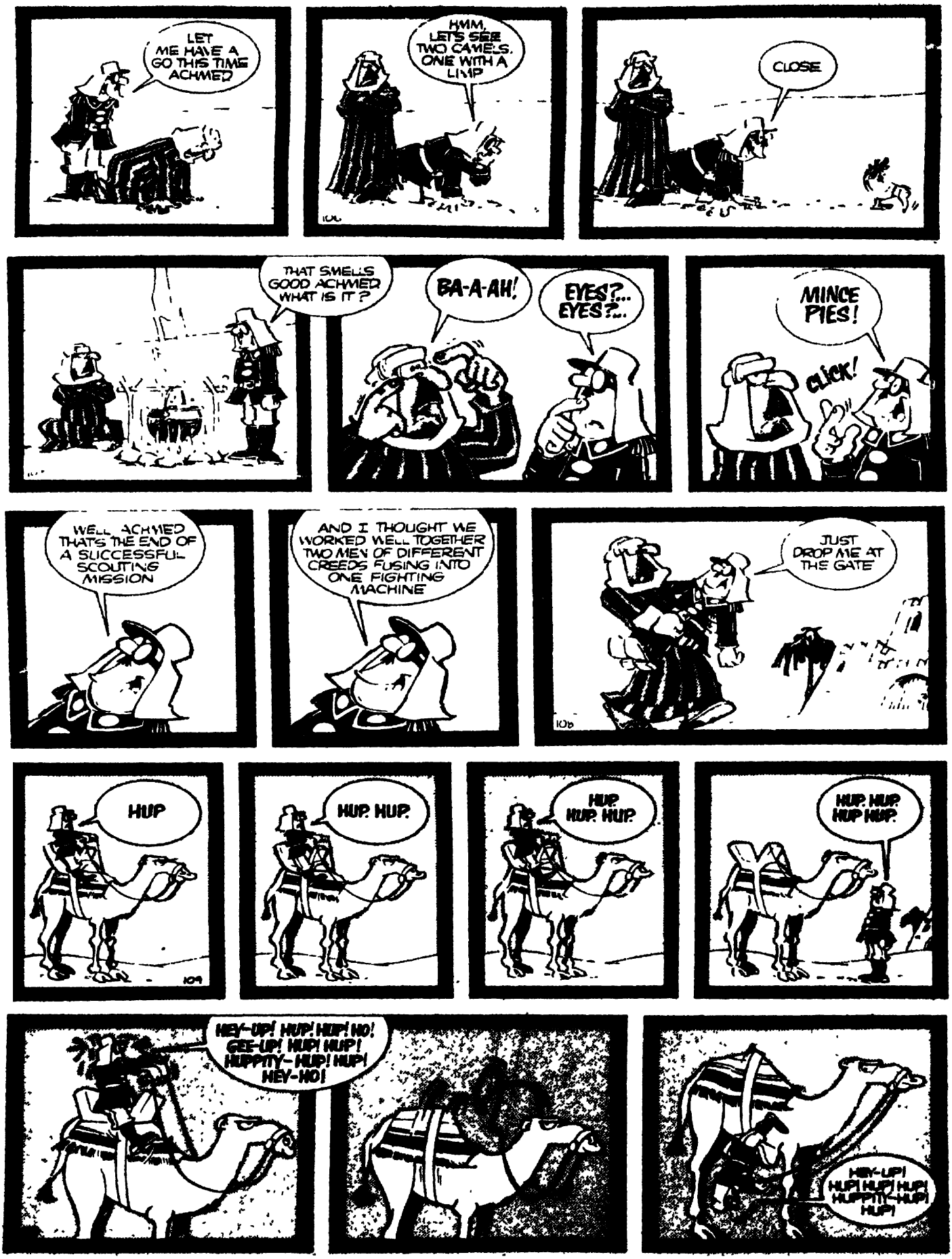






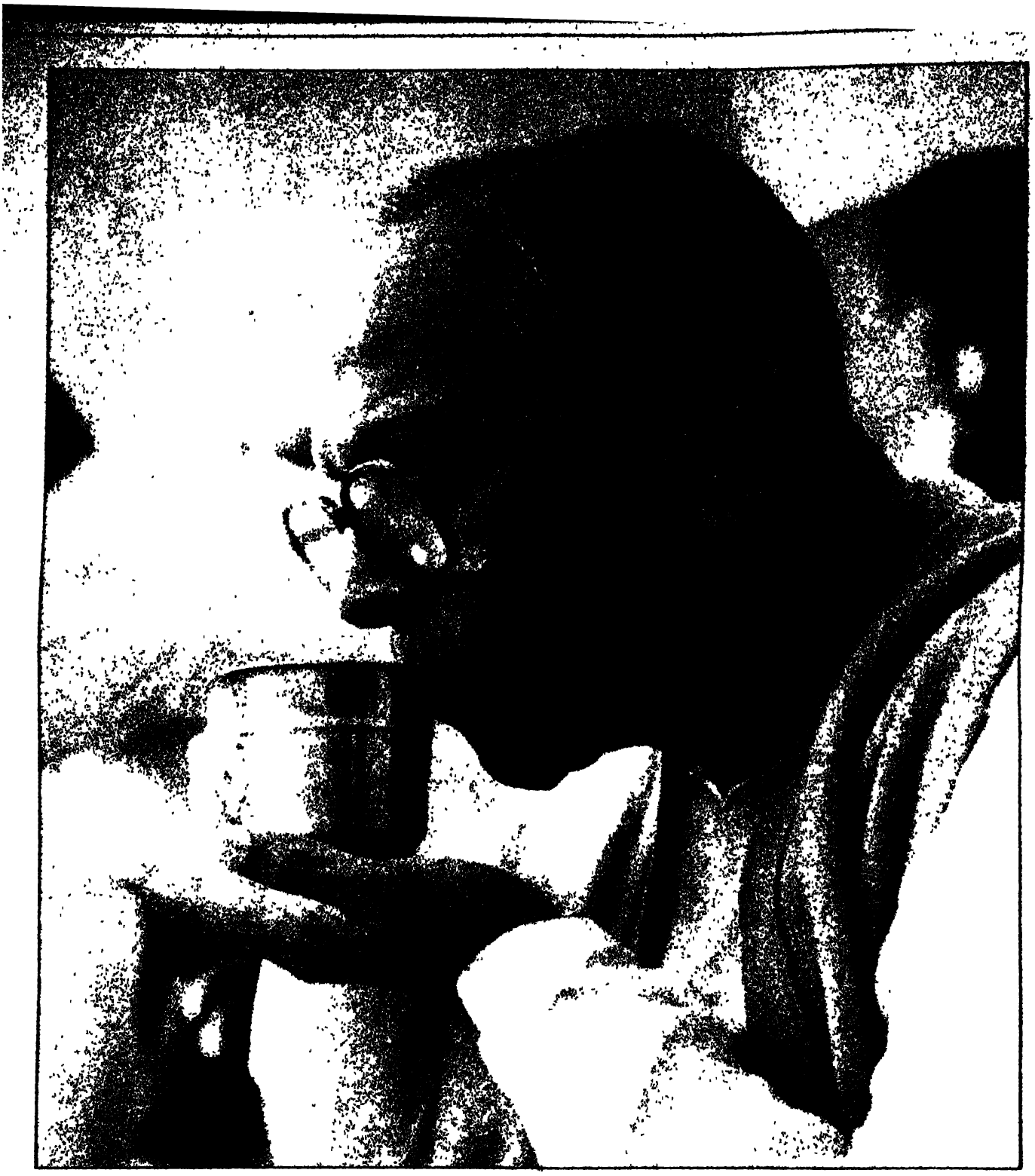


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LET ME HAVE A GO THIS TIME ACHMED
HMM, LET'S SEE. TWO CAMELS. ONE WITH A LIMP
CLOSE
THAT SMELLS GOOD ACHMED WHAT IS IT?
BA-A-AH!
EYES?... EYES?...
MINCE PIES!
CLICK!
WELL ACHMED THAT'S THE END OF A SUCCESSFUL SCOUTING MISSION
AND I THOUGHT WE WORKED WELL TOGETHER TWO MEN OF DIFFERENT CREEDS FUSING INTO ONE FIGHTING MACHINE
JUST DROP ME AT THE GATE
HUP
HUP. HUP.
HUP. HUP. HUP.
HUP. HUP. HUP. HUP.
HEY-UP! HUP! HUP! HO! GEE-UP! HUP! HUP! HUPPITY-HUP! HUP! HEY-HO!
HEY-UP! HUP! HUP! HUP! HUPPITY-HUP! HUP!

ARCHIE


NO LITTERING
RIVERDALE POLICE DEPT.
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NO LITTERING
RIVERDALE POLICE DEPT.
LOOK AT THAT! LITTERING MAKES ME SO MAD!
HOW MUCH DOES IT TAKE TO PUT THINGS WHERE THEY BELONG?
DON'T PEOPLE KNOW SOMEONE HAS TO PICK UP THIS STUFF?!
SOME FOLKS DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE HOW MUCH MESS THEY MAKE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, ARCH!
SEE YA, JUG!
HEY, MOM...
PLOP
I'M HOME FROM THE GAME!
SO I SEE!



Tasting victory has by now become a habit with **Jyoti Basu**, who leads the state of West Bengal with his left foot forward. Although infighting in the Left Front might have made things a little hot for the CPI(M) leader, the panchayat elections made his cup brimmeth over. Photograph by CHITRAJIT GHOSH



You cannot find a refrigerator like Voltas. It has got everything.

Voltas refrigerator runs on Danfoss*, the world's largest selling compressor. It cools faster and consumes less electricity than any other compressor. It withstands maximum voltage fluctuation (140 V to 280 V), and comes with a seven year guarantee.

The defrosting system is unique. The entire refrigerator is insulated 100% with polyurethane foam. The cabinet and door liners are made of ABS. The paint is powder coated. It does not peel or rust.

And the elegant looks of Voltas refrigerator attract your instant attention in a dealer's shop.

Among all the 165 litre refrigerators, Voltas is incomparable. It has got everything.



* Manufactured by Voltas under licence from Danfoss of Denmark

VOLTAS refrigerator.
If you want the best.

ULK - VR 188



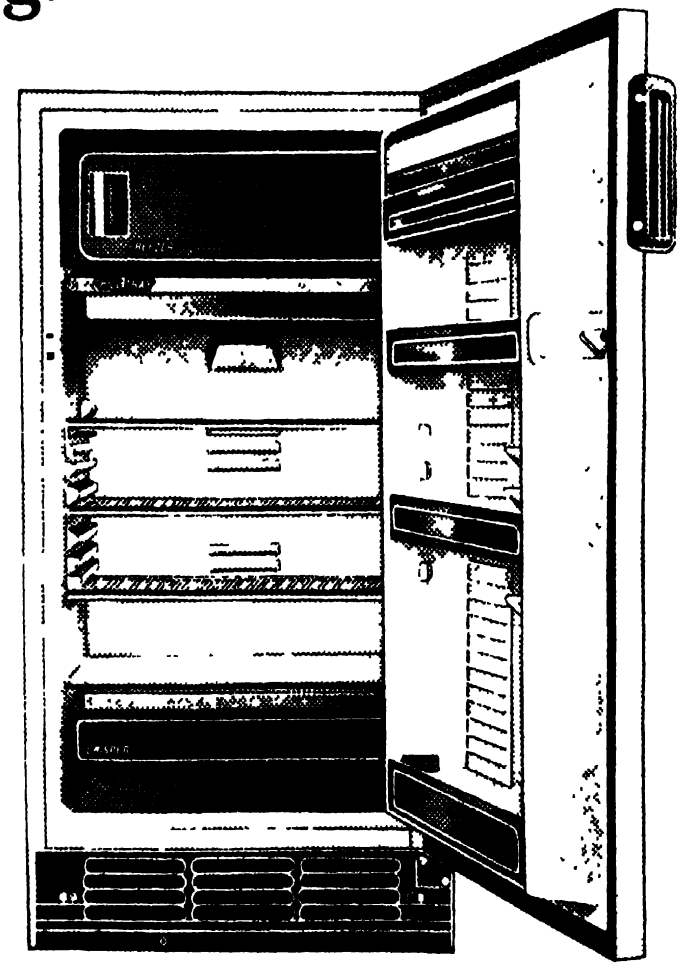
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Manufactured by Voltas under licence from Danfoss of Denmark

VOLTAS refrigerator.
If you want the best.

KA-VR-1-88

Urge for a Wanderland

I must add a few more points to Dr Ramanna's view that most people in India have still not gone beyond the comics age (February 28). Scientific application has not yet reached its peak here leading to imaginary super-phenomena playing big roles.

Politics has infiltrated and polluted Indian social life to the extent that the people dream of a superman who will save them from everything. An addiction to comics is nothing but an inner urge for a wonderland.

Madan Mohan Nath,
Calcutta

■ Dr Ramanna and Sunil Gangopadhyay's views made a fine contrast. But how could Dr Ramanna compare the TV serial, *Ramayan*, to a comic? Does he not know that the Ramayana and Mahabharata are our epics? They are popular even in Pakistan and Indonesia, a Muslim country, treats them as its national treasures. Its airline is named Garuda and its fastest train is named after Bhim.

A.N. Bhattacharya,
Calutta

Land of the Rising Son



It was heartening to read a letter like 'Soldier Be Praised' (January 31). But why are these brave sons praised so much in active service and completely neglected when they retire?

I am a victim myself. My name was registered with the District Sainik Welfare Board for resettlement two years ago. I have even written to the President, the Prime Minister and the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, but all in vain. I am now homeless and landless, but there is no one to enquire about my welfare.

S. Sen,
Bilaspur

■ The Irish literary scholar, C.S. Lewis, dismissed talk of comics corrupting youth as "so much rubbish". The real objection, he said, was to the poor standard of the drawings.

Paul Roberts,
Burnpur

Elegant, But...

There is a new touch of elegance to the Colour Magazine. But I was unhappy to note that the Images page has disappeared.

Debanjan Chatterjee,
Sodepur (W.B.)

Decline, is it?

I differ from Sachin Gokhale's opinion that the Colour Magazine is on the decline (February 28). After reading about Russy Karanjia, he should tell us whether he still feels so.

Debeswar Bhattacharjee,
Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)

Why Only Bombay?

Your Rainbow feature (February 28) portrayed the release of *Shahenshah* only in Bombay. Bombay may be the film centre, but what about Calcutta, Delhi and Madras?

S. Sailesh,
Rourkela

Bring it Back!

We have not been seeing Tinsel Town for some time now. Please bring it back and make the magazine as inviting as it was.

Sudipto Roy
and Sumit Poddar,
Calcutta

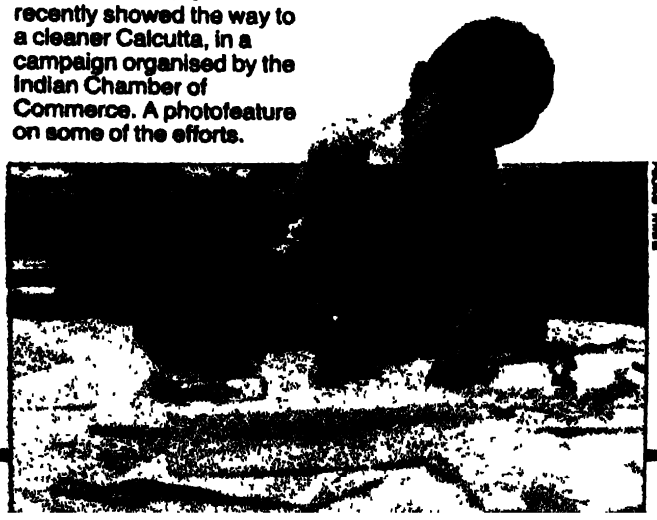
The page has been shifted to our Saturday Special.—Editor.

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Cover Story: A reconstruction of the Dandi March, based on visuals and documents from *India's Struggle for Independence.*

16
Panorama: An overview of shark fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

13
Rainbow: Children recently showed the way to a cleaner Calcutta, in a campaign organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce. A photofeature on some of the efforts.



Abbie Mehta

The Telegraph
27 MARCH 1988

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RED SIGNAL

The township of Chittaranjan is entirely dependent on the health of its famous locomotive works. But a government decision to import Japanese rail engines has raised a question about its future

The Indian Railway network is the biggest in Asia and one of the largest in the world The Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) has played a major role in its development Situated at a distance of 238 km from Howrah on the Patna main line, near West Bengal-Bihar border, Chittaranjan is a small railway colony This captive town has a locofactory that manufactures electric and diesel locomotives for the railways Established in 1948, production in the works was inaugurated on January 26, 1950, and since then the CLW has grown substantially Built mainly to produce steam engines, the first locomotive rolled out on November 1 1950

With the modernisation of the Indian Railways, the CLW began to produce electric and diesel locomotives. Electric locomotives began to be manufactured in 1961 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru commissioned *Lokamanya* on October 14, while the first diesel shunter engine was made ready for service on January 6, 1968

What has made Chittaranjan the focus of considerable attention is the government decision to import electric locomotives from Japan with help from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank These locomotives will be more powerful than those being manufactured at the CLW The imported ones will be of 6000 hp, while the ones made at the CLW are of 3900 hp

According to CLW authorities, 18 such locomotives of three different types have already been ordered by the Railway Board and will be ready for operation shortly. Tenders for another prototype of the latest design have also been issued by the board. They, however, declined to give the financial details, as the deal was being made by the Railway Board

A top official of the CLW disclosed that the price of the imported engines would be around Rs 3 crores each in foreign exchange. He also pointed out that the CLW with its present infrastructure can at best produce 100 electric locomotives a year, but with the growing modernisation and electrification of the Indian Railways, the demand is even greater

According to the general secretary of the Citu-dominated CLW labour union, Mr Nirmal Mukherjee, 40 electric locomotives are being imported at a cost of more then Rs 200 crores in foreign exchange But he confirmed that so far only 18 engines have been actually ordered He alleged that these locomotives would cost around Rs 5 crores each while a CLW-built locomotive costs about Rs 1.4 crores. He contended that with the modernisation of the workshop, the workers can easily produce the required quantity at a much cheaper rate and thereby save precious foreign exchange He claimed that the railway tracks currently in use are incapable of withstanding the stress caused by the advanced locos.

One of the most surprising things about the CLW is that though the manpower has remained the same between 1979 and 1987, production has increased. In 1979 there were around 16,000 workers while in 1987 it was 15,717. But while 53 electric locomotives were produced in 1982-83 the number increased to 71 in 1986-87 The targets for 1987-88 and 1988-89 are 81 and 100, respectively The workers feel they have not received adequate recognition for this achievement According to one one of them, Mr Subhas Bose, "We are being cheated Though we work hard and give our soul to the job, we are not given our dues "

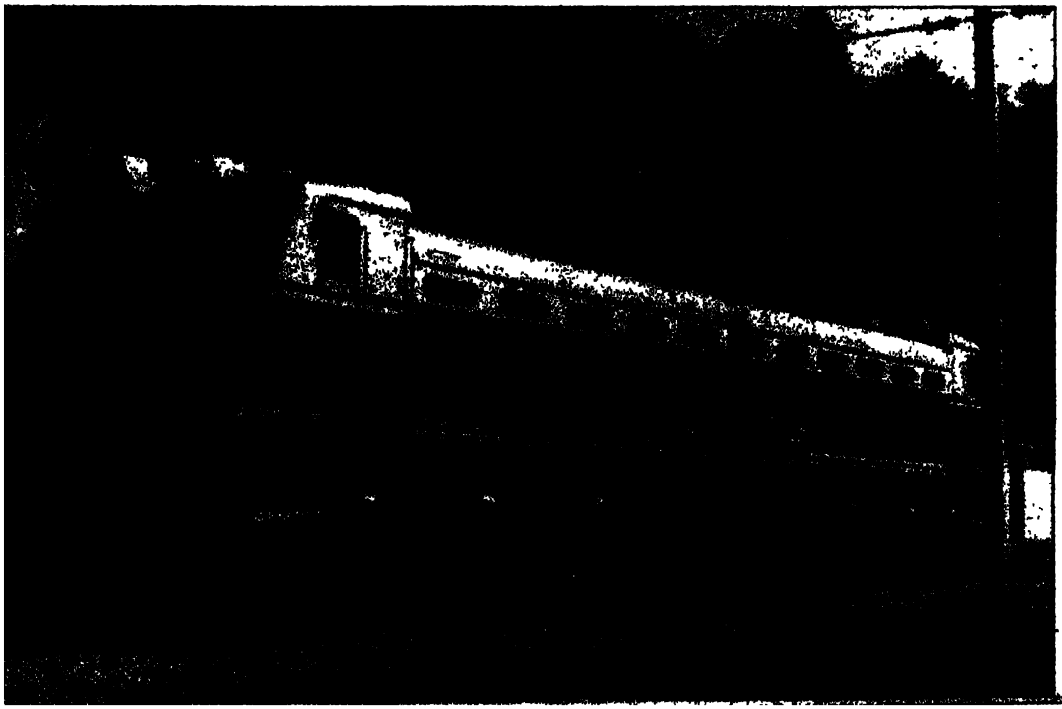
But ask the local residents what they feel about Chittaranjan, and you will get a uniform answer They all love the place

In 1987, railway minister Madhav Rao Scindia visited Chittaranjan and made three promises to citizens of which two are yet to be fulfilled The construction of a bridge across the Ajoy river and the Jawaharlal Nehru indoor stadium Last year during the floods six persons died on their way to Chittaranjan while crossing the Ajoy river But the Rs 40-lakh bridge shows no sign of being completed by its target date of 1989

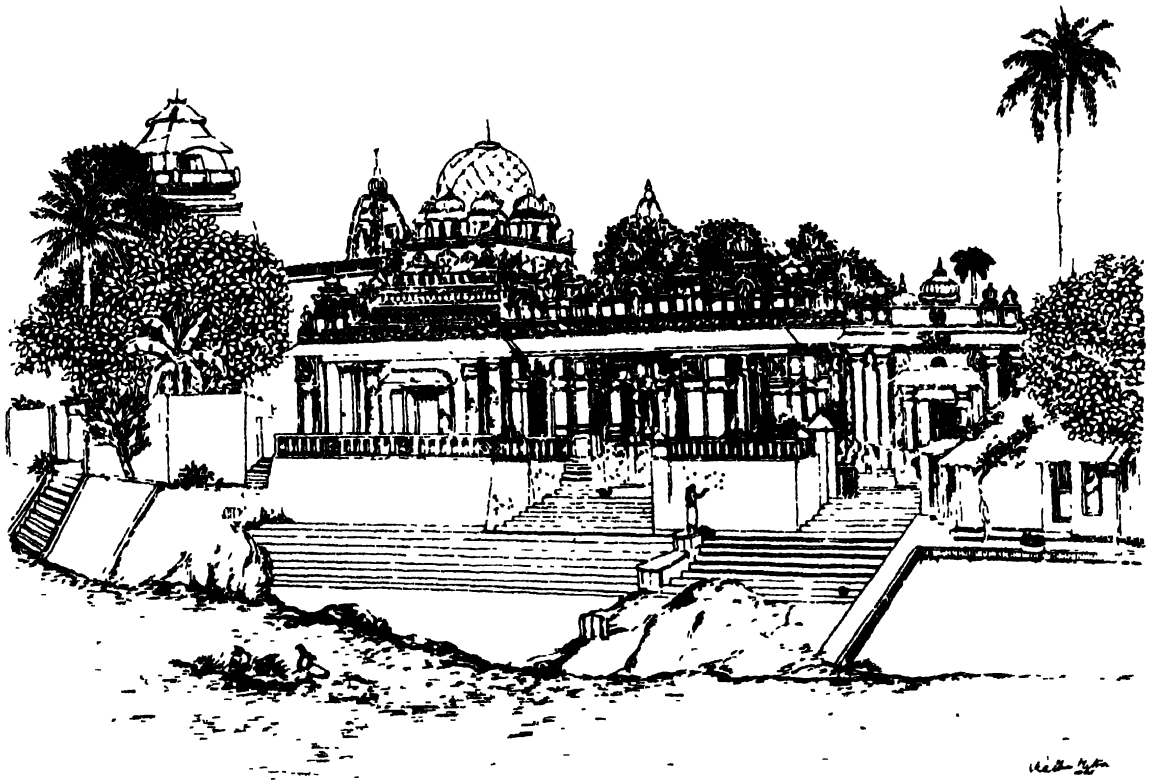
It is obvious that the welfare of the township is totally dependent on the health of the workshop Is the import of the Japanese engines any indication of the way things will go?

Bhaskar Mukherjee

The CLW's WAP-1 which is used for hauling the Rajdhani Express



MYSORE GHAT

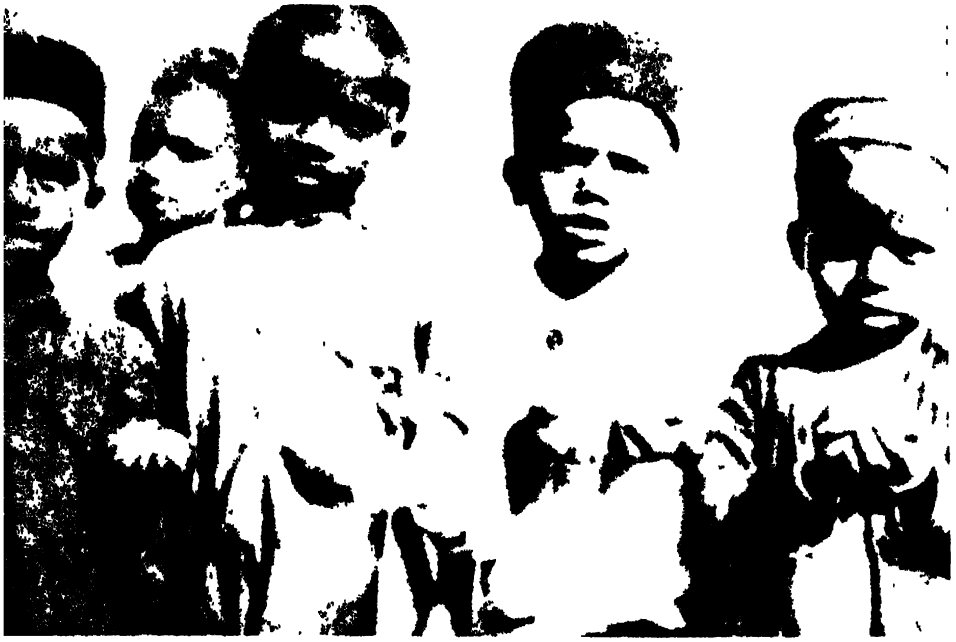


The Mysore Ghat (sketched above) is situated on the eastern bank of the Adi Ganga, to the south of the Keoratala and Sahanagar burning ghats. The ghat is constructed in the Carnatic style. The wonderfully decorated memorial gate, made of basalt, reminds one of the temples of Halebid and Belur in Karnataka. At the garden entrance from Sahanagar Road there stands another gateway of matchless beauty in the South Indian style. The entire complex was built by Sir Rajendranath Mukherjee.

The Maharaja of Mysore, His Highness Colonel Sir Chan Rajendra Odeyar Bahadur, G.C.S.I. arrived in Calcutta on December 21, 1894, to meet the then viceroy, Lord Elgin. He put up at Mrs Monk's hotel on Chowringhee. After seven days he died of diphtheria, aged just 33. Since it was not possible to cremate him like any common man, some land was purchased near the Keoratala burning ghat for his last rites and a garden was laid out in front. The Mysore Ghat thus derives its name.

THE WAY IT WAS

History comes alive in the book, *India's Struggle for Independence*, and reminds us of the great sacrifices and suffering an earlier generation willingly went through so that we could live as free and proud Indians. **Sunrita Sen**, in this review-article, reconstructs the Dandi March and other momentous events of those turbulent years



Ghansoli children take part in the Salt Satyagraha

A 20" × 14" canvas. The saint stoops, the sea gently rolls behind, a map shows the long route of his march..."for liberty" says a contemporary headline, and his followers--churning, milling, enthusiastic thousands, Indians, walking in the steps of their Mahatma. On the facing page, bold print, evocative words: "Like the historic march of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, Mahatma Gandhi with his brave eighty soldiers marched from Kalra into Broach district in the early hours of this morning....It was a hard time for them indeed to first tramp the dusty roads from Ras to Kanakpur through the valley of the Mahi, then across the river partly in a canoe and partly through knee-deep water, mud and mire for over three miles. To aggravate their difficulty there was absence of the moon in the sky. .the party began to cross the river at 10 pm and reached the other bank only after 12 30 pm...No doubt, everyone was put to extraordinary strain, but it must be said that every one passed the test with marvellous fortitude Indeed, it looks as if Gandhiji is making his followers put up with all sorts of hardships before which prison discomforts would be nothing...the party went to sleep on the bank of the river only after 1 am .." (*Amrita Bazar Patrika*, March 22, 1930).

India's Struggle for **Independence**, an invaluable compilation of visuals and documents related to the Independence movement reproduces Gandhi's reasons for embarking on the Dandi March as well. He wrote in the *Young India* of March 12, 1930: "On bended knee I asked for bread and I have received stone instead. It was open to the Viceroy to disarm me by freeing the poor man's salt, tax on which costs him five annas per year or nearly three days' income....It was open to the Viceroy to do many other things... but .he represents a nation that does not easily give in, that does not easily repent. Entreaty never convinces it. It readily listens to physical force. It can witness with bated breath a boxing match for hours without fatigue. It can go mad over a football match in which there may be broken bones. It goes into ecstasies over blood-curdling accounts of war It will listen also to mute...suffering It will not part with the millions it annually drains from India in reply to any argument."

Gandhi added that the Viceregal reply to his letter of March 2, 1930, on launching the Civil Disobedience movement did not surprise him. But at the same time he knew that "the salt tax has to go and many other things with it The reply says I contemplate a course of action which is clearly bound to involve violation of the law and danger to the public peace. the only law that the nation knows is the will of the British administrators, the only peace it knows is the peace of a public prison. India is one vast prison house I repudiate this law, and regard it as my sacred duty to break the mournful monotony of the compulsory peace that is choking the heart of the nation. "

In recreating Gandhi's Dandi march, its backdrop and its repercussions, through visuals and documents, NCERT has amply succeeded in its aim of taking "the reader to the 'actual scene' of events " Mr P.I. Malhotra, in his preface to the *India's Struggle for* **Independence** writes,"Such a journey through time may leave on the mind of the reader an enduring impression. The closeness to the 'scene' and the first-hand acquaintance with the documents would also provide the reader with opportunities to form his/her own view of the momentous events covered here " And the Dandi march is only one of these momentous events.

India's Struggle for **Independence**, painstakingly researched by the NCERT scholars over five years, is a story of turbulent times and of a generation

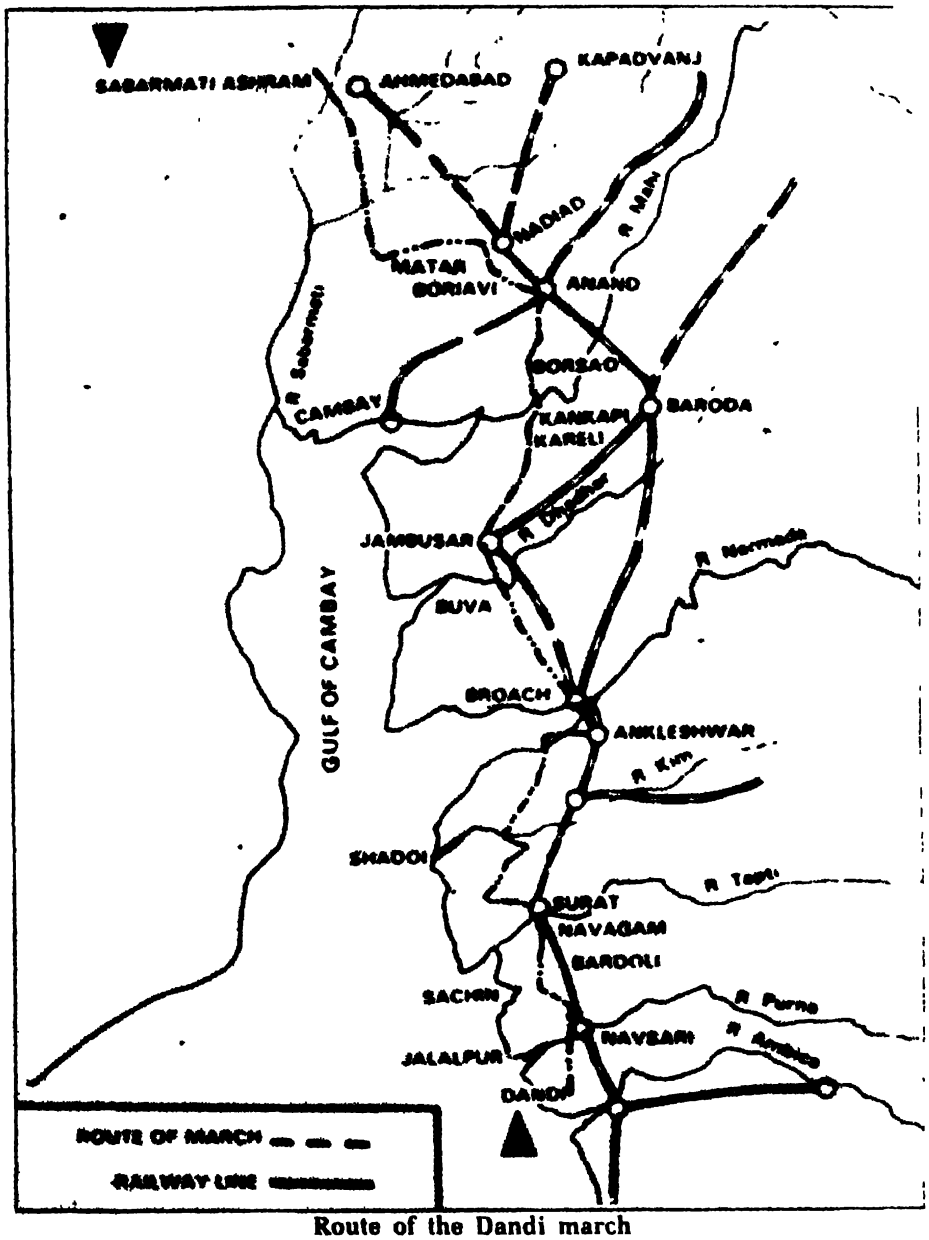
Visuals and documents from *India's Struggle for Independence*, National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, Rs 570

inspired. The Dandi march symbolises the spirit of that generation. The canvas-shod allowance-taking band of marchers today, no matter how pure their motives, can never hope to evoke the tumultuous emotional and psychological response of that momentous journey of March 1930. For then it was the march of men of a different breed led by an unusual leader whom we meet, alive, vibrant, voluble in almost every other page of this book.

The Mahatma was sheer inspiration as Sarojini Naidu remembered in Madras in August, 1934: "Has the world in the modern age seen a greater miracle than was accomplished by one little man that any of you could crush, a man small and frail, who set out, with everyone's laughter against him, with staff in his hand saying, 'I will cross into the sea and break some law as a token' Everyone laughed and I laughed also. I said, 'How will this little man and a straggling batch of volunteers who will weary with hunger in the sun, how will this little man fight the most powerful empire in the world?' And as the march continued and as days broke into dawn and dawn ripened into dusk, we saw before our eyes the history of the world changing. We saw the whole of India rising up with rekindled enthusiasm and faith."

This story of faith and sacrifice is dedicated "To the people of India" and is the story of a freedom lost and won. The "journey through time" begins with "that night (May 20, 1498) we anchored two leagues from the city of Calicut...." A fragment from the diary of a member of Vasco da Gama's crew. The European traders, their early settlements, their rivalries. First-hand accounts supplemented by original illustrations from the times itself give a far more authentic picture of events than a narrative can ever aspire to give. Bengal's Nawab, Siraj-ud-daulah, gives his reasons for the need to demolish English fortifications and Robert Clive his version of the battle of Plassey. And in a faded picture, Clive steps up to receive the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa from Emperor Shah Alam II in 1765.

The main story moves in a straight line with such poignant interpolations as a picture of Tipu's Tiger, a life-size mechanical toy of a tiger mauling a man which the British took away from the nawab's Seringapatam palace to London in 1799. Plastic sheet maps in between the pages at regular intervals give a geographical perspective. The



Route of the Dandi march

first one shows a deep orange spread—the British administrative divisions in India—with just a few pockets of white.

More vivid than the accounts of the 1857 uprising are the glimpses of its brutal supression Rubble and skeletons in the courtyard of Sikandar Bagh, Lucknow, rebels tied to the mouths of cannons, a frail Bahadur Shah looking more like a *fakir* than a Mughal emperor surrendering to the British. And equally distressing are the eyewitness accounts.

Besides the mainline story there are the branches and offshoots which round off the tale. The rise of imperialism, socialism, the industrial revolution Events which directly or indirectly affected our country or its people And, of course in India itself the background social economic and intellectual which the events this book to

The story is the same ence is that it is not what a contemporary wrote what he saw you have capsule key to what you and its backdrop as well have your hindsight with which to judge if you at all wish to opinion is imposed on you differing points of view are carefully put together You may think feel experience for yourself and what better way is there of learning?

When Gandhi first appears in the book it is with the looks of a Gujarati *bania* and the eyes and soul of a saint He embarked on a journey of discovery of rural India and wrought a transformation of men and the movement of which he assumed the reins He identified with the peasant, the worker, the weaver He took up their *charkha*, their *dhoti*, *chadar* and with them, their cause. His reasoning was simple. They were the majority and, therefore, they were India. "It is impossible to govern without their consent," he told the British at Champaran and Kheda and diligently went about proving his point.

His movement gathered momentum and the British took recourse to repression The black Rowlatt Bills providing for detention without trial led to major protests all over the country And then occurred what is simply described in this book as "one of the worst political crimes of the 20th century On 13th of April, the day of the Baisakhi festival, a meeting was called in the afternoon at the Jallianwala Bagh . " The rest is infamous history

Protests took the Gandhian way. Khilafat, noncooperation—Indians of every age from every walk of life were involved in this struggle. Nationwide arrests followed. The Ali brothers were held in July 1921 in Karachi and 11-year-old Khair Mohammed in Hyderabad in August 1922. The mood of the hour is reflected in Khair's answers to the magistrate during his trial:

Q: *What is your name?*
A: "Azad "
Q: *Your father's name?*
A: Islam.
Q: *What is your caste?*
A: I am a non-cooperator by caste.
Q: *What work have you been doing?*
A: I have been preaching sedition against the government.
Q: *Will you apologise?*

JP'S ADVENTURES IN 1942

The following excerpts are from an article on Jaya Prakash Narayan's escape from Hazari Bagh Jail and his rearrest, published in the National Herald on December 17, 1942 (and reproduced in visuals and documents from India's Struggle for Independence)

The story of Jaiprakash Narain's escape from prison, his underground work, and consequent arrest is a record of unique courage, [illegible] adventure, suffering and sorrow. It has its dramatic touches—now tragic, now romantic, now heroic.

J.P. had chosen about 10 persons [illegible] Six of them were [illegible] from the jail, and the rest were to stay on in the prison to supervise the escape. Days in and days out they rehearsed their plan. When they felt they had mastered [illegible] and made final preparations, they decided to [illegible] to their friends. Before [illegible] the cell they arranged the [illegible] the mosquito nets and [illegible] the blankets on the cots [illegible] a way as to create the impression that they had gone to bed. A table was fixed to the wall and a rope of dhoties flung across, half of it hanging inside the prison wall and the other half outside it. To dodge the warder on duty it was decided that he should be engaged in conversation when the plan was to be executed. It was done according to plan. The warder was smoking and chatting with the prisoners about Diwali, while J.P. and the comrades scaled up the wall with the help of an ingenipusly improvised ladder—a ladder made of a table and human backs...

J.P. had gone far away from the jail and it was only at 10 am the next morning that the jail authorities woke up to realize that six messengers of freedom had winged their way to the outside world....

J.P. wandered from city to city, contacted workers, instructed them, organized them....After about two months he shaved off his beard and took a European costume. He used salwar at times to pass off as a Muslim and then his name was Rahmat. He has the knack of utilizing various elements for his purpose. The Government failed to capture him despite every effort.

His adventures in Nepal where he was suddenly arrested and from [illegible] he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

A: Why should I do so when I know I have committed no sin and have done my duty as an Indian?

The movement careered along till the Mahatma brought it to an abrupt stop because of the single act of violence at Chauri Chaura.

Then, on the midnight of December 31, 1929, the Lahore session of the Congress adopted a resolution for Purna Swaraj. The means to attain it was civil disobedience and Gandhi led the way, literally and figuratively with his 25-day long, 385-km march to Dandi to defy the salt laws. There was reaction, arrests and yet the movement spread. Newspaper headlines screamed. "Mass arrests in Bombay. 50,000 peasants leave hearths and homes in Bardoli. 'We don't want English generosity'." Eyewitness accounts, government inquiry reports and most telling of all, the statistics: 54,000 people had been arrested by January 1931.

Said Gandhi: "There is a *mantra*, a short one that I give you. Imprint it on your heart and let every breath of yours give an expression to it The *mantra* is do or die. We shall either be free or die in the process Every one of you from this moment consider himself a free man or woman and even act as if you are free and no longer under the heel of this imperialism "

The book, reliving every momentous event, reaches the AICC meeting at Bombay in August 1942. The atmosphere was "electric" as the Congress resolved to start a "mass struggle on non-violent lines on the widest possible scale " As Jawaharlal Nehru moved the resolution, the crowds spilled over outside the Congress pandal. They gathered on roofs, on top of buses and on trees A photograph shows Gandhi as usual, barebodied, unruffled, with a grim-faced Jawaharlal at his feet

The *Bombay Chronicle* of August 10, 1942 carried banner headlines: "All-day protest demonstrations in city. Police open fire in six different areas Five killed, 20 wounded. Teargas and lathis used to disperse crowds." It was the same all over the country and inevitably led to jail again. More than 60,000 were arrested. Ten thousand were killed.

The leaders were behind bars but the movement spread. And the symbols—75-year-old Matangini Hazra and young village girl Kanaklata Barua who lost their lives to police bullets trying to fly the flag of independent India The severe crackdown made several of the Congress socialist leaders go underground—Aruna Asaf Ali, Achyut Patwardhan, S.M Joshi, Jayaprakash Narayan. The book stresses on individual portraits perhaps to enable us to match the deed with its doer. But while the visuals make the book, one cannot help feeling that they could have been more expertly used—better reproduced, better arranged.



Gandhiji with Mahadev Desai and Nehru at the AICC meeting in Bombay, 1942

India was in turmoil and in another corner of Asia, Subhas Chandra Bose exhorted the soldiers of the Indian

R.S. Pandit and Nehru in jail





The Mahatma talking to villagers during the Noakhali tour, November 1946

National Army to advance "To Delhi!" Bose's adventures were sheer drama and this is what the faded photographs and his fiery speeches still convey

Netaji's last message to his men in Burma on the night of April 23, 1945. "Comrades! At this critical hour, I have only one word of command to give you and that is that if you go down temporarily go down fighting with the national tricolour held aloft; go down as heroes, go down upholding the highest code of honour and discipline. The future generations of Indians who will be born, not as slaves, but as free men because of your colossal sacrifice, will bless your names and proudly proclaim to the world that you, their forbears fought and suffered...but paved the way to ultimate success and glory."

There were frightening interludes on the way to freedom like the Muslim League-called Direct Action Day which wreaked havoc on Calcutta and Noakhali. A lonely figure, walking across a bamboo bridge on a dark green page into the people's hearts. Carnage in east Bengal and the Mahatma healing wounds not as a "Congressman" but as a "humble servant" of God. "If he could only wipe away the tears of outraged women he would be more than satisfied," he said.

The country was divided. A weary Jawaharlal Nehru and Govind Ballabh Pant raised their hands to vote for partition and Gandhi agonised. "Today I find myself all alone. Even the Sardar and Jawaharlal think my reading of the political situation is all wrong and peace is sure to return if partition is agreed upon...I see clearly that we are setting about this business the wrong way....But may be all of them are right and I alone am floundering in the darkness...I shall perhaps not be alive to witness it, but should the evil I apprehend overtake India and her independence be imperilled, let posterity know what agony this old soul went through thinking of it. Let it not be said that Gandhi was a party to India's vivisection."

Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted independent India's flag atop the Red Fort on August 16, 1947. Thousands milled around the ramparts that historic day but the rejoicing was cut short by a frenzy of communal massacres and mass migrations. Trains rolled into west Punjab with refugees spilling from the wagons, piled on the roofs. Sealdah station, Calcutta, resembled a camp for the destitute.

And the old soul saw and suffered. "I shall put matters right or die in the process," pledged the Mahatma. He was shot dead by a Hindu fanatic on January 30, 1948. "A madman has put an end to his life," said Nehru, "for I can only call him mad who did it." But yet again the country put defeat and disaster behind it as is its wont. "A great disaster is a symbol to us to remember all the big things of life and forget the small things of which we have thought too much...."

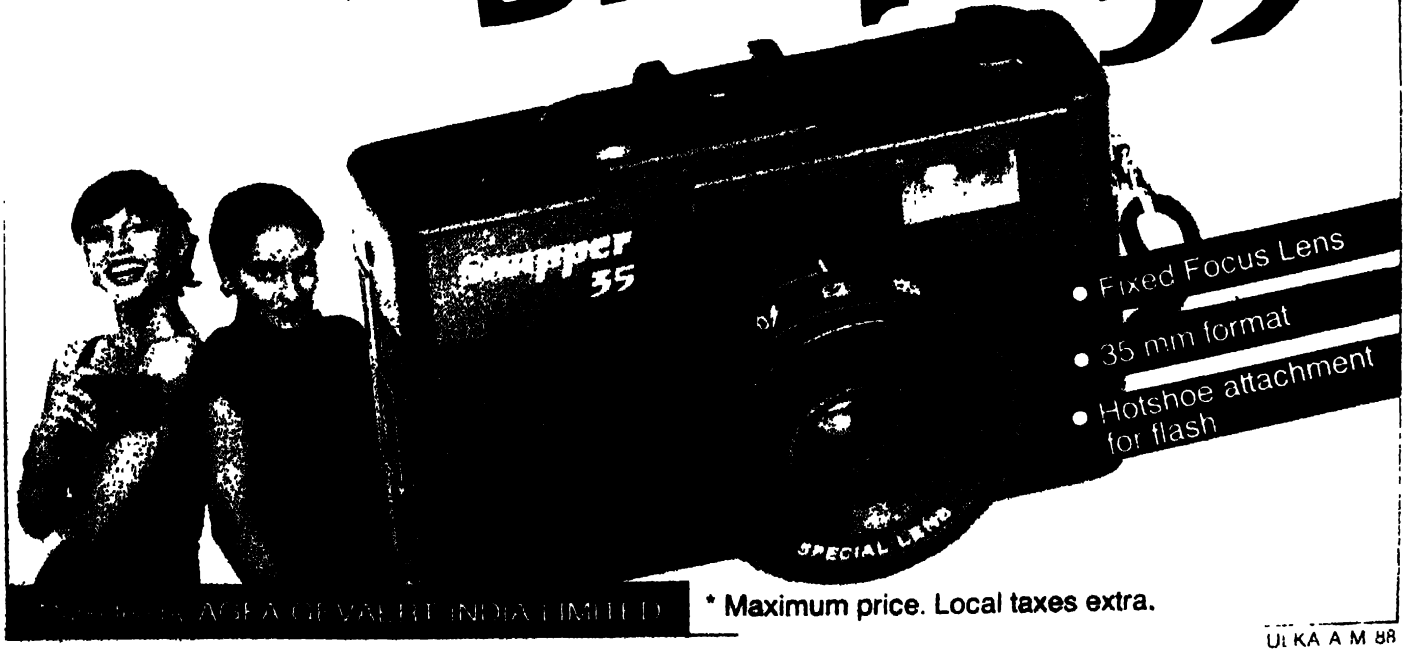
And here ends the story of *India's Struggle for Independence* and begins another. The loose ends are tied up—Kashmir, Hyderabad, Goa, the making of the Constitution, and the Republic. But what reaches across to one right through are events and the people enacting them. Both the faded photographs and the unedited documents bring out in sharp relief their total dedication to their cause. And their cause was our freedom, their gift to us, the generations to follow them. A gift begotten through hardship and sacrifice, a gift which today we take for granted and fritter away. ■



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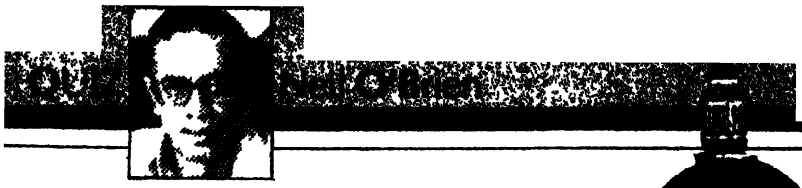


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UI KA A M 88



"Thank you for your piece on St Peter's in Rome. Could you do something similar for St Paul's,London?" writes P.N. Ganesan, Calcutta 9.

The present St Paul's Cathedral, the largest building designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was built between 1675 and 1711 on Ludgate Hill to replace the Gothic cathedral destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Its great dome, reaching 365 feet above the ground,still dominates the city.

Wren made several designs for the cathedral, all with domes, before the present design was finally approved. A large mahogany model of a design on the plan of a Greek cross (that is, with all four arms of equal length) can be seen in the cathedral. The City of London, however, wanted a cathedral more closely resembling the previous building. The plan eventually agreed upon was a Latin cross. The dome is over the "crossing," and at the west end are a bell tower and a clock tower crowned by turreted spires in the same style as many of Wren's City churches.



A view of St Paul's Cathedral, London

The dome is an ingenious piece of construction. It consists of a cone of brickwork atop which rests a heavy stone lantern; the bottom of the cone is surrounded by an iron chain to prevent it from spreading outwards. A timber framework built out from this cone forms the outer dome, which is covered with lead. On the inside, the base of the cone is filled by a domed ceiling, round which runs the Whispering Gallery, so named because its circular walls carry even the faintest sound from one side to the other. There are also two galleries outside of the dome.

The interior of St Paul's has some splendid furniture by craftsmen contemporary to Wren, including wrought-iron screens and gates by Jean Tijou and carved choir-stalls by Grinling Gibbons. The late-Victorian alabaster reredos, which was damaged by a bomb during the second world war, has been replaced by a canopy over the High Altar resembling a design made by Wren but never executed.

Postscript: A reminder that the last date for entries for the Dalhousie Institute Open Invitation Quiz is April 8.

CBS

11th Question: **What is "relay voting?" (Sandeep Kr. Singh, Room No. 39 Hostel No. 14, B.I.T. Sindri, Dist. Dhanbad.)**
Ans: **A voter who has been bribed takes his blank ballot paper outside the polling booth. It is then marked in a particular candidate's favour and the next voter deposits the slip in the ballot box. In turn, he carries his blank voting slip outside and hands it over to a party official and so it goes down the line.**

QUESTIONS

1. What is common to Viv Richards, Bishen Singh Bedi, Ananda Shankar and M.F. Hussain? (Manoj Agarwal, Rourkela 1)
2. Which country holds the record for the worst famine and when did it take place? (Anika Roy, Calcutta 9)
3. What is the greatest recorded thickness of ice on the earth's surface? (Nishit Kumar, Calcutta 19)
4. Which famous personality's sorbiquet's were: (a) "a genial and a gentle anarchist," (b) "a sort of an Adam", (c) "the supreme example of the perfection of the actor, (d) the creative genius," and (e) "the reddest of the reds?" (Rakesh Ranjan Sahay, Sindri)
5. Who wrote: "Nowhere and under no circumstances should a woman ever be quite accurate about her age"? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
6. The group *Roxy Music* released a song *Jealous Guy* in 1981 dedicated to whom? (Sutanu Mukherjee, New Delhi 66)
7. What are Grey Books? (Vijay Kr. Rastogi, Allahabad)
8. What is common to Vishnu's discus, Siva's trident and Kartik's lance? (Pradeep Kedia, Siliguri 5)
9. What is common to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, CBS newswoman Diana Sawyer, comedian John Rivers and actress Angelica Huston? (Sushil Kr. Poddar, Calctta 29)
10. What is fermi gas? (Shailesh Kr. Singh, Sindri)

ANSWERS

1. All of them were debarred from entering one or other club for being "improperly attired."
2. China (north) (1959-1961) claiming about 30,000,000 lives.
3. 2.97 miles (15,670 ft) measured by radio echo soundings from a US Antarctica Research aircraft on January 4, 1975.
4. Charlie Chaplin as named by (a) Jean Cocteau, (b) J.B. Priestly, (c) Federico Fellini (d) Laurence Olivier and (e) McCarthyists.
5. Oscar Wilde in *The Importance of Being Earnest.*
6. John Lennon.
7. Official reports of the Japanese and Belgian governments
8. All made by Vishwakarma from fragments of the sun that he cut off when his daughter could not endure her husband, Surya's effulgence
9. They are all among the 12 best dressed women in the world according to the result of the international best dressed poll released in New York on February 15, 1988.
10. In metals, electrons of the outermost orbit are supposed to be free. These free electrons form an electron cloud, which is responsible for current and heat flow. This electron cloud is known as fermi.

CHILDREN OF A CLEANER CITY



Keeping one's city clean may not be child's play, but all that it requires is the right attitude. Here, **Debayan Mookerjee** of class three, St Joseph's College, Calcutta, shows how..





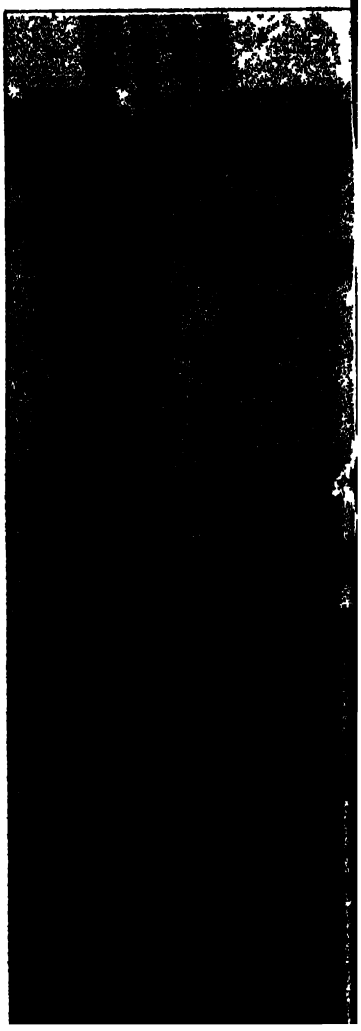




.. while veteran photographer **Sunil K. Dutt** records the efforts of those children who participated in the Cleaner Calcutta campaign of the Indian Chamber of Commerce













MALIGNED HERO OF 'JAWS'

More than the shark, it is man who is the killer. **K.T. Banerjee** reports on the overfishing of this species in the Bay of Bengal. Photographs by **Kalyan Chakravorty**

Sometimes I wonder why the shark in *Jaws* was depicted as being so vindictive Why did the film malign the poor creatures which rarely venture out into shallow waters for vengeance?

There have been instances of sharks attacking fishermen and bathers during the monsoon months in the Sunderbans near Calcutta but there has been no evidence of a shark casualty in Digha where the sea bed tapers down smoothly to the deeper seas and the water is too shallow for sharks to venture into The gradient is even lower at Chandipur in Orissa

The *kamot* as sharks are locally called prefer deep brackish river mouths to release their babies Several shark attacks are a result of apprehensive breeding mothers but it is an accepted fact that sharks are attracted by blood Women during their menstrual cycle are more prone to attacks than they are at other times But of the hundred-odd species known to man, only a few are actually dangerous

Actually we have very little reason to fear sharks but we do have cause to berate ourselves as shark killers and even shark eaters! We kill them for their flesh and use their skin fins, air sacs and skin In fact, even live sharks are used as scrubbers to clean ship decks as their skin is better than any man made abrasive paper Shark skin is used to fashion garments and as a furniture polish Shark liver oil is popularly marketed as cod liver oil while shark fin soup is regarded as a delicacy A fairly large shark yields 10 to 20 kg of shark oil which sells for about Rs 6 per kg in Calcutta's Tiretta Market The flesh is also sold for approximately the same price

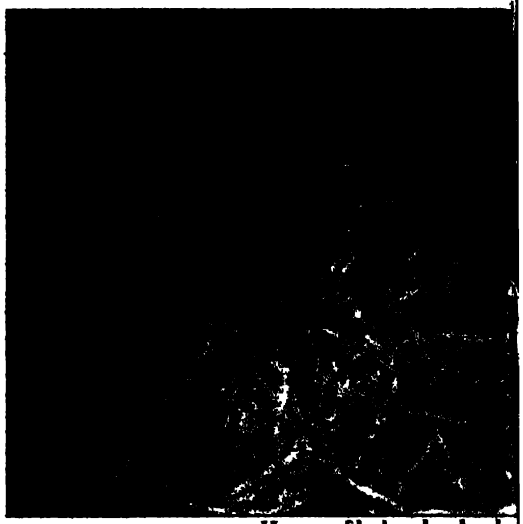
In the Bay of Bengal there are seven types of sharks that represent tropical and sub tropical warm water dwellers of the seas

Baghua which reaches a length of 16 to 20 feet has earned notoreity as a man eater possibly because of its striking appearance It has white stripes along the length of its body similar to those of a tiger The other commonly seen types include *Elpa* as 'Alfa is better known, *chiruni*, *phul*, *munda* and the hammer headed shark or *Ravana* which is often spotted near Digha

In some oceans, sharks are accompained by *remora* or pilot fish These small fish cling to the bodies of larger sharks and move in relative safety with the giants Sitangshu Sekhar an expert on shark fishing, confirmed having seen such pilot fish "sucking the blood" of sharks caught in his nets What is strange is how these smaller fish keep pace with the sharks which are considered fast swimmers

In most oceans, large sharks are harpooned, but in the Bay of Bengal they are caught in fishing nets by fishermen netting other fish Usually, local fishermen, armed with *Sarengi* nets go out into the sea upto 65 miles from the coast Sharks do not normally forage in waters upto this limit because the continental shelf slants down and the water is shallow Beyond this distance grill nets or *Bhasani* are cast to catch sharks

Sarengi nets which are cast from small country boats are dragged by long ropes to the shore Of late grill nets are being used to trap sharks beyond a distance of 65 miles from the coast These nets are usually cast by motorised boats On the other hand trawlers that move in the deeper waters where sharks abound, do not normally trap them because the nets are not specifically designed for catch-



Heaps of baby sharks du

Sharks being weighed at the auction





ing sharks.

Every year from July to February, a fleet of about 400 trawlers, fishermen and traders camp on the beach at Digha for an auction mart. There are four shark processing factories in Digha. At this time of the year, an association of fishermen and traders opens its offices on the beach, which becomes a veritable beehive of



d in a godown

activity with about 500 people setting up hutments at the rateof 20 paise per square metre A nominal membership fee is also collected by the association.

Momin Mian, a factory owner, said the peak season is from July to September when the catch reaches about 50,000 tonnes of shark flesh. An estimated catch of one lakh tonnes of shark flesh is processed at the Digha units. Every day at least 500 fishermen catch about 120 tonnes of fishes, only four quintals of sharks being netted daily. This too decreases after October when trawlers from Paradeep, Dhanra and Balaramguri arrive. A dejected Momin Mian said, "The noise and splashing by trawlers drives away the sharks. As a result the harvest becomes less and completely ends by February." This is a problem worthy of consideration but in the larger interests of fishing it is not possible to resort to selective catching. There appears only one solution to the problem. If the economics of the trade justifies it, nets specially made for shark netting can be used with the help of more powerful trawlers.

During the peak months, about one lakh people gain employment in shark fishing and each of the shark factories alone employs about 60 people to process one lakh tonnes of shark products including flesh, fins and shark liver oil.

The processing begins after the catch is auctioned at the mart The sharks are first thoroughly washed with sea water and then the heads are cut off. The fins are clipped and dried in the sun Finally, they are sorted according to size, the largest being the most in demand Fins measuring less than three inches are thrown away In one season the Digha factories process and sell about three tonnes of fins at the rate of Rs 50 to Rs 350 per kg.

The fish itself is sliced into large pieces and thoroughly washed and salted with large salt grains After four days the process is once again repeated followed by a smearing with fine grain salt. The salted fish is transported to Kerala by trucks in batches of eight tonnes.

Besides Digha, sharks are also processed and marketed at Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas in West Bengal. The catch here mainly comes from Jambudwip, an island 27 miles from the mouth of the river Saptamukhi

Are the sharks an endangered species? The question requires serious consideration Factory owners claim that as compared to 1985-86 the harvest today has come down to almost one quarter of the original yield They do not, however, attribute the decline to over hunting On the contrary, they blame the low yield on the movement of trawlers in the foraging areas No status survey of sharks has been carried out in the Bay of Bengal but such a survey, I feel, is difficult because these animals are found in all seas and oceans in the tropical and sub-tropical belts and often migrate from one region to another, making counting a difficult task



Shark fins being dried in the sun

Nature itself has provided an efficient means of saving baby sharks In some sharks the eggs hatch in the parent's womb and about 50 babies, each measuring one-and-a-half feet, emerge These usually are safe unless fine mesh nets are used to trap them Some sharks release the embryos enclosed in tendrillar sacs which cling to coral reefs. The babies emerge after a gestation period Nature ensures that even if the 'mermaid sacs are devoured by predator fish, the babies hatched directly from the parent's womb survive

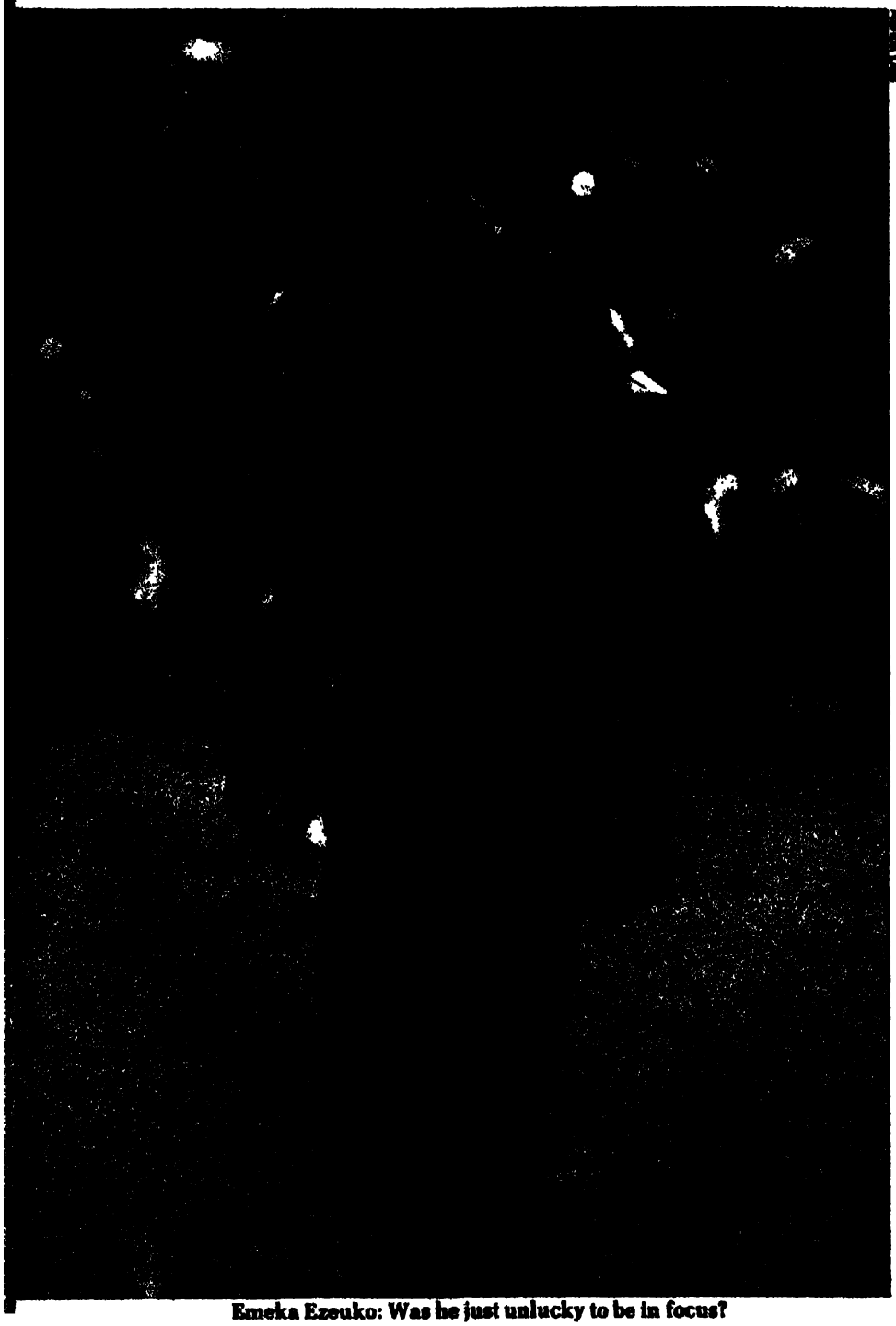
Despite precautions, pregnant sharks and babies are often trapped The survival rate of baby sharks is low as they are rarely released within the mandatory one hour after being trapped. The lesson that shark fishermen must bear in mind is that though the principle, "Don't touch the natural resources" is impractical and even counterproductive, one must learn to exploit natural resources sweet [illegible] and cautiously if the goose that lays the golden egg is not to be killed ■

s of shark flesh being washed in sea water



THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED

A visiting footballer strikes at a photographer in Calcutta and brings up the question once again about celebrities and their right to privacy. Where does one draw the line, asks Rohit Brijnath



Emeka Ezeuko: Was he just unlucky to be in focus?

Emeka Ezeuko, much like John McEnroe, exemplifies the perpetual angry young man, reacting irrationally to the press. When *Aajkal*'s photographer, Bikash Sadhu, took a candid shot of Emeka at the Great Eastern Hotel in Calcutta, he was physically assaulted by the Nigerian footballer, doing duty for Dhaka's Mohammedan Sporting Club. Maybe, he was caught in a 'compromising position', but that reaction did not make things any better for him. The next day, when *The Telegraph*'s Aloke Mitra snapped him while he was being arrested, he tried to attack him, too. With a reputation for constant aggression, Emeka must have been hard pressed to convince the judge that it was a normal reaction.

But photographers do push it too far sometimes. During the Calcutta Test in the 1969-70 India-Australia series, play was held up due to disturbances in the stands. Bill Lawry and Keith Stackpole lounging on the pitch, were suddenly confronted by an intruding *Basumati* photographer looking for a novel shot. Lawry raised his hand, more in a mock strike, and the photographer took a hurried step back, tripped and fell. The crowd thought that a blow had been struck and the photographers banded together to boycott the visiting team. The fact is that at that moment, the field was the players' private space and the photographer was encroaching. Instead of a reprimand which should have come, the photographer himself became a celebrity. It was a classic situation of the press losing perspective.

The question is: Where do you draw the line?

On October 18, 1968, Aristotle Onassis had a rendezvous with Jacqueline Kennedy on a small island, 192 miles west of Athens. Ari was to marry Jackie two days later. It was a very private and personal meeting, but they were 'followed'. The paparazzi were locked up, their film confiscated by the police. But we still know the date, we still know the place and we know that Ari kissed Jackie. It was, quite simply, an invasion of their privacy.

Were they two ordinary people, the situation would not have assumed news value; but the tag, 'celebrity,' often beckons swarming ugly bunches of newsmen and, invariably, 'news' becomes primary and privacy, a concept lost with that first sensational photograph.

In a larger sense, people believe that they create celebrities, are responsible for their elevated status and logically must be informed of their celebrity's movements. So, the celebrity becomes the people's property. So you have the case of Princess Diana.

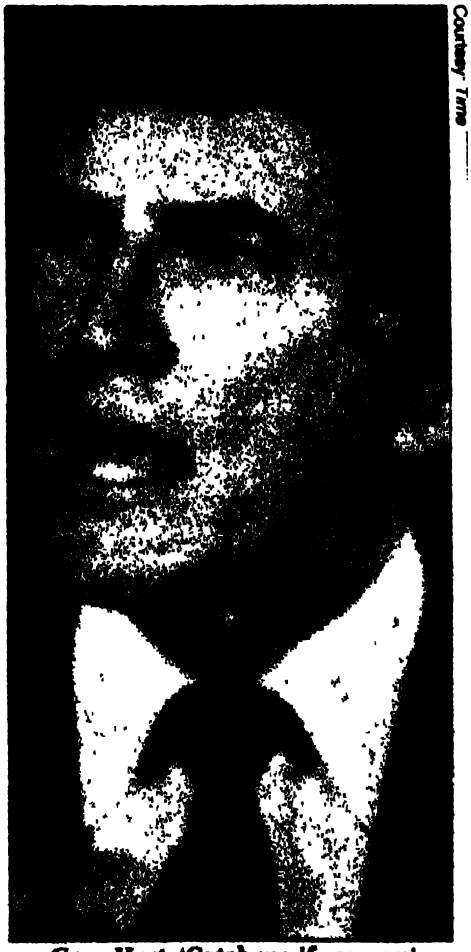
Lady Di, five months pregnant, retreats to a private beach in the Bahamas with her husband, Charles. Maybe to rest, maybe to choose a name for the baby, or just to be a wife, not a princess, for a change But even here, a photographer, perhaps perched on a tree, or miles away on a boat with a telephoto lens, clicks her sunbathing in a minute bikini. The Sun and the *Daily Star* use it on the front page, sales rocket, and the next day, they even publish an apology But privacy has been invaded again

There is a thin dividing line between what is actually newsworthy about a eminent person and what is not. To the question, where does one draw the line, Jacquelie Onassis got a confused answer She was the passion of photographer Ron Galella's life. Camera primed, he would follow her like an irritating puppy, clicking anything he saw: a glimpse of cleavage, a clandestine meeting, or even her just crossing the road She took him to court, claiming harassment, demanding that Galella be ordered to stay 200 yards from her New York house and 100 yards from her person. Some 5,000 pages later, the judge agreed, but the next year, a Court of Appeals reduced the distance to 25 feet

It is quite impossible to decide whether 25 feet or 50 point to the line of privacy. But there is another side to the case. Galella had filed a countersuit claiming punitive damages for false arrest, malicious prosecution and, most important, interference with his livelihood as a photographer. Galella, like any other newsman, was simply doing his job His focus often was the celebrity whose activities were most of the time of legitimate interest.

In this context, Gary Hart remains a vital example. Hart, the Democrat from Colorado, was a frontrunner in the presidential nomination race and, therefore, entered the category of "celebrity whose activities are of legitimate interest." The man could perhaps even be the next President of the USA. Already curious about his personal life, journalists found their predatory instincts aggravated by Hart's arrogant statement, "You can tail me if you want." Well, the journalists tailed and found out. The *Miami Herald* camped outside his house, snooped, and discovered enough evidence to prove his extramarital liaisons with the now wellknown Donna Rice. A controversy ensued immediately. A section of the press castigated the *Herald* for 'snooping' which was tantamount to invasion of privacy. Others defended the paper, saying that the 'snooping' revealed Hart as a liar, adulterer and, therefore, not fit for Presidential office.

Another key word in the Onassis case, which has direct relevance, is harassment. In 1985, at the Melbourne Regency Hotel, John McEnroe caught Geoff Easdown of the *Herald* by the neck, shook him, abused him, and flung him onto a couch All Easdown had done apparently was to ask McEnroe if he was married to Tatum (who was present) and if she was pregnant On the surface it seems like a very reasonable question, with a rather primeval response But (a) was Tatum's pregnancy of any relevance? Almost impossible to ascertain And (b) did Easdown ask once or three, four or five times? Relive the possible situation McEnroe and Tatum are sitting in the lounge engaged in a private discussion. Easdown intrudes and interrupts them with the question If McEnroe reacts instantaneously with abuse and assault, then the Brat is possibly over reacting. If, however, he keeps silent and Easdown fails to take the hint and persists, that would surely constitute harassment The assault could never be condoned, but a barked *f off* could.



Courtesy Time

Gary Hart: 'Catch me if you can'

Harassment and privacy also extend beyond the person to home and family. Ian Botham often awoke in the morning to find a score of photographers parked on his doorstep Wife Kathy responded by keeping the curtains drawn

Another superscooper went further, intrigued by Botham's diet during the 1981 Ashes series, and obviously unable to face the man, he cornered little Liam Botham and asked, "What does your father eat?" If Botham flared up it would be understandable. His son was only four and not yet a 'celebrity' To use him as a conduit to the 'celebrity is most definitely unacceptable. Most invasions of privacy are debatable, this was not If 'celebrities' often retreat to lonely islands, guarded by electric fences and Dobermanns, they could either be paranoid or driven there by an increasingly curious and demanding readership

Privacy and its invasion will remain difficult to determine Ron Galella's 25 feet is certainly not the answer Only if the invader respected his victim's privacy a little more, and the 'celebrity' realised his newsworthiness, could some semblance of balance be maintained.

Yet, one thing is certain. There will always be some who react too quickly And there will always be those who want to know even more

Hart's indiscretion is a common occurence in American politics In a nation seemingly obsessed with sex, President John F Kennedy himself established a reputation of being an accomplished philanderer And Hart learnt after an opinion poll that a large majority were piqued more about his lying than his adultery

The celebrity, aware of his magnetism, easily succumbs to the joys of a fling. The press, aware of this weakness, becomes a dedicated hunter The press members may not be puritans, worried about upholding or safeguarding the world's morals but at least always looking for a truth which may make a great story And the great stories of the hunter and the hunted will continue as long as celebrities exist, and the people wanting to know exist ■

7 DAYS



REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Kaalchakra (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—12, 3, 6, 9.

A film Dilip Shankar, starring Suresh Oberoi, Madan Jain, Soni Razdan, Priya Tendulkar and Sadashiv Amrapurkar.

• **Mulzim:** Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road, 241382), Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108), Krishna (T C. Dutta Street; 250437), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 311090), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666).

Directed by K S R. Doss and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Hema Malini, Amrita Singh, Kimmy Katkar and Suresh Oberoi.

• **Paap Ki Duniya:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road; 474403), Malancha (Regent Park).

Sunny Deol, Chunky Pandey, Shakti Kapoor, Pran, Danny Denzongpa and Neelam are the chief attractions in this Shibu Mitra film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Shahenshah:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266)—4 shows; Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200)—3 shows.

Amitabh Bachchan stars in this Tinu Anand film whose music is by Amar-Utpal. Also in the cast is Meenakshi Seshadri.



Debraj Roy and Anuradha Roy in *Karoti*



Kiran Juneja, Jeetendra and Kimmy Katkar in *Mulzim*

BENGALI FILMS

• **Agnisanket:** Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road, 476807)—2.45 5.45, 8.30.

Directed by Arup Dutta, the cast includes Soumitra Chatterjee, Rabi Ghosh, Biplab Chatterjee, Ramen Roy Choudhury, Satya Bandopadhyay, Santosh Dutta, Lily Chakraborty and Satabdi Roy.

• **Antaranga:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3, 5,45, 8 30

Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy are the lead pair in this Dinen Gupta film. Others in the cast are Rabi Ghosh, Anup Kumar, Chinmoy Roy and Basanta Chowdhury. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Apaman:** Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) & Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—2.30, 5 30, 8 30; Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 8.

Sandhyarani, Prasenjit, Abhijit Sen, Abhisek Chatterjee, Shekhar Chatterjee, Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Chandan Mukherjee, Lolita Chatterjee, Indrani Dutta, Master Manku and debutante Shania comprise the cast of this Chandan Mukherjee film. The music is by Robin Banerjee.

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Tapas Paul, Ranjit Mullick, Satabdi Roy, Kali Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua, Bhabesh Kundu, Soumitra Banerjee and Ishani Banerjee. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Karoti (U/A):** Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045)—2.30, 5.30, 8.15; Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—3, 5.45, 8.30; Alochhaya (Bellaghata Main Road; 355059)—2, 5, 8.

Directed by Ajoy Banerjee, the cast includes Debraj Roy, Anuradha Roy, Ajoy Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh, Ketaki Dutta, Manu Mukherjee, Kalyani Mondal, Arun Banerjee and Subrata Sen Sharma. The music is by Prabir Majumdar.

SPECIAL EVENTS

27-31 March: 12 noon to 8 pm
An exhibition of drawings and paintings by Atul Bose
At Chitrakoot Art Gallery (55 Gariahat Road, 483422/475314)
27-31 March: 4 pm to 8 pm
An exhibition of Samir Aich's paintings of 1987 and 1988 in the North Gallery
At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)
27 March: 6 pm
Sanchita's 15th annual programme features songs by Hemanta Mukherjee, Dhiren Bose, Sutapa Guha and artistes of Sanchita Also recitation and play-reading by Partha and Gouri Ghosh
At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937).
27 March-2 April
Solar Artists' Circle will hold an exhibition of paintings in the New South Gallery
At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)
28 March onwards
A seven-day exhibition of paintings by Subhasis Palodhy and Rabindra Nath Pal in the New Gallery
At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)
30 and 31 March: 6.30 pm
A concert, organised by Alliance Francaise and Banque Nationale de Paris, featuring Bach Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Brahms, Faure, Strauss by Philippe Cherond, first cellist of Orchestre de l'Opera de Paris and Chantal de Buchy, pianist and founder of Trio Ravel de Paris

At Max Mueller Bhavan (Pramathesh Barua Sarani).
31 March: 6 pm
Krishnakali's musical evening features songs by Nirmala Mishra, Arundhati Holme Choudhury, Shibaji Chatterjee and Shyamal Saha.
At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937)
2 April : 7 pm
Kheia presents the play, *Poor Murderer* The cast includes Vimal Bhagat, Ian Wilson, Jai Talwar and Sudeshna Roy Directed by Vimal Bhagat
At Gyan Manch, Pretoria Street

THEATRE

•Bilkis Begum: Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road; 355598)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm, Sun & holidays at 3 & 6.30 pm
Subhendu Chatterjee, Lily Chakraborty and Jnanesh Mukherjee play the lead in this play, directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee
•Dampati: Rangana (153/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 556846)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6 30 pm, Sun & holidays at 3 & 6 30 pm
Directed by Dilip Roy and based on a story by Manoj Mitra, who also makes in a special appearance, the cast includes Dilip Roy, Gita Dey, Ashok Mitra, Deb Sinha and Basabi Nandy
•Kaker Basha: Tapan Theatre (37A & 37B Sadananda Road, 425471)—Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm, Sun & holidays at 3 & 6.30 pm
Directed and acted in by Satya Bandopadhyay, the cast also includes Shakti Thakur, Kalyani Mondal and Tarun Kumar.
•Neeha: Pratap Mancha (opp. Razabazar tram depot)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun & holidays at 3 & 6.30 pm.
George Baker, Tapati Bhattacharya, K. Debraj, Miss Shabari and Miss Shefali comprise the cast of this play, directed by Tarun Kumar.
•Phera: Biswaroopa (2A Raja Raj Kissen Street; 553282)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holidays at 3 & 6.30 pm.
Soumitra Chatterjee and Madhabi Mukherjee are in the lead. Drama, direction and music: Soumitra Chatterjee

BARTER BANK

• **Video games and magazines:** I offer single and triple screen video games and 25 issues of *Sun* and 10 issues of *Sportstar* for a Walkman with headphones. Contact Naresh Kumar Tanwani, c/o Dwarika Das, Mandhan Soorkey Mill, Rathtala, Barasat, 104, Jessore Road, Pin 743201.
•**Books:** I offer *Problems in General Physics* by V.S. Volkenstein, *Problems in Physics* by Zubov and Shalnov, six IIT-JEE specials by *Career and Competition Times* and *IIT Chemistry* by Sarin and Sarin for anything of corresponding value. Write to Brijendra, C-129, R.K. Hall, IIT, Kharagpur 721302.
• **Walkman:** I offer a Sanyo Walkman with a built-in FM (2 band) radio for a camera, binoculars or books. Write to Partha Chatterjee, P/32, Nepal Bhattacharjee first lane, Calcutta 26.
• **Grundig radiogram cabinet:** I offer a Grundig radiogram cabinet for a portable radio or any domestic appliance of corresponding value. Contact S. Sen, CF-110, Salt Lake, Calcutta 64.
• **Aquariums:** I offer two aquariums, each measuring 16"×8" for a larger aquarium (30"×15"). Contact Anindya Roy Mukherjee, 19/1B, Ultadanga Road, Calcutta 4.

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350
London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta. Arr (1) AI-132A at 1805
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo. Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910, Dep (2) AI-316 at 2020
Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay. Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015, Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115
Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong. Arr (4) AI-324 at 1050, Dep (4) AI-324 at 1150
Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235 Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330
Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU-588 at 1005, Dep (1) JU-588 at 1105
Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU-589 at 2350, Dep (2) JU-589 at 0050
Calcutta-Moscow: Arr (4) SU-537 at 1655, Dep (4) SU-538 at 1955
Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu. Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2 4 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-248 at 1525, Arr (3, 6) IC-248 at 1425
Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, IC-223 at 1340 Dep (1, 2, 4 5 6) BG-694 at 1715, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045 IC-224 at 1540 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG-693 at 1615
Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC-225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG-697 at 1220 (1 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555
Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1 3 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2 4 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1 3 6) TG-314 at 1355
Calcutta-Paro. Dep (1, 2 3, 5 6) GQ-102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 402 at 1710 and IC-263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210
Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855
Calcutta-Madras Dep (Daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225
Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1 3 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635
Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay. Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-296 at 2105
Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC-286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5, 6 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC-541 at 1240
Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235
Calcutta-Hyderabad. Dep (1 2 4, 5) IC-277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4 6) IC-278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC-269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC-281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC-281 at 1950
Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320 Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC-203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC-249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 250 at 1610 Arr (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC-204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC-250 at 2045
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6 7) IC 301 at 0540 Arr (2 4 6 7) IC 301 at 1540
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530 Arr (2 4 7) IC-256 at 1000 Arr (1 3 5) IC 256 at 1230
Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC 222

at 1405
Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640
Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105
Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540; Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur. Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2, 4 6) PF-718 at 0800
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0600, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100
• **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-705A at 1100, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-706A at 1450
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-729 at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-730 at 1610
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-721/722 at 0630, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1745
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-732 at 1000
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7)• PF-727 at 0940, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-707 at 0610 Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) PF-701 735 at 0830, Arr. (daily) PF-702/736 at 1705
• Technical landing at Agartala while returning

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues., Fri & Sat Arri —Tues., Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon. & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21-10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon, Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs, Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep.—Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon., Thurs. & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

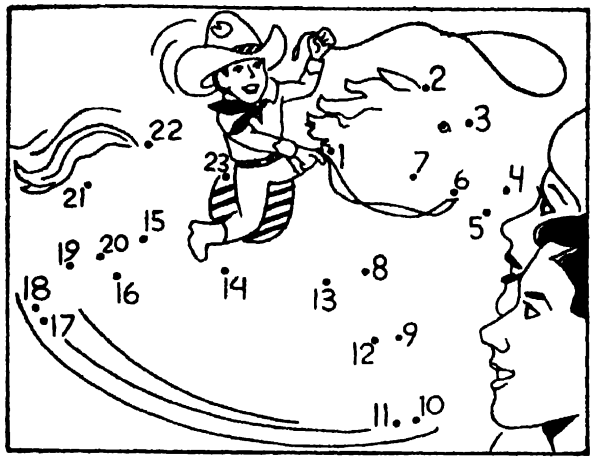
SEALDAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Fri, & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4-00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13 45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep. & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



RIDE 'EM! Add lines from dot 1 to dot 2, 3, etc to see what the cowboy is riding above. What can it be?

• **SAY NAY!** If Kay eats less than Ray, and May eats as much as Kay, and Fay eats more than Ray, then May eats less than Fay — true or false?



•FOUR OUT! Place 24 toothpicks on a flat surface to form nine small squares, as below. Now, remove just four of the toothpicks to leave a total of five small squares.

Toothpicks are to be removed, not repositioned. Five small squares must be the same size.

Time limit: 2 minutes.

Remove middle toothpick in each outside row

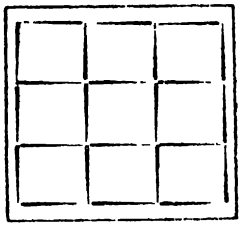
HELP SANTA WITH MATH! Let's say Santa minus Claus equals 7463, as indicated above. Let's say, too, that 3 is to be inserted as a substitute for S wherever it appears in Santa's name, and 6 is to sub for the A's.

All of the digits 1 through 9 appear in this problem. Therefore, positions of 1, 2, 5, 8 and 9 are still to be determined.

Can you help Santa puzzle out the position of each missing digit?

Remember, the idea is to restore numbers of a problem in subtraction.

Ans. 36188 – 28889 = 7463



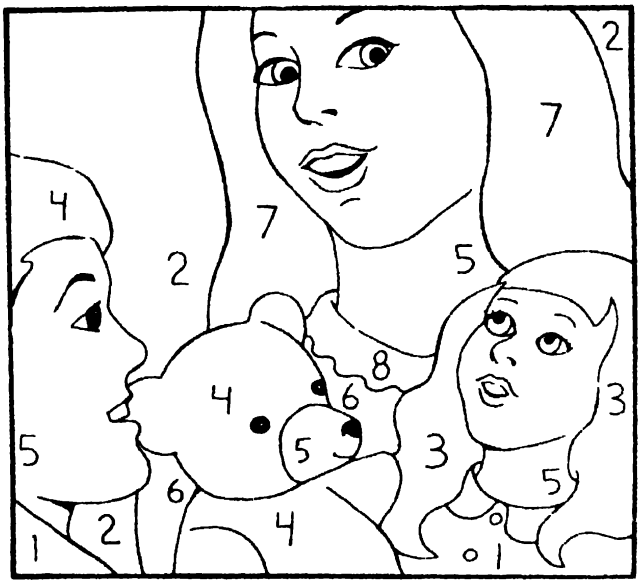
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1 Sign is missing. 2 Hat is smaller. 3 Coat is shorter. 4 Tag is missing. 5 Ear is smaller. 6 Tail is shorter.

FUNSPOT



ALL EYES! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to the numbered segments above. 1—Red 2—Lt purple 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Lt blue

SPELLBINDER

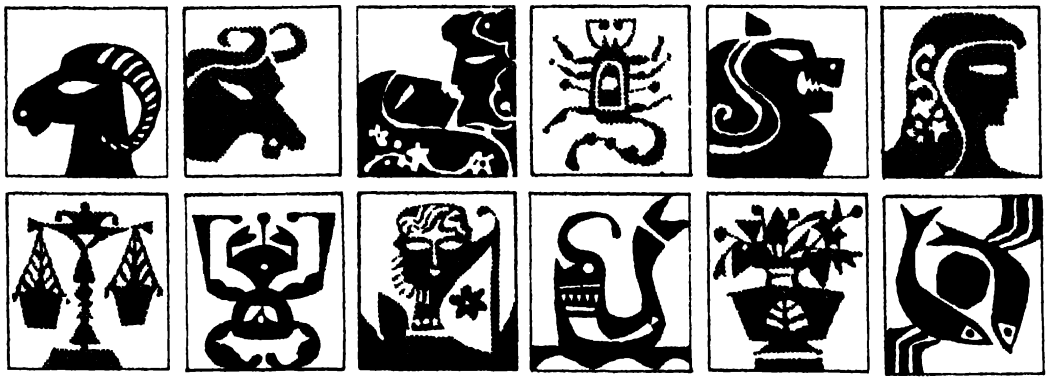
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

VERTICAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram: Live cam



ARIES
March 21—April 20

The first quarter of the moon indicates renovation, decoration, buying, selling and refurbishing A lucky time lies ahead for farmers and horticulturists Parents and elders will show an undue interest in your affairs but do not let them pressurise you. Take care not to overstrain yourself.

TAURUS
April 21—May 20

Socialising and entertainment are foretold Expect visitorsto drop in unexpectedly You may soon have to embark on an important journey. The time is right to sign important deeds and documents. An addition to the the family is on the cards. Do not take people at face value and look beneath the surface.

GEMINI
May 21—June 20

Venus trine Mars will help you to overcome tricky financial muddles. A family get-together is on the cards. Do not brood over problems but try to find solutions. You may soon set up a new business venture. Collaborations, contracts and contacts are highlighted. Romance is on the cards.

CANCER
June 21—July 20

The first quarter of the moon falls in your sign and personal affairs and collaborations are highlighted Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible The time is right to forge new partnerships. Socialising and partying are indicated However, take care not to neglect family members.

LEO
July 21—August 21

Mercury trines Pluto and you should grab every opportunity that comes your way. Expenses will mount but do not worry as they will be towards a worthy cause. You will perform better at work. Home and property affairs will gain unusual importance now. A high pressure week lies ahead.

VIRGO
August 22—Sept 22

Moon trines Sun and you will finally reach a decision regarding a problem that has been trailing you for a long time. The time is right to invest in a new business venture. If you run short of money, do not worry because funds and loans will be readily available. A shift or transfer is on the cards.

LIBRA
Sept 23—Oct 22

You will consolidate and even expand your business as Moon trines Saturn Encounters and meetings seem destined. The way you now conduct yourself could have a far reaching impact on both your personal and professional life. The health of parents and elders may cause concern.

SCORPIO
Oct 23—Nov 22

You must plan your moves with care so as to get maximum attention and success. Pilgrimages and ceremonies are highlighted. Some may find new job openings. A job switch or transfer with increased responsibilities and perks cannot be ruled out. Pets, servants and colleagues will influence your actions.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23—Dec 20

A hectic week lies ahead. Filmstars, writers, editors, politicians, financiers, dancers and musicians will make it big. A journey is on the cards. A collaboration or business venture is likely. Do not be indecisive and take a firm grip on matters at hand The domestic scene will be peaceful.

CAPRICORN
Dec 21—Jan 19

This is likely to be an emotionally charged week Wedding bells or an official engagement are on the cards Expect an addition to the family soon Satisfaction on the job front is assured Renovation, decoration, refurbishing and alterations are on the cards. Property affairs are foretold.

AQUARIUS
Jan 20—Feb 19

Take care of your health Chances are that you will overstrain yourself this week if you are not careful. Editors, teachers and writers are particularly accident prone now. In terms of creativity this is going to be good time. A trip to foreign countries is on the cards. Romance blooms.

PISCES
Feb 20—March 20

The moon trine Neptune formation indicates a week of introspection and meditation. Poets, musicians and painters will be in their element now. Those involved with the film industry will also make it big. Traders and commission agents will bag large contracts. Buying and selling are foretold.

BIRTHDAYS

March 27
Moon trine Sun: This trine will help traders, artists, politicians and organisers. Your efforts will be recognised. Children, romance and hobbies will give an added colour and meaning to your life

March 28
Moon square Pluto, Venus trine Mars A few complications will bog you down. But everything will work out in your favour eventually. A separation from the family is possible. Journeys are a salient feature of the year ahead.

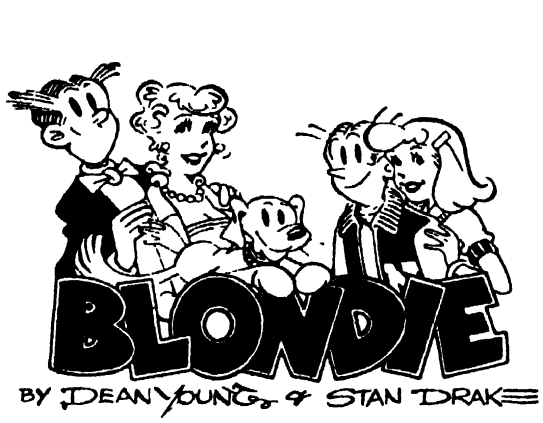
March 29
Moon square Venus This square indicates passion and enthusiasm in all relationships in the year ahead However, do not be impulsive and take your time before committing yourself. A job hop is indicated.

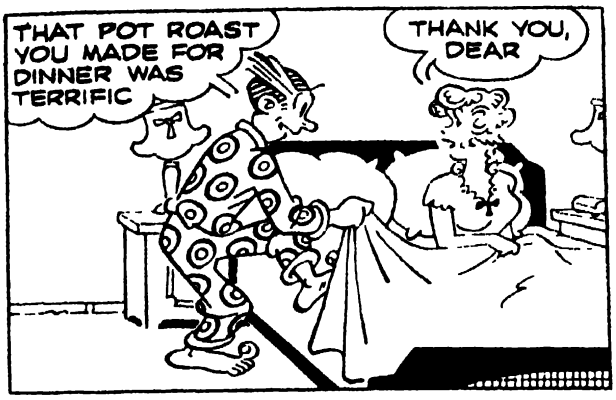
March 30
Moon trine Jupiter-Saturn This is a trine which works in two ways It will help you to develop the right perspective and give you a scope for expansion Success and happiness will definitely be yours

March 31
Moon opposition Mercury Give matters due consideration before signing a major contract or giving your word for a project or an undertaking A change in the nature and scope of your work is foretold. Take care of your health

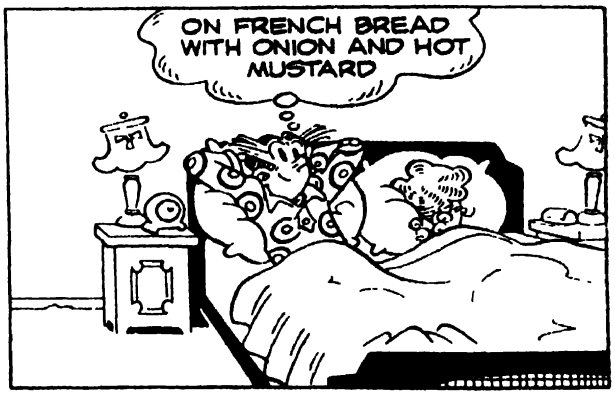
April 1
Moon trine Venus, square Saturn· Exercise caution in all matters, particularly pertaining to work and partnerships. A shift or transfer is indicated. Changes on the domestic front are also possible.

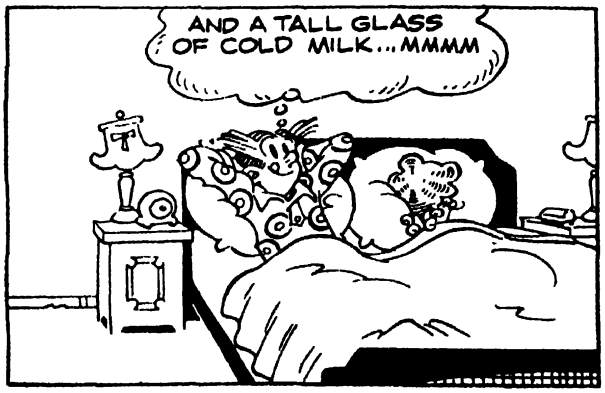
April 2
Full moon in Libra This full moon indicates attachments, journeys, publicity and ceremonies. A change in your life style is certain. Important decisions will have to be taken. You must learn to accept the inevitable but also be ready to give your best.

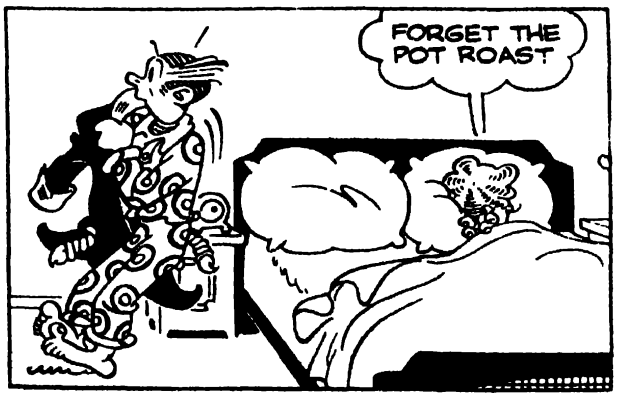


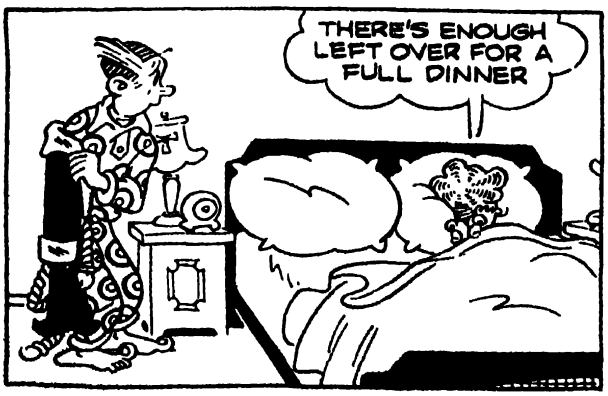




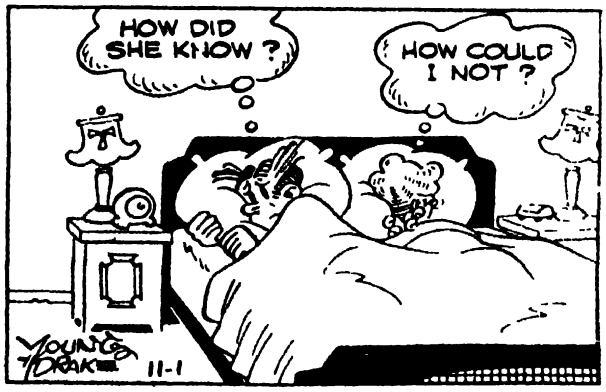








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HE-MAN By G. Torton and J. Shull

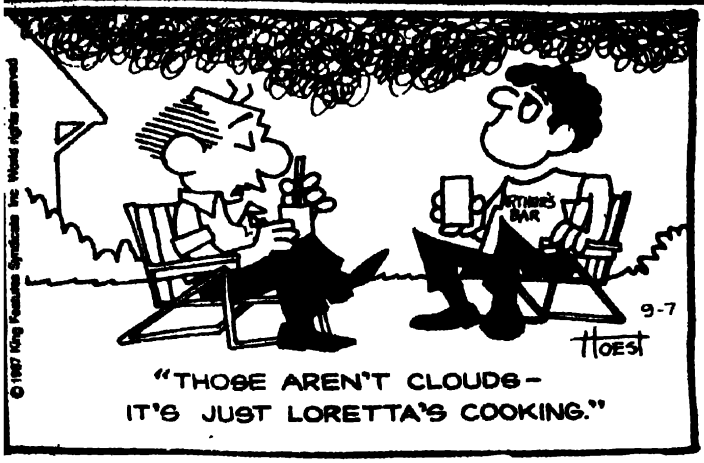








THE LOCKHORNS



"THOSE AREN'T CLOUDS— IT'S JUST LORETTA'S COOKING."



"NOW LET ME WARN YOU ABOUT LORETTA... WHICH IS MORE THAN ANYONE EVER DID FOR ME."



"I THOUGHT WE WERE IDEALLY SUITED UNTIL THE TV BROKE DOWN AND HE STARTED TALKING."

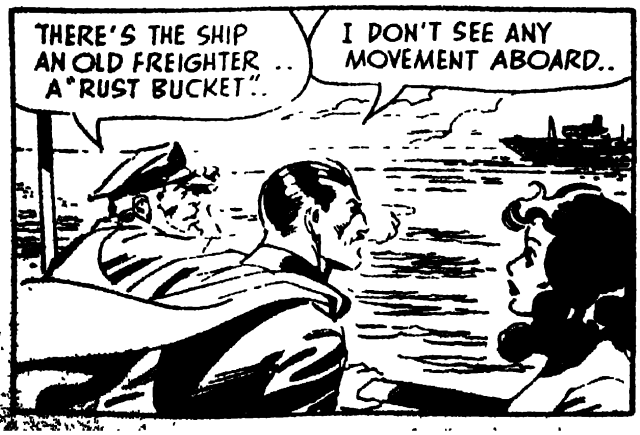


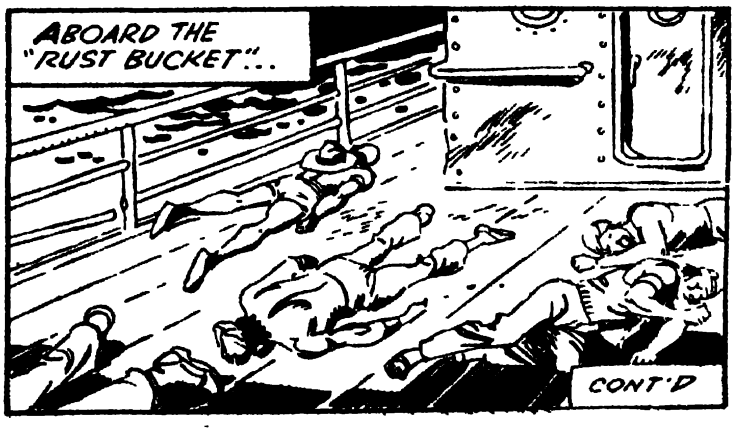
"I DON'T SEE ANY REASON WHY I CAN'T GO BOWLING, HERB---- OH, OH---- I SEE ONE NOW."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

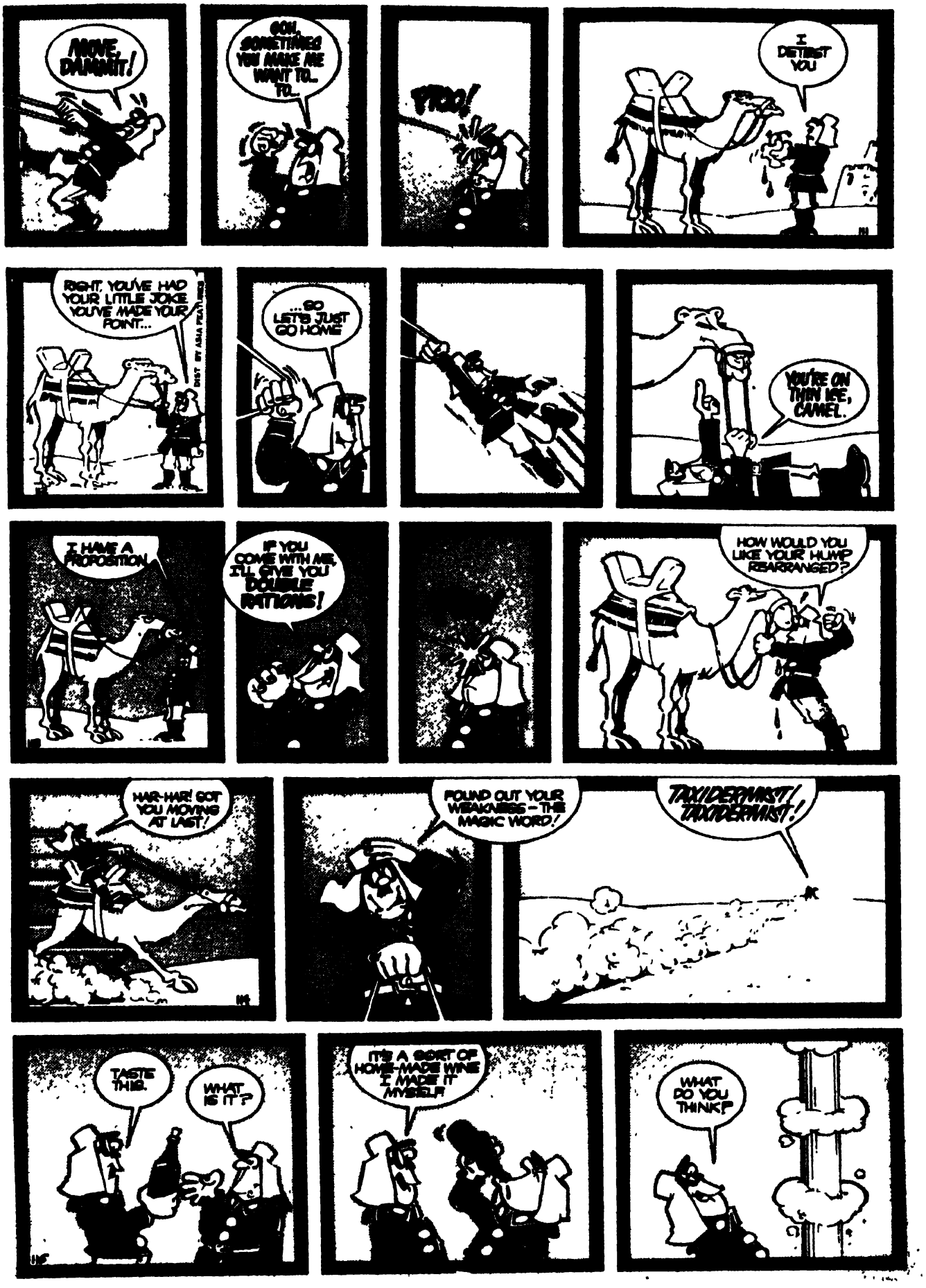








THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAUPEEP



ARCHIE


ARCHIE... I WANT MY FAVORITE DRIVER!
1ST TEE
HERE 'VE GO, MR. LODGE!
?
LOOK OUT FOR THAT TREE, MR. LODGE!
I SEE IT!
UH-OH!
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, GET UP INTO THAT TREE AND FIND MY BALL!! YOU'RE THE CADDIE!
GULP
9-20
HEY! I CAN SEE IT!
WELL, SHAKE IT LOOSE!!
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With a whiter-than-thou garb and a halo behind his head, **Zail Singh** did not exactly cover himself with glory when he once again got into a pillow fight, this time with the Opposition, and embarrassed even his supporters. Whether he should stick to *shairi* in future is a Rs 30-crore (or is it 40?) question. Photograph by RAKESH SAHAI

YOU CAN SEE HOW GOOD SANSAR DETERGENT POWDER IS-AFTER A FOOTBALL GAME.

The next time
your little one comes home
after a spirited game,
give his football clothes a 'good' wash.
With Sansar.
Now imagine
what it can do for the whole family.



Manufactured by Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited Marketed by Mysore Sales International



We'll deliver. Wherever on earth. SKYPAK The worldwide couriers.

Worldwide House, Off Mahakali Caves Road, Marol Naka, Andheri (E), Bombay 400 059

Advertising Agency 449 88

Giving Marx to the University

I noticed with great concern Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri's photograph showing him sitting with the portrait of Karl Marx over his head ('Talking Tough', February 7). The room in which the vice-chancellor of the Calcutta University sits is the most sacred place for an educationist and not a filthy political arena of individual faith.

The portrait should be substituted by those of Tagore, Vivekananda, Rammohun Roy, Ashutosh Mukherjee, S. Radhakrishnan, Vidyasagar, Meghnad Saha, Satyendranath Bose, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose, C.V. Raman, Dr Zakir Hussain and others who dedicated their lives to the people of India.

Provat Kumar Chatterjee,
Purulia (W.B.)

Slums and Attar

God alone knows why the word 'slum' is looked upon with disdain ('Survival in the Slums,' March 6). Are not slums a place where normal people like us live? Are they not the dwellings which house a certain class of people? It doesn't necessarily mean that slums have only poverty stricken people. For example, in Dharavi, Bombay, almost half its residents own TV sets and a few even have VCRs.

True, slums in the cities darken their beauty, but shouldn't everyone contribute to their removal? This need not be done by demolishing the slums. Societies and trusts can be set up which can advise the slumdwellers on hygiene and provide loans to these less fortunate children of God. If we cannot do even that much, we have no right to complain against the slums.

Chitra Hariharan (13),
Calcutta



Money, the Only Medicine

Soumitra Sinha's article, 'Staying Alive' (February 7) has thrown light on the working of nursing homes in Calcutta, but the pattern is the same everywhere—make as much money as possible at the cost of the patient. In most cases, there is a clear discrimination in the treatment given to a rich and a common patient.

These homes also contribute to the accumulation of black money. And what is worse, they thrive because everyone needs them at some time or another. Added to this is the worsening condition of government hospitals.

Madanmohan Mintri,
Kalimpong

Lively

The photographs of the Hooghly Collegiate School and Hemant Kumar (February 28) were lively, and the cover picture of Russy Karanjia was marvellous.

Sudipta Dey,
Sheoraphuly (W.B.)

4

Humour: The Ides of March was also Bharat Bandh this year. Sanjib Chattopadhyay's tangential look at the great festival.

12

Cover Story: Among the many Chinese who have made Calcutta their home are the two families from Shanghai. A mood piece on the great survivors.

18

Rainbow: Exactly 58 years after the Dandi March of the Mahatma, the great event was re-enacted and the walk flagged off by the Prime Minister. A photofeature.

The Dandi March of 1988



The Telegraph

3 APRIL 1988

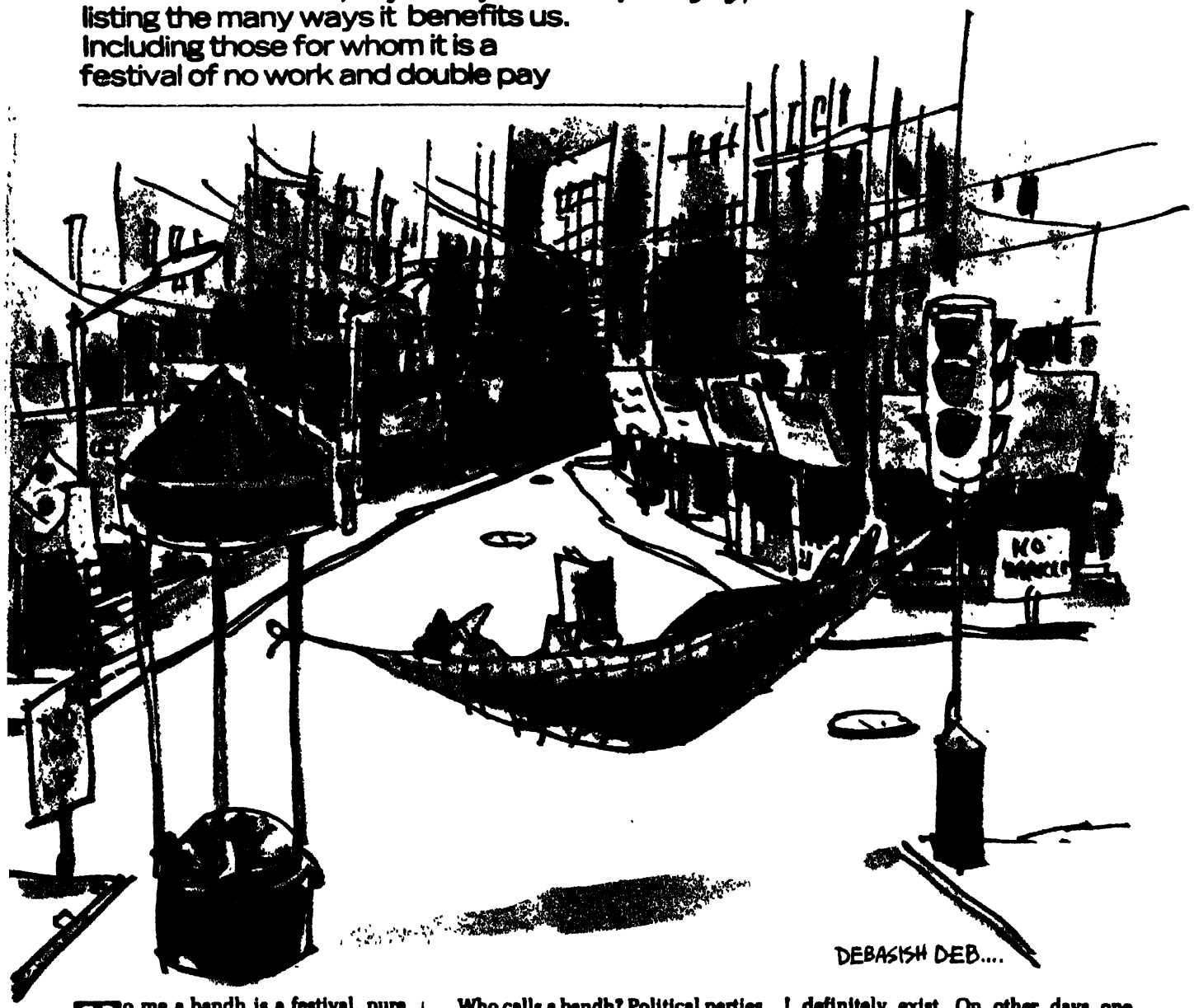
SECTIONS

Science	6
Nostalgia	8
Quiz	10
Heritage	11
7 Days	20
Junior Whirl	23
Inner Eye	24
Comics	25
Images	30

Cover:
Mrs Aijen Lee Pardiwala (far left) with her in-laws and children; by Aloke Mitra

BANDH IS MY BIRTHRIGHT...

...And I shall have it, says **Sanjib Chattopadhyay**, listing the many ways it benefits us. Including those for whom it is a festival of no work and double pay



To me a bandh is a festival, pure and simple. I have experienced as many bandhs as I have winters and springs but I still don't know what practical purpose it serves. In the Indian Constitution, there are two heads—state subjects and central subjects but there is no mention of "bandhs". It is, all said and done, a state subject like Onam, Pongal, Ganesh Chaturthi and other state festivals. Sometimes, not very often, a bandh assumes the proportion of a national issue But bandhs are really a middle class luxury.

Who calls a bandh? Political parties, either in opposition or in power. It is a political missile, thrown from a distance at the Central throne but it explodes in the backyard in absolute silence. No one gets killed. Nothing is gained. It is simply an exercise in futility; but a very healthy one for it offers city dwellers a dust-free, serene and noiseless day.

One might, to one's surprise, discover on a bandh that Calcutta has so many streets and avenues. They may be dotted with potholes or signs of archaeological excavations but they definitely exist. On other days one only sees cars, lorries, tempos and scooters parked mudguard to mudguard. Roads get lost under them, giving rise to the suspicion that we are living in a city without any thoroughfares! At least bandhs reveal roads once, twice or thrice a year.

Calcutta has pavements, too. This is a pleasant revelation offered by a bandh. Glimpses of a British city float up from another quagmire of chaos. There are shops—with show windows. Surprise! One can stroll along without being pushed from behind or

fear a head-on collision with an irate on-comer. Normally, this is an angry city. Everyone moves with a murderous instinct, every footstep is a challenge to existence. On a bandh walking becomes a pastime akin to a stroll in heaven.

Bandhs give me a sense of belonging. For a day, the city for which I pay taxes, becomes mine. I can put up stumps on a busy road and play cricket the whole day. On other days I sneak along like a trespasser. Then the city belongs to the hawkers, taxi and lorry drivers, rickshawpullers, shop owners and businessmen.

Political parties which call bandhs do not know that this move is beneficial to general health. Party workers bring out processions and shout slogans, paint walls and stick posters. This is their game. In an army, this manoeuvre is a must otherwise the discipline slackens. This show of strength is their business. To me a bandh is akin to Yoga, a *shabasana*, that is, an extended supine rest. This is one day when I will not have to rush to the market. There is no excitement, or high blood pressure. Heartbeats remain stable and the system clinically normal.

On the previous night, I never go in for panicky purchases like the others. I surrender my family to the fate of a total bandh –cook whatever you have in store. After all, a bandh is an austerity measure They have called it not on a personal issue, but on a general issue, so we must suffer. This is penance We shall go through it peacefully If you can, ask your stomach to observe a *hartaal*, too. There is a word in Bengali, *Harimatar*. Feed your appetite *Harimatar*, meaning, no meal Give it a day's rest. It is overworked, already. That is health. That is Yoga.

There will be no guest at an awkward hour. This is rare relief. You will not have to say, "I am at your service." Your role on that day will not be of an errand boy. No one will come to tax your time. The family is generally a cruel establishment. On other holidays, they are not going to spare you. They will ask to go to a film or a play or to some relative's house at a distant place. If I decline their proposal, I will have to face the music. There will be an automatic bandh in the family. This is the day of all days when no one will come out with any inconvenient proposals. Throughout the day we will remain good friends. There will be no bickerings. This family peace is the contribution of a bandh. There is no possibility of a critical proposal from some corner which I must obey, with a refusal resulting in an explosion disturbing the family peace for the whole day Bandh is a real Sunday

A bandh is a festival of no work and double pay for some people Those who do not want to observe a bandh, can stay overnight in the office. During the last bandh some of my friends arranged a picnic on the office premises. A tape recorder blared music and they played cards, a hired *bawarchi* prepared *biryani* in the storeroom of the office. Which, on the day of the bandh looked something like this— the cashier on the previous night had consumed a few pegs more than his usual run and he was flat on the Bara Sahib's big table, in his birthday suit Khagen Babu was doing his daily exercises. He had placed his feet on a chair and his hands on the floor He was doing his forty dips Bipul Babu was shaving. They had fixed up a nylon cord from this end to that end and hung out all sorts of wet undergarments and *lungis* Devoted, dutiful Babus were defying the bandh after their own fashion

To traders a bandh is a welcome issue It boosts trade On the day before the bandh, people rush in for emergency purchases They don't care about the prices, their equilibrium is lost. They forget their daily plans of expenditure They fight for purchases as if the world will end that night They have coined a term for this 'Bandh purchase' The traders wear hard faces that day because it is their day. The next day, too, there will be opportunities to sell all the rotten leftovers like fish, mutton and the green vegetables.

A school teacher friend of mine expressed surprise to me. She had gone to purchase a slice of mutton.



Jiten Chatterji

The seller brought his lot from inside the shop and before she could order her quantity, the whole lot vanished in a minute. Like wild Australian dogs the purchasers snatched their portions out, amplifying the old saying, *Only the strong will survive*. The world belongs to the brave.

We feel the presence of God, the Almighty, on the day of the bandh An example: One of my friends' father had a heart attack. What could they do when doctors were not accessible? They sprinkled Ganga water all over his body Some started reading the Gita Others started *kirtan*. Still others sat in a quiet corner and prayed for his soul. His wife touched holy dust and flowers on his forehead, some turned philosophical and quoted Sankaracharya *Mayamayamidang Makhwilang Hittva*, meaning, this world in nothing but *Maya*, an illusion. Some quoted Michael Madhusudan—*Janmile Marite Have*, that is, if you are born, death is sure Meanwhile, the old man finding no other way, gathered sufficient spiritual strength and decided to renew the battle with his troublesome heart. He started smiling And that was a real smile on a contorted face The bandh smile.

Bandh babies are all of normal delivery Mothers are asked to relish the pain, a birth anguish, and like a do-it-yourself course, the mother is left in a room, doors closed and the cheerleaders shout from outside, "Darling, manage it; yourself." A real home delivery ensues One can keep the baby's name Bandh Kumar or Kumari, affirming the year, as 87-88

Our machinery is really of feather touch, Japanese sophistication, and remote controlled A few stones and bursting crackers can bring a big industrial establishment to a standstill A few waving *jhandas* and sticks can close down a market complex Otherwise, the very ruthless police force behaves like so many egg carrying, docile ducks on the bandh day, uttering pleasant "*pank pank*" cries Action without any reaction is their philosophy.

It is a must for me to sit before the TV during evening news Because they will give me thanks, only thanks, and I receive it from all quarters Bandh operators will thank me for observing a successful bandh. Leaders against the bandh will praise me for not allowing the bandh to be a success. I will learn from the newscaster that this world is a real illusion, as there will be *sangharsh* and death, but the helmsman of the state will say "Bandh was peacefully observed *Shaabash, bhai! Shaabash!*"■

WANTED: MODERN PYRAMIDS

Pravin Kumar explains the necessity and difficulty of finding enduring storage space for spent nuclear fuel

In the early days when the atom's magical power was just beginning to be tapped few people bothered about unglamorous things like the fate of spent nuclear fuel. The scenario was almost like a municipality laying down a water supply system without providing the sewerage. Today, if the nuclear industry is facing a similar predicament, it is because nuclear power planners have not looked far enough ahead. In the US, for instance, many of the 75 commercial nuclear reactors in operation will be faced with closure if a technologically and socially acceptable mode of permanent disposal for deadly radioactive nuclear waste is not found soon

The crunch will come sooner in densely populated countries which have gone in for nuclear power. What makes the situation more alarming is the widely held belief that Western countries are planning to dump their nuclear wastes in the Third World, especially the vast uninhabited tracts of Africa. China is believed to have offered to bury 4,000 tonnes of waste from West German reactors in the Gobi desert for a payment of $5 45 billion

Closer home, Mr K.R. Narayanan, minister of state for science and technology, sought to quell doubts about the safety standards of Indian nuclear reactors. Speaking on the Bill to set up a nuclear power corporation, he reassured the Lok Sabha that the government was taking all measures to make the reactor plants safe. However, the question of the safety of nuclear technology on the whole will continue to remain an open one as none of the 26 countries using nuclear energy has worked out a permanent waste disposal technique

Each step in the "uranium fuel cycle," which starts with the mining of uranium ore and ends with the disposal of spent fuel from the reactor and its decommissioning, produces some radioactive waste. The greatest quantities are produced during power generation. The spent fuel assemblies are temporarily stored in pools of water adjacent to the reactor building. They can be reprocessed chemically to extract uranium-235 and plutonium-239 which can be used as nuclear fuels. Otherwise, the spent fuel must be disposed as waste.

After four or five years of reactor operation, the spent fuel pool becomes full and a semi-permanent or permanent repository must be considered for storage. This is because many of the radionuclides produced in a reactor have extremely long half-lives and give off radiation harmful to living organisms. Iodine-129, for instance, has a half-life of 17 million years; that is, even after 17 million years, only half the atoms in a sample will have decayed.

An acute dose of radiation may result in radiation sickness, marked by initial symptoms like nausea, vomiting and dizziness, whereas the long-term effects may develop only after decades and may include fatal diseases like cancer. Genetic abnormalities and birth defects can also result due to damage to DNA—the molecule of heredity—from radiation.

Judging from the long and short term ill-effects of radioactive wastes, scientists today are working to isolate these wastes from the biosphere. Techniques like calcination, vitrification and incorporation into crystalline ceramics and synthetic materials have been developed to prevent the dispersal of nuclear waste.

Vitrification involves the mixing of calcined (dried) waste with borosilicate glass and pouring the liquid glass into a mould or metal canister Glass, an amorphous solid without a strict atomic structure, contains a variety of different elements and was considered fairly resistant to crumbling and cracking. However, experiments at Pennsylvania State University in the US, have shown that under severe temperature and pressure conditions



such as might be encountered deep down in the earth's crust—which is one of the prospective sites for nuclear waste disposal—borosilicate glass crumbles within a matter of weeks.

Selecting a final graveyard for nuclear waste has not been an easy task owing to environmental considerations. Various fanciful methods of disposal like shooting wastes into space or into the sun with rockets, dumping them at sea or burying them in the Antarctic ice-sheet have been proposed. Most of these methods are irreversible: what is needed is a method which provides for the retrieval of the wastes if, for some reason, their storage should become unsuitable or unsafe.

The solution favoured for long-term disposal of radioactive waste is to bury it in canisters in some geological medium at a depth of about 400 to 600 metres within the earth's crust where there is no human interference or circulating ground water. Salt mines are particularly favoured for this purpose as salt is fairly soluble in water. Moreover, the existence of a salt bed implies that it has not been in contact with circulating ground water for millions of years.

However, geology is essentially a retrospective science, being concerned more with the past than with the future. Most of the studies made on the risk of radinuclides leaking out from buried canisters into the biosphere have been hypothetical, not having taken into account climatic changes which could alter the surrounding conditions. Sea-bed disposal is viewed as a favourable alternative, but, according to the American Physical Society Study Group (1978) the alternatives to underground disposal are still not advanced enough to be feasible.

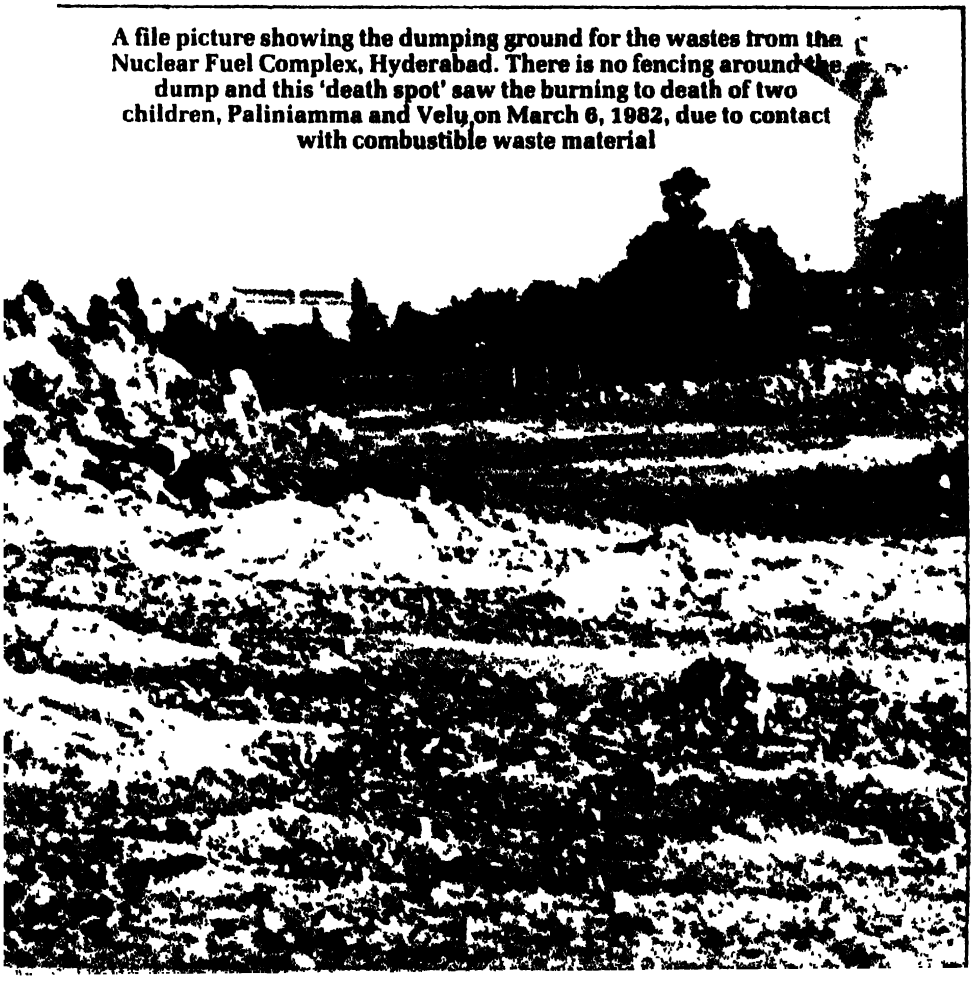
Sweden, which has voted to phase out its nuclear plants by AD 2010, is the first country to take positive steps towards finding a permanent waste repository A temporary facility at Simpevark will hold about 7,500 tonnes of spent fuel in stainless-steel lined chambers in a 25-metre deep rock cavern Eventually the wastes will be moved to a permanent central storage site at Forsmark, this will be a small underground town beneath the sea-bed and will contain four 50-metre high silos for holding the wastes The space between the walls and the racks, as also between the canisters containing the radioactive waste will be filled with bentonite, a clay which prevents water from entering and removes corroding salts from the water which seeps through.

India's Solid Storage Surveillance Facility (SSSF) is conceptually similar to Sweden's temporary repository. Located near the Tarapur Atomic Power Station, the SSSF is an underground storage system that will be under surveillance for 25 years. Liquid nuclear wastes are solidified and "fixed" in a matrix of inert materials like borosilicate glass, which is then put into steel canisters for burial in the SSSF The SSSF will store long-life and highly dangerous nuclear wastes produced by power and fuel-reprocessing plants. It was proposed that after 25 years the steel canisters would be retrieved and buried in a disused mine of the Kolar gold fields, but this idea seems to have now been abandoned All of which leaves open the question of a permanent graveyard for radioactive-waste.

A semi-permanent repository for nuclear waste will require constant monitoring, for both nature and man can cause the widespread dispersal of wastes. The situation in the US is causing concern. Soon no temporary storage capacity will be available at several reactors. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 set 1988 as the deadline for a deep underground repository to start functioning, but the deadline is not likely to be met as the states selected as possible sites for repositories are putting up stiff resistance.

The particularly thorny problems regarding radioactive waste disposal are the aspects concering its management and equity. The waste being long-lived, the generation and the geographical region that will eventually bear the burden of its disposal will not necessarily be the generation and the region that benefited from nuclear energy In any case, the waste will outlast the reserves of uranium and thorium that gave rise to it.

There is also a mis-match between the time-scale of radioactive-waste and that of social and political institutions. History provides only one example of a people who thought in terms of aeons—the ancient Egyptians Even they solved only the problem of embalming the bodies of their pharoahs, thus protecting them from moisture and decay they could not safeguard the pharoahs' tombs, the pyramids from human intrusion ■



A file picture showing the dumping ground for the wastes from the Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad. There is no fencing around the dump and this 'death spot' saw the burning to death of two children, Paliniamma and Velu on March 6, 1982, due to contact with combustible waste material

LOVER OF LIBERTY



Byron's arrival at Missolonghi

This is the bicentenary year of Lord Byron, perhaps the most fascinating of England's Romantic poets. More than just a versifier, his liberal and controversial politics inspired all those fighting for liberty in Europe, writes Apurba Chakraborty

George Gordon Noel, the sixth Lord Byron, who, along with Keats and Shelley, formed the legendary trio of second-generation English Romantic poets, led a life which, like film trailers promise, "had everything." Though essentially a poet, Lord Byron also influenced the political climate of England and Europe.

Born in an aristocratic family on January 22, 1788, in London, Byron supported England's Opposition party, the Whigs, which he believed represented freedom and humanity. Even when he entered the House of Lords for a short while, he stressed the need for class and religious justice and parliamentary reform, a stance which foreshadowed his liberal political utterances in *Don Juan*. His assertions of the need for change did appeal to many of his like-minded countrymen but hostility towards him was widespread. Unfortunately, his direct involvement with the government was too brief to have a lasting impact.

Byron, with his mastery over the language and an imagination fired by visions of Greek oratory, had the power to stir the struggling working class out of its apathy. A romantic and genius—equally at home in poetry, satire and prose—his eloquent advocacy of political freedom was apparent ever since his *Child Harold's Pilgrimage* appeared in 1812 and he "awoke to find himself famous." He found a willing audience in his homeland but widespread hostility saw him leave an England where, his wife, Anabella, wrote, the good were being distinguished from the wicked by whether they shunned Byron or not.

There were many who were glad to see him go but there were others who regretted his self-imposed exile. Byron, on his part, had little love for a society, the motive power of which had become cant—"cant political, cant poetical, cant religious, cant moral; But always cant." He exclaimed, "There are but two sentiments to which I am constant. A strong love of liberty and a detestation of cant, and neither is calculated to gain me friends."

Byron sailed from Dover on April 23, 1816, for Ostend and journeyed through the cities of the Low Countries, Brussels and Waterloo, before going on to Switzerland. From Geneva he reached Milan where he first observed the effects of Austrian rule in Italy. He disliked what he saw, and soon his dislike was noted by the secret police. Once again his views on political liberation and equality came forth and by 1820, Byron actively encouraged the political movement throughout Italy and joined secret fraternities like the Carboneria. But the cause of liberty was finally thwarted in 1821 with the fall of the Neapolitans and the Austrian occupation of Naples.

Byron wearing the Homeric helmet he ordered specially for his Greek adventures



The outbreak of the Greek war of independence hardly caught Byron's attention though the Greek activists had been in constant touch with him ever since his arrival in Italy. His actions, meanwhile, continued to be followed closely by the secret police though it found little to record. The spy, Torelli, wrote in September, 1822: "Lord Byron has finally decided to leave for Genoa." After the Greek leader, Mavrocordatos, was informed by another patriot, he wrote, "Lord Byron is a philhellen. As far as his Lordship is concerned, he is ready to do whatever the Greek government wishes."

Byron, on his part, understood the weaknesses and strengths of the Greek character. "All I am seeking is the welfare of Greece and nothing else," he wrote to the Executives and Parliament in 1823, and "I will do my utmost to achieve this."

True to his word, Byron arrived in Missolonghi on the government and Mavrocordatos' invitation on January 4, 1824. Dressed in a magnificent scarlet uniform and Homeric helmet, Lord Byron was "received like a delivering Angel" by the Greeks who found him as beautiful and impressive as Ares.

Byron's efforts received due recognition in 1824 when the director-general of Western Greece declared: "His Excellency, Mr Lord Byron *(sic)* is appointed Commander General of the Greek forces in Aetolia." Unfortunately, Lord Byron could not live to fulfil the expectations of the Greek people. Following a drenching in a rainstorm on April 9 the same year, his health took a turn for the worse and treat-



n January, 1824

ment proved futile He died on April 19, his concern for Greece and her people uppermost in his mind: "Poor Greece, I gave her my time, my fortune, my health Now I give her my life. What more can I do?" he wrote shortly before his death

No military success that he might have achieved had he lived would have been as effective in uniting Greece, as was his death. "All Greeks," wrote Pietro Gamba, "regardless of age and status mourned for him" A government proclamation read, " because Greece is forever indebted to him for all his good deeds in her favour, the Nation should name him Father and Benefactor " Not only did he become a symbol of freedom and equality for the beleagured Greek people but he also came to be regarded a tower of strength by the politically oppressed of the entire Continent

In his articulate and fearlessly forthright manner, Byron successfully transmuted the vague romantic idealism of his era into pragmatic social and political realism which made itself heard throughout the length and breadth of Europe He encouraged the spirit of nationalism to take root in one country after another France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Poland and Germany– successful in some and not so in others He was the "Trumpet Voice of Liberty" as he became the veritable poet laureate of political freedom The trumpet of liberty would not let Byron sleep

"I slumber not, the thorn in my couch,
Each day a trumpet soundeth in mine ear,
Its echo in my heart "

With his uncompromising independence of spirit, eloquence and passion for liberty, Byron became the most effective disseminator of the ideas of political freedom and progressive liberalism in 19th century Europe His death at Missolonghi created an eruption of Byronism in the ideological environment of Young Europe Perhaps Lord Byron had forseen his untimely death for he wrote "I hope it may be in action, for that would be a good finish to a very *triste* existence and I have a horror to death bed scenes "

On his last birthday, he wrote in the following verses of *On this Day I Complete My Thirty Sixth Year*

"If thou regrett'st thy youth why live?
The land of honourable death
Is here - up to the Field, and give
Away thy breath!
Seek out - less often sought than found -
A soldier's grave, for thee the best,
Then look around, and choose thy ground
And take thy Rest."■

BARTER BANK

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QUIZ Neil O'Brien



Sudesh Prasad submits a quiz report from Bhagalpur

"An open quiz competition was organised jointly by the Rotaract Club of Bhagalpur and the Medical College A large number of teams participated in the preliminary rounds Finally, four were selected for the finals After a neck-to-neck battle, the T.N B. college team consisting of Sunil Sinha and Siddharth Bachchan emerged winners "

Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16, writes

"If there is any date in our calendar that reminds us of fun and frolic and provides an ideal opportunity to practise jokes on unsuspecting neighbours, friends, colleagues, classmates or even strangers, it is April 1, popularly known as All Fool's Day or April Fool's Day

"How, when and where exactly did the All Fool's Day come in vogue are in themselves interesting questions

• Perhaps the best answer is provided by the following rhyme from *Poor Robin's Almanac, 1780*

The First of April some do say,
Is set apart for All Fool's Day
But why the people call it so
Not I, nor they themselves do know,
But on this day are people sent,
On purpose for pure merriment

"In fact, there seems to be no unanimous opinion about the origin of the April Fool's Day Some cite Noah's mistake in sending the dove out of the ark before the flood had abated as the origin of this day Some trace its origin to an age-old custom know as Hilaria, followed by the ancient Romans which they celebrated on March 25 every year Later, it is believed, the French and the Italians changed this date to April 1.

"There was a time when France celebrated New Year's day on April 1. It was in 1564 that it adopted the new almanac and changed it to January 1 Jokes were played on those who did not agree to this change and continued to treat April 1 as New Year's day

"Some argue that the custom began in Great Britain in the 18th century and gained popularity in the 19th century. According to yet another version, the Pope, Gregory XIII,in 1582 ordered that all dates be put ahead by 10 days. Consequently, the date of arrival of spring was shifted from May 21 to April 1. This change in the date for celebrations of the arrival of spring changed the date for fooling others to April 1 "

B.R.T. Rao, Calcutta 25, asks: "How did the Cape of Good Hope get its name?"

The Cape of Good Hope is the southern extremity of the continent of Africa, which marks the dividing line between the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans It was discovered in 1488 by Bartholomew Diaz de Novaes.After reaching Diaz point (lat. 26°38'S.) he was driven by strong winds southward for 13 days before finally running into a severe storm Steering east, the Portuguese ships found an empty sea, and altering course to the north, finally reached the part of South Africa today known as Mossel Bay After travelling eastward as far as the Great Fish River, Diaz was forced to turn for home because of a near mutiny among his ships. But, he had gone far enough to make certain that he had discovered the way around Africa by sea On his return voyage, he established that the Cape of Good Hope was the southernmost point of the continent of Africa and gave it the name of Cabo Tormentoso (Cape of Storms) in memory of the great storm he had experienced.

On his return he reported his discoveries to the king, who promptly renamed the Cape *Cabo da Bona Esperance* (Cape of Good Hope) because of the promise it held out of a sea route to India and China, a hope made good 10 years later when Vasco da Gama rounded it and reached the coast of India.

A reminder: If you have not sent in your entry for the Dalhousie Institute open invitation quiz to be held on April 27, 29 and 30, please do so immediately. The closing date is April 8, 1988.

Happy Easter!

CBS

11th Question: **What is "The Lysistrata Syndrome"? (Ajit Narayan, 33-A , Shyamananda Road, Calcutta 700025.)**
Ans: **It is the behaviour of wives withholding themselves sexually from their husbands, thereby compelling them (the husbands) to fulfil their demands. (from the play *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes where the women stopped a war by this method—O'B).**

QUESTIONS

1. What is haliotherapy? (Vinay Kr Rastogi, Dhanbad)
2. Who are Howdy and Hidy? (Shankar Rakesh, Dhanbad 23)
3. Who was known as Madam 10 per cent" ? (Sanjeev Kr Singh, Godda 33)
4. Which city was previously named "Christiania"? (Sutanu Mukherjee, New Delhi 66)
5. Who discovered Tungsten? (Tanmoy Dutta, Calcutta 6)
6. Who said, ' Human reason is like a drunken man on horse back, set it up on one side and it tumbles on the other"? Monalisha Hazarika, Sonitpur 76)
7 How is Begum Ayesha Sultana popularly known? (Shailesh Kr Singh, Dhanbad 23)
8. What kind of a dog is a pointer, and why has it been given this name? (Anjanava (Gadai) Dutta, Calcutta 33)
9. What is "bruiting '? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
10 In science what event is known as the triumph of the fourth decimal? (Shantabhanu Chakravorti, Calcutta 19)

ANSWERS

name

1. The treatment of diseases by the sun's rays
2. They are the mascots of the recent winter Olympic games at Calgary.
3. Mrs Imelda Marcos, because of her interference and commission in the foreign trade of Philipines.
4. Oslo.
5. Fausto and Juan Jose de Elhuyar (Spain)
6. Martin Luther.
7. Sharmila Tagore.
8. A pointer is a gun dog When it locates its quarry it points, that is, stands quite still, staring in the direction of the quarry. It carries its head and neck outstretched and the higher its nose, the further it can smell, thus pointing to any bird in the area more quickly The retriever then retrieves the bird when it has been shot
9. Starting rumours
10. The discovery of the noble gases, (He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, Rn) In fact, density of nitrogen obtained from air (1.257 approx) is greater than that obtained chemically from its compounds (1.2506 approx) This ratio is more or less one until the fourth place of decimal. Lord Rayleigh made this observation which lead to the discovery of the chemically inert noble gases, hence the

HERITAGE



Rathin Mitra

MURSHIDABAD HOUSE



Once surrounded by rows of palm trees, mango groves, orchards and gardens, Murshidabad House at 85 Park Street now shows signs of neglect. But it has been an important witness to the ups and downs in Bengal's history. When the British replaced Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah with Mir Jafar, the latter, along with his second wife Mani Begum, spent some time at this palace.

Hasan Ali Mirza, the first Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, annexed the throne in 1881. His son, Sir Wasif Ali, enjoyed the benefits of the office from 1906 for almost 53 years. Sir Wasif Ali's son, Waris Ali Mirza, was the last Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad. After his regime (1959-69), the Union government abolished the system of Nawab Bahadur. Sir Wasif Ali's second son, Fateh-yar Ali, currently resides at Murshidabad House with his relatives. A portion of the palace has been rented out.

Of the Nawab family, only Major General Iskinder Ali Mirza enjoyed the status of the head of a nation. Grandson of Nawab Feradun Za and Begum Ferdous Mahal, and son of Sultan Sayem, Iskinder took over as President of Pakistan on March 23, 1956. He relinquished his office on October 23, 1958 in favour of Field Marshal Ayub Khan. He spent the rest of his life running a hotel business in London. His elder brother, 83-year-old Syed Alim Mirza, is also a resident of Murshidabad House.

OUR BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTES

Among the many enterprising Chinese who have made Calcutta their home are the two families from Shanghai. Kaushik Mitter and photographer Aloke Mitra meet the great survivors

"We are very much like Bengalis, you know. We too are rice and fish eaters." Aijen Lee Pardiwala, sitting at the counter of her small drycleaning shop on Ballygunge Circular Road, could be any one of Calcutta's 10,000-odd Chinese residents, and the Parsi surname is not the only thing that makes her different. She is one of a handful—numbering no more than half-a-dozen—who can trace their origins to another great metropolis of the eastern hemisphere: Shanghai.

For them the business of removing spots appears to be a magnificent obsession. Mrs Pardiwala and three of her brothers who are in Calcutta all run separate drycleaning establishments in different parts of the city. They learnt the skills from their father, Lee Hsiao Mao, who fled from the banks of the Yangtse over 45 years ago to escape the looming revolution in his native land and settled down near the Hooghly, working for a Chinese merchant in the Kidderpore area. Mr Lee is no more today, but his widow Chenmeihsing and children, here and abroad, carry on the family traditions.

With obvious pride in her voice, Aijen Pardiwala exclaims: "We can remove stains nobody else can." Customers send treasured apparel to her from near and far—New Delhi and Bombay addresses cropping up at intervals in her order book—and one lady, the wife of a British diplomat recently posted in Calcutta, even parcels a packet or two of dirty clothes all the way from London now and again. That's really loyalty for you.

It is not hard to see why the customers keep coming back. While their food habits might be similar in some ways to those of Bengalis, the work habits of the Lee family—and, indeed, that of nearly all Chinese people are an entirely different proposition. For everybody in the house, from pre-school tiny tots to grandmothers, chips in to ensure that orders are ready on time and 16-hour-days are more the rule than the exception.

The Wongs—the other Shanghai family living in Calcutta—also run a drycleaning establishment, on Russell Street. Now in his late 60s, Wong Chunmei also left Shanghai in the early 40s when the invading Japanese Army was in control of the city and came to work along with his brother at a US Army camp near Calcutta. The war over, the brother went back to China, but Chunmei stayed on and with savings from a series of odd jobs managed to open his shop soon after. He has not looked back since, and today he has a flat on Park Street and a B. Com. graduate son, William, to carry on the family business.

Who are the real people of Shanghai? The Wong family claims that this honour belongs exclusively to them. And though both they and the Lees have been living in Calcutta for decades on end, and within a mile of each other at different ends of the same Park Street, William Wong says he does not know of any other family originally from Shanghai living in the city.

Aijen Pardiwala, on the other hand, has certainly *heard* about the "Russell Street people," as she describes the Wongs, but as to their being from Shanghai she has not the faintest idea! One would have thought people from the same part of China living so far away from "home" would have a little more contact with each other.

Shanghai in the early 1940s—Nationalist China's premier city and port, its industrial and intellectual capital, birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party, lay completely devastated under the subjugation of the invading Japanese Army. Political and economic activity was at a standstill, and few jobs were there to be had. Famine stalked the countryside.

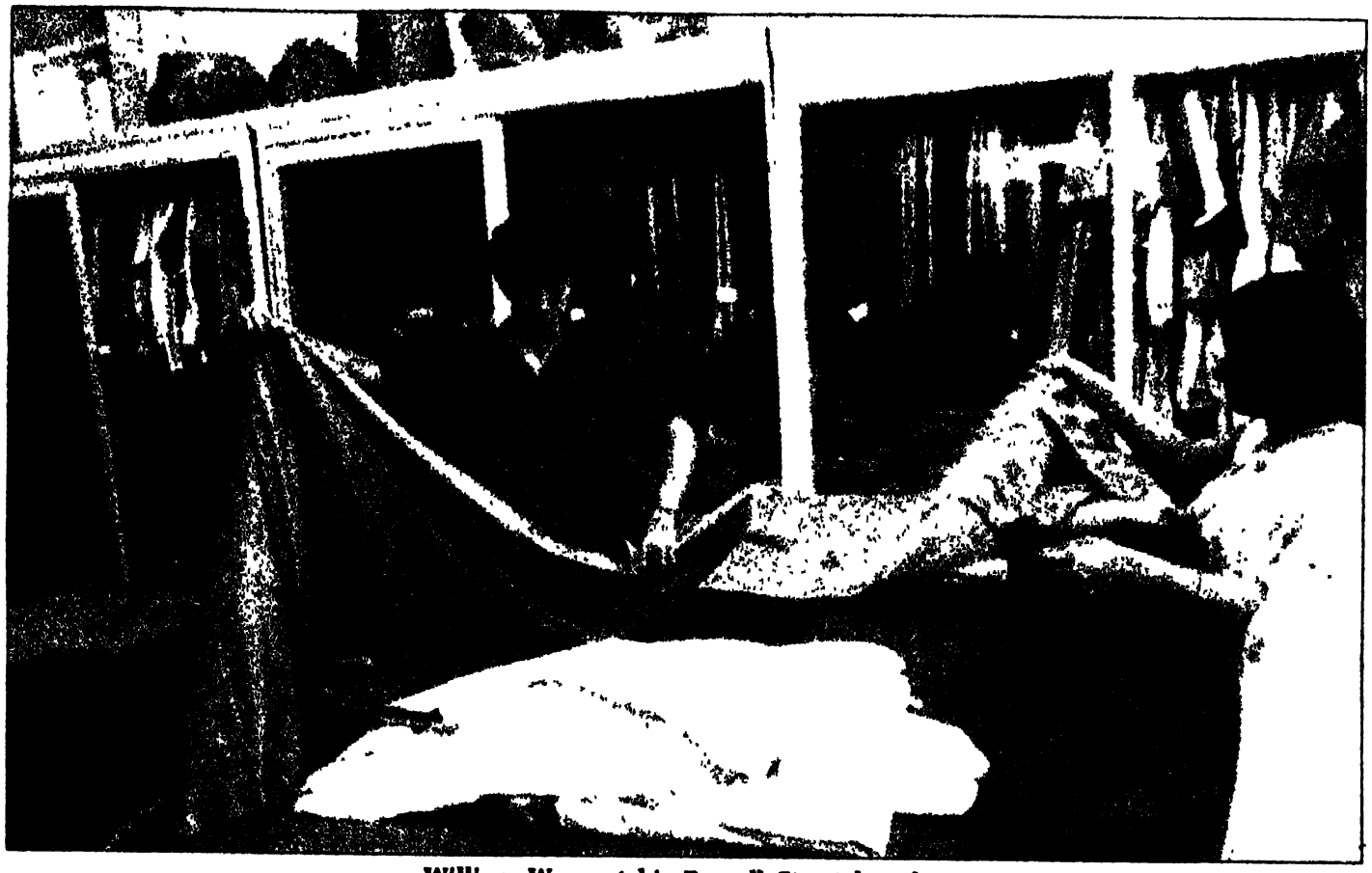
The world war ended in 1945, but the defeat of the Japanese brought no respite from another, more bitter, conflict. The dormant civil war between the Nationalist forces under Chiang Kai-shek and Chairman Mao's red brigades resumed again in right earnest, and after four years of bloody fighting, the city—and with it the rest of mainland China—fell to the People's Liberation Army in 1949.

Long before this, during and after the war and Japanese occupation, men and women fearing the loss of whatever they possessed under the Communist regime that was becoming more and more inevitable with each passing day, began leaving home in search of greener pastures. The more adventurous among them ventured eastwards—across the mighty Pacific to the United States and Canada—and others stayed closer home, going to southeast Asia and India.

William Wong, 24, has no memories of Shanghai. He was born and bred in Calcutta, where he has lived all his life, going to school at Don Bosco and college at St Xavier's. But he is still a rarity among well-educated Chinese youth in the city, in that he is eager and willing to carry on in his father's footsteps and manage the shop, and not carve out a separate niche for himself in the world.

Like other well-to-do boys and girls of their community, William's two brothers and two sisters are all settled in North America, but he himself seems to have no ambitions of seeking a passage to the West. "Basically I am not the adventurous type," he says. William is not his real name either. "That was only for school. Easier to understand, you know... My real name is Wong Xiaoping, the same as in Deng Xiaoping," he explains helpfully.

But even if William Wong stays put in Calcutta, other Chinese youngsters are more adventurous as well as more demanding about a better deal. "We are treated like second-class citizens," explains Mrs Pardiwala. She faces less problems herself, being married to a Parsi merchant mariner, Captain Rohinton Pardiwala, "and anyway, it's easier for girls. They have a reputation for being hardworking and loyal, and make good secretaries." She was a secretary herself with Balmer Lawrie before she decided that carrying on the family tradition would be a more



William Wong at his Russell Street laundry



Mrs Aijen Lee Pardiwala at her Ballygunge Circular Road laundry

profitable occupation.

But her brothers, she says, are not so lucky. A brother and an elder sister have emigrated, and though the three brothers left behind in Calcutta proudly carry on their father's work, they have also "been forced into this line of business." One of them initially went into shipping, another got a B.Com. degree and tried to join a chartered accountancy firm, but they found career opportunities blocked because they "looked different." This is why, she explains, those who were able to, went abroad, others forced to remain had to depend on small businesses like drycleaning shops, hairdressing saloons, and, of course, restaurants.

China's very distinctive cuisine is probably its greatest contribution to the rest of the world. It is also the greatest source of employment to Calcutta's Chinese youth, their fastest route to upward mobility. "Girls, if they have some education, can become secretaries, others can get hairdressing jobs and hope to open their own beauty parlours one day," Mrs Pardiwala says. "But the boys have



C.J. Wu (first), the original with his children

FROM CHINA WITH ENTERPRISE

P.T. Nair documents the arrival of the Chinese in the city

The first Chinese to set foot in Calcutta was Yong Atchew. His petition to Governor-General Warren Hastings and his Council in 1778 read: "That your petitioner being a native of Canton proceeded to Bengal on board the *Favourite*, Captain Parks, bringing with him a property and freight; and being about to return to his native country is desirous of quitting a mercantile life with a view to settle in Bengal, and would wish to bring with him on his return from China as many of his countrymen skilled in husbandry as he may be able to obtain conveyance for on the ships from China of this season..."

Atchew's prayer was granted on June 19, 1778, "for the sake of giving all due encouragement to so industrious a race of people as the Chinese to settle in these provinces," adding that "the quantity of land which he shall thus have improved shall remain his property rent free for ever. What further improvements he may make after that period (five years) will be subject to the customary modes and rules of taxation."

Credit goes to Atchew for setting up the first sugar mill in Bengal in a 650-bigha estate, six miles southwest of Budge Budge, in the suburbs of Calcutta, for which he brought 110 Chinese from Canton. Atchew could raise no more than 2,000 maunds of sugar in his plantation in 1781. He made a pledge to Warren Hastings "to bring more artificers of all kinds by the returning ships next season" as "a great scarcity of grain prevails all over the country (China)". In his letter dated February 1782, Calcutta, Atchew added that "this climate is no means unfavourable to a Chinese institution (constitution?) having only lost two men out of 110 I brought with me, one of whom died of a disorder not incident to the country."

Warren Hastings not only encouraged Atchew to settle in the suburbs of Calcutta, but also gave him all kinds of protection by prohibiting his indentured workmen being enticed by others. The first Chinese entrepreneur in Bengal died in December 1782 and his sugar manufactory along with its land, plant and machinery were advertised for sale by auction in the Calcutta Gazette of November 15, 1804, by Messrs Lawtie & Gould "at their spacious New Room" on Wednesday, December 12. Atchew, or as he was known to his comrades as Yong Tai Chew, is gone, but Achipur, named after him, preserves his grave to be visited by Chinese in Calcutta for inspiration.

The artisans brought by Atchew settled in Calcutta and they numbered 362 in 1837. From 847 in 1850 they grew to 1,391 in 1901 and there were 8,814 Chinese in the city in 1961. The census figures of 1981 are not available, but the Chinese population in Calcutta is estimated at 4,000. The Chinese aggression of 1962 imposed restrictions on the community in Calcutta and a large number of them left the city. The younger generation of Chinese in Calcutta are moving out for fresh pastures as Canada, Arabian Gulf countries and Shanghai offer them increasing job opportunities.

The Chinatown of Calcutta, bounded on the north by Tiretta Bazar, on the south by Bow Bazar Street, on the east by Chittaranjan Avenue and on the west by Lower Chitpur Road, was a world apart with its own temple, eating houses, opium dens and what not! Highrise buildings, town improvements and the aftermath of the Chinese aggression robbed Chinatown of its dragon-touch. Tangra, where a sizeable number of Chinese now live, has not the same charm of Chinatown. The community life of the Chinese is still centred round Chinatown as their daily, *Chinese Journal of India*, Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Nanking restaurant, Sea Ip Temple, etc., are situated in or around it. Kuang Ti, a legendary hero who administered justice in China, has his temple in the nearby Meredith Street. The Chinese goddess of [illegible] located by the side of [illegible]. The Mei Ki [illegible] his temple is in [illegible] name. The [illegible]



C.C. Wu at his tannery in Tangra

only restaurants to go to " They do, and they are much in demand The less educated Chinese boys in Calcutta initially get jobs in the city's restaurants, but they don't stay here very long Bombay and Delhi shine as beacons to those well-versed in the culinary arts, with some young boys with only a few years' experience earning up to Rs 5,000 a month in some of the newer establishments For the more talented among them, the kitchens of the Gulf sheikhdoms, as well as London and Paris, stand with their doors open. If such a flight of talent continues for a few more years, Calcutta's once-famous Chinese cooking, already substandard, might finally become extinct.

From the lights of Park Street, cut to another world Vast, forbidding, putrefying. With high walls and locked gates to deter all but the most curious, and its byzantine bylanes a labyrinth to the newcomer, Calcutta's Chinatown at Tangra is not welcoming to outsiders. The tanneries for which the area is famous are virtual fortresses in which inmates live, work and play and they resemble prisons more than anything else Inside, however, they become less forbidding with the sounds of children's laughter wafting across, along with the pungent smells of leather being treated with multiple chemicals.

The area is also famous for its eating houses—restaurants would be too grand a term for some of them—in which the only "real" Chinese cuisine is to be had in Calcutta. There is not a table to be had most evenings without reservations, for the reputation of the place has spread far by word of mouth Most establishments do not have a telephone nor any sign on their doors, but "restaurant row" here proves a big draw night after night Along with the long lines of Contessas and Marutis haphazardly parked along the winding bylanes can be seen Mercedes, Toyotas, and Volvos with diplomatic license plates

The Chinese who live here, next to the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass connector, are rich Extremely rich, even by the standards of their community, which is quite well-to-do in any case The tanneries are a profitable source of wealth, and all members of the household work fulltime in the family business Hardly anyone goes out to work Mrs Leena Wu, for example, had a good job at Oberoi Grand Hotel but she gave it up soon after marriage to help her husband, Peter, and his brothers run the family business Leena's brother-in-law, C C Wu, is one of the biggest tannery owners in the area He is also a second-generation Chinese like Mrs Pardiwala; his father emigrated here over 60 years back and came to work for a cousin in a Bentinck Street shoe shop With his savings, he and his sons set up the tannery

About 4,000 Chinese in all live in Tangra, and none of them is likely to emigrate The grass is already considerably green here Nearly all Hakka Chinese from the Canton region, they live in large joint families in a cloistered world, keeping themselves to themselves, a class apart With 10 to 15 children and a dozen or so adults

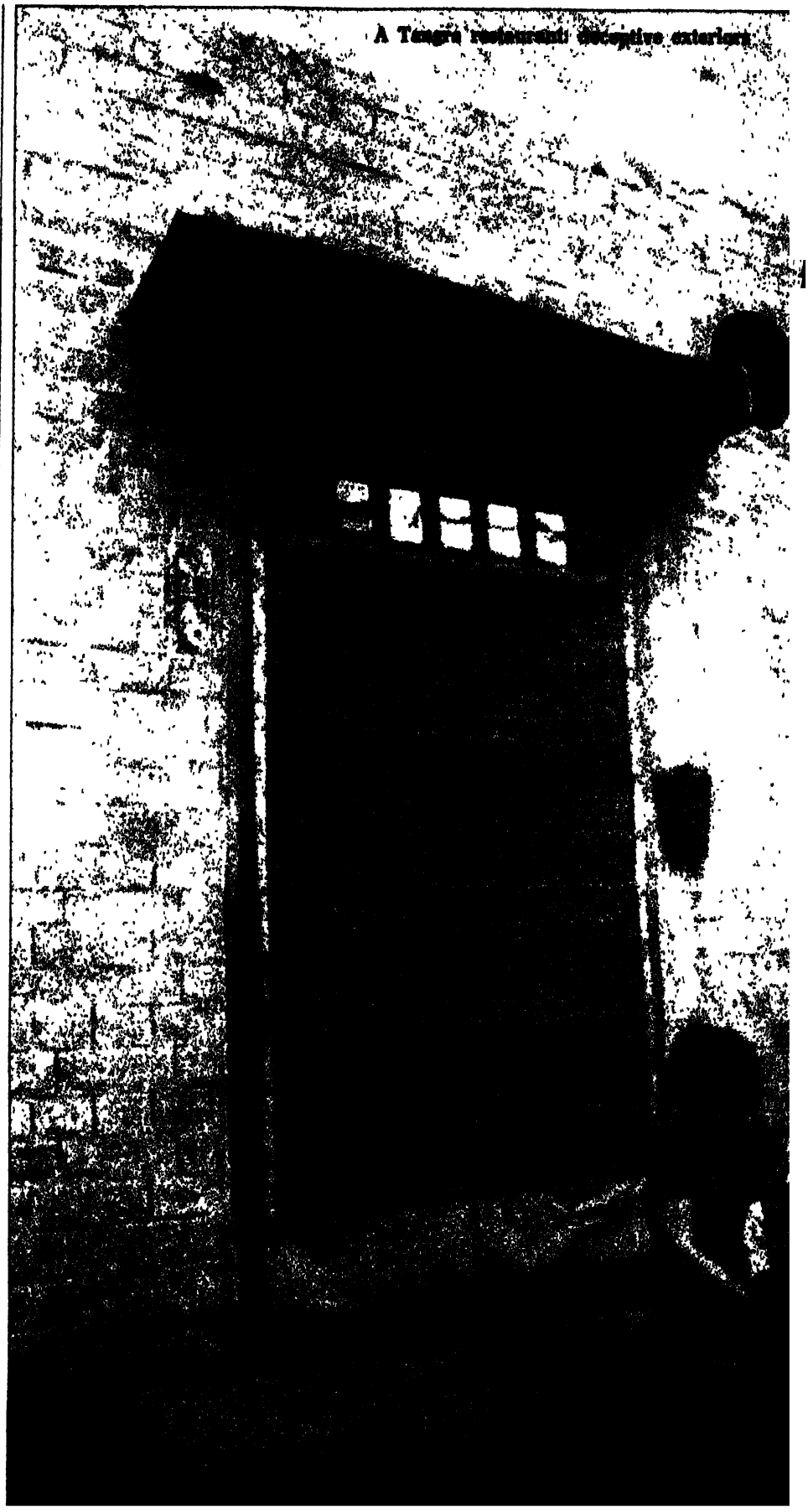
in every home, they don't really have to go outdoors to socialise

Like most Indians, most of the Chinese people in Calcutta interact regularly only with those coming from their own particular part of the erstwhile Middle Kingdom "Yes, it is like a class or caste system," admits Mr Wu, laughingly adding that after 14 to 16-hour working days amid the sickly smell of treated leather, there is neither the time nor the inclination to socialise, anyway

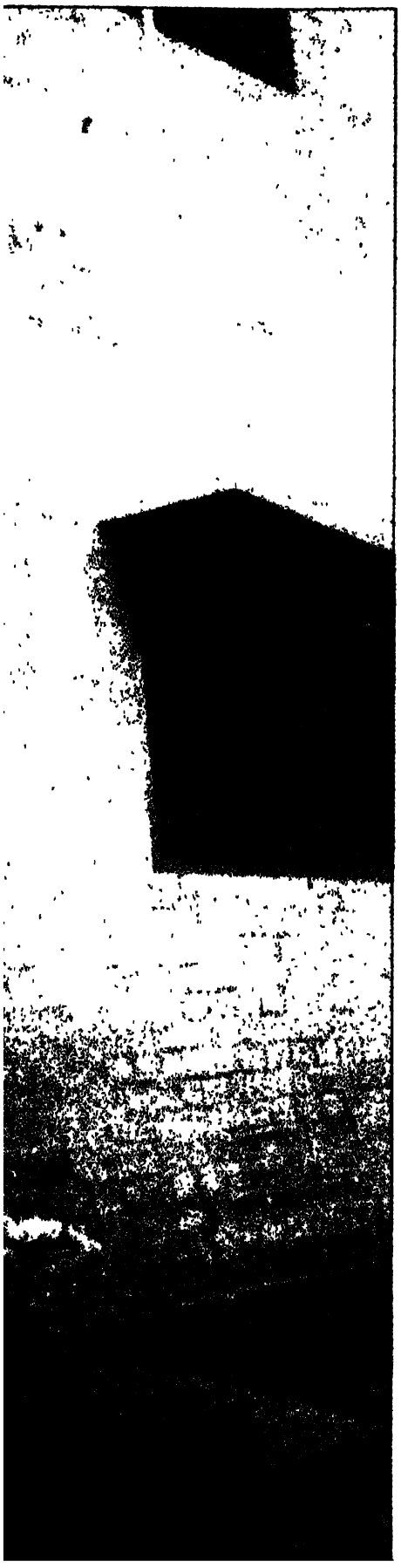
But socialise they still manage to do With the younger men zipping along in their red Marutis and the teenaged girls on TVS and Hero Honda bikes, the *nouveau riche* congregate with their contemporaries at neutral meeting grounds like Saturday Club and Dalhousie Institute, mingling freely with members of all communities English is their *lingua franca*, for most Chinese do not understand the dialect of someone whose



Residents of Calcutta's Chinatown



A Tangra restaurant's deceptive exterior





Children playing in the bylanes of Tangra: a home away from home

origins lie in a different part of China "We sometimes use Mandarin Chinese, which is something (of a link language) like Hindustani," says Mrs Pardiwala "but English is easier" And something that should shame every Indian is that a lot of Chinese people in this country who do not know English communicate with one other through Hindi.

The Chinese in Calcutta do not have any strong association to press their demands, like they have in some Western countries, and sometimes, they feel, this is taken advantage of The trauma and split loyalties caused by the 1962 border conflict have been largely forgotten, and most of the problems are economic. But some thorns still prickle.

Unlike Bengalis, rues young William Wong, "we don't go on demonstrations." In fact, about the only time Calcutta's Chinese gather in any strength is during Chinese New Year, which falls some time around the middle of February each year There is a Chinese temple at Achipore near Budge Budge, and during the New Year and four Sundays after, a lot of Chinese flock there for prayer The Year of the Dragon began on February 17 last and couples hope to have a child born under the dragon's sign, for legend has it that such a child will forever be lucky and prosperous

"We are Indians We have been born in this country We have lived all our lives here But the government says we are not Indians " Denial of Indian citizenship is what upsets the Chinese community the most They have no other home but India, but officially many of them remain stateless Those born after 1950 face no problem in getting passports, but what rankles many, like Mr Wu of Tangra and Mrs Pardiwala's brother, Chato Lee, and his wife Margaret, is that though born in free India, they are presumed to be Britain's responsibility A charge London obviously is not going to shoulder "Every year we have to pay bribes to get our papers renewed And ask for police permission to go out of Calcutta and Howrah," Mrs Pardiwala says "I hate to put it this way, but we are really second-class citizens." ■



THE DAN

Last week, we spoke about the Dandi March of 1930. Here, we capture the great moments relived in colour last fortnight when Rajiv Gandhi flagged off the commemorative walk

Dawn broke over the parched Sabarmati river on March 12; and the chirping of birds mingled with the soothing chants of *Hari Om...Shuh Sangram ko dekh bhaage nahin* and filled the air in Gandhiji's Ashram. Exactly as it had done 58 years earlier.

Mahatma Gandhi, then 61, clad in dhoti and shawl and stick in hand, had begun the Civil Disobedience Movement by symbolically breaking "the most iniquitous law of all from the poor man's standpoint" and vowing to die rather than return to the Ashram without Swaraj. He had his faithful band of 78, walking with him.

Today, a 40-year-old man with the same surname, dressed in spotless white kurta-pyjama, a Gandhi cap and bullet-proof vest flagged off the Dandi March of 1988, over the same 241 miles, in order to rekindle the spirit of socialism, non-violence and national unity in the same country. Walking briskly, Rajiv Gandhi covered seven kilometres in just over an hour, and then let the other marchers continue the walk to Dandi.

"The one good thing that has come of this re-enacting of the March is that interest in the Ashram has soared," said Kamal Thakore, one of the Ashram volunteers. "Let's hope this interest lasts." The 80 young marchers brought in from various Gandhian institutes, were clad in the khadi and tricolour scarf given by the government, and on the twice-erected podium sat ex-chief ministers, MLAs and Congress dignitaries—among them were six of the still-alive 12 original Dandi Marchers. These grand old men, with emotion-filled faces, had responded to the call today as they had done 58 years earlier. "It was good to renew old memories and

An Ashram float prepared by Congress workers



School children with a band atop a mandir





The onward march from Gandhi Ashram

remember all the affection the public had showered on us as we left for the walk," recalled 72-year-old Laljibhai Parmar, one of the veteran marchers.

Today, among the crowds were security personnel giving cover to the Prime Minister. The strict traffic regulations put off many of the public who may have wanted to attend. "Most of Ahmedabad is sealed of to vehicular traffic," said Ranchhod Vaghari, a postal department employee. "I'm not going to walk five kilometres just to see this show." Dilip Desai, a bank clerk, added: "This is nothing but unproductive expense. We don't have enough money for those who have suffered the worst drought in the state's history, but we spend crores on this unnecessary publicity stunt."

Jayesh Vakil, who has lived all his life behind the Kocharab Ashram, questioned the "sudden interest" in Gandhi's first home in Ahmedabad while Sabarmati Ashram was being built. "All these years it was completely neglected," said Vakil, "but because of the PM's visit, it has been renovated. It is nothing more than an election *natak*."

But *natak* or not, the walk brought back inspiring memories of the time when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, was beginning to find utterance.

Sajeda Momin

to cheer on the marchers



for Mr Hingorani who participated in the Dandi March in 1930



7 DAYS

SUN 3 MON 4 TUES 5 WED 6 THURS 7 FRI 8 SAT 9

ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

Bijlee Aur Toofan (A): New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147)—12, 3, 6, 9

Directed by S R Pratap and with music by Anwar- Usman, the cast includes Hemant Birje, Sri Prada, Sonika Gill, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Raza Murad

• **Mulzim.** Elite (S N Banerjee Road, 241382), Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 311090), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)

Directed by K S R Doss and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Hema Malini, Amrita Singh, Kimmy Katkar and Suresh Oberoi

• **Paap Ki Duniya.** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249628), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403), Malancha (Regent Park)

Sunny Deol, Chunky Panday, Shakti Kapoor, Pran, Danny Denzongpa and Neelam are the chief attractions in this Shibu Mittra film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Shahenshah:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266)—4 shows; Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200)—3 shows

Amitabh Bachchan stars in this Tinu Anand film whose music is by Amar Utpal Also in the cast is Meenakshi Seshadri



Chunky Panday and Rubina in *Paap Ki Duniya*



Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy in *Antaranga*

BENGALI FILMS

• **Antaranga:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3, 5.45, 8 30

Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy are the lead pair in this Dinen Gupta film Others in the cast are Rabi Ghosh, Arup Kumar, Chinmoy Roy and Basanta Chowdhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Apaman:** Tallda Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270) & Purna (S.P Mukherjee Road; 271282)—2, 5, 8

Sandhyarani, Prasenjit, Abhijit Sen, Abhisek Chatterjee, Shekhar Chatterjee, Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Chandan Mukherjee, Lolita Chatterjee, Indrani Dutta, Master Manku and debutante Shanta comprise the cast of this Chandan Mukherjee film, The music is by Robin Banerjee

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7.

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Tapas Paul, Ranjit Mullick, Satabdi Roy , Kali Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua, Bhabesh Kundu, Soumitra Banerjee and Ishani Banerjee The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Karoti (U/A):** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2.30, 5 30, 8.15; Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—3, 5.45, 8.30; Alochhaya (Bellaghata Main Road; 358059)—2, 5, 8.

Directed by Ajoy Banerjee, the cast includes Debraj Roy, Anuradha Roy, Ajoy Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh, Ketaki Dutta, Manu Mukherjee, Kalyani Mondal, Arun Banerjee and Subrata Sen Sharma, The music is by Prabir Majumdar

FOREIGN FILMS

- **Breakdance:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141)—12, 3, 6, 8 30
- **Carry on up the Jungle (A):** Society (Corporation Place, 241002)—4 shows
- **Silent Madness (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715)—4 shows
- **The Blue Lagoon (A):** Lighthouse (Humayun Place, 291299)—4 shows
- **Tough Guys (A):** New Empire (Humayun Place, 291050)—4 shows

NEW RELEASES

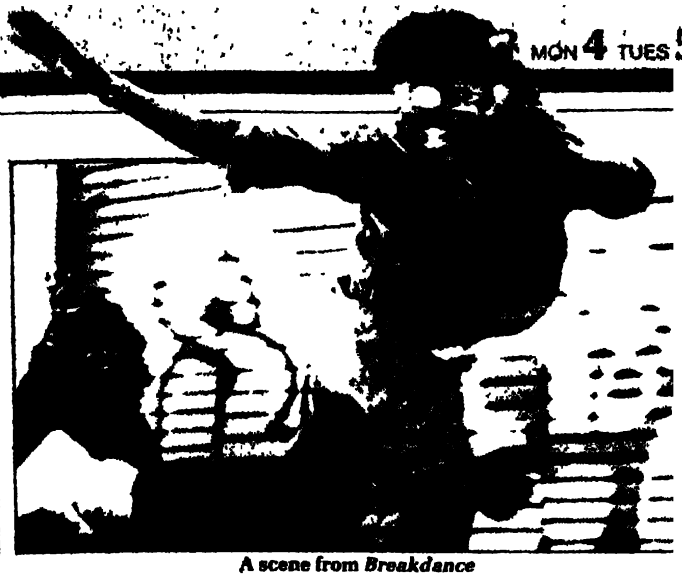
HINDI FILMS

- **Falak:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551516), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250), Basusree (S.P Mukherjee Road, 478807), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522)

  Raakhee, Jackie Shroff and Madhavi play the lead in this Shashilal Nair film whose music is by Kalyanji Anandji

- **Shiva-Shakti:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 311090), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932)—4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417) & Malancha (Regent Park)—3 shows, Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—noon

  Shatrughan Sinha, Govinda, Anita Raaj, Kimmy Katkar and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Anand. The music is by Anand Milind.



A scene from *Breakdance*

SPECIAL EVENTS

3 April: 10 am
Udayan's first annual cultural programme
At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937)

8 March: 6.30 pm
Theatre Arts Workshop presents Gunter Grass' *Biplober Mohora*, a play in Bengali Directed by Amitava Roy, the cast includes Deepesh Misra, Shantanu Dutta, Pronob Mukherjee, Sreela Roy, Aniruddha Roychowdhury, Madhumita Dasgupta and Amitava Roy
At Mukta Angan Rangalaya (123 S P Mukherjee Road, 465277)

9 March: 7 pm
Khela presents *Poor Murderer*, a play in English Directed by Vimal Bhagat, the cast includes Ian Wilson, Jai Talwar, Sudeshna Roy, Punam Singh, Raj Dutt, Tilak Mehera, Saroj Mehera, Vimal Bhagat and Kamal Bhagat
At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

9 March: 7 pm
New Age Theatre will stage *Roopkatha Noy*, written by Saila Chakravorty Drama/direction. Subol Khan.
At Girish Mancha (Bagbazar)



A scene from the play, *Poor Murderer*

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350
London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) AI 132A at 1805
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo. Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910, Dep (2) AI-316 at 2020
Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay. Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015 Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115
Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong. Arr (4) AI-324 at 1050, Dep (4) AI-324 at 1150
Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi Bombay Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235, Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330
Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU-588 at 1105
Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade. Arr (1) JU-589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU-589 at 0050
Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU-537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU-538 at 1955
Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4, 7), IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510. Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010; Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-248 at 1525, Arr (3, 6) IC-248 at 1425
Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045 IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5 6) BG-693 at 1615
Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555
Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640 Arr (1 3 6) TG-313 at 1240 Dep (2, 4 7) IC 231 at 1050 Dep (1, 3 6) TG-314 at 1355
Calcutta-Paro. Dep (1, 2 3, 5 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1710 and IC-263 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210
Calcutta-Bombay. Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855
Calcutta-Madras. Dep (Daily) IC-265 at 1730, Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225
Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (1, 3 5) IC-295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC-296 at 1835
Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2, 4 6) IC-295 at 1640 Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-296 at 2105
Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2 4 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2, 4 6) IC 286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2, 3 4 5 6 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2 3, 4 5, 6 7) IC-541 at 1240
Calcutta-Bangalore. Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235
Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1 2 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630 Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC-278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar. Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad. Dep (3 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445 Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1 4 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1 4 6) IC-270 at 2105
Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta. Dep (3 5 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3 5 6) IC-281 at 1850
Calcutta-Guwahati. Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1 2, 3, 4, 5 6) IC-203 at 0625 Dep (1 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610 Arr (1, 2, 3 4 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (1, 3 5) IC-250 at 2045
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (2 4, 6, 7) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-202 at 1040
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530 Arr (2 4 6, 7) IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1 3 5) IC-256 at 1230
Calcutta-Bagdogra. Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC-222

at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily). IC-244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5). IC-237 at 0650, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-717 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Aizawl: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-705A at 1100, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-706A at 1450

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5). PF-729 at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-721/722 at 0630, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1745

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-732 at 1000

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-727 at 0940, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-728 at 1610

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-707 at 0610 Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) PF-701/735 at 0830, Arr (daily) PF-702/736 at 1705

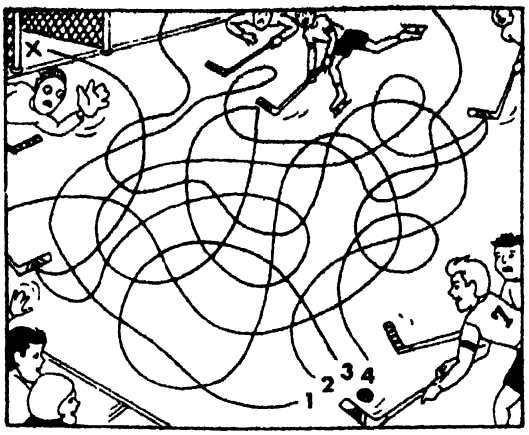
* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

TRAINS

Departure Up	Time	EASTERN RAILWAY HOWRAH	Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sa	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21-10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon, Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs, Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri.—Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep.—Tues., Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri.—Thursday	7-30	960

Departure Up	Time	SEALDAH	Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-30	304
		SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY HOWRAH		
3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Fri, & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4-00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep. & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains: 203535-44 for all other information.



STICK SHIFT! Follow the route of the hockey puck above. Just one of four plays scores a goal. Which one?

• **SUM NUMBER!** If three times this number exceeds one-third of it by 24, what is the number? Answer quickly, if you can

The number in question is nine



YULETIDE COLORAMA

Yuletide is a colourful time of year. How quickly can you fill blanks below with a familiar spate of colours to make sense?

1 Songsters, but not drivers, dream of a — Christmas.

2 To embark on a shopping trip, one must be in the —

3. Battles for bargains may leave one — (and) —.

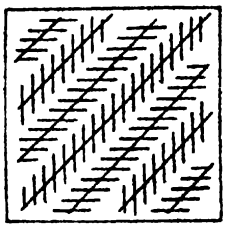
4. More long — could spur us on

5 After the holidays, we're often in the —.

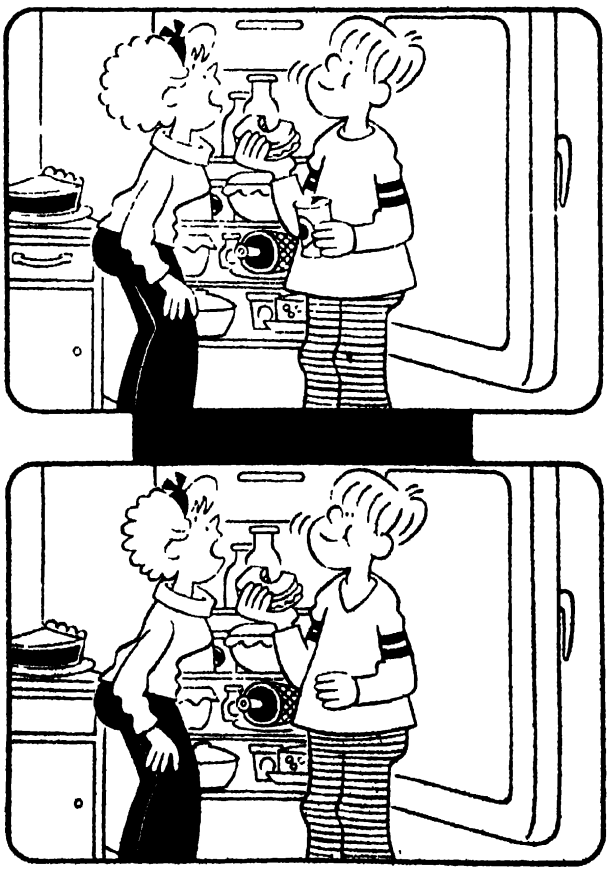
1 White 2 Pink 3 Black and blue 4 Green 5 Red

• **SEE HERE!** It may not seem that way, but all of the long diagonal lines in the diagram, below, are parallel. If you are not convinced hold diagram flat, at eye level, and scan lines from corner to corner.

View design flat similarly from bottom up, and rows of small, vertical lines appear upright.



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Handle is missing 2 Hair is different 3 Arm is moved 4 Neckline is different 5 Soda can is missing 6 Shirt is shorter

FUNSPOT



WHAT HO! What's Santa's problem above? A visitor is tugging at his heartstrings . and his beard Add colors 1—Red 2—Green 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown 5 —Flesh tones

SPELLBINDER

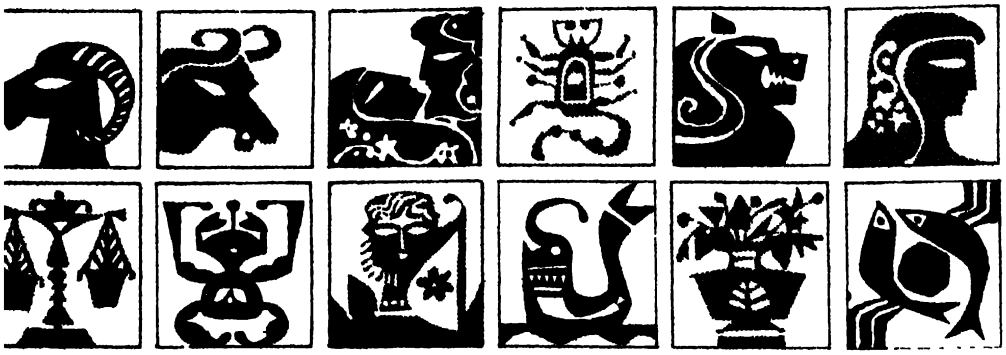
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

LEMONADE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagram Lean, Made,



ARIES

March 21—April 20

The full moon will help you to relate to people An official engagement, business collaboration or professional alliance is on the cards. You are likely to go on an extended trip abroad The weekend is likely to be exciting. The health of parents and in-laws may cause concern.

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Venus will now enter your fourth angle and this is the opportune time to refurbish and redecorate your home Socialising and entertainment are on the cards. Jewellery, clothes and gadgets will now take priority in your life. Pets will add to your domestic happiness. Romance is in the air

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Mercury sextile Venus will help you to take important decisions and plan your future. This is an important week as far as business transactions are concerned. Romance, speculation, hobbies, entertainment and sports are highlighted. Lady Luck will smile on you so take the initiative.

CANCER

June 21—July 20

Mercury will slide into your professional angle this week and you will now be bogged down by work. However, take care not to overstrain yourself. You will now win accolades from important people. Renovation, decoration, buying, selling and socialising are highlighted. Health will cause concern.

LEO

July 21—August 20

The full moon in your sign will help you to communicate effectively. You will shine at meetings and conferences. A journey is in the offing. This is the right time to sign deeds and documents Marriage or at least an official engagement is foretold in April or May Friends will stand by you.

VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

The Mercury Venus sextile will help you to overcome minor hassles successfully The accent now is on funds and loans. A hectic round of socialising and entertaining is foretold People who have irked you in the past will not do so any more. Do not take your health for granted Love blooms

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

The full moon in your sign will help you to make an impact on people who matter. You will charm people with your grace and elegance. Salesmen, teachers, editors and politicians will make it big. Romance and love blooms for the fancyfree and eligible Health may cause concern.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

You will be in an introspective mood. Philosophers, lawyers and property owners will succeed at any venture that they may undertake. A secret alliance or collaboration is on the cards.. Visitors will drop in unexpectedly. The health of children and in-laws will cause concern.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

Money problems will now lessen Friends and loved ones will help you in every possible way This is the right time to socialise and entertain in style You are close to bagging an important contract soon Sign deals and documents after consulting experts Name and fame will come your way

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

The pace now will be hectic You may even have to contend with opposition to your plans from people you thought would help you. However, do not let this upset you as success will finally be yours Take some time off to introspect and meditate Your efforts will finally be rewarded

AQUARIUS

Jan 20—Feb 19

Mars will give you the necessary drive and impetus to succeed in all that you do. A trip is on the cards A shift or transfer is likely. You may now change your job and though responsibilities will increase, you will be duly compensated Events in the next few weeks will have far reaching consequences.

PISCES

Feb 20—March 20

People will seek your guidance. Health will cause concern and regular checkups are a must. You must weigh all the pros and cons before signing any deals and documents or entering into business collaborations. Do not overspend. Family members will lend all possible support to you.

BIRTHDAYS

April 3

Mercury sextile Mars Those interested in research and science will make it big Expect strange and unusual experiences Separation from a loved one is also foretold

April 4

Moon conjunction Pluto This conjunction will make you imaginative and dynamic Those in industry and the arts will do well An important journey will lead to gains and gaiety

April 5

Mercury square Uranus This square implies that you should be careful in financial matters and human relationships Around October and December this year, success and happiness will finally be yours

April 6

Moon trine Mercury This is an excellent trine for lawyers, industrialists, politicians, religious heads, statesmen, accountants, actors and film directors Awards and rewards will definitely come your way

April 7

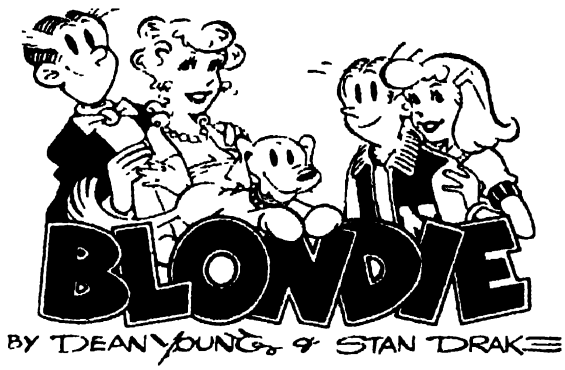
Moon trine Sun The trine will bring wealth, public welfare and popularity You are advised to take all chances that come your way You will win friends, influence people and give happiness to loved ones.

April 8

Moon conjunction Saturn trine Jupiter Changes on the work front are foretold Parents and in-laws will demand attention The health of loved ones may cause concern Moneywise this is definitely a good year. Expansion and progress are possibilities.

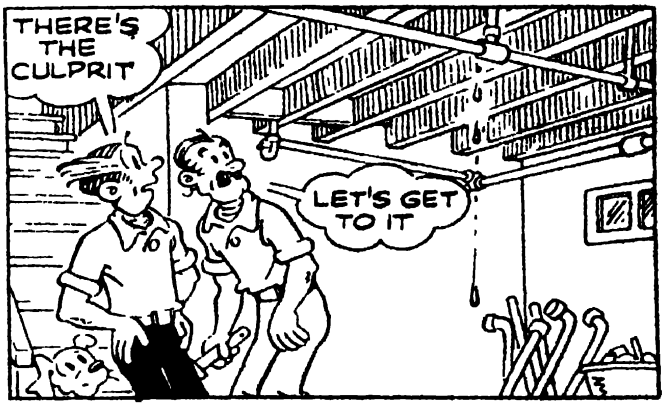
April 9

Moon conjunction Neptune: You will be cheerful and optimistic. Start a project, undertaking or venture now. You will meet a relative stranger with whom there are chances of building a long lasting relationship.

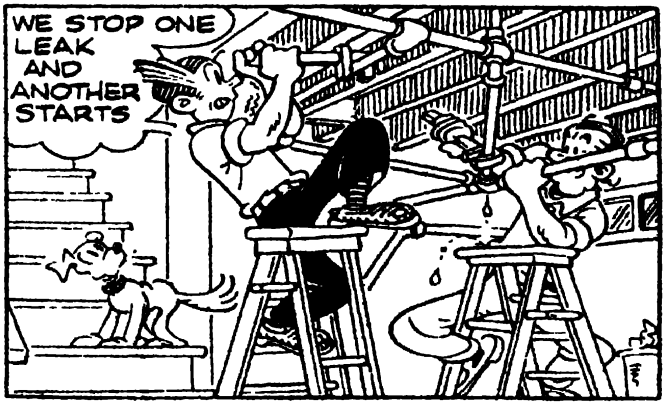

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


HERB'S COMING OVER THIS MORNING

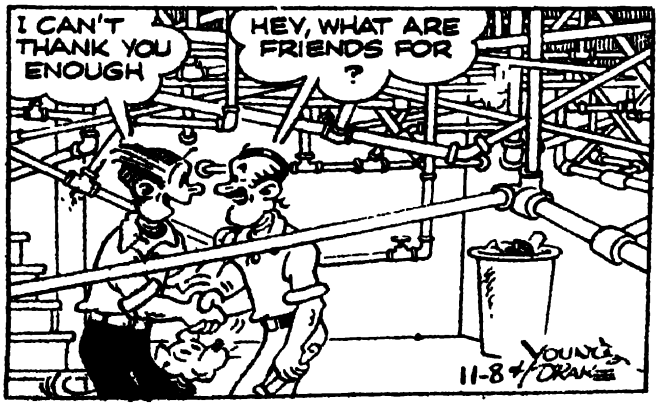

I'M READY
THAT LEAKY PIPE DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE


THERE'S THE CULPRIT
LET'S GET TO IT


SEE, WE DID IT
YES, BUT LOOK OVER HERE


WE STOP ONE LEAK AND ANOTHER STARTS


THEN WE'LL KEEP ADDING PIPE UNTIL THE LEAKS STOP


I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH
HEY, WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR ?
11-8 YOUNG & DRAKE

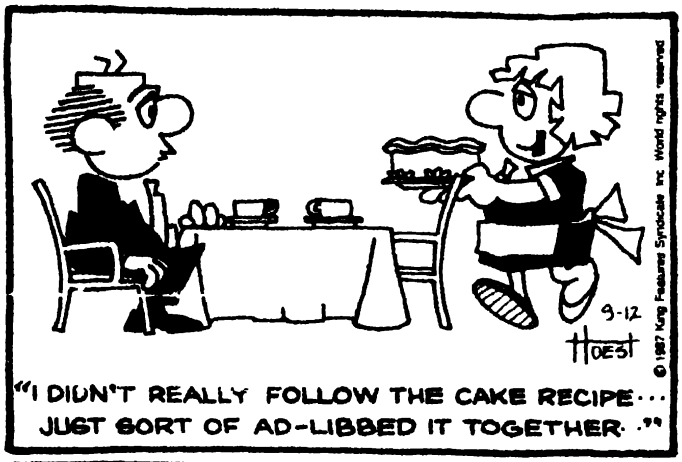
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



THE LOCKHORNS



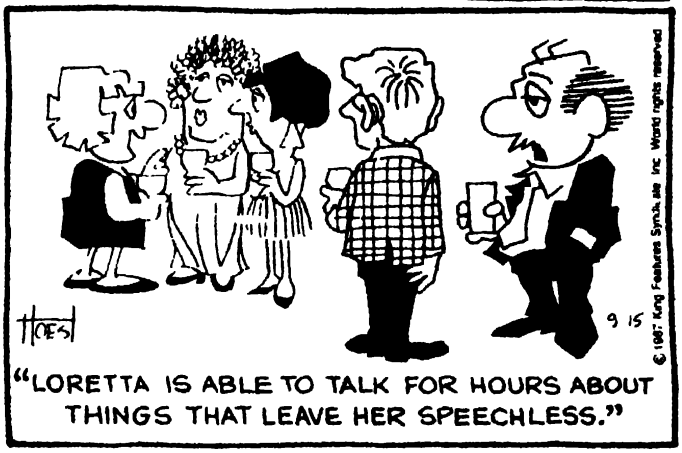
"AH! A DOMESTIC GODDESS!"



"I DIDN'T REALLY FOLLOW THE CAKE RECIPE... JUST SORT OF AD-LIBBED IT TOGETHER..."

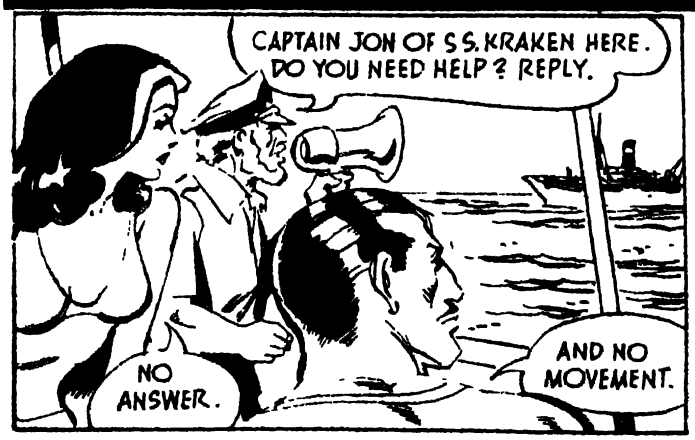


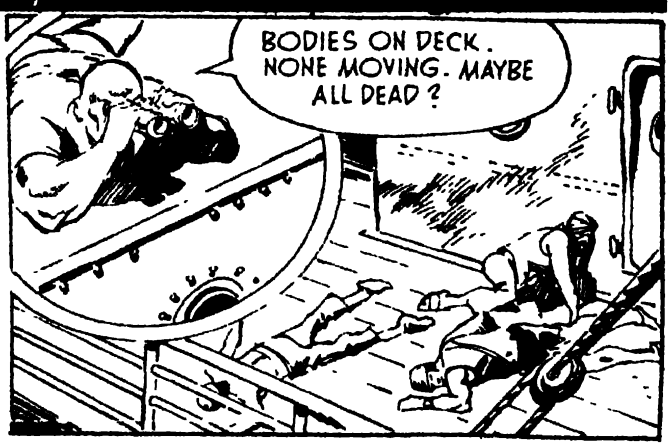
"LORETTA'S MUSHROOM SOUP IS THE INEDIBLE KIND."



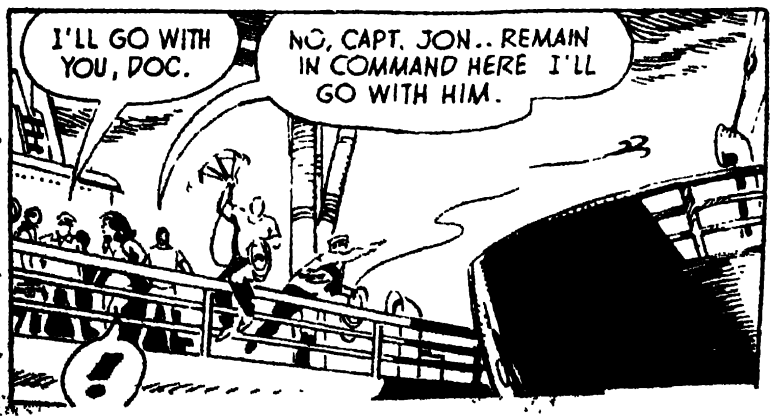
"LORETTA IS ABLE TO TALK FOR HOURS ABOUT THINGS THAT LEAVE HER SPEECHLESS."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

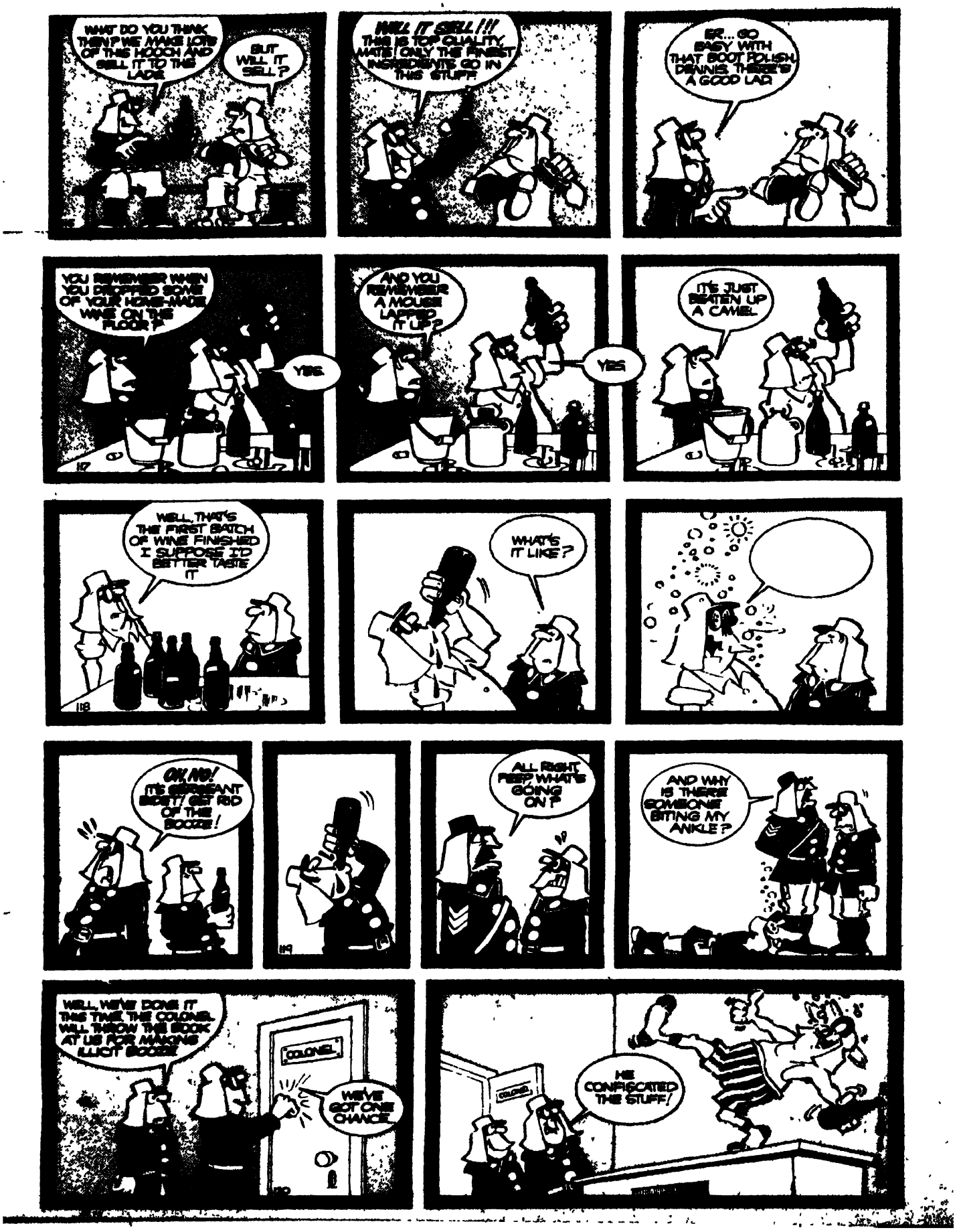








THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP

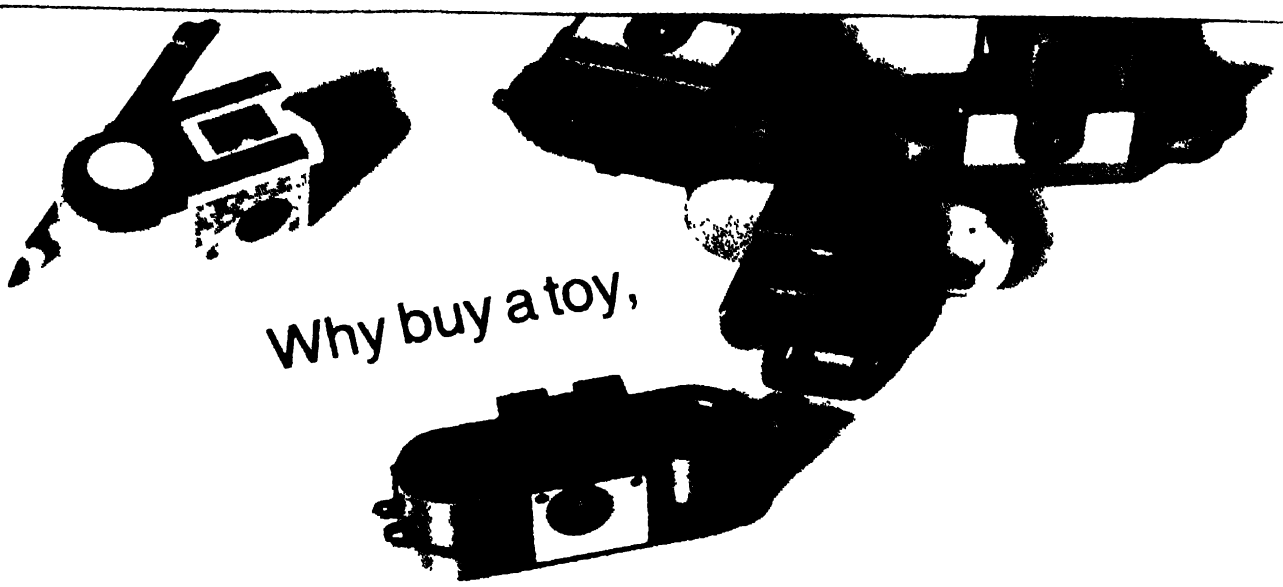




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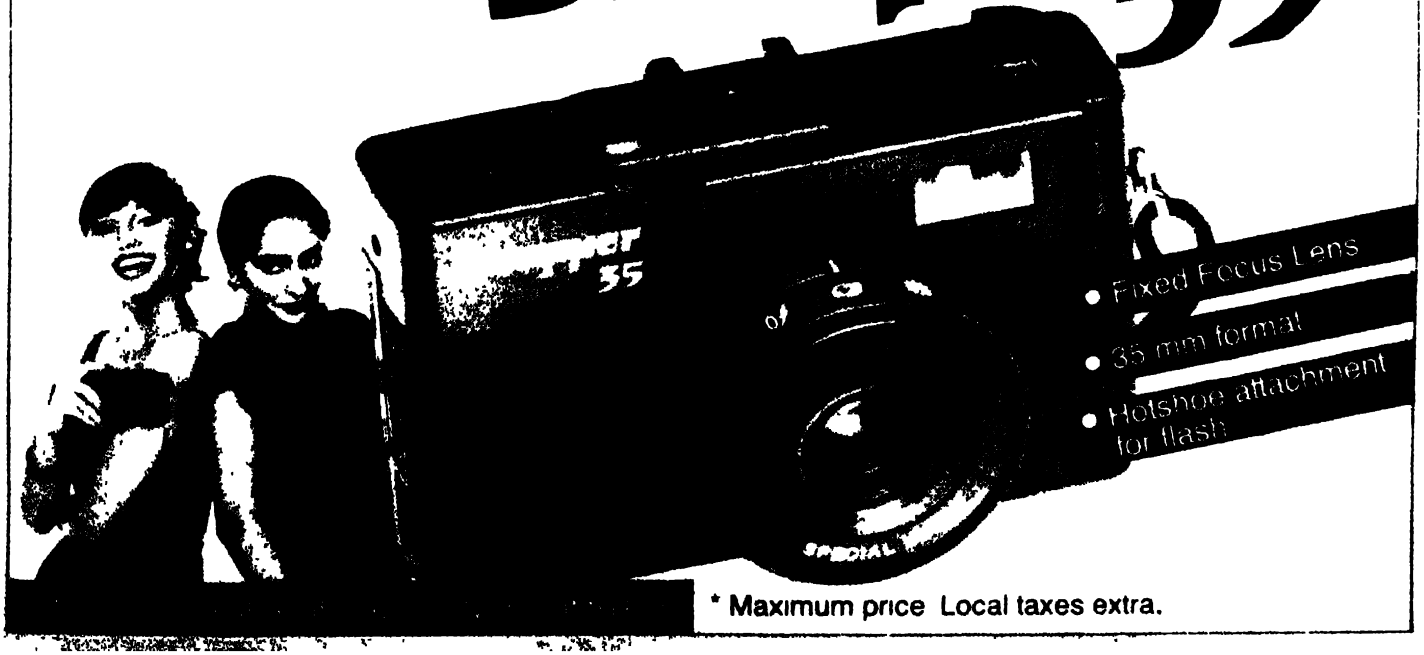
Photograph: **Bindu Arora**



Why buy a toy,

when you can get
a 35 mm camera for Rs.165*?!!

New Snapper 35



* Maximum price Local taxes extra.



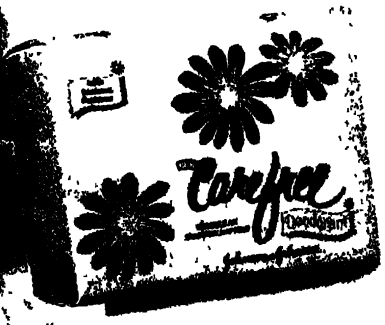
Now!

Carefree Deodorant

Sanitary Napkins

For complete protection plus deodorant freshness

Carefree Deodorant Sanitary Napkins. It helps reduce menstrual odour leaving you with a fresh, clean feeling. Carefree Deodorant not only protects but also freshens.



Carefree Deodorant ... freshness for the times you need it most

OBM/1253 Rev

Johnson & Johnson

The Telegraph
10 APRIL 1988



Kamrun Chaki

4
Cover Story: Bengali New Year will be upon us in another four days. What better way to celebrate it than to recall the contribution of Sagarmoy Ghosh to the state's culture?

10
Focus: Poila Baisakh means the most to the entrepreneurs of West Bengal. An overview of the business.

18
Panorama: What has Bengali children's literature come to? Is the young generation getting what it deserves? A report.

22
Humour: The irrepressible Dulendra Bhowmick tells us what Poila Baisakh *really* means.

24
Survey: The weavers of the famed Benarasi saris turn out some of the most beautiful five-yard lengths in the world, but can do little about their own distressing situation.

SECTION

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Post Mortem	36
Junior Whirl	38
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	46

Cover:
Aloke Mitra

DOYEN OF BENGAL

Sagarmoy Ghosh has contributed in immeasurable manner to the sustenance and growth of modern Bengali literature. Father-figure to virtually all of today's eminent writers, the low-profile editor of *Desh* has inspired a literary renaissance.
A tribute by SUNRITA SEN and SUMIT MUKHERJEE

Aloke Mitra



Bengali literature would not have been the same if Sagarmoy Ghosh, instead of editing *Desh*, had spent the last 50 years of his life as a storekeeper at a pharmaceuticals company, or as an education department clerk at Writers' Buildings or if circumstances had not forced him to make the difficult decision of leaving his beloved Santiniketan.

But Sagarmoy Ghosh is a man of destiny and like all men of destiny, clerkships and storekeepers' books could not hold him back as he looked for and found his niche in *Desh*—a literary magazine which the 75-year-old editor proudly states "has no parallel in this country." The fact that it truly has no parallel is largely due to the versatility of this gifted, unassuming man.

A childhood under the open skies of Santiniketan, in the shadows of Rabindranath Tagore's powerful personality, had much to do with the versatility Sagarmoy Ghosh says he has always been an editor with no inclination towards becoming a writer, though he has four impressive books to his credit. But when he speaks, he is a disciple of yet another Tagore, Abanindranath "Abanthakur," it used to be said, "wrote pictures." So it is with Sagarmoy. He spoke to us about an idyllic childhood and there it was before our eyes.

Infancy in East Bengal, time to start school and leave behind a doting grandmother "She had kept me back when the others left with her for Santiniketan I was her favourite, I don't know why. I was so naughty," said the man whose grim exterior has made many a budding author spend several months just gathering enough courage to approach him.

Sagarmoy's father, Kalimohan Ghosh, was one of Tagore's trusted lieutenants The poet's dream of rural regeneration through the example of the Sriniketan experiment had been entrusted to him. Kalimohan's family along with two others used to live in a cluster of rooms called the Natun Bari adjacent to Rabindranath's residence, Dehuli "His doors were always wide open to us children" remembers Sagarmoy "We used to run up the stairs to him, he'd give us a sweet and we'd run away It was a sort of game."

All his childhood memories evoke the towering figure of the poet who is perhaps still the deepest influence on his work, his thinking and even his lifestyle "The rain had just stopped. We ran out of the house like a flock of chicks suddenly set free—then we were mesmerised. Gurudev (Tagore) stood on his verandah, gripping the railings, looking out into the open fields, singing. The damp fields, the smell of rain in the air, his reverberating voice—I was only four or five then, but it was an unforgettable moment in time."

Another evening, a sleepy child on his mother's lap, the dim light of a clay oil lamp, the fading timbre of a deep voice. The poet was reading aloud from his new novel, *Gora*, for the housewives of his *ashram* The poet's presence was all-pervasive and left a lasting impression on everyone who came into close contact with him and Sagarmoy was no exception But as Sagarmoy Ghosh's elder brother and renowned singer Santidev Ghosh says, "Sagar followed Gurudev's phi-

Gurudev with his favourite 'Sagar' (at his feet)



Pinaki Trivedi (Courtesy: Sanskritan Ashramik Sangha)

'DESH IS A COMBINATION OF OLD AND NEW'

Desh is the centre of Sagarmoy Ghosh's life, his driving force. His wife, his colleagues and even Sagarmoy agree that he literally lives and breathes for his magazine. His views on *Desh* in particular and editing in general.

Q: *One of the reasons for* Desh's *constant popularity is the way it changes with the changing times. How do you keep such a keen finger on the reader's pulse?*

A: All one needs is an alert mind. I keep close contacts with the new generation of writers, I keep track of what they are thinking, what they wish to write. And readers come to us with their opinions. We have a very active letters column to which they write in great numbers telling us what they want, what they have liked and what they do not like.

Q: *How far does the reader influence the contents of your magazine?*

A: They do influence us a lot, but not beyond a certain point. It is not that we always give them what they want. In fact, that would be a mistake. Those who do it only wish to sell their publications, they do no good to the readers.

When we started *Desh* we had the definite purpose in mind that we were going to improve the taste of our readers And that is what we have tried over these long years. We have given the readers what we think they should read. But we have always kept the weekly's popularity in mind. You see, if it became totally unattractive to the general reader he would stop reading it and our whole purpose would be defeated. To improve the standards of the intellectual demands they would make on us, we also had to make sure that they kept on reading it . . .

Q: *Has it always been like this at* Desh?

A: Since I took over, yes. Before that, it had hardly started as an independent paper. it was more of an appendage to the daily *Anandabazar Patrika.*

Q: *When you started did you have any pattern in mind on which you wished to shape the paper? Say, something like the* Times Literary Supplement *or the* New Yorker?

A: No, definitely not. *Desh* has its own character. In fact, before I joined it was like the usual run-of-the-mill foreign news magazine. There was a combination of foreign news and national news both largely political. The editorials were usually on politics too. We decided the dailies give us enough of politics. And the literary monthlies were at the time in the doldrums. *Sanibarer Chithi, Masik Basumati, Prabasi* were wilting. *Bharatbarsha* had stopped. We decided to step in with our weekly and see the response.

There was another reason, too, for us to go literary. These were the advertisements for books. *Desh* used to get plenty of these. In fact, the potential of this source of funds had not been tapped at all.

Q: *As a literary magazine, what is the aim of* Desh?

A: I wanted it to be a combination of the old and new. Till then the authors in *Anandabazar's* annual issue were part of a familiar group, most of them friends of Sajanikanta Das.

New talent or those outside the close-knit circle were studiously kept out. I decided to change all that. I brought in Buddhadev Bose, Premendra Mitra and later Ramen Mitra, Santosh Ghosh and Narayan Gangopadhyay. There were Pramathanath Bishi, Bibhuti Mukhopadhyay and Annada Shankar Roy. It was, as I said, the old and the new. And that is what we have strived to maintain right through.

Q: *Even now?*

A: Yes, as the old move out, the new move in. It is a gradual but definite trend. The young have to be given their chance. Take Bimal Mitra for example. Beginning from *Saheb, Bibi, Golam* and *Ekak, Dashak, Satak* we have published several of his novels and stories. But now we have stopped. We do not publish his stories any longer because our readers do not want them anymore. Their tastes have changed. We have to give scope to newcomers. But they, too, will be moving on one day. The magazine has to maintain this flow.

Q: *But are there always writers on the sidelines waiting to step in?*

A: No, this is a very disturbing trend I have been noticing recently. Since Sanjib Chattopadhyay and Samaresh Basu no writer of similar quality has made an appearance. There has been a 14- or 15-year vacuum. Why is this happening? It worries me. I have tried to pinpoint the reason for it without much success. One plausible cause could be that the elementary education in schools has become science oriented. Children have to be very career minded these days. They have no time for literature. Their teacher, in the little time that is devoted to the arts, tries to initiate them into politics, science not being a suitable conveyor for such ideas. Thus children grow up without the ability to appreciate literature. Those busy in technical lines read a few rapidfire English books. They have no time for or inclination towards more serious thought-provoking works But this might be a reason I don't really know.

Q: *You have this knack of spotting talent....*

A: No, it is *Desh.* In fact, the authors and writers it has thrown up has been *Desh's* greatest contribution to Bengali literature in the past 50 years. Almost all those who dominate Bengali literature today are those who have written in *Desh.* Look at the lists of Akademi and Rabindra Purashkar winners—almost all of them, again, have written in *Desh* We hope to keep up this tradition

Q: *How would you rate the three annual special issues of* Desh, *viz. the Puja, Sahitya and Binodan numbers?*

A: The puja issue is planned purely from the commercial point of view. It has to compete with a number of other publications. And so it features the same established authors every year. It gives me far greater pleasure to work on the other two issues. This year the Sahitya number is on Bankim Chandra and I look on it as one of the best productions in the evening of my life.

losophy, but he had his own ideals and he chose his own career."

He learnt to sing, he danced, he learnt boxing. There were studies, too. But far more important in making Sagarmoy the man he is today was the open and inquisitive mind the poet encouraged. "He never made a big show of anything. During Gandhiji's movement for the removal of untouchability, we once had the *ashram* sweepers serving us a meal. They too are men like us, Gurudev used to say."

It was not time for Calcutta yet. There were classes under the trees, songs in the moonlight and prayers at sunrise. Santidev Ghosh remembers his daredevil younger brother once riding all the way to Calcutta on his bicycle without telling his family. It was probably this daredevilry which, Santidev says, involved Sagarmoy in a brawl which "did disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the *ashram* and father finally decided to send him to Calcutta." It was convenient, too, from the academic point of view. He could complete his BA at the City College.

He used to pay his expenses in Calcutta by giving singing lessons. It used to earn him Rs 30 to Rs 40 a month. On a few occasions, he even sang on All India Radio. Music is perhaps the only sacrifice Sagarmoy regrets having made for his profession. It was the only other career he would have chosen. "But I couldn't do both," he says, "I had to make a choice."

A stint as a clerk in the education department of the Fazlul Haq ministry made him sure that the corridors of Writers' Buildings were not meant for him. What speeded his departure were the indications that he would do well to drop his khadi clothes and switch to a shirt and trousers. He had participated in the non-cooperation movement before that and spent six months in jail for it. Shirts and trousers were not for him and so, on to different avenues.

His father's friend, Makhanlal Sen, managing director of Ananda Bazar Patrika, rejected outright a request for a job. "Journalism is not for boys from Santiniketan," he said "Journalists have to be courageous, daring, they have to work very hard. Santiniketan boys are not equipped for such rigours." However, another family friend, Captain Narendra Dutta, gave him a job at his pharmaceuticals company, Bengal Immunity. "I was appointed storekeeper and given a list to memorise by the end of the month. Stepto... this and that, so many bottles, so many cc and so many rupees. Premendra Mitra was publicity officer



Two-year-old Sagarmoy (left) with elder brother Santidev and grandmother

there at the time and he was quite shocked with my occupation Reprieve came in the form of a transfer to Captain Dutta's newspaper, *Nabashakti*, which was being published from Circus Range. And from *Nabashakti* it was *Jugantar* and then finally *Anandabazar Patrika* and *Desh*.

While in jail, Sagarmoy Ghosh had struck up a close friendship with Ashoke Kumar Sarkar. When Ashoke Sarkar approached him with, "Why don't you come and work for us," Sagarmoy could only recount his rejection by Makhanlal. He was told that Makhanlal had left along with a host of his colleagues. Ananda Bazar, then at its Burman Street premises, was in quite a crisis and Sagarmoy Ghosh was one of those who helped it tide over difficult times.

"I was offered one of three posts— cinema editor, reporter or assistant editor at *Desh*. Prafulla Kumar Sarkar gave me a day to think it over I couldn't sleep that night on first in- editor s: nded attractive to see films spection I would be able to see films everyda but on second thoughts I decided ll was not for me. A reporter's job wa but because I would never have thin evenings free for all the thin ld p liked doing: attending jalsas, the tackle s, occasional musical soirees. I c probably for Desh." And that was the be rather g of an association which is n which half a century.

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his most challenging assignments came in the January of the very next year. Rabindranath Tagore, already ailing then, was scheduled to visit Vidyasagar's house on the occasion of his birth anniversary. It might well be the poet's last appearance and *Desh* decided to take out a special issue on the occasion. Sagarmoy was asked to persuade Rabindranath to give a short story for the number "It was such short notice and specially for an ill man." The poet promised his favourite "Sagar" a poem, but said a short story was too great a demand. However, he added that he had recently given one to Sajanikanta Das for his *Shanibarer Chithi* and he would write a letter to him asking him to give it to *Desh*. If he agreed, *Desh* could use it. " *Desh* did use it; it did not have a title then. It was later published as the last story in the collection called *Teen Sangi*. The story was named *Shesh Katha* and is an extension of the tale of his *Shesher Kabita*. He states more explicitly how and why love, friendship and mar-

Sagarmoy is [illegible] counts his story. It sounds as if Tagore had promised him the story yesterday. But the invo[illegible] have remained [illegible] these long years. The same over in 1940 as he was as involved chose that same "bro[illegible] Desh's 50th annivers[illegible]

And it is this involv[illegible] moy's that has made D[illegible] today. A magazine uniq[illegible] acter, its content and in [illegible]

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the near 50 years Sagarmoy has n editing *Desh*, never can it be said at it has fallen behind times. It has kept up both with new technology and changing times. For example, says Sagarmoy, "When we first went into offset printing and colour we had to make optimum use of both. And now our choice of articles is to some degree guided by its potential for colour pictures or illustration." The visual impact is now as important as the content, he adds.

Sagarmoy also has a keen finger on the readers' pulse. As Gourkishore Ghosh had put it, he "straddles a wide horizon on one end of which is Rabindranath and on the other the youngest aspiring author of modern Bengal." And Sagarmoy tackles the traditional and revolutionary with equal ease. In *Desh* there is place for the old and for the new, many of whom are his discoveries or those whom he has given their first break. In fact, his ability to spot talent is one of his greatest assets.

Bimal Kar, Mani Shankar Mukherjee, Samaresh Majumdar, Buddhadev Guha, Sanjib Chattopadhyay, the names are endless like stars in a galaxy. Sagarmoy is eloquent while speaking about Samaresh Basu, one of his favourite authors, who died recently. But about the others he is not so forthcoming. "It is not time to speak yet," he says. But they have no such inhibitions. They openly voice their respect and reverence for this veteran editor of theirs.

Gourkishore Ghosh thinks no other editor but Sagarmoy Ghosh would have had the courage to publish his articles in the Naxalite era. "He must have faced tremendous pressure but he never told me about it. He did not ask me to stop or tone down things. I kept on writing and I was told I was very brave. More than the writer, I think it is the editor who is brave in these circumstances."

Sagarmoy has this absolute confidence in those who write for him. The best example of this is perhaps Samaresh Basu. When Samaresh wrote *Bibar* and *Prajapati*, Sagarmoy had to face no end of malicious threats for publishing these literature, but he stood firm as a rock behind his author. Samaresh has one of the editor's favourites the fiery author's independent opus *Akhi Nai Phire*, and an appending illustrations by Bikash which accompanied the *bazar Patrika* in *Desh* is one of the Q: When any patt wished to something t

Sougata Dutta



Sagarmoy with wife Arati and grand-daughter Tuntuni

Desh is a precious heritage as far as Bengalis are concerned and Sagarmoy is the architect of this heritage which spans age groups and continents, Bengalis in faraway United States being as avid readers of *Desh* as those in Assam. And Sagarmoy is willing to make no compromise with this creation of his. Even the readers cannot dictate to him beyond a point. He explains with great conviction that *Desh* intended right from the beginning to educate its readers to improve their taste and this is what it is still

Aloke Mitra



Sagarmoy (right) with elder brother Santidev (left) and son Alokemoy in *Tasher Desh*



Being conferred the Deshikottama by the Prime Minister in 1986

striving to do. Often, at some cost. But Sagarmoy has a careful eye on its circulation, too. He is keen on feeling the readers' pulse, keeps close contact with young aspiring authors and spends a large part of his day reading a wide variety of newspapers and periodicals including scores of little magazines.

Readers are not given solely literary fare. Science, geography, philosophy and various other aspects of modern journalism find place in the weekly, often with thought-provoking articles by renowned scholars like Ashin Dasgupta and Amlan Dutta. Sudipta Sengupta's account of her Antarctica expedition was an experiment of a new kind and a successful one, too.

Sagarmoy is an editor in "the traditions of Bankimchandra, Rabindranath, Ramananda Chattopadhyay and Pramatha Choudhury," said the title page of a booklet published in his honour by his authors and well-wishers soon after he was awarded the Deshikottama by Visva Bharati, last year. It added, "As on a bright summer morning, so on a stormy night you steer the ship of our literature with a firm and fearless hand."

His colleagues maintain Sagarmoy Ghosh had tremendous potential as an author. He received Calcutta University's first Narayan Gangopadhyaya memorial award for his *Ekti Pereker Kahini* based on B.C. Roy's life. But the author himself maintains that he has been able to do much greater service to the cause of Bengali literature as the editor of *Desh* than he would have ever been able to do as a writer. He believes an editor should not attempt to be an author because not only will he lack individuality but also do injustice to others' works if the author in him surfaces while he is editing. And, he adds, when he did write he did so not because of inclination but because of circumstances He started his column in Kshitish Sarkar's *Jalsa* because of the extra Rs 50 it brought in every month. By that time he was married and with two children.

So the writing was left to others and Sagarmoy Ghosh concentrated on his editing and *Desh* for him is a vocation, maintains his wife Arati. "He is totally preoccupied with his work and gave little time to the house earlier. I think he is a little afraid of household problems however easily he may tackle crises in his weekly. He would probably prefer to deal with them rather than a sudden illness at home which leaves him totally lost. I look after this side entirely and he prefers it that way. I enjoy it, too." To quote Sanjib Chattopadhyay, humourist and a colleague of Sagarmoy's, "Sagar*da* was as infallible in his choice of companion as he is in his choice of authors " Sagarmoy spends more time with his family now, perhaps more because of the charms of his three-year-old grand-daughter than his advancing years. "I sing for her," says Sagarmoy.

Music, dance and theatre are passions still with Sagarmoy Ghosh. Only a few years back a group of his litterateur friends who have this club for *adda* (another long-lasting passion) called Budh Sandhya—they meet on Wednesdays–had put up Tagore's *Muktadhara* in which the septuagenarian packed in quite a performance. He played Panja in his brother's production of *Tasher Desh* when he was in his late sixties. Partha Bose, a close aquaintance, remembers Sagarmoy giving a moving rendition of *Marana sagar pare tomara amar* at a reception in honour of Aruna Asaf Ali at Deshapriya Park some time before Independence

Sagarmoy used to return to Santiniketan once a week in his salad says. Now it has come down to twice a year But these occasions are precious They are a time for memories and for rejuvenation "I walk through the Shalbithi, the Amrakunja near Dehuli A mango tree reminds me of a wild scramble for a green fruit which had fallen during a class and how our *mastermoshai* glared at us. A sal tree reminds me of the girl with whom I spoke in its shade for long hours and invited the wrath of my elders."

Amita Sen, Sagarmoy's childhood friend, remembers how they used to play holi together as children He still waits for her now to colour his pristine white clothes like Santiniketan has always coloured his mind The *ashram* for Sagarmoy is an inexhaustible elixir He, too, has done his bit for it. *Desh*, in a way, besides many other things has been a vehicle for the dissemination of Tagore's views.

Sagarmoy Ghosh told us with a sad smile last week that "when spring comes round now each year and I grow older, the song that keeps on ringing in my head is *Ekhan amar somoy holo* (the time has come for me to go) But his enthusiastic account of the Bankim Sahitya issue he is planning, the people who were crowded in his room the next day when we went to him for some minor clarifications, his dynamic views of journalism in the coming years, can only allow us to believe that this alert, alive, 75-year-young man will continue to edit *Desh* with his usual verve and genius for many more years to come. ■

THE HIGH ROAD TO STAGNATION

The New Year is a time for businessmen to take stock of their accounts. **Amit Chakraborty** uses the occasion to analyse why successful Bengali entrepreneurs have been so few and far between

Many of India's first industrial units in vitals areas such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, bicycles, storage batteries, glass and pottery were set up in and around Calcutta by Bengali entrepreneurs in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, the country's first drug unit, was set up by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy in 1893; Sudhir Kumar Sen set up the first bicycle unit along with Sambhu Nath Pandit in 1910; Shyama Prasad Sen established Bharat Battery in 1931, Babu Satya Sundar Deb set up Calcutta Pottery Works in 1908 (later renamed Bengal Pottery) and the first glass factory at Titagarh; and the Surs started the first enamel unit, Bengal Enamel, in 1921.

While these were the fruits of individual effort of Bengali entrepreneurs, Sir Rajendranath Mukherjee, along with Sir Thomas Aquin Martin, set up Martin Company, a construction and engineering firm, on equal partnership, and constructed Victoria Memorial in 1909. As Sir Thomas was mostly away from the country, Sir Rajendra looked after the business and acquired Burn and Company in 1945 and it became the country's largest engineering company when it merged with Martin Company. Sir Birendranath, who had by then joined his father, Sir Rajendranath's business, also started Indian Iron and Steel Company in 1952, the second integrated steel plant in the country.

Bengali entrepreneurship during the period was so versatile that it included personalities like Rabindranath Tagore and Bidhan Chandra Roy who contributed a great deal in setting up Mohini Mills, a composite cotton textile mill, Hindustan Cooperative Insurance in 1906 and Bengal Immunity in 1919, as part of the Swadeshi movement.

But, then, when the history of Bengali enterprise is so vibrant, why is the cult of entrepreneurship or, for that matter, the state of the units set up by those stalwarts in a moribund stage now? Mr Raghunath Dey, managing director, Howrah Motor Company Limited, and president, Bharat Chamber of Commerce, felt it is because "the Bengalis are easily satisfied."

Mr Dey's company, set up by his grandfather, Atindranath Dey, in 1918 to trade in imported automobiles and spares, grew over the past 60 years to become the country's premier dealer of automobile components and spares. The company now grosses a turnover close to Rs 22 crores, with a growth rate of only about 10 per cent per annum. The company could grow at a much faster rate. Mr Dey, a former sheriff of Calcutta, explained, "We never wanted to jump as we firmly believe in restraint."

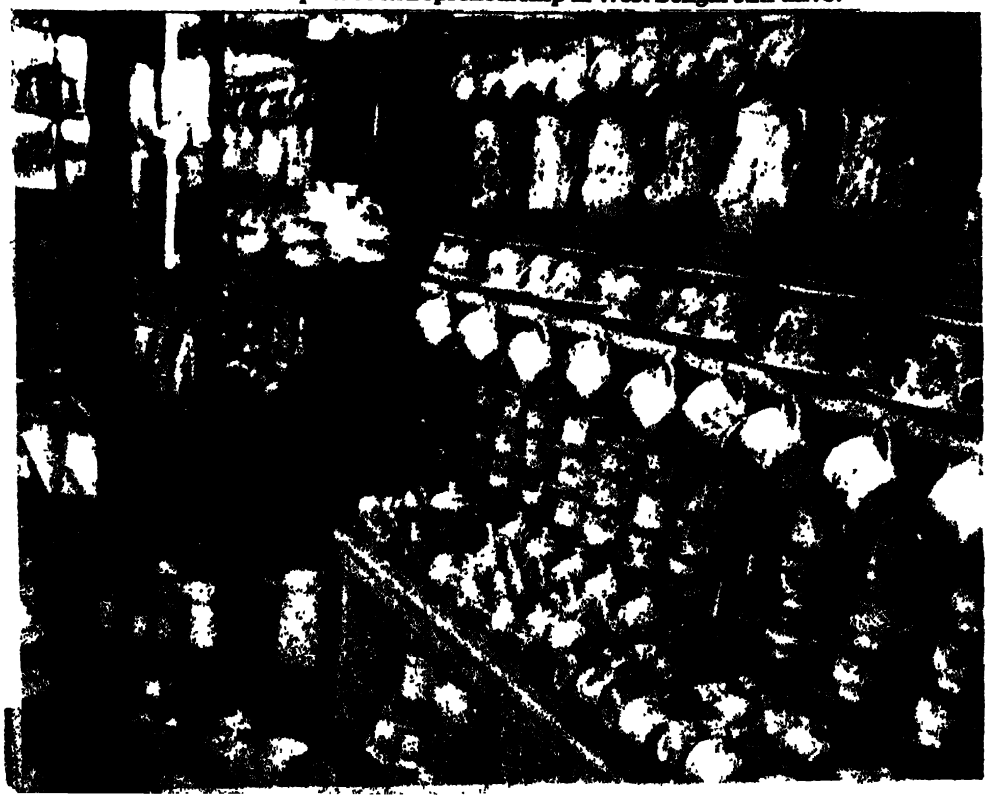
However, he clarified, "There is no conceivable reason why the entrepreneurs and industries in West Bengal should not thrive again when we have all the congenial factors to augment any industry." Howrah Motors is now working on a Rs 4 crore auto ancillary project in the state, the company's first venture into industry after obtaining considerable experience in dealing in products of over 50 leading auto component manufacturers in the country.

Interviews with the top brass of other leading Bengali-owned industrial houses also revealed that the aversion of the local people to investing and taking risk was receding. The managing director of B.E. Pumps Limited and president of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCC), Mr B.N. Bhattacharya, said, "A good sign is that because of a lack of job opportunity, a good number of Bengali youths have already set up small-scale units. The rule of survival ensures that a business cannot remain stagnant; it has to grow."

Talking of the flaws in Bengali entrepreneurship, Mr Bhattacharya said, "We don't train the subsequent generation to control the business. The best tool to control the business is through accounts. But the second generation usually consists of technocrats and they are not equipped to run the business." According to him, this has been the main reason for most Bengali houses not surviving the subsequent generations after the original promoters toiled hard to establish the business.

Mr Bhattacharya, even though an arts graduate and having inherited the company from his father, D.N. Bhat-

Is the spirit of entrepreneurship in West Bengal still alive?



tacharya, acquired training in both the factory and the offices of British and German collaborators. Originally, British Electrical Pumps Private Limited, was engaged in trading of imported pumps and he started manufacturing them indigenously since 1958 with German and British collaboration. Over the years, it set up three factories in Calcutta, Bahadurgarh (near Delhi) and Visakhapatnam, to introduce various domestic and general purpose pumps and compete favourably with other leading pump manufacturers in the country.

Mr Bhattacharya said the company would soon launch a new variety of energy-efficient general-purpose pumps with latest Italian technology.

The other successful Bengali business house, the P.C. Chandra group, is relatively a new entrant in the manufacturing field. But its Dendrite, introduced in 1964, a year after the Gold Control Order severely affected its traditional business in gold jewellery, is by now a market leader in its kind of adhesives. Over the years, it has set up three companies for manufacturing various kind of adhesives. Chandra's Chemicals was started with US technical collaboration, but subsequently its own research and development laboratory introduced various new products.

Mr A.K Chandra, a director of the group, who looks after its public relations, and a vice-president of BNCCI said, "The emphasis on R & D and dependence on professional managers have been the backbone of the company. The R & D centre of the company was recognised by the government and construction adhesives and water-proofing compounds developed by it and introduced in the market commercially last year have been received well."

After a low-key operation in the jewellery area during the past two decades, the group, Mr Chandra said, has decided to set up a third shop in south Calcutta soon. Besides, P C. Chandra's name would also be carried abroad by way of export of gold jewellery to West Asia and Europe. It has obtained orders for export of 20 kgs of gold jewellery and efforts were being made to procure more orders, he added.

Mr Dipankar Dutta Gupta (38) and Mr Amrit Sen (48), the managing directors of East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited, and second generation entrepreneurs, took up the reins of the company last year. While Mr Sen is a chartered accountant and chartered secretary, Mr Dutta Gupta is an MBA Mr Sen said, "Many technically qualified Bengali youths have taken to business. If local talent can be successful in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka there is no reason why one should not produce results in this state " He was, however, critical of the "attitude of officials," in the state which is not conducive to the growth of enterprise. "In other states, the officers of promotional agencies are constantly egging on an entrepreneur so that his units come up soon. But here, it is the other way round where an entrepreneur has to chase the officials even to obtain a legitimate clearance."

East India was set up in 1936 during the Swadeshi days by Mr Ashok Kumar Sen at a small outfit on Hare Street with the help of university scholars for the preparation of formulations and ingredients. After about four years, Hirendranath Dutta Gupta joined him and their joint efforts helped the company forge ahead They always stressed on their own R & D and the products and formulations like Vitazyme, a digestive liquid, soon became a leader brand and now it accounts for an annual turnover of Rs 6 crores of the company's total of Rs 26 crores The other leading formulations of the company are Locula eye drops, whose annual sale is about Rs 2 crores, and the company's life saving antibiotic, Flemoxin, also competes well with other similar products and accounts for over Rs 1 crore annually.

Mr Dutta Gupta and Mr Sen stressed, "We will carry on the policies of industrial relations of our fathers under whose leadership there was no manday lost in our three factories since inception. We don't believe in taking administrative action. Thus, a sense of involvement by all workers has been created and there is perfect understanding between the management and workers." They are also actively pursuing future expansion of the production of certain fine chemicals and bulk drugs in their Durgapur factory already initiated by their elders before they passed away in 1985 (Mr Sen) and 1987 (Mr Dutta Gupta).

They are not, however, happy with the 10 per cent rate of growth the company achieved during the past decade and have fixed a target of 15 to 20 per cent growth rate in the coming years "This is to be achieved both by expansion and increasing the production of existing lines of 30 different drug items in the coming years," said Mr Dutta Gupta

But the oldest of the first-generation entrepreneurs, Mr Bhupen Dey (81), promoter of Dey s Medical Stores (Manufacturing) Limited and the sheriff of Calcutta, is sceptical about the cult of entrepreneurship among the Bengalis. He said, "I don't know how many of them will really take advantage of the improved industrial climate in the state created by the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu. They always seem to have failed to move with the times, both in the case of new ventures and in the running of existing ones. Look at Bengal Chemical and Bengal Immunity—they were such big companies, but they simply failed to keep pace with the times and everyone knows their condition "

The self-made man that Mr Dey is, he set up a small drug store on Lindsay Street in 1940 after collecting some money by working in various places from the age of 13 "I even worked as a sweeper and did not mind doing that," he said with a quiet sense of pride After gathering some experience in trading, he started manufacturing in 1948 when antibiotics became quite popular He said, "There was a shortage of such drugs in the market during the post-war period and I chose to manufacture the latest products with locally available formulations. From the very beginning I stressed on research and development and employed masters of science and pharmacy, gave them full independence and encouragement in research as well as production The results were unique and our antibiotics like Suvamycin and Antomycin are now market leaders The company grew, and we now gross sales of Rs 50 crores "

The group has three factories in Calcutta and one at Naini, UP. "I am already working on setting up another factory at Calcutta to produce certain ayurvedic formulations. I am rather in a hurry to see it through. You never know, I am already too old," said 'Mejhobabu', with a touch of youthful enthusiasm He, too, has never experienced any manday lost since the inception of the factory "There are unions. They occasionally organise demonstrations on various issues, but never when I am around," he said proudly about himself and his employees

The Deys were five brothers, two of them since deceased, and among them they have three sons, all of whom are actively associated with the company "But our success can be traced on the dependence on professionalism and experts in the laboratory," he concluded ■



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THE UNCOMPROMISING WARRIOR

SAGARMOY GHOSH recalls his association with **Samaresh Basu**



Samaresh Basu

Samaresh was a warrior—constant and uncompromising. And all through his life he waged his battle; a battle social, economic and political. His life and his powerful pen were the instruments of his crusade. From his short little story, *Adab* in *Parichay* (1946) to his unfinished magnum opus *Dekhi Nai Phire* (1987-88), his was a vigorous, resolute voice which knew no domination.

I first met Samaresh at our old Barman Street office in 1951. I had heard of him before then. Of how he had defied society and wed a married woman, a few years older than him, of how he moved into a slum when his eldest brother could not approve their marriage. He belonged to the Communist Party of India and that in itself kept him away from *Desh*. Our points of view differed. We avoided them, they avoided us. And members could do nothing without the party's permission. This was one of the things Samaresh rebelled against. An artiste, he felt, should be allowed freedom of expression. His individuality was a part of his art and to curb that would be to shackle him. He was deeply affected by the manner in which the party reduced Manik Bandopadhyay, one of the formost literary talents of his day, into a cipher. Manik Bandopadhyay was forced to become a part of the party's propaganda machine and long before he committed his slow suicide through country liquor, his genius was dead.

Samaresh would not give in to this system. But when he walked into my room that day with Saroj Acharya, he was still a member of the Communist Party. Saroj Acharya was a Marxist, intellectual and liberal-minded communist. The fact that he had brought Samaresh along in itself made a difference. I asked the young man whether he had brought along anything to show me and he took out a story. He was 27 then, but he looked about 22. There was an endearing youthfulness about him. We exchanged a few words and he left. There was something about his face that day which made me feel here was a man going through a deep crisis, a troubled man. I glanced through his story. It was an extraordinary piece of writing. I published it the very next week. It was called *Gunin*. Thus started Samaresh's relationship with me and with *Desh*. He was an infrequent visitor, being totally preoccupied at the time with the party, the jute workers' unions, strikes and the like in Naihati.

Then, suddenly, one day he came with a proposition. He wanted to go to the Kumbha Mela in Allahabad and write on it. There was not much scope for this sort of a thing in our weekly. I turned to Kanailal Sarkar, who was present on the occasion, and asked him if it would be possible for Samaresh to write for *Anandabazar Patrika*. "Why not?" he said and excused himself for a few minutes. He soon returned and told Samaresh that he had permission to proceed and how much would he need for expenses? A dumbfounded Samaresh, taken aback by the rapid progress of events, had to be gently prodded before he could come up with a tentative "Rs 200?" We made it a more practical Rs 300. He collected the money from

me and set off the next day. On Kanaida's advice, he took along a box camera he had managed to borrow from a friend, but I don't think it was put to much use.

There was a stampede at Kumbha that year. Hundreds died in the tragedy and Samaresh was lucky to escape with a broken ankle. He stepped into a hole fleeing with the crowd. Arun Mitra used to teach French at the university there. He knew Samaresh as well as us He took him to his house and arranged for his treatment. But Samaresh soon came back to Calcutta regardless of his fractured leg.

A few days later he came and told me he wanted to write a novel based on his experiences of the Kumbha Mela Would I serialise it in *Desh*? By that time I was addressing him as *tumi*. Our relationship had become more familiar. I told him "Start next month " Thus was born *Amrita Kumbher Sandhane* under the pseudonym of Kalkut We were flooded with letters and phone calls from curious readers. Who was this Kalkut who had entranced them? Kalkut means the one who carries poison without being poisoned himself. He probably adopted the name to avoid any problem with the party. He had begun raising his voice against corruption and misdeeds within it and was slowly eliminated from its ranks. At one time even his life was in danger.

Kalkut was also the obverse side of the author As Samaresh Basu he was incisive, brilliant, rapier-sharp. As Kalkut he was gentle, romantic with a lingering eye for softer details. *Amrita Kumbher Sandhane* is a tale of travel and romance, a love story, sweet and touching, the likes of which only his pen could evoke I have no one, expect perhaps Sunil Gangopadhyay, who can equal Samaresh in this area.

Anyway, Kalkut's identity was soon discovered by our readers. Kalkut was Samaresh Basu, and since then Samaresh, like the title of his unfinished novel, *Dekhi Nai Phire*, never looked back. Except for the barren year of 1952, he has written from 1953 to date an average of five to six articles a year ranging from essays and satires to short stories and novels. Twenty-six novels in *Desh* itself, a tremendous achievement in the space of about as many years. And none of the works what you would call run-of-the mill. Each provoked opinions and debate. Take *Bibar*, published in 1965 There were letters and calls abusing him and me, too, as the editor. Faithful readers said they would have to stop taking *Desh*. But plenty of them supported him, too. There was a continuing debate in our letters column. And in the midst of it all, Samaresh was unfazed, untouched, steady as a rock This was an admirable quality he had.

In 1967 came *Prajapati*, and with it a suit charging us with obscenity. The court's summons were addressed to the publisher, editor and author. Samaresh was quite unnerved by his personal summons. He came to me saying he had just started on a new novel, and moreover he was in no position to turn around from court to lawyer. I went to Ashoke Kumar Sarkar who was then editor of *Desh*. I was associate editor. He was outraged. "Why should he have to do anything? We asked him to write it, we published it and the responsibility is entirely ours. Tell him to go home and sleep We'll look after him." And he did He got a favourable judgement from the Supreme Court 18 years after the case was first started. Samaresh was cleared of the charges of obscenity Had Ashoke Kumar Sarkar been alive that day, he would have been the happiest man. It was his victory.

Samaresh had to struggle not only to live, but to write as well But the backlash never made him move from his ideals, he never bowed to circumstances. Till his last day, he lived with the faith and the belief he started with. Yes, late in life, he did move in his own car, he wore more expensive clothes, but in his thoughts, his convictions, there was not a whit of change We offered him a job here. He refused. He was determined to make a living out of writing and he maintained this principle till the last day of his life.

Fame failed to touch him, he took no pride in his renown, his work. If we chanced to tell him, "That was a brilliant piece of writing," he would change the topic or say, "Hardly, I want to write something far far better." In the long course of my career I have met several authors but never another as humble and self-effacing as Samaresh. In the 37 years I knew Samaresh, we became more than editor and writer. We were friends, he was my younger brother, who would unhesitatingly tell me about his experiences, his sorrows, his dreams, too. His experiences were varied, unlimited, astounding. It was this, I think, which helped to make him the great writer he was. Experiences are an author's treasure.

As a young boy he ran away from home in Dhaka and joined a travelling *jatradal*. He sang, danced, played the





Samaresh Basu speaking at a function to felicitate Sagarmoy Ghosh on being awarded the Deshikottama

flute and the proverbial role of the handmaiden His father, sorely tried, sent him to his elder son at Naihati. He could not cage Samaresh either His marriage was the last straw While living at the Naihati slum he sold eggs on his bicycle at a nearby Anglo-Indian colony to feed his growing family

There was jail, too, and his travels *Kothay Pabo Tare* is a fascinating tale of rural Bengal's bauls and fairs But I truly believe that what Samaresh wrote covers only one-tenth of his experiences It is our tragedy that we have seen only the tip of an iceberg

And it is tragedy compounded that this vital, powerful, talented pen should have stopped midway on its swan song, *Dekhi Nai Phire*, the story of the controversial artist Ramkinkar Baij There was something about the man which attracted Samaresh and made him take up the ambitious project Gradually Ramkinkar enveloped him Samaresh first approached me in 1978 with his proposal of the biography He said he would have to goto Delhi several times to Gwalior, Baroda and Manipur 'Very well," I said, "go wherever you wish We shall arrange for it'

The nine years of labour which went into this novel of his is simply incredible He wrote several letters to the contacts he made, checking out every detail, each fact. "I notice a change in his life at this stage. You knew him then Would you know anything about it?" Or "He was involved in a controversy with Nandalal Bose at this moment What was it?" And he wrote to people he had met in Bankura, Ramkinkar's original homeland, "There is an old acquaintance of his named Atul Could you ask him on which Pujas Ramkinkar visited the place? And if he helped out with the making of the Durga images" The voluminous correspondence in itself would have made a novel

He went to Bankura several times On one of them he took along the aged, ailing Ramkinkar This was before the artist died and it was his last journey He showed Samaresh his old house, familiar haunts, relived memories and also introduced him to the few old faces living I remember Samaresh telling me how this old lady stepped out of her door and on seeing Ramkinkar burst into tears The old man joined in "It was an unbelievably moving sight,' Samaresh told me The two old people crying in joy and sorrow knowing that they would probably never meet again When the first episodes of the novel started appearing, the reaction again was extreme, both for and against. Those very people from Santiniketan who had helped Samaresh the most, showing him the place where the artists' house had stood, the tree under which he used to sit on his morn every evening, given him anecdotes, shared their memories, they were the ones who wanted him to stop writing this novel He even got letters saying, "It won't be good for you if you don't stop." Unpalatable facts about some people who had tried to stop the artist from self-expression, from fulfilment, were bound to come up in the course of the novel But it did not daunt Samaresh. *Dekhi Nai Phire* is a saga the like of which has not been attempted in Bengali literature before It was like the legendary Tribeni Sangam--the coming together of three great rivers--Ramkinkar's life in itself was like a blazing fire, and Samaresh's pen was the same Bikash Bhattacharya's powerful, evocative drawings gave it an extra dimension. The whole was something totally new. It is tragic that Samaresh could not finish his story. If he had, it would have been one of those priceless works of literature which blaze through the times, never aging, never growing stale. We have been deprived.■



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IJI KA-A M

OF FACTS AND FANTASY

Children nowadays prefer science fiction and mystery to fairytales and rhymes, says **Monisha Das Gupta** in this survey of Bengali literature for the young

"Who wants to be a prince riding into the woods in search of demons? That's kid stuff. I'd like to go spinning through space to Mars and teach the guys there a thing or two," says 10-year-old Bikram Ghosh of Hare School, a slightly superior smile curving his lips, mischief spilling out of his eyes. Children would rather have ET land on their rooftops than the fabled winged horse, fight orange-skinned space invaders than ogres with flapping ears and teeth like tusks Give them a Darth Vader-Luke style laser beam war *a la The Empire Strikes Back* and their excitement will know no bounds Roll over fairy tales, make room for sci-fi, mystery, suspense and high adventure

The children of Bengal are enormously lucky in their literature Just as they have delightful storytellers like Dakshinaranjan Ray, Upendra Kishore Ray Chowdhury and Abanindranath Tagore who spun fascinating yarns about fairyland, they have masterly writers of tales of mystery and suspense—Satyajit Ray, Samaresh Bose, Sunil Gangopadhyay. These contemporary authors combine the best elements of murder and adventure, their stories transporting children from the deep, sultry evergreen forests of the Andamans to the stark, frightening beauty of the snow-clad mountains of Kashmir. Thrillers are written in the best Christie tradition, high on grey cells, low on violence. Murders are artistic. Shots are fired when absolutely necessary. The hero whips out his Colt .32 to cower criminals into submission in only very tricky, dangerous situations But there are lots of breathtaking chases that make it impossible for children to stop reading till they get to the heart of the matter.

"That's what we like most about Satyajit Ray, Sunil Gangopadhyay and Samaresh Bose. They keep us guessing right till the end. If we manage to figure out the murderer, we're in the dark about the motive. If the motive is clear, we don't know who the culprit is," says Arunima Majumdar of St Margaret's School, who finds the sustained suspense invigorating. This has reduced Swapan Kumar series to light reading, to be skimmed through when the children want a break. "You don't have to use your brains to read the exploits of Deepak Chatterjee and his assistant Ratan Lal," says Shubhadra Sanyal of Hindu School dismissively, "They are stupid. You know who the criminal is You just sit back and wait for them to be caught."

Satyajit Ray's Pheluda, with his piercing eyes and razor-sharp intelligence has, of course, the largest fan following. If you find children pursing their lips and furiously knitting their eyebrows, trying very hard to solve make believe mysteries, there is a staunch follower of the super sleuth for you. While children worship Pheluda, they identify themselves totally with teenage detectives, Gogol and Shantu. Precocious Gogol snoops around, sticking his neck out for trouble Shantu and his Kakababu stumble on to the most intriguing of mysteries just like Pheluda and Tapse during holidays.

However, the popularity of Pheluda, Gogol and Shantu has in no way diminished the sway of pre-Independence pairs of detectives modelled on Sherlock Holmes and Watson. Hemen Ray's Jayanta-Manik, Bimal-Kumar, and Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay's Byomkesh-Ajit, though less flamboyant, are widely read and thoroughly enjoyed. Children playing sleuths still bully the most submissive of the lot into the role of the burly inspector, Sundarbabu. The late Monoranjan Bhattacharya's Poirot-inspired creation Hookakashi, a Japanese detective turned Bengali, has faded out of the scene Children prefer to read Poirot's stories in translation

A close second to adventure and mystery is sci-fi Premendra Mitra's

Arunima Majumdar (13), a lover of mystery books



Arun Banerjee



Arun Banerjee

Bikram Ghosh (10), a connoisseur of space fantasies

Ghanada of the pendulous nose and incredible tales blazed the trail, charming his young readers with a mixture of scientific facts and wonderful fiction Then came Professor Shanku, his ingenious inventions and adventures with science, and a host of other stories about robots, space and space invaders, avidly devoured by children "Even now the percentage of fantasy in science fiction is very high. We build a factual framework and fill it out with fantasy," says Sunil Gangopadhyay, explaining the difference of vernacular sci-fi from that of the West But children do not mind as long as nuclear science, some of these being authored by Samarjit Kar. Besides, there are *Books of Knowledge* and, though not so amply or so attractively illustrated as their English counterparts, these sell well because they are cheap and readable A totally new entrant in this field is quiz books that children not only buy, but read with great attention to be up on their friends.

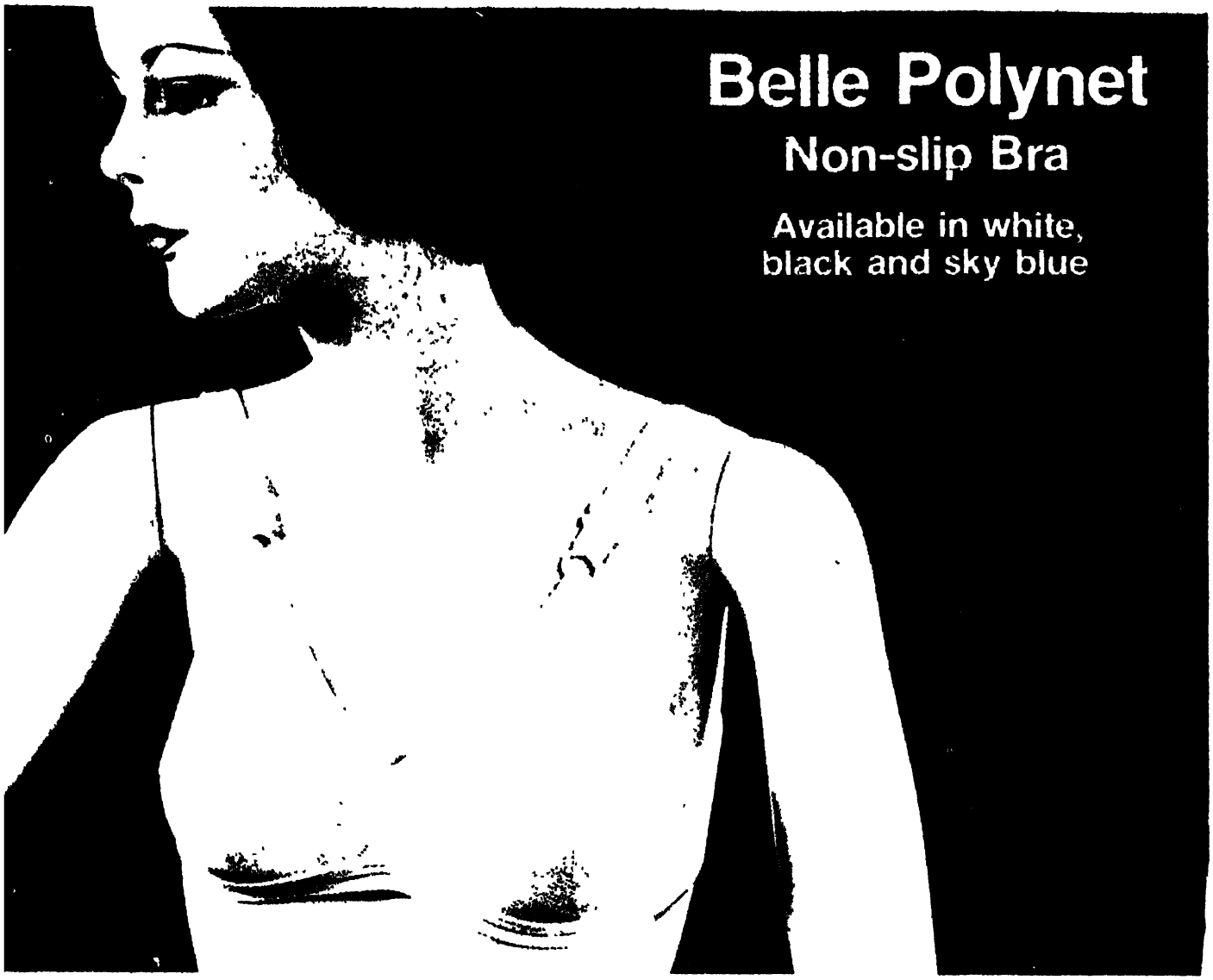
Moti Nandi started a genre in children's literature, when he began writing sports fiction- *Koni, Striker*—to satisfy children's voracious appetite for games. Since then the ru h has been children a decade ago, as *Sandesh* w.s pure entertainment– a hamper of sto.ies rhymes, jokes and puzzles

While the pragmatic bent of mind that children exhibit today is laudable, former *Anandamela* editor, Niren Chakraborty, and journalist Gour Kishore Ghosh both agree that it has in some way curbed their taste for sheer fantasy. Man-eating ogres, jealous queens, oracular birds, hills of diamonds, lovely sad princesses to be woken by the touch of a golden wand, no longer capture and fire the children's imagination Even the moving vivid tales of valour and sacrifice in Abanindranath's *Rajkahini* fail to attract them

Today, children's acquaintance with fairy creatures is through comics "The children's addiction to comics makes us apprehensive that the written word has played out its role Comics clip the wings of imagination You have a stereotype prince, a stereotype *rakshas*, a stereotype stepmother," says Niren Chakraborty It is with frightening passion that children collect *Amar Chitra Katha, Mandrake, Phantom, Flash Gordon*, painstakingly ticking off names on lists, even taking the trouble of binding them into volumes.

Some buy *Anandamela* solely because it carries *Tintin* in Bengali *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*, too, are read in comics and few know of Upendra Kishore's delightful narrative of the epics

Despite the reign of comics, children's books sell the most Badal Bose of Ananda Publishers points out, "All the year round children's books have the highest sales at the counter It is the same story at book fairs " Children still read classics and the sparkling poetry of that conjurer with words, Sukumar Ray. Hijibijbij, Kumropotash, Ramgorur still make them roar with laughter. They still recite the catchy rhymes of Annada Shankar Ray The majority of school children



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I see the red flower
The bloom facing the sun
Her hair left carelessly
The brown dust, like gold
A blessing from above,
For the gift of that smile
Dancing around the fire
No rhythm, no style
To the rustic tune of the heart
Now, a desire to rest a while
A glimpse of the land she knew not before.
Her candid eyes unstrained by books
They speak to 'him', all her thoughts aloud
But his world is behind the wall
Bound by chains, he's deaf to it all
It's not a bathos for one who can see,
It's only the long forgotten gypsy in me
Anushka

To Our Dear E.T.

Why ever did I think of calling you E.T.?
I never had a premonition
That you would really be one
You crept into my warm womb
When we desired you most
When we were in the making of our honeycomb
We wished you to taste the nectar,
But you chose to smile
At the juggernaut than marvel at the world around
When destiny had limned its decision
Could we ever bring you home even
If we cast defiance at others?
Memories remain
Like your petal pink feet and the dents on your knuckles;
You, a vision to me, closest to your papa's description:
I still feel you are kicking and tickling in me endlessly
Believe me love, I still don't have the heart
To lie down on my belly
I can imagine how naughty
You would grow to be when I even now
Wake up from my sleep remembering
The tremors you would shake me within.
Perhaps you were a volcano wanting to
Pour out your passion for us.
Your papa enjoyed the hide and seek you would play
When you jinked under his palm
Your head, your little feet he tried to hold
I had the best of savories all in the name of you
I had a bundle of gifts all for having carried you.
Love, it was unbelievably exhilarating to have
You, live and kicking in me
And I still can't believe that
You have vanished from the Cozy Home
That had nurtured you with love and caring
For full nine months and a week more

I have not bid you adieu, my child,
We pray between us, that you stay and
Let not Him snatch you away,
Though He has
Vasantha M. Kalbagal


Arun Ghosh

Obituary

He lay
Still,
As in a picture,
Whose frame
Was the cheap wooden cot
We had bought
From the crowded bazaar,
Near the railway station
After much bargaining

We sat barefoot
On our haunches
Lighting incense sticks
In front
Of a clean-shaven Shiva,
As he lay there,
His vacant eyes
Fixed on
Sridevi, who
Fluttered
In a skimpy swimsuit
On a dirty, curry-stained
Year-old calendar

One evening
To the sombre tune
Of wailing women
And an Anup Jalota bhajan
We carried him
Through a short-cut
To the burning ghat

And heaped
Heavy logs of cheap, moist wood
On him, after
Bathing him with a brand new cake
Of 'Lifebuoy' soap
We poured cans
Of adulterated vanaspati
And threw a lighted wax match
Where we supposed
His balding head was

It was cold
And dark
So we went away
Afraid we might catch pneumonia
And miss
'Hum Log'
The next day

Probably, the wood
Didn't burn
The adulterated vanaspati
Didn't burn
Because

After some time
The corpse
Got up
And
Walked away
Raj Kamal Jha

HAVE BENGALIS LOST THEIR SWEET TOOTH?

Asks Dulendra Bhowmick, sweet-in-cheek

Twelve months and 13 festivals – *Baro mashe tero parbon*. That's Bengal. And Bengali New Year is just one of the 13. To get even an inkling of the ambience of this special day we have to rummage through the past. It was different those days Now New Year comes and stands expectantly before the harried Bengali middle class man like a moneylender As spring ends and summer hovers on the horizon, the temperature soars and with it the pressure on the Bengali babu He returns home from office to find a bunch of *ganesa*-embossed invitation cards And every polite word on them hammers a gentle reminder of outstanding debts.

At the shops it is year-ending time. The owners sit down to tally their accounts and send out their invitation-reminders to those faithful customers who invariably promise to pay later." Well, if you've borrowed you have to pay— sometime or the other, in some form or the other And on this occasion it costs Rs 10 to Rs 20 and you return home with a packet of sweets in hand and possibly by then a smile fixed on your face Sometimes, a shopkeeper may invite you simply because he knows you Then the money you have to dish out is like an annual fee to a club you frequent no longer—a Rs five or 10 in memory of a television you bought ages back. It is excessively kind of the television shop owner to remember each and every customer, but does he realise how much his kindness contributes to pauperising his hapless customer?

I once received a New Year's invitation from a wineshop. And I didn't owe it a penny. I was delighted. They wouldn't serve us sweetmeat at a wineshop, could they? And the thought of a little bit of something else in a summer evening was most welcome. So all prepared, doing a virtual mental warm-up, I proceeded to my destination to be served with, not even sweets, but a sweet drink and a *paan*. I didn't go back the next year.

To add to the Bengalis' woes, New year means new clothes God only knows who started this terrible trend No doubt it buoys the heart to receive new clothes, but it sends it rolling down to the very depths when one has to dish out. If you've forgotten, it's the season to repay debts, not to make new ones. The old account books are closed New ones are to be opened If you want to buy you have to pay up To cut a painful story short, your old pair of pants are taken off in your efforts to buy new wear And no New Year's bonus to see you through, either. Then, that mirage of a word— 'Sale.' They promise you a massive rebate on everything. And it still, eventually, costs the same Don't ask me how it happens

That's New Year today My childhood memories of New Year are sweet. Literally Visions of various types of mouthwatering sweetmeat And homemade, too Now, of course, everything depends on the shop The legendary Hanumana, son of the wind, had this magic power of being able to make himself as small as he wanted. Our modern-day shopkeepers seem well on to his secret The Rasogolla is fast approaching the size of a Nakuldana (tiny balls of sugar, dana means seed and that's what it resembles)

The days of the *rajas*, the kings,are over and with it the Rajbhog (food of the kings). My suggestion is that with its shrinking size (the price, of course, continues to rise in inverse proportion; another little bit of magic) and changing times the Rajbhog should be renamed the Keranibhog (food of the clerks) After all, it is they who rule our lives now.

No one looks at sweetmaking as an art any longer Women these days have no time for such stodgy stuff. They don their kitchen aprons and concentrate on chili chicken, hakka chow mein and egg puddings. Their dedication is beyond doubt But the products of their scrutiny of the cookbooks and recipes in English glossies often don't proceed from the plate to the palate An ultra-modern aunt of mine once cooked a rather fancy dish of prawns following instructions in a Bombay magazine Her brand new son-in-law took a transfer to Patna the next day and I did not return to her house for six months in mortal fear that she might try out yet another of her experiments on me

The moot point is, sweets are out. All those mouthwatering, eyecatching delicacies have been reduced to history. Burdwan's famous Mihidana, and Seetabhog, Krishnanagar's Sarpuria, Sarbhaja, Jonai's Manohora (it literally translates as 'mindsnatcher'), Panihati's Sandesh, Shaktigarh's Langcha, Bankura's Nikhuti (without a blemish), Joynagar's Mowa, Jalajog's Payadhi (the sweet curds which poet Rabindranath Tagore himself tasted and praised skyhigh), Nabin's Rasogolla, Bhim Nag's Sandesh, Nabakrishna's Karapak Sandesh—these were not just victuals, but a part of our heritage, something to be proud of Some still exist, but definitely not all

The all-permeating devaluation of our times seems to have touched the sweet as well, or perhaps it has just touched our taste We are no longer capable of appreciating the good things of life It seems that in those days you needed soap to wash the cream off your hands if you carried home a pack of Doi from Mollarchowk Now all it needs is a paper



napkin. East Bengalis regret leaving behind Porabari's Chomchom and Muktagacha's Monda with the same sense of bereavement with which they left their ancestral homes.

I, too, belong to erstwhile East Bengal, but I don't remember if I ever tasted Porabari's delicacy. Perhaps I've missed the chance forever with the tragic rush of moving over to this side But I have tasted Muktagacha's Monda Heavenly it was and as large as a bun. Few people these days would be able to tackle one of those singlehandedly, but in yesteryear at a wedding feast there were a number of guests who could eat four at least

There were the homely specialities: Narkeler Nadu, Takti (looked like the club in playing cards) These can still be found, but the Tiler Nadu seems to have disappeared altogether And the occasions which merited the elaborate preparation of these—Bijaya Dashami, Lakshmi Puja or simply winter There was no question of buying sweets for relatives and close friends then. They had to be served homemade stuff to the satisfaction of both the housewife and the guest

It would be difficult to maintain the tradition now. The days of mothers and grandmothers are long past, gone too are the mothers and aunts Now it is the age of wives and daughters—and they just don't have the time Once I had the temerity to ask why A fair friend of mine almost cut my head off with, "You can't have a wife who goes to office and cooks a five-course meal and your *pithe* and *payas* as well. Ten to five, and then you expect her to make those time-consuming delicacies!" Point The economics of the situation have forced women to leave the kitchen for offices and it is not possible for her to satisfy her employer and her husband's sweet tooth at the same time

Tastes, too, have changed in keeping with the times. Youngsters these days go for rolls, Maggi, chou chou, fried prawn and the like Many of them haven't even heard of the Patisapta The roll, in fact, has burgeoned beyond the city limits and is bulldozing its way towards the villages Lanes and bylanes are littered with its wheelcarts Rolls, Maggi -fast food to match fast-moving times It would take hours to make Dudhkhoi thickened milk with tiny slivers of flour as thin as the finest Dehra Dun rice There were no machines to make them It used to be made entirely by hand and for the whole family, too. And families were magnum size those days It took hours to make enough to feed them all

Even simple things delighted Like sweet little grapes dug into a bowl of Doi kept in cool water to chill it (There were no refrigerators then. Food of the angels on a hot summer afternoon Now it would be wrong to even expect anyone to expend the time, the dedication and the love which went into the laborious preparation of these dishes The Patisapta has stopped and the roll rolls on A heated saucepan, a drop of rapeseed oil, a flip of the paratha, a few slivers of meat and many slivers of vinegar soaked onion, green chillies You have your roll Probably the age of sweets is over and we have entered the age of the hot-and-sour Temperaments, too, these days match the latter rather than the former

I don't argue with the fact that Chinese food is indeed very appetising But we have our own appetising food, too And this dependence on foreign food will make ours gradually disappear Earlier we used to get various types of sherbet, now we have been reduced to standard bottled drinks The Beler Sarbat, Aam Pora Sarbat (burnt green mango drink) and the Haat Ambal (a drink of tamarind sugar and water, flavoured with lemon leaves), belong to forgotten summers These cooling drinks apparently helped ward off heat strokes Even the green coconut Men of taste would spoon sugar into it, seal the opening wrap it up in a piece of cloth and dunk it in the pond for a couple of hours The final product was worth the effort

We are losing precious things in life daily If we go into deep mourning for the paltry sweet it would perhaps, be overdoing it I do not mourn just the sweet, but a disappearing art Nowhere in the world can you get the numerous specialities that belong to Bengal And with the sweet dropping out we have one less thing to be proud of in a shrinking list And as he forgets the sweet the Bengali seems to be growing more taciturn and humourless by the day I wonder, is there a connection between a sweet tooth and a sweet nature? ■



Illustration Debashis Deb

FIVE YARDS OF MAGIC

That is what the famed craftsmen of Varanasi have been weaving for decades. But their own silken dreams remain unfulfilled. **Arnab Basu** and **P. Mukerjee** visit the holy city to find out what the Benarasi sari is all about and discover that the hands behind its beauty are gnarled

History, winding streets, honeycombed houses, a bustle of saffron and white, ringing bells welcoming the sun, and devotees taking a dip in the Ganga before queueing up to offer prayers at one of the many temples. Varanasi. It is the land where nothing seems to be new, nothing amiss, nothing too old.

Varanasi, known the world over as the holy of holies for Hindus, is also famous for an item which carries its name, the Benarasi sari. Like the city of its origin, the history of the Benarasi sari is older than people care to remember. And people who are in the trade cannot really remember who actually started it off. Nikkas, a resident of Madanpura *mohalla* of Varanasi, has inherited the business from his father, who is confident that his father inherited it from his father. So the story goes: something like this: from father to son, to son, to son . . The house, the looms, the designs, the technology—everything is inherited. Modern science has not ventured into the bylanes of Varanasi.

But times have changed and inevitably, those who do not move with the times are bound to fall back in the rat race. That is exactly what has happened to the not-so-well-informed weavers of the oh-so-glamorous Benarasi sari; time has overtaken them. Changing trade patterns and fashions have wrought havoc on the weavers and loom-owners. An estimated 2 lakh weavers who were engaged in this craft are steadily finding themselves without work. While Benarasi saris are sold the world over and earn the country about Rs 25 crores in foreign exchange each year, the manufacture of these saris is concentrated in and around Varanasi. And though the Benarasi sari is one of the costliest in the market, the weavers only get a



Deepak Bhattacharya

An uncertain future looms large before the sari weavers of Varanasi



Deepak Bhattacharya



pittance for their efforts. The lion's share is swallowed up by the sellers and the middlemen. In fact, so vice-like is the grip of the middlemen that the weavers have to, by tradition, wait for payment till the middlemen are able to sell the saris off. They not only take no responsibility for the products, but also avoid the risk involved in the production of costly luxury goods. Very rarely is any advance payment made on the delivery of goods by the weavers.

On the other hand, so impoverished is the weaver that to make purchases of the raw materials, he has to borrow money from the money-lender, who at times also doubles as the middleman, at the rate of three to four per cent interest per month. As the weavers never earn so much as to pay back the money-lender's dues and provide for his next product and household expenses, they are perpetually in debt Do not, of course, forget to add the inherited dues. And since the seller's market is a forward market for the weaver, he pays from the point of time he borrows the money, to the point he receives payment from the middleman —and if he and the money-lender are the same person then the longer the delay, the greater the interest, the greater the burden on the weaver

Weaving of Benarasi saris is still done on traditional lines, with the women lending more than a helping hand— they actually participate in the process of production. The *resham* (rav silk) used is white. The women make the *dhaga* (thread) from the bundle of silk with bamboo sticks and prepare the dyes. The thread is then soaked in the dye (made from salt), the colour is either an order specification or the choice of the weaver Long strands of thread are tied from pole to pole and the dye applied as in *manja*—to lend the cutting edge. It is then hung out in the sun to dry.

Side by side, gold or silver is melted to prepare *zari* that gives the Benarasi sari its distinctive look Now the scene shifts to the actual weaving. Looms are activated, designs are selected and the loom arranged likewise. Traditionally, a family owning a number of looms employs hired hands. This practice, too, is inherited and the hiring of weavers is done from families which have been linked to the loom-owners' family for generations This is turning out to be more of a problem than a boon. Now that orders are on the decline, loom-owners find themselves in a quandary. While economic compulsions have caused the downing of

shutters of many looms, the owners are not switching to other professions. Rehman, who has three looms on the ground floor of his house, will never say die. "These weavers have been working with me for so long that I cannot think of doing anything without them How can I bear the guilt of depriving these people of their livelihood? Their fathers have worked with my father and, before that, with my grandfathers. They are my family."

Sentiment or social structure is not the major problem, it is the glaring economic ones which are Benarasi saris have a very exclusive clientele, the rich or the middle class who, at least occasionally, wear these very expensive saris.Not that the number of rich people has suddenly decreased, it is fashions which have changed and the people who can afford to are now looking to the West. The effective use of the Benarasi sari has been reduced to wedding occasions and Indians do not marry as frequently as the Americans, not yet. The current generation of Indians takes pride in adorning itself with western-styled garments. So pop go the hopes of the undistinguished weaver of Benarasi saris Further, the increase in popularity of Kanjeevaram silk saris has spelled disaster for the demand of the Benarasi. While Kanjeevaram silk can be worn on all occasions Benarasi saris cannot

But the problem does not end there; it just begins. Abdul Kuddus, an affected weaver, complains, "The price of *kora resham* (raw silk) has risen from Rs 660 to Rs 1,110 a kg over the past few years Similarly, the price of cotton has increased from Rs 60 to Rs 160 a kg." Hence, everything else remaining the same, an absurd though convenient assumption, the weavers and loom-owners would have been as well off as before if their remuneration had doubled over these years. But that has not happened

Weavers here are paid either on a weekly basis or on the basis of the number of saris woven. Remuneration is commensurate with the intricacies in the design involved and range between Rs 150 and Rs 2,000 While an ordinary sari takes about 20 days to complete, intricate ones can take two to three months. So, at the end of the month the weaver is left with Rs 400 to Rs 650 a month, these days with even less As any householder knows, this amount can hardly make ends meet.

Further complicating problems are the irregular and insufficient supply of raw silk. The local brand of silk is apparently of very poor quality and the better quality silk, which is imported from China, caters to only 40 per cent of the total demand. While the annual consumption of silk is 200 tonnes, the government supplies only 40 to 50 tonnes The retailers exploit the scarcity value of imported silk, thus pushing up costs.

It would be wrong to state that the prices of saris have not increased over the years, they have. But only a marginal amount of the increase filters down to the weaver while most of the benefits have been slurped up by the middlemen.

For the weaver-loom owner, things are a little more complicated. Those who had ventured into installing power looms are at a loss as to what to do. As almost all looms are in their homes, the owners are made to pay domestic electricity bills at the industrial rate, which is Rs 1 10 per unit as compared to the domestic rate of 60 paise per unit The underlying logic is that since most of the family members participate in production and the looms are housed in residences, the house constitutes a manufacturing unit Thus, weaving may be much quicker on power looms, but it is a much costlier prospect

The price of a Benarasi sari is determined not only by the design, but also the weight. Abdul Karim, who specialises in providing the finishing touches to saris and giving them a polished look, says that every sari after drying undergoes a weight loss of about 100-150 gms to a kg of raw silk This, he points out, is due to the damp conditions in which the saris are woven, increasing the weight of raw silk. A kg and a quarter of raw silk gives about six saris.

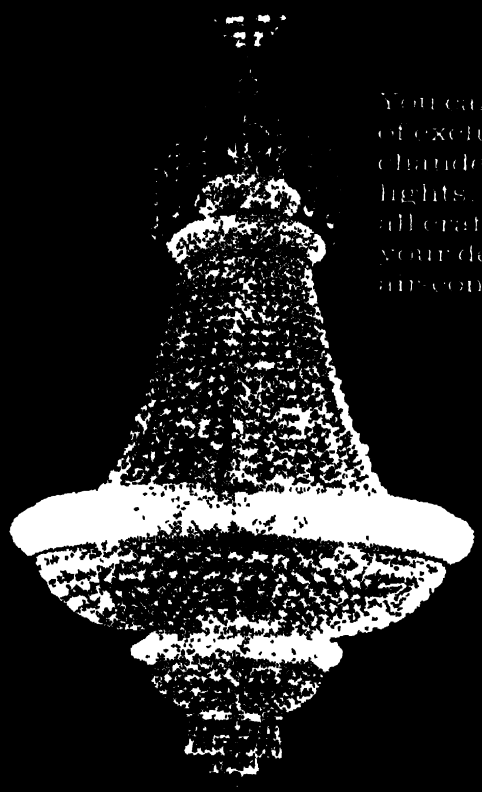
The shine on the *zari* is slowly fading. To highlight their plight, the weavers had organised a three-day bandh in January (13 to 15), supported by traders of Reshmi Dhaga Sangh and the Opposition parties. They even planned to march to Lucknow and gherao the chief minister on Republic Day, but decided against it. They complain that since there is no election in the near future, the government is reluctant to concede their demands. They contend that the government could, if it wanted to, reduce the price of raw silk or introduce legislation to ensure better returns to the weavers. The rate at which looms are closing down in Varanasi, gives much cause for alarm. Though sentimental ties are keeping looms open for the time being, economic burdens may soon put five lakh people in this business directly or indirectly, on the unemployed list. Sooner or later the government will have to take into account the problem of the weavers. The sooner the better.■

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REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Falak.** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478807), Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522)

Raakhee, Jackie Shroff and Madhavi play the lead in this Shashilal Nair film whose music is by Kalyanji Anandji



Shania in *Apaman*

• **Mulzim:** Elite (S N Banerjee Road, 241382)—4 shows

Directed by K S R Doss and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Hema Malini, Amrita Singh, Kimmy Katkar and Suresh Oberoi

• **Paap Ki Duniya.** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440)—4 shows

Sunny Deol, Chunky Panday, Shakti Kapoor, Pran, Danny Denzongpa and Neelam comprise the cast of this Shibu Mittra film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Pyar Ka Mandir:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382)

A film by K Bapaiah, starring Mithun Chakraborty, Madhavi, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Aruna Irani, Kader Khan, Raza Murad, Asrani and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Shiva-Shakti:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 311090), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932)—4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417) & Malancha (Regent Park)—3 shows, Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—noon

Shatrughan Sinha, Govinda, Anita Raaj, Kimmy Katkar and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Anand The music is by Anand Milind

Shatrughan Sinha and Govinda in *Shiva-Shakti*



BENGALI FILMS

• **Antaranga** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—3 shows

Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy are the lead pair in this Dinen Gupta film Others in the cast are Rabi Ghosh, Anup Kumar, Chinmoy Roy and Basanta Chowdhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Apaman.** Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) & Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—2 30, 5 30, 8 30, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 8

Sandhyarani, Prasenjit, Abhijit Sen, Adhisek Chatterjee, Shekhar Chatterjee, Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Chandan Mukherjee, Lolita Chatterjee, Indrani Dutta, Master Manku and debutante Shania comprise the cast of this Chandan Mukherjee film The music is by Robin Banerjee

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Tapas Paul, Ranjit Mullick, Satabdi Roy, Kali Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua, Bhabesh Kundu, Soumitra Banerjee and Ishani Baherjee The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Karoti (U/A):** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2 30, 5 30, 8 15; Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—3, 5 45, 8 30

Directed by Ajoy Banerjee, the cast includes Debraj Roy, Anuradha Roy, Ajoy Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh, Ketaki Dutta, Manu Mukherjee, Kalyani Mondal, Arun Banerjee and Subrata Sen Sharma. The music si by Prabir Majumdar

FOREIGN FILMS

- **Carry on up the Jungle (A)** Society (Corporation Place 241002)—4 shows
- **Silent Madness (A)** Jamuna (Marquis Street 243715)—4 shows
- **The Blue Lagoon (A)** Light house (Humayun Place 291299)—4 shows
- **Tough Guys (A)** New Empire (Humayun Place 291050)—4 shows

SPECIAL EVENTS

10 April 6 30 pm
A programme of Rabindra sangeet featuring Santidev Ghosh and Suchitra Mitra Narration Suchitra Mitra and Subir Mitra Compere Tapabrata Ghosh
At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 449937)
10 April 6 30 pm
Padatik Repertory will stage *Salim Sherwan Ki Shaad*
At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7 AJC Bose Road 446087)
12 April 6 30 pm
Dancers Guild presents a solo dance performance by Dr Manjusri Chaki-Sircar and her choreographic work *Tomari Matir Kanya* based on Tagore's *Chandalika* The participants are Manjusri Chaki-Sircar Ranjabati Sircar Jhuma Basak Susmita Sethia Pradipta Niyogi Moushumi Sen Subarna Chatterjee Nabanita Bose Sriparna Mitra Haimanti Dasgupta Sanghamitra Majumdar Sharmila Ganguly and members of Dancers Guild Songs are by Indira Gosthi
At Aban Mahal (Gariahat Bridge Approach 461200)
12 April 6 30 pm
Padatik Music Circle presents a sitar recital by Bimal Mukherjee
At Padatik Little Theatre (6 7 AJC Bose Road 446087)
15 April 6 30 pm
Theatre Arts Workshop presents Gunter Grass—*Biplober Mohora* a play in Bengali
At Mukta Angan Rangalaya (123 S P Mukherjee Road 465277)
15 April 7 pm
Rangakarmee presents the award winning play *Lok Katha* directed by Usha Ganguli
At Sisir Mancha (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road)
16 April 6 30 pm
Dancers Guild presents Tagore's dance drama *Chitrangada* with Manjusri Chaki Sircar Ranjabati Sircar Pradipta Niyogi Jhuma Basak and others in dance and Arghya Sen Roma Mondal Rita Ghosh Alak Raychowhury and members of Rabichhandam in songs
At Mahajati Sadan (Chittaranjan Avenue 346665)
16 April 7 pm
Sangeet Research Academy Music Circle presents a violin recital by D K Datar of Bombay
At Aldeen (1 NSC Bose Road Tollygunge)

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TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Calcutta Bombay London New York Dep 1 AI 103 at 350
London Rome Delhi Calcutta A 1 A 132 at 18)
Bombay Calcutta Bangkok Tokyo AI at 1910 Dep A 16 at 020
Tokyo Osaka Bangkok Calcutta Bombay A (3 AI 307 at 0 5 Dep 4 AI 30 at 2115
Delhi Calcutta Hong Kong A 4 A 324 at 1 50 Dep 4 A 4 at)
Hong Kong Calcutta Delhi Bombay A 1 A 25 at 2230 ep 1 A at 33
Belgrade Calcutta Beijing A JU 88 at 1 0 Dep 88 at 1
Beijing Calcutta Belgrade A 8 Dep)
Calcutta Moscow Dep 4 8 at
Calcutta Singapore Dep 241 at 241 A SQ 41 4 1 A SQ 414 at
Calcutta Kathmandu Dep 1 3 7 RA 214 at 1110 Dep 3 6) IC 247 at 1510 Arr 1 3 7 RA 213 at 1010 Arr 3 4 7) IC 248 at 1525 Arr (3 6) IC 248 at 1435
Calcutta Dhaka Dep 1 3 5 6 7 BG 581 at 1 5 at 1 4 Dep 4 at 1 A 4 BG 583 at
Calcutta Chittagong Dep 3G 548 at 13 Dep 1 2 at 13 5 A B 1 at 1 1 4 at 1
Calcutta Bangkok A 1 Dep 3 at Dep 1 5 r 1

Calcutta Paro Dep 1 3 5 6) GQ 102 at 0730 Arr 1 2 5) GQ 101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 10 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi Dep (1 3 5 6 7) IC-478 at 1045 Arr (1 3 5 6 7) IC-477 at 1005
Calcutta Delhi Dep daily IC 102 at 1 10 and IC 263 at 0615 A daily C 401 at 1115 and C 261 at 2210
Calcutta Bombay Dep daily C 176 at 0845 and IC 3 at 1945 Arr daily C 175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1855
Calcutta Madras Dep (Daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225
Calcutta Kanpur Ahmedabad Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC 235 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5 IC 296 at 1635
Calcutta Patna Ahmedabad Bombay Dep (2 4 6 IC 295 at 1010 A 4 6) IC 296 at 2105
Calcutta Port Blair Dep 2 4 6) IC 285 at 054 Arr 2 4 6) IC 86 at 1015
Calcutta Port Blair Car Nicobar Dep 1 C 487 at 0545 Arr 1) IC 288 1 1 45
Calcutta Ranchi Patna Lucknow Delhi Dep daily IC 41 at 1110 A daily C 409 at 1400
Calcutta Vizag Madras Dep 7 6 7 IC 512 at 620 A 6 IC 541 at 12
Calcutta Bangalore Dep 2 1 at 1 20 A daily C at 3 3
Calcutta Hyderabad Dep at Dep 0630 Arr 1 7 at 15 A 4 6 IC 8 at 19 A C 8 at 21
Calcutta Bhubaneswar Dep 4 at 1845 A 0
Calcutta Bhubaneswar Nagpur Hyderabad Dep 3 C at 1 45 A 3 5 1
Calcutta Bhubaneswar Nagpur Bombay Dep 6) C 1 0 A 1 6 C 201
Calcutta Varanasi Gorakhpur Calcutta Dep 3 1 65 Arr 5 6 IC 281 at 145
Calcutta Guwahati Dep at 1 0 Dep 3 4 C 3 at 0625 Dep 1 3 1 at 810 A daily 1 A 4 1 at 123 A 1 3 5 at 20
Calcutta Guwahati Tezpur Jorhat Guwahati Calcutta daily 2 3 at 1130 Arr 1 C 213 at 1 05
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1040
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530 Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1000
Calcutta Bagdogra Dep daily IC 1 at 145 3 C 22

at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC 241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar. Dep (1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5) IC 238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3 5) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (1 3 5) IC 202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (7) IC 219 at 0625 Arr (7) IC 220 at 1105

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (2, 4 6) PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2 4 6) PF 18 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (1 3 5) PF-725 at 0600 Arr (1 3 5) PF-726 at 1100

* **Calcutta-Aizawl** Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-705A at 1100 Arr (2, 4, 6) PF 706A at 1450

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5) PF-729 at 1130 Arr (1 3 5) PF-730 at 1610

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-721 722 at 0630 Arr (1 3, 5) PF-723 724 at 1915

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati Dep (daily) PF 705 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1745

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat* Dep (1 3 5) PF-731 at 0555 Arr (1 3 5) PF-732 at 1000

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur* Dep (2 4 6 7) PF-727 at 0940 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF-728 at 1610

Calcutta-Cooch Behar. Dep (2 4 6 7) PF-707 at 0610 Arr (2 4, 6 7) PF 708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2 4 6) PF-715 at 0555 Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh. Dep (daily) PF-701 735 at 0830 Arr (daily) PF-702 736 at 1705

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delhi Dep - Sun up to Amritsar Arri - Mon & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri - Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10 55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fr & Sat Arri - Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21 10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 10	10
*	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
4	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15 45	50
1	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
35	21 35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	12 00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	5-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon, Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs, Sat	20-35	58
59	17-[illegible]	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	[illegible]anapur Express	6-35	32
105	23 00	**North Bihar Express** De Wednesday Arri Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep — ues, Thurs & Sat Arri —M Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arri - Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep - Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed Fri & Sun	4 10	133
30	12 15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15 15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4-00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18 45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14 05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



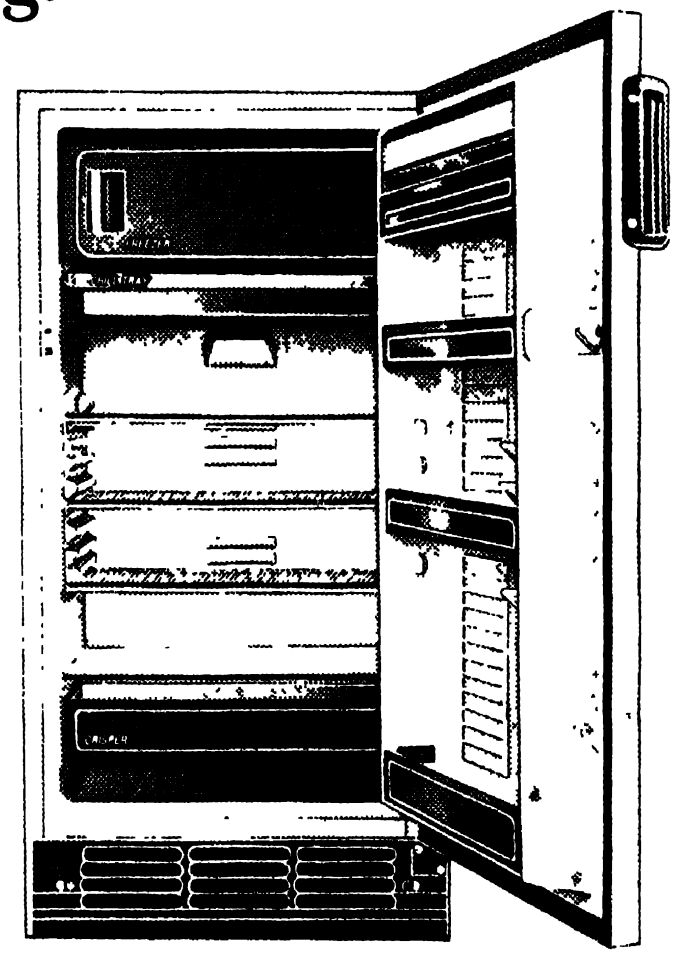
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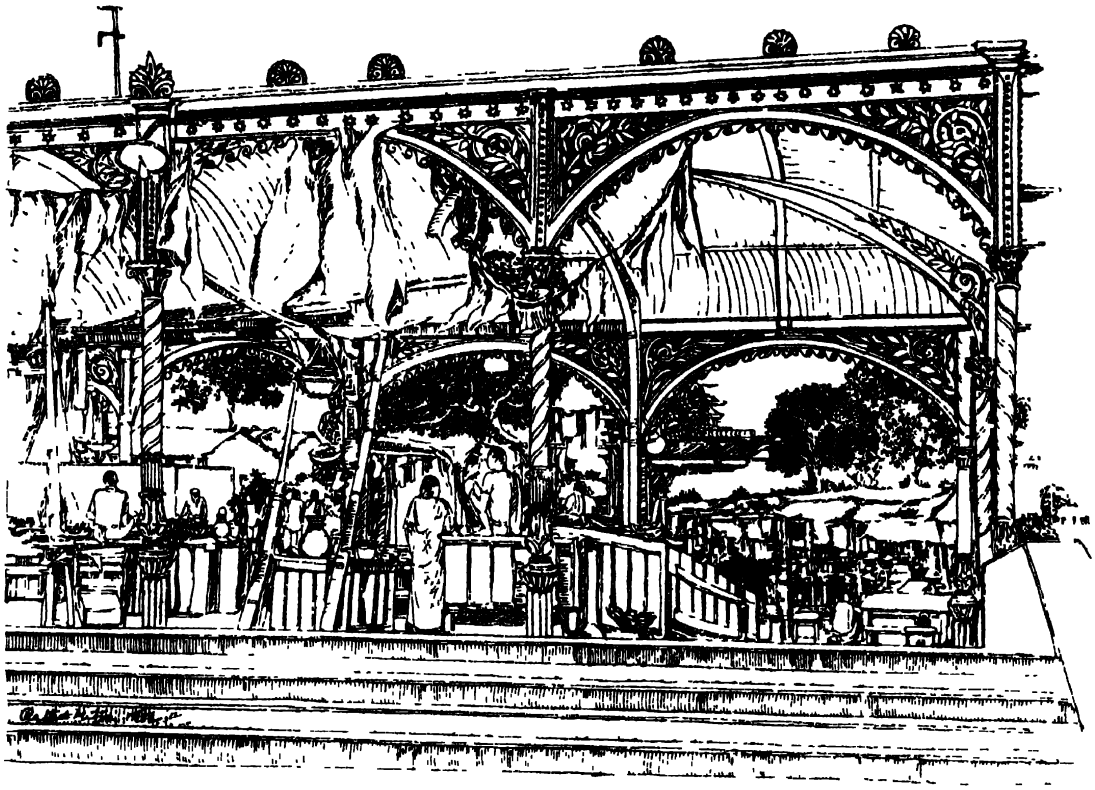
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Rathin Mitra

JAGANNATH GHAT



Situated to the north of Howrah Bridge, Jagannath Ghat is said to be built by one Sovaram Basak in the 18th century He was born in Murshidabad (then known as Maksudabad) in 1690 Later, with his father he settled at Haldipur in Saptagram He amassed large fortune through a cloth and thread business with the East India Company The entire family later shifted to Gobindapur where Sovaram installed the idols of Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra

When some portion of his land was requisitioned to construct a fort, Sovaram and his family moved to Burrabazar The road in front of his house is named after him. Till some time back, there were two lanes, named after him, opposite Medical College One of them is now known as Raja Debendra Mullick Street To the west of his house, on the bank of the Ganga, Sovaram built a temple for Lord Jagannath He constructed a bathing ghat next to the temple, which thus derives its name

QUIZ



Neil O'Brien

Considering the huge backlog of quiz reviews, I have decided to devote my column this week to readers' comments on quizzes held recently.

G. Kashinath, Calcutta 17, writes:

"'Anything under the sun' is what they say could be asked in a quiz. Although media-quizzes cover separate subjects like sports, science, the performing arts and even history and culture of different states of India, it is not common to have an open quiz on a specific subject or discipline as such Again in the media quiz the subjects chosen are in themselves so vast that they have quite a variety. On the other hand the limits of time or space are redeeming features.

"Of course, it is not uncommon for some college festivals in Calcutta to hold separate quizzes on movies and music. We have also read in your column that 'Safety Quiz' contests are held in some factories of Hindustan Lever to arouse awareness of industrial, road and home safety But even there, items of general interest are sprinkled among the main questions.

"So, one always wondered whether an open quiz purely on a specific subject was possible until the highly successful Tea Quiz which was held last year.

"Recently,two more such contests were held in Calcutta. The first of these, held at the Vidya Mandir auditorium, was the Biz Quiz organised by the Calcutta chapter of AIESEC, a Belgium-based international organisation for students of business, economics and management. The quiz naturally remained limited to these subjects only. But the two quizmasters, Neil O'Brien and R M. Sen, ran through the entire gamut of these well-defined subjects. Despite the accidental failure of the slide-projector the quiz remained lively.

"The Jadavpur University trio which made a late start, eventually won the quiz St Xavier's College was not a too-distant second The organisers must be complimented for their pioneering effort But what somewhat marred the quiz was the absence of teams well versed in the specialised subjects.

"The Eastern India Chapter of the Oil Technologists' Association of India (OTAI) organised a quiz at the Dalhousie Institute on technology and chemistry. The absence of an audio round (naturally) was well compensated by the samples of various oils, fats, oil seeds and even charts of symbols and structures Kusum Products was in the lead throughout and won the first prize of Rs 1000 But it was the last direct question of the afternoon which sealed the fate of the second place. The Calcutta University 'A' team answered the question to beat Hindustan Lever (HL) back to third place by a margin of half a point

"Kudos to the two quizmasters, K S Parasuram and R.M. Sen, for making the quiz on a subject as sticky as oils and fats so slick and enjoyable "

Debasis Banerjee reports from Durgapur.

"Durgapur received a boost when The Rotract Club of Durgapur conducted a inter-school science quiz on February 13 in Durgapur Club Fourteen teams participated in the quiz but only six made it to the finals D.A.V. Model School romped home with 70 points and there was a tie for the second place between the two teams from St Xaviers As usual the audience proved to be more intelligent than the rest of the bunch put together."

Ritu Ray reports from Darbhanga.

"A quiz was organised by the Darbhanga YouthClub in Bela Public School. Of the 13 entries, only five teams made it to the finals Two teams tied in the pool C and D contest Two questions posed to each team to break the tie proved futile and the rest of the quiz proved to very exciting It was a neck-to-neck battle in all the pool matches except in pool A which managed to answer most question even as its member sat among the audience

"The questions were a mixed bag As expected, pool A emerged victorious and the winning team was represented by Ajay Kumar and Amitabh Kumar Das The quiz was conducted by Dhirendra Kumar "

Postscript: Although the last date for entries for the Dalhousie Invitation Quiz was April 8, you can still send your entries, provided they reach by tomorrow (April 11).

CBS

11th Question: **What is "a kiss on the wrist" sentence? (S. Ramachandran, 3, Lake Range, P.O. Kalighat, Calcutta 700026.)**

Ans: **In this,the accused is let off with a fine and he/she is not sentenced to prison.**

QUESTIONS

1. Which sportsman was nicknamed,"The Human Locomotive"? (Brijesh Kr Singh,BIT Sindri)

2. What is kakorraphiophobia? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)

3. What is the real name of Pope Paul VI? (Manoj Kumar Singh, Danapur Cantt 3)

4. What are "Jaldhara" and "Kutir Jyoti" schemes? (Shailesh Kr Singh, Dhanbad 23)

5. Who was the first Indian female child star? (Murali Krishna, Rourkela 3)

6. Whose last words were "Dying is a very dull, dreary affair And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it"? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)

7. To whom did Sunil Gavaskar dedicate his 30th Test century? (Ashish Kumar Das, BIT Sindri)

8. What is common to Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Inamullah Khan? (Dilip Kumar, Bhagalpur)

9. What is common to the films *Mohini, Rajamukthi, Maruthanattu Llavarasi* and *Naam?* (Miss Supriti, BIT Sindri)

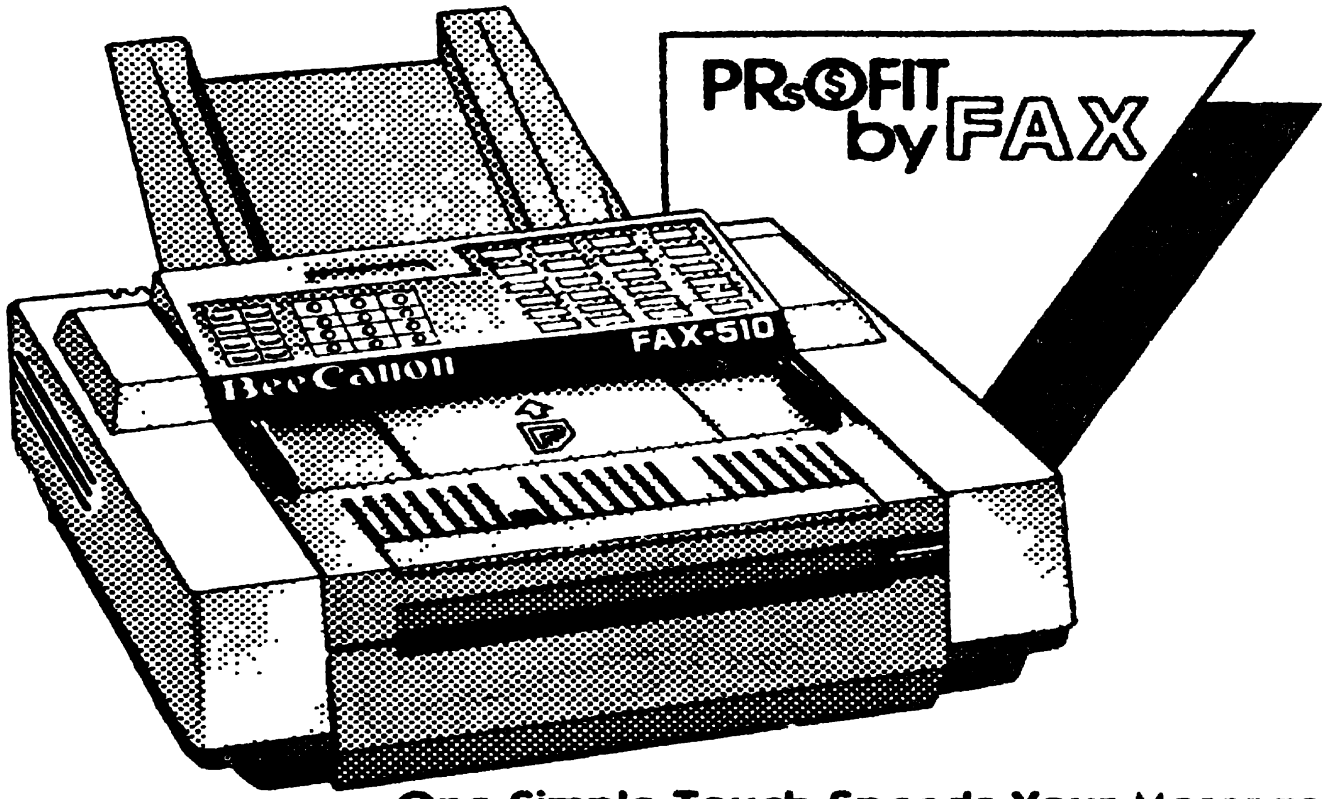
10. Apart from film acting, what is common to John Wayne and Ronald Reagan? (Tapan Kumar Sen, Calcutta 71)

ANSWERS

1. Emil Zatopec of Czechoslovakia
2. The year of failure.
3. Giovanno Battista Montini
4. Schemes to provide pumpsets in drought-affected areas and to provide light in every house of backward areas,respectively. It was announced on February 29, 1988, in the Union Budget
5. Mandakini, daughter of Dada Saheb Phalke,in the film *Kaliya Mardan*
6. William Somerset Maugham
7. Milind Rege, former Bombay Ranji player, who is known to be Gavaskar's best friend.
8. They are all winners of the Templeton Prize The $2,20,000 prize is the world's richest prize
9. M G. Ramachandran had acted with his wife V N Janaki in the four films
10. Both were "draft dodgers" That is, both evaded military service on flimsy medical ground's during World War II

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TO FELL OR NOT TO FELL

By Pinaki Chakraborty

"Meena, there's a storm again Shut the windows," Bipinbabu told his wife. Meena shut the windows hurriedly. "God knows what will happen this year," Bipinbabu said in a sullen tone. Meena came close to him and scanned his face. "What are you fearing?" she asked in a low voice. "They may create trouble again," his tone was as sullen as earlier. "Let them do whatever they like," Meena assured, "don't you remember what I did last year?" She did not hide her wry smile and Bipinbabu smiled back, "Yes, I do Still it it is better to be cautious. Local boys are becoming formidable." Meena's face wrinkled, "But the elders cowed down last year. Do you think those old men have changed radically?"

"Certainly not," Bipinbabu shook his head "And they are our best guarantors," Meena burst out laughing and went off. Howls of the storm outside had become quite pronounced by then.

There are four coconut trees in Bipinbabu's garden. All of them yield a few dozens of coconuts every year. For the last four years, the one on the eastern side was disturbing the electric wires which were only two feet away from it During the rainy season, when the wind blew,the long branches of the tree swayed and flapped against the electric wires resulting in their being snapped. This stopped the power supply to a number of houses. Most of the time, the disruption occurred in the evening. Even on being informed of the disruption, the electricians inordinately delayed in turning up. The affected houses remained without electricity throughout the night

At first Subodhbabu and Prasantababu, the two influential persons of the locality, approached Bipinbabu to take some preventive measures. Bipinbabu showed concern at the problem. He arranged for the trimming of the branches But later, he showed reluctance. The peace-loving neighbours kept mum after the rainy season was over. But when the same thing happened the following year, it again caused a commotion among them But they had begun taking the trouble for granted and restricted their protest to making remarks about Bipinbabu's lack of civic sense

Last year, the local youths suggested that the tree be cut off as there was no other permanent solution to the problem. When Bipinbabu heard of the suggestion, he felt slightly embarrassed. Hen-pecked by nature, he told his wife of the neighbours' plan and asked her to find a way out.

"Why don't you tell them that we being Hindu Brahmins can hardly accept the proposal of felling a fertile coconut tree? It's against our religion."

The argument seemed so cogent to Bipinbabu that he almost jumped in delight and kissed his wife who nimbly pushed him aside, "Vijay is studying in the next room. You are losing all sense as you're growing old."

Bipinbabu promptly conveyed to Subodhbabu and Prasantababu the ground on which he was unable to fell the tree. Both felt pinned down. They advised their sons—Subir, Rahul, and Gautam—to drop their proposal. They calmed down despite their seething resentment over Bipinbabu's subterfuge.

In Rahul's drawing room, four people were playing cards. By then, the storm was accompanied by a thundershower. All the windows and the door in the room were closed. Subir told Gautam, "Now we'll have rains almost everyday."

"And powercuts also," quipped Gautam.

"This year we won't submit to Bipinbabu's tactics," Subir told firmly.

"But father always takes a passive stand," Rahul's disappointment was clear.

"We will bring father round to our views, if necessary," Subir appeared stubborn.

Suddenly, the lights went off. The room plunged into darkness. Subir went to the next room to bring a candle. Prasantababu was reading the newspaper before the lights went off. "Is it loadshedding?" he asked Subir, as he was lighting the candle. "No, it's Bipinbabu's tree," Subir was visibly agitated. His sister opened a window slightly and peeped out. She shut the window a second later and said to her brother, "You're right. All the houses on the other side of Prafulla Dey Lane have lights." Prasantababu took off his spectacles and lay on his bed.

In the drawing room, Rahul was telling Gautam excitedly, "This problem can never be solved unless the tree is cut off. Mere trimming will not do." Gautam said, "Bipinbabu is taking advantage of our weakness." Rahul clenched his fist and thumped on the table, "But this weakness has to be overcome." While setting the candle on the table, Subir remarked, "The superstition is so deeprooted that it cannot be ignored easily." Rahul retorted: "If you don't get rid of it, it is no use blaming Bipinbabu."

The commotion continued for more than half-an-hour and it was finally decided that Bipinbabu would be asked the following morning to take the ultimate step.

Bipinbabu feigned surprise when he found half-a-dozen people standing at his doorstep. "All of you ...what's the matter, anyway?" he fumbled. Prasantababu came near him and told him gently, "You know there was a storm yesterday Our lights went off Every year we have a problem with your coconut tree. We feel we have to find a way out this year "

"I have already told you that I'm not so inhuman as to fell a fertile coconut tree," Bipinbabu gave the same wily argument invented by his wife. "But if you had at least clipped the branches of the tree at regular intervals, the problem would not have been so bad." Prasantababu again failed to add a dose of sternness to his words. "I've told you of my inability. Why don't you get the tree trimmed? I'll pay for it," Bipinbabu continued to evade the real issue. "But we are also preoccupied like you. Besides, the tree is yours," Subodhbabu told firmly. "I understand," Bipinbabu was stubborn, "I have already told you to arrange for felling the tree, if you can. I can't commit any irreligious act. After all, it's a fertile tree."

Prasantababu said in a low voice, "We also understand your problem, Bipinbabu. But our question is how long should we suffer because of your tree?" Bipinbabu offered his last trick, "You decide on it. No Hindu will fell the tree. You'll have to find a non-Hindu for the job. I can't bear all the problems "

At this point, Rahul came forward and said, "You have many more coconut trees in your garden Are we talking for all of them?" Bipinbabu was unperturbed, "My boy, felling a fertile coconut tree is an irreligious act. If you want to commit it, I won't stop you. But don't involve me in it." Rahul asked with a tinge of irony,

"Won't it be more irreligious if you allow a man to die?"

"What do you mean by allowing a man to die?" Bipinbabu asked with an air of surprise. "Why, if a coconut falls on one's head, would one survive? Your tree is leaning out of your boundary wall and there is a fair possibility of such an accident," Rahul said in a single breath. Prasantababu calmed him down and told Bipinbabu that the matter required rethinking and he would talk to him later.

Prasantababu, Subodhbabu, Rahul and Gautam collected at Prasantababu's drawing room. "Bipinbabu is talking in the same tone," Prasantababu appeared disappointed. "Yes, but something has to be done," Subodhbabu did not seem to give up easily. "Can't we accept the proposal of regular clipping of the branches?" Prasantababu asked. "But he is showing no interest in the matter. Is it our responsibility to look after his tree?" Subodhbabu replied. "Mere clipping will not solve the problem," Gautam said firmly "In fact, all of us are hesitating because it is a fertile coconut tree," Prasantababu repeated the crux of the problem, much to the chagrin of all. "But uncle, we all know of the utility of a fertile coconut tree. But where larger interest is involved, what's wrong with felling a tree?" Gautam concealed his vexation with great effort.

An orthodox Prasantababu now wanted to resolve the most sensitive factor. "But religion is also involved here," he said.

"Grass is also required in Hindu rituals. Why do we cut it? A coconut tree has something to do with religious rites. But where human life is in danger, should we accept the argument of religion? Unless man lives, what's the use of religion?" Rahul made a desperate bid to emphasise his point.

This silenced all of them for a while Prasantababu looked shaken. He asked Rahul feebly, "Will a Hindu feller be available?"

"Give me some time to look for a feller," Rahul assured him and lowered his head for he thought he showed a frayed temper while talking to him.

Vijay, Bipinbabu's son, got wind of what was going on. The next day, when Rahul was coming back from the feller's house, he gheraoed him with the help of a few local ruffians. He threatened him with dire consequences if he went ahead with his plan of felling the tree. But Rahul showed no sign of fright in his countenance. He told Vijay brusquely that he would not budge from his stand.

However, Rahul was slightly disappointed when the feller refused to fell the tree. He had even offered to pay him more. But the feller did not yield. When coming back from the feller's house, Rahul had come across the feller's eldest son. When the son heard of his father's refusal, he told Rahul that he would fell the tree. His pregnant wife was in hospital and the doctor had told him to keep some money ready for any contingency. Rahul told him that he might call him the next morning for felling the tree.

During the night a storm, accompanied by thundershower, played havoc in the area. At about 10 pm some houses went dark. Windows and doors were closed in every house. The storm lashed at them. Bipinbabu went to bed early. Lights were on in his house. Meena lay beside him. Howls of the storm outside were clearly audible. Bipinbabu told Meena, "They may have decided to fell the tree"

"Let them decide. Vijay won't let them do the mischief He has already bullied Rahul But mere bullying won't do. Something more has to be done."

Bipinbabu sat up in fear, "No, no. Don't go for any extreme step"

Meena did not move but flared up, "I've never seen a man like you Just a minor uproar has unnerved you. Pooh! In the last 17 years, I have failed to change you even a bit"

She turned to the other side Bipinbabu was anxious to keep her in the right mood. He said softly, "Meena, you're very sentimental. Well, do whatever you like." Meena did not speak. Bipinbabu snuggled up to her and tried to turn her to his side. When this failed, he dipped his face into hers. Meena moved slowly and stretched out her hand to put off the bedside switch.

* * *

Next morning, Rahul rushed to Subodhbabu's residence and brought him near the lamp post which was only two feet away from the tree A number of people had already collected there Subodhbabu found all the overhead wires snapped in which was entangled the dead body of an unidentified man. Three long branches of the tree were lying beside him ■



Why Children Kill Children

You have done an excellent job by bringing out the truth behind the Sumit Chatterjee-Shantanu Mitra case ('Why Children Kill Children', March 20)

It is ture that we children are pestered by our parents to study, but I don't blame them for that It is the society of today which forces the changes on us. Being a student, I know how keen we, and our parents, are to do better than the best all the time.
Rajat Kapoor,
Jagatdal (24-Parganas)

■ The possibility of murdering a friend on the ground of academic jealousy cannot be ruled out because in India parents are constantly putting pressure on the children to perform well in their examinations. If they fail to live up to expectations, they are subjected to mental torture. It is not unfair to conclude that parents are indirectly responsible for ruining their children's careers
Joydip Roy Chowdhury,
Chinsurah (W B)

■ The gruesome murder of Sumit Chatterjee should serve as a pointer that today's children may not be able to withstand the conditions in the societal pressure cooker they find themselves in. Parents are quick to compare and criticise, but reluctant to express appreciation

Growing up has always been a difficult process, but today it seems to be a traumatic experience.
Indrajit Gupta,
Calcutta

■ Though my father belongs to a lower middle class group and is not sufficiently educated, he possesses all the qualities a father should have, as described in your story The same goes for my mother

From KG to class IX, I secured first and second positions except in class V when I came fifth But my father did not scold me, instead he instructed me to mix with all types of students and try and understand the world

He taught me that I need not do good to anybody, but I should not harm anybody; I need not love anybody, but I should not hate anybody.
Bhaskar Dasgupta,
Calcutta

■ The story suggests that while parents and teachers are responsible for grooming children, the social environment does play a pivotal role in the upbringing of the child The present education system and media could go a long way in stalling the horrifying trend.
B. Ganesh,
Jamshedpur

■ Parents are not solely to be blamed. Our society and education system are equally to blame. For a departure from this sad situation, an overhauling of our value system is necessary.
Nabhendu Pal,
Panihati (North 24-Parganas)

■ Why blame the parents and teachers? Being a student, I realise that both are doing just what is expected of them. Both want their wards to be successful in life

There is an acute scarcity of jobs in our country and only the best can get them—or people who can pull strings. Since most of the students do not belong to the latter group, the only way out is to strive to be the best. The government can diffuse the situation by providing more job opportunities and by increasing the prestigious institutions like the IITs and IIMs.
Neelabh Sharma,
Calcutta

■ Juvenile crimes are a pointer to the degradation of our society. Children cannot be held responsible for the crimes. The environment is important.
Sachchidananda Satpathy,
Hirakud (Orissa)

■ Schoolchildren are resorting to murder to avenge petty crimes and their actions are motivated by our violence-ridden Hindi films.
Anjana Sinha,
Calcutta

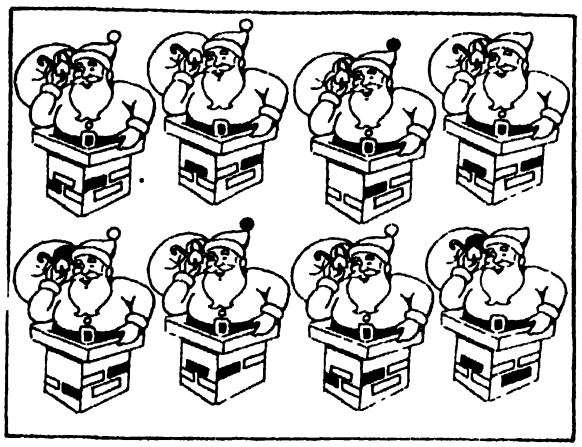


■ Are we, as parents of teenaged children, or teachers, doing what we ought to do? Do we have time to discuss with them aspects of their lives other than academic? What examples do we set before our children?

These are some of the questions that need to be urgently answered if we want our children and students to grow up as responsible human beings, and not turn society into a jungle inhabited by bipeds.
Snigdha Chakravarty,
Calcutta

■ It was a heart breaking picture of 'polarised' children in a scientific world.
Binod K. Dash,
Palbani (Orissa)

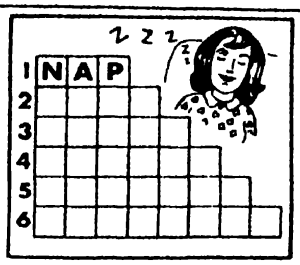
■Children are the most beautiful creations of nature. Let us nourish and guide them to bloom.
Madan Mohan Nath,
Calcutta



PICK NICKS! Can you find the twin Santa subjects above? Compare details carefully before you answer

• THINK SO? Think of two words, each with the same five letters, that have opposite meanings P S Both words begin with the letter "U "

Unite and untie are two



ADD-A-LETTER WORD TEST
Starting with the word NAP, see above, add one letter and rearrange letters as necessary in each step to form a new word

Definitions;

1. A short sleep (already in place).
2. Sheet of glass.
3. Body of jurors.
4. Jet or propeller-driven craft.
5. Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Venus, etc.
6. Weather word.

After completing this exercise, see if you can work out a different set of words to fill the diagram similarly

1 Nap 2 Pane 3 Panel 4 Plane 5 Planet 6 Pleasant.

• **SUM TEST!** Insert the numbers 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 16 in blank squares of the diagram below so that the sum of each horizontal and vertical row is 25.

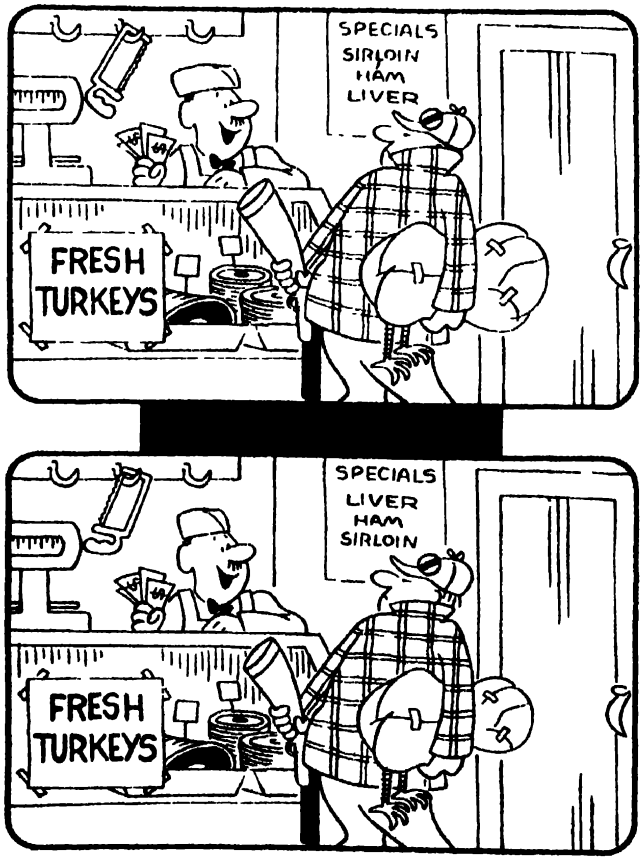
Numbers shown remain in place. Remember, across and down rows only (not diagonals) are to total 25.

No fair peeking below.

Top row 1, 4, 2, 9 middle 6, 7, 10
Bottom 3, 16, 8

14		
	7	
		6

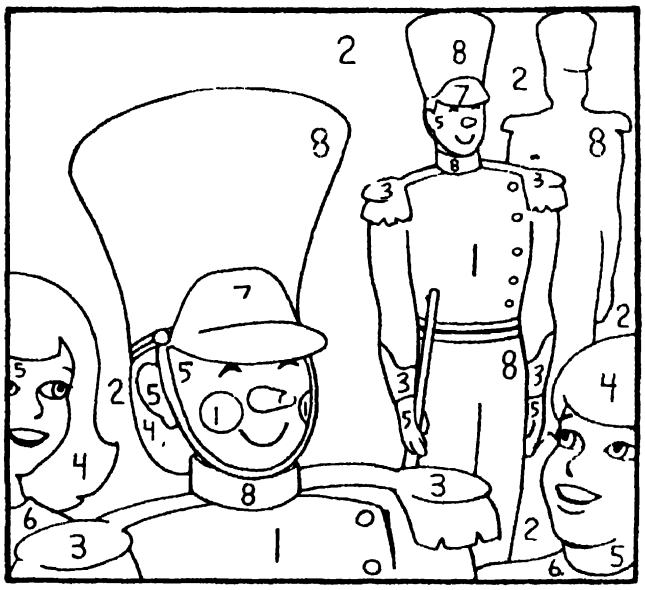
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Saw is reversed. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Gunstock is shorter. 4. Last of spectacle is different. 5. Collar is smaller. 6. Wrapped bird is smaller.

FUNSPOT



MODEL FORCE! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments above: 1—Red. 2—Lt. purple. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. Green 7—Black. 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

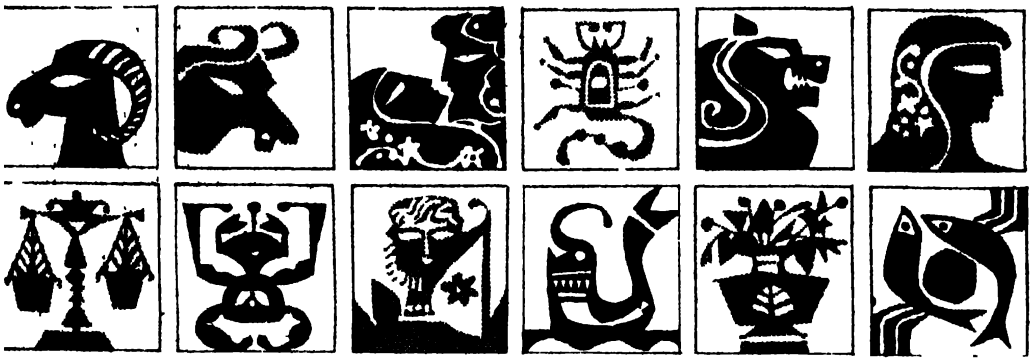
LEVERAGE

- - - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagram Gale, veer



ARIES
March 21—April 20

The moon's last quarter will help you to fulfill new assignments and undertake collaborations and joint ventures. Rely on your initiative and take all the chances that come your way. Success is assured in all that you do. Shifts and transfers are likely. A journey is in the offing. Guard health.

TAURUS
April 21—May 20

A stroke of luck is indicated as moon conjuncts Mercury. You will soon recover goods that got misplaced or stolen. Long-distance connections will result in collaborations and ventures. You may meet someone with whom there are chances of building a long-lasting relationship.

GEMINI
May 21—June 20

All monetary pressures will now ease and you will be free to start a new business or enterprise. Moon sextiles sun and good news is sure to reach you soon. Do not sign any legal documents without weighing all the pros and cons. This is the right time to enter into negotiations and contracts.

CANCER
June 21—July 20

An engagement or marriage is on the cards. Do not take your health for granted and go for regular check-ups. Money will now pour in. Traders, producers, bank managers, commission agents and small-scale industrialists will do well this week. Do not enter into any controversies at work.

LEO
July 21—August 21

This is the time to work hard. At the same time, do not forget to enjoy yourself too. You may go on a prolonged journey soon. Editors, actors, entrepreneurs and students will do well this week. Romance blooms and marriage is foretold for the fancyfree and eligible. This is the right time to socialise.

VIRGO
August 22—Sept 22

Romance blossoms and so does the financial outlook. The moon's last quarter will fire your creativity and urge you to take chances. Loans and funds will now be available to start new ventures and collaborations. Matters pertaining to taxes and mortgages may demand attention. Friends will stand by you.

LIBRA
Sept 23—Oct 22

The accent is now on home, property affairs and transfers. Renovation, decoration and refurbishing will keep you busy. An engagement or marriage is on the cards. Relatives and friends will drop in unexpectedly. A hectic round of socialising is foretold. You may now change your job.

SCORPIO
Oct 23—Nov 22

You will reach out to people and places by all possible means of communication. For reasons beyond your control, things may get out of hand, but do not worry as this is only a passing phase. A job-hop or transfer is on the cards. Last minute postponements may upset your plans now. Guard health.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23—Dec 20

Do not worry for problems will now get resolved. Romance is on the cards. Tax and property disputes will be settled soon. Vacation plans will be finalised. This is the right time to sign deals and negotiations. Money is likely to pour in from an unexpected source. Do not take your health for granted.

CAPRICORN
Dec 21—Jan 19

Take all problems pertaining to property matters and personal issues in your stride. Buying, selling, renovation, decoration and refurbishing are highlighted this week. Learn to organise your time more efficiently. Important news will now reach you. The time is opportune to enter into financial deals.

AQUARIUS
Jan 20—Feb 19

Expenses will mount but your keen business acumen will find new ways of making more money. A trip is destined. You will now meet influential people who could affect your future course of action. Do not take your health for granted and go for regular check-ups. Romance is on the cards for the eligible.

PISCES
Feb 20—March 20

Laurels will come your way as moon trines Pluto. Group activity is signified. Travel, socialising, meetings and conferences will keep you busy now. Money will pour in but expenses will also show an upward trend. Important people will come forward to lend you all possible support. Romance blooms.

BIRTHDAYS

April 10
Moon conjunction Mars: Those in business, trade, commerce and industry have it made. This is a good year for concentrating on your work.

April 11
Saturn, Neptune both Stat. : A slow start but rapid progress is assured. Expenses are likely. You will have friends who will stand by you. Alliances and an official engagement is on the cards. Travel plans will materialise.

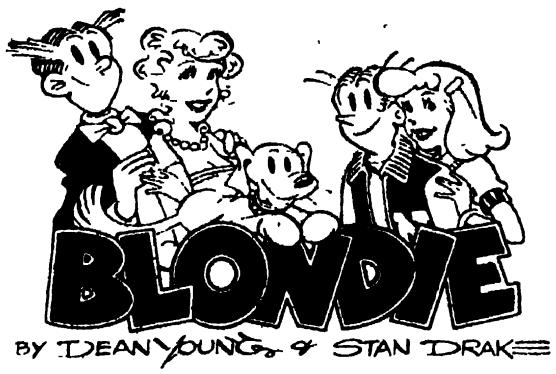
April 12
Moon sextile Sun: A year of wish fulfillment, romance, gains, socialising and rewards for services rendered. Collaborations, socialising, entertainment, marriage, children and hobbies are highlighted.

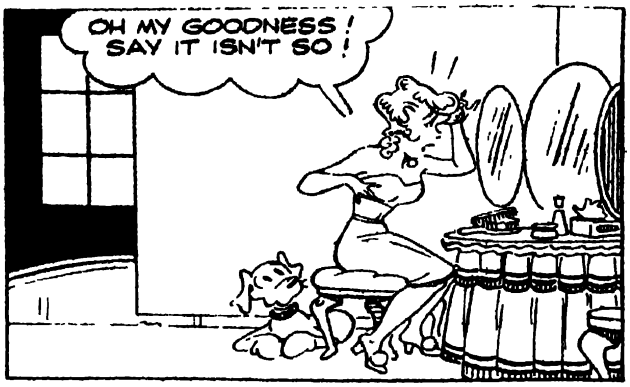
April 13
Moon trine Pluto: A year for evolution. Those in import-export, chemicals, medicine and dealers of fancy items have it made. Liaisons and secret ties are likely. Politicians, secret service personnel, artists, manufacturers, arms dealers and traders will do well. Romance and mystery is the name of the game.

April 14
Moon square Saturn: Progress is assured despite hurdles and impediments. While expenses will be heavy and a few personal equations will prove irksome, things will eventually get sorted out.

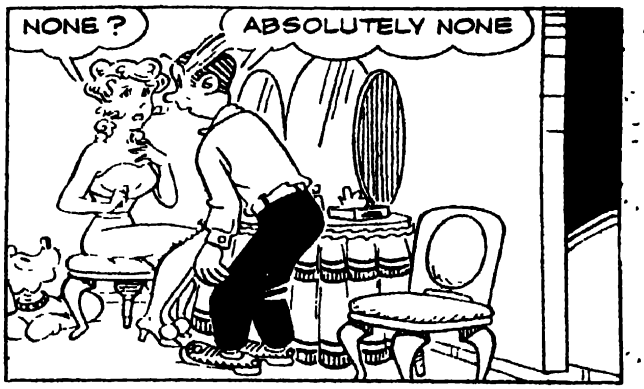
April 15
Moon sextile Venus-Mars: This is a superb sextile for lawyers, lovers, captains of industry, psychics, astrologers and explorers. Your endeavours will be duly recognised. The energy of Mars and grace and charm of Venus are yours. It is an unbeatable combination for joy and success.

April 16
New moon in Aries: New beginnings and for some a better and more eventful phase of life. Your luck will hold. You will succeed in your work as well as in family and personal matters. Contacts lead to contracts. Journeys, goods news, children, creativity, fun, promotions and profits are highlighted.

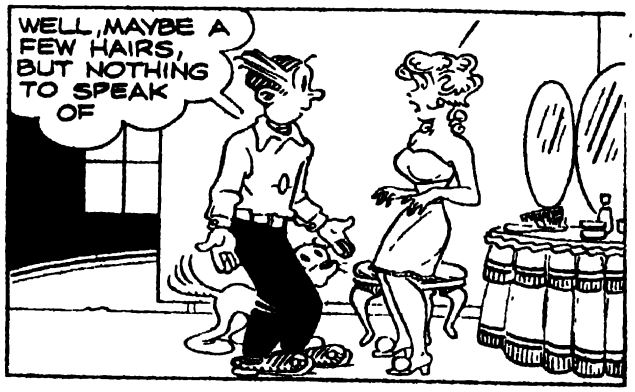


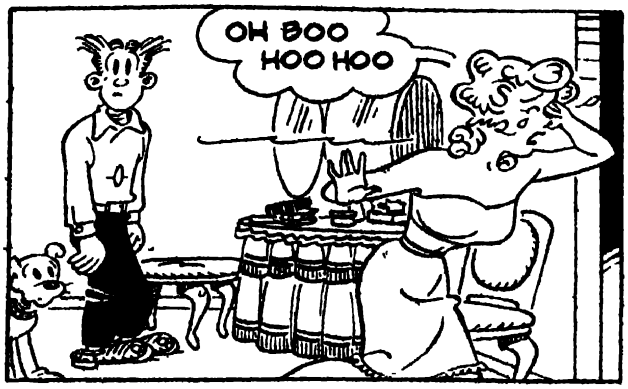




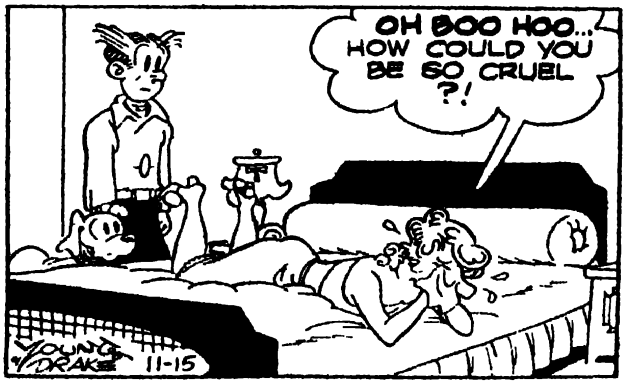




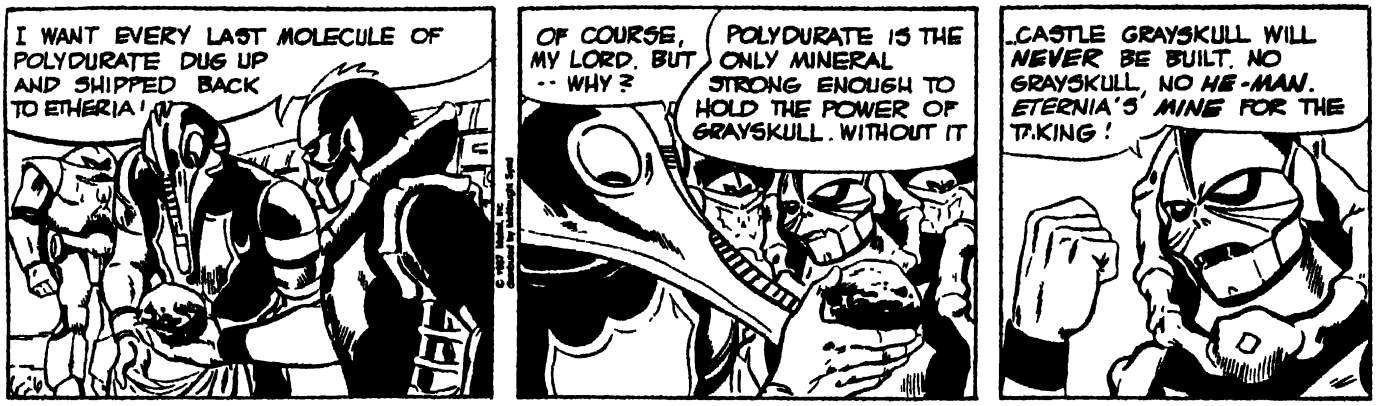


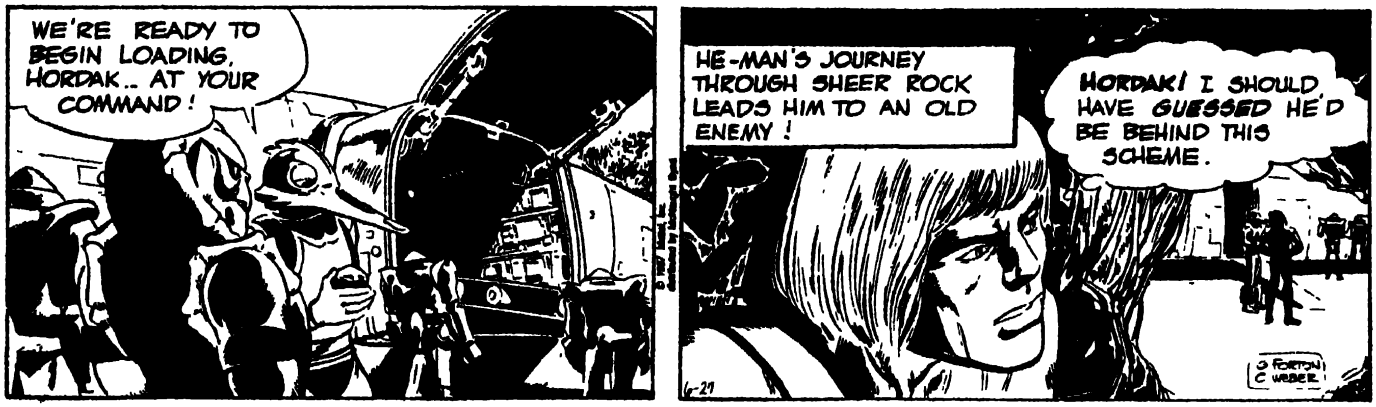


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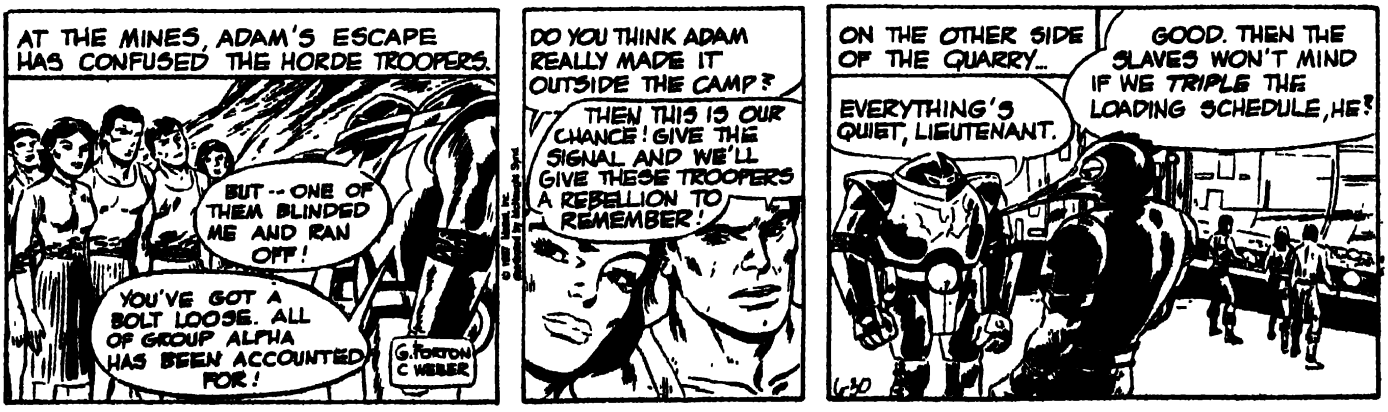


HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



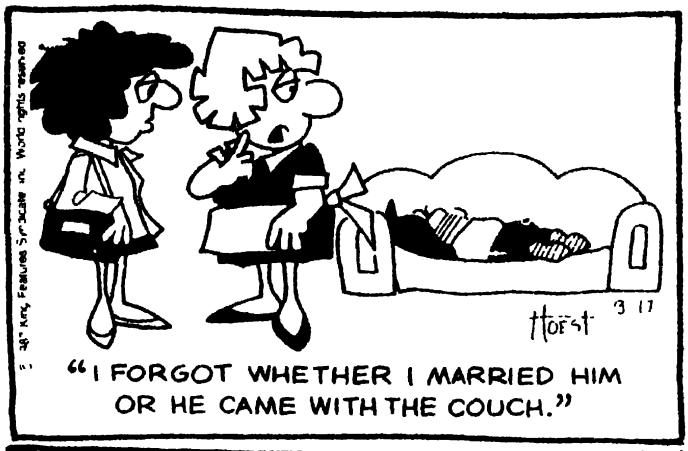




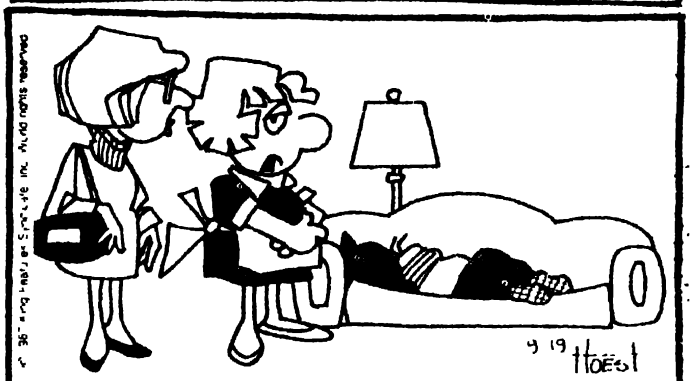


THE LOCKHORNS







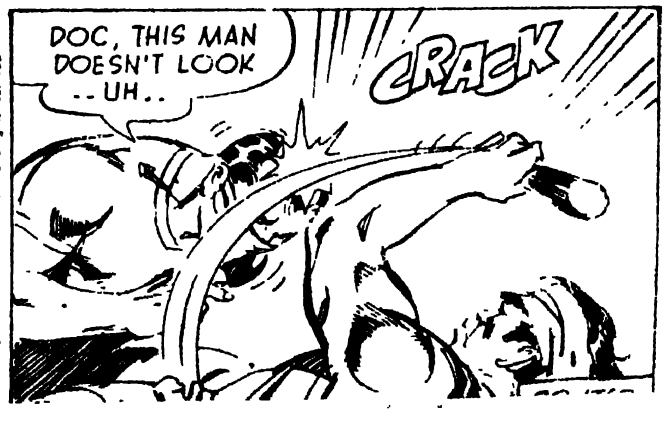


MANDRAKE By Lee Falk



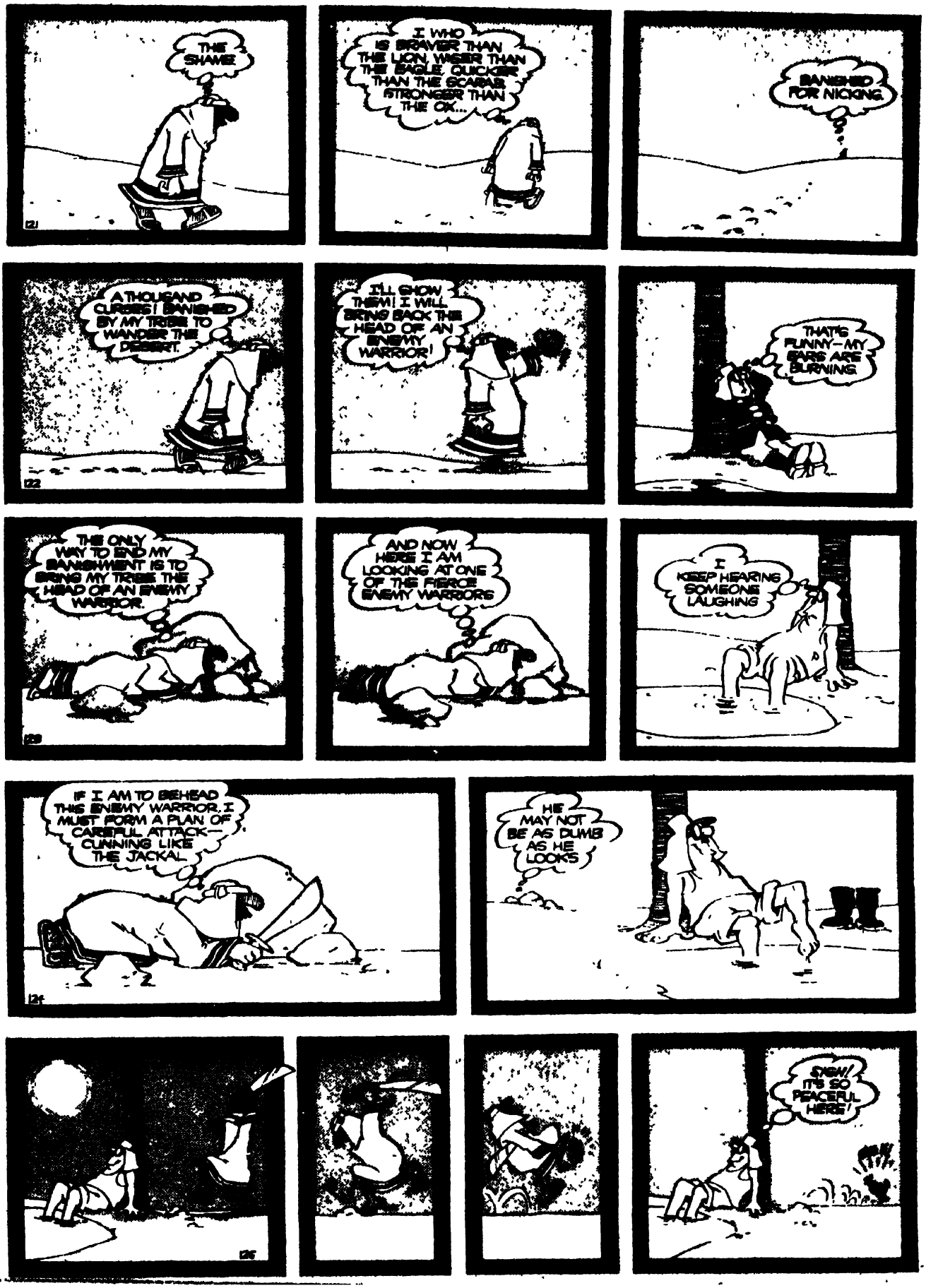






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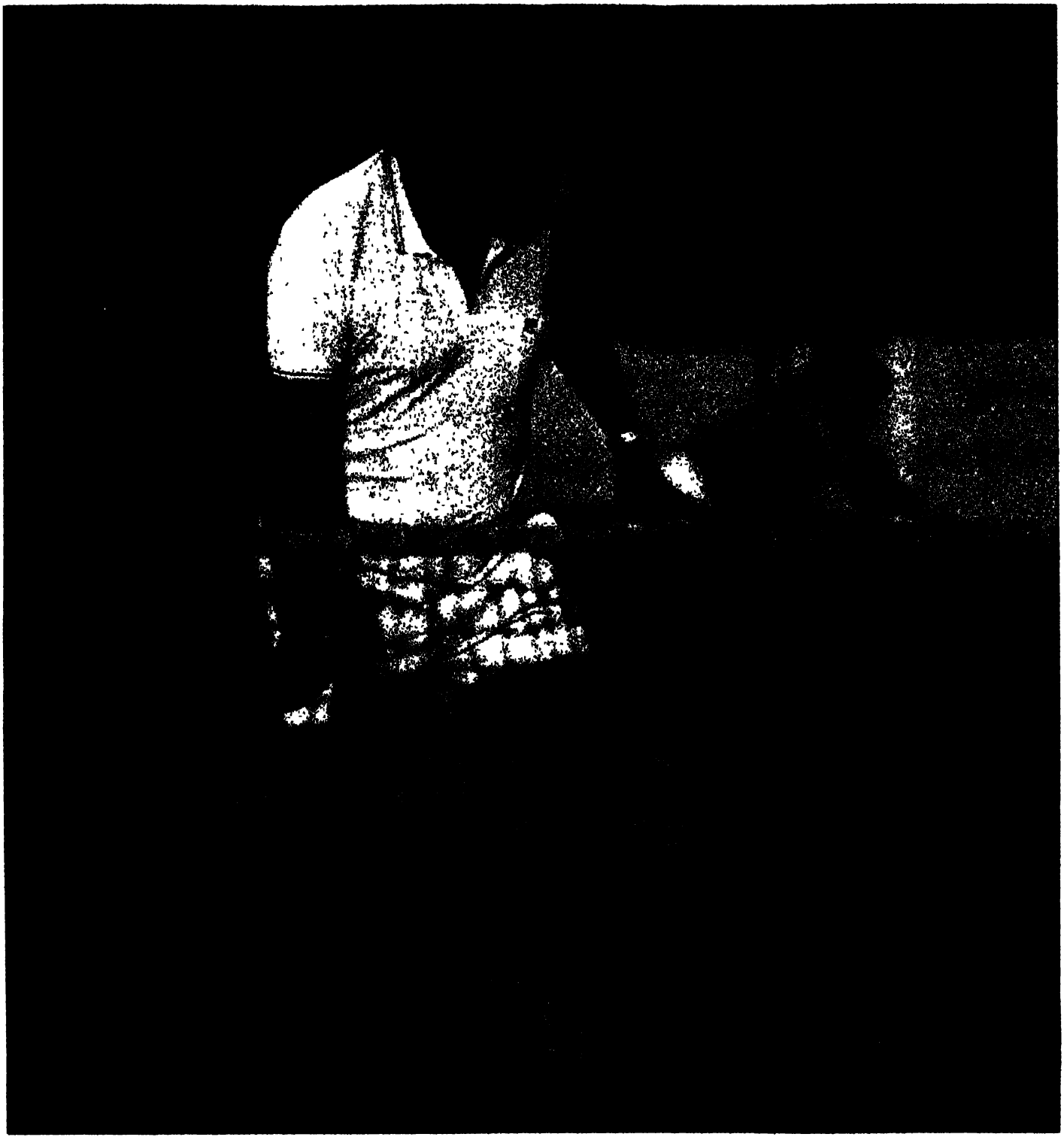
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE



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Punjab governor **Siddhartha Shankar Ray** has been preaching 'love all' in the strife-torn state, but the extremists are proving to be quite a match with their message of hate. While the government put on its sweat shirt and attempted some aces recently, the terrorists seem to prefer playing a different ball game altogether.
Photograph by RAJESH KUMAR

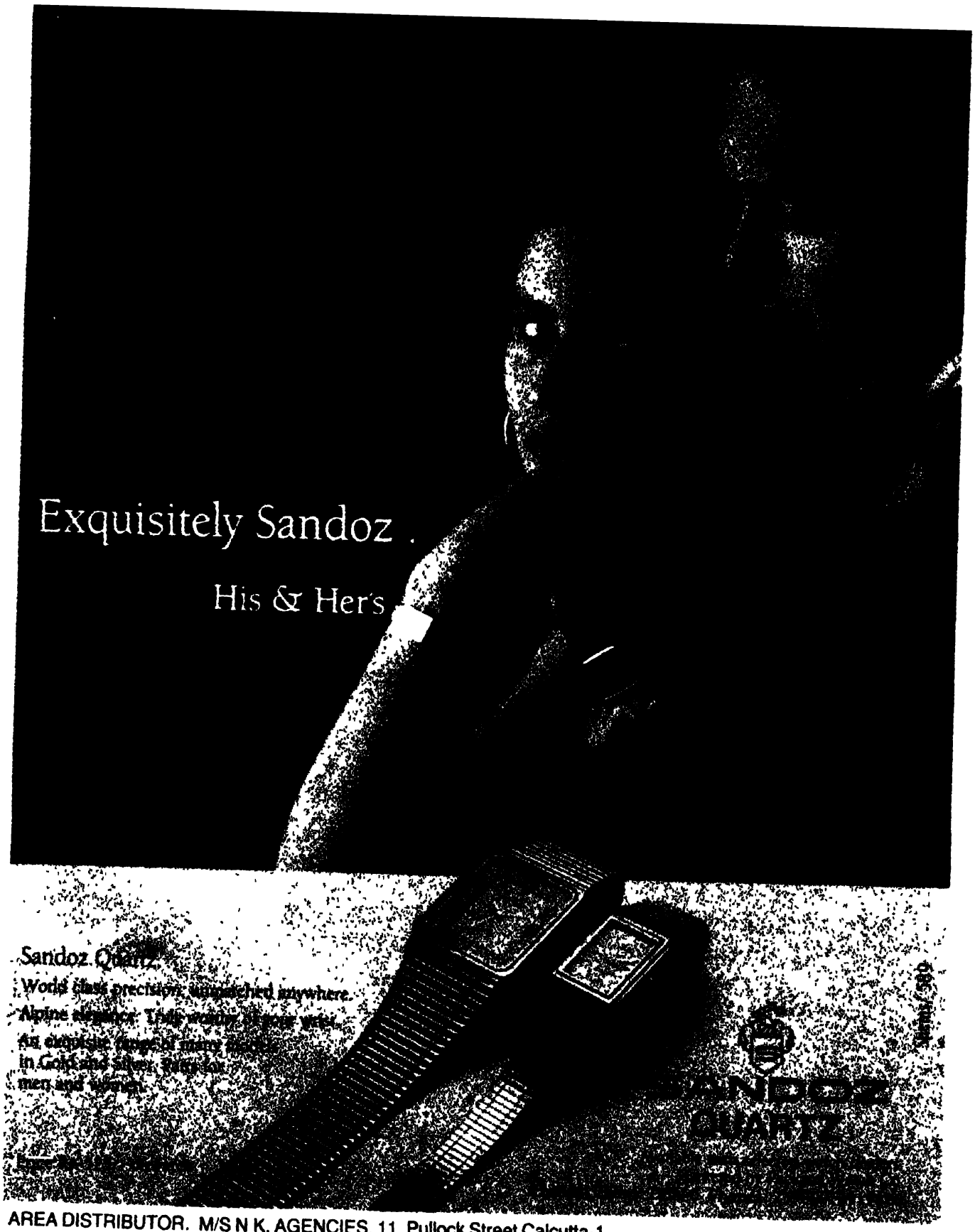
WHEN THE MEMORIES BECOME ETERNAL



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POST MORTEM

Pinch of Salt

My colleagues and I were pleased to learn about the enactment of the historic Dandi March, undertaken by Gandhiji in 1930, with which he decided to protest against the notorious provisions of the Salt Tax imposed by the British.

But even after 49 years of Independence, the people of Orissa have to bear the burden of Sales Tax imposed by the state government at the rate of four per cent on common salt, which is necessary in the daily lives of everybody, rich or poor.

The Orissa Sales Tax Law asks to levy four per cent sales tax on salt "when sold in sealed packets and containers." Firstly, salt has to be packed in containers for its transportation from the manufacturers to the selling centres. Secondly, salt is being packed in packets and containers in the interest of the consumers, to ensure that the contents are pure, refined, without soil or dust contents, unadulterated and hygenic as it is untouched by hand.

This humble organisation as well as others represented several times be- [illegible] the state government to abolish the collection of sales tax on common salt and thereby pay real tribute to the Father of the Nation, but in vain.

The people of Orissa would have been much obliged if a similar March could have been organised to Bhubaneswar, to impress upon the state government to abolish the collection of sales tax on salt.

G.L.Kedia,
General Secretary, Sambalpur Merchants Association,
Sambalpur (Orissa)

Value-based Politician

Subhranshu Gupta missed some of the important aspects of Bejoy Singh Nahar ['Mastermind', March 20]. Mr Nahar belonged to the class of value-based politicians and supported progressive and welfare programmes.

After the great Congress split in 1969, he sided with the faction led by Indira Gandhi and left the bloc led by Atulya Ghosh. He became the first president of the Naba [illegible] in West Bengal, became the deputy minister in the [illegible] [illegible] during [illegible]

[illegible] through the organisation of Emergency, the condemnation of the party and [illegible] Congress for Democracy, the leadership [illegible]



Raj, which later merged with the Janata Party.

A follower of Jainism in the Gandhian tradition, Mr Nahar all [illegible] led a simple life and preached partyless democracy.

Ajit Ranjan Ghosh,
Tarva (West Bengal)

Wrong Conclusion

We read with interest [illegible] Bhaskar Mukherjee, article, 'Red Signal' [illegible] 27). While we appreciate [illegible] effort in piecing [illegible] the facts regarding [illegible] Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) and its township, we feel that the author has come to a wrong conclusion as far as the future of CLW is concerned.

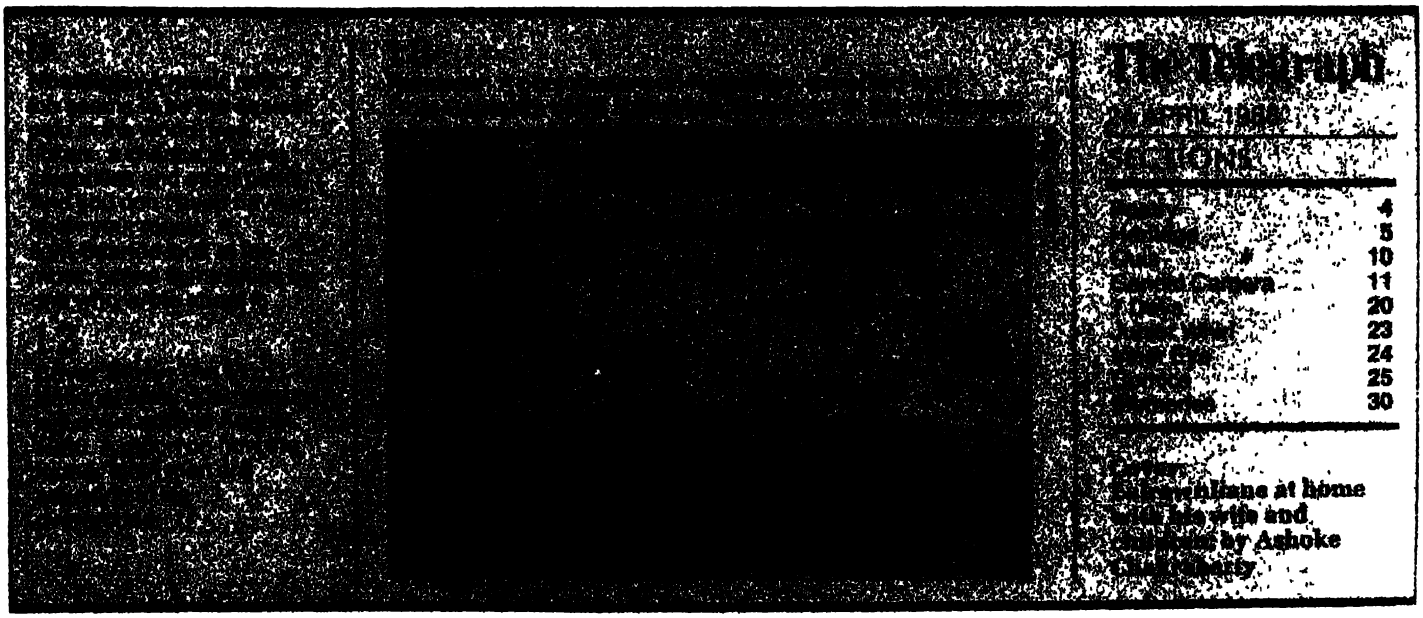
Indian Railways have already decided to import relevant technology to produce 6000 HP locomotives at CLW. There are plans to improve even the present [illegible] sign of locos by upgrading the design and manufacturing technology.

The employment potential also is nowhere near stagnation and during the last two years we have inducted about 3000 hands on our pay rolls. In the next two years, we expect to recruit more artisan, clerical and technical staff.

In all, our future appears to be healthy and secure, contrary to the conclusion drawn by Mr Mukherjee. Thus, we have a "green signal" and are going full steam ahead.

J.K. Chachra,
Chief Public Relation Officer, CLW,
Chittaranjan

CONTENTS



[illegible] 4
[illegible] 5
[illegible] 10
[illegible] Camera 11
[illegible] 20
[illegible] 23
[illegible] 24
[illegible] 25
[illegible] 30

[illegible] Kanshiram at home with [illegible] wife and [illegible] by Ashoke [illegible]

Born Free

I was born
In a crack in the concrete
Sun and rain alternated
I became a botanist's dream
Yet the guillotine is awaited by me,
For the place of my birth
Was not the coveted pot
K. Geetha Menon

My Stranger's Smile

Walking the grounds of memory, that day,
I came across a package—
gaily wrapped with yellowed yesterdays.
I opened it with impatient hands,
and found a smile—fleeting, sepia-coloured.
I remembered that yesterday,
when I was traipsing the terrain of an unacquainted street.
Suddenly I saw a stranger.
He smiled and went his way,
but the smile was left behind, crying for possession
I stole it
Years later, baby sitting for my daughter,
utterly alone, I re-lived my past—
and saw it in that smile--fleeting, sepia-coloured
A stranger's smile
My stranger's smile.
Adyasha Roy

Inhibition

Every New Year eve
I make resolutions
to shed my inhibition
and back out .
To tell you, Oh frail emaciated child
that I care
to just touch you
and let you know I'm there.

You, who sit there doubled up
shivering in your cage of ribs
savouring a handful of rotten rice
with no vestige of defeat
but a spark in your pupil
which lights up your wizened face
undaunted in poverty

I know, I can't give you a blanket
neither can I take you home
because inhibition cloud my cerebellum
I feel scared,
yet my heart weeps for you
and I fumble to reach out .

The moment of revelation
is lost forever
perhaps you might have seen
my inhibition and the feeling
that I care
even if only it is for
a fraction of a second
when our eyes briefly meet
yours defiantly
mine in shame and despair
Titisha Sarkar



Nuclear Puppets

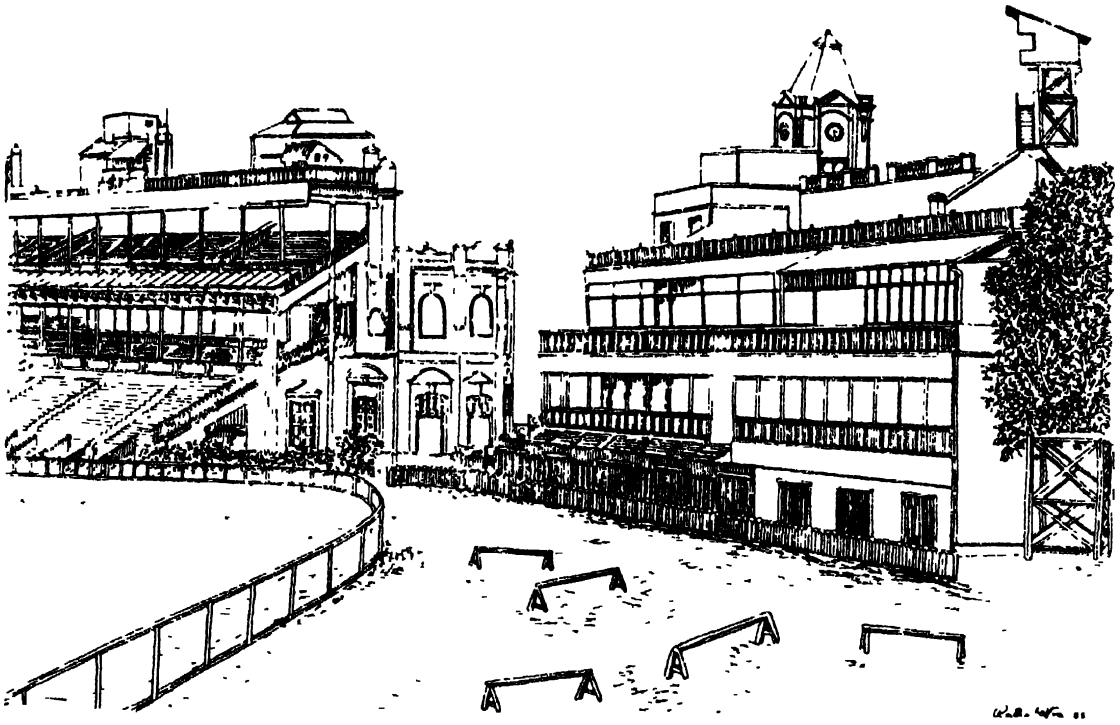
When beneath the old bridge
blood had flowed
We hoped not for a flood
but a bed of weeds—
and so it was blood soiled
weeds;
now nothing but remnants in
our scarlet memories
Ourselves we thought wiser
The bloodshed a testament
to our shattered minds and souls,
a blotter to the animal perspective
of our dual beings
We walked beyond deceiving mist,
of delusions
but the light was dazzling, we
ended in a maze of slimy stagnation
where tracks ran in circles, not lines
The past dissolved with not a trace
of residual resipiscence,
into the foggy coagulated,
passage of time,
Until one would not differentiate
between light and shade
and stumps wanted to be trees
We trudged on the path of Nemesis
to destination, catastrophe
with disdainful hearts, binary minds
Nuclear sparks proclaiming capabilities
to explosive igniting air,
amplified into staccato eruptions.
Stumps became ashes
Beneath the old bridge blood flowed
discolouring radioactive weeds
And in another place,
another time,
someeone (or was it something?)
Opens the musty burnt pages of history
It cries
It smiles (at our ignorance)
It dreams of
toy soldiers on puppet chains.
Arthur Cardozo

HERITAGE



Rathin Mitra

CALCUTTA RACE COURSE



One of the finest in the world, the Calcutta Race Course was constructed in 1819. It came under the control of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club (RCTC) in 1847. Situated at the southern end of the Maidan and bound by Victoria Memorial to the east, Lower Circular Road to the south and Kidderpore Road to the west, its remarkable feature is that a clear view of any race is possible from any position.

The course comprises the Winter, the Training and the Monsoon tracks. The racing seasons consist of four meetings, generally of 23 days each, known as the Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer meets, and are held from November to March. The Monsoon meet, of a lesser duration, is held during August and September.

There are two enclosures: the Grand and the Second. In the members' enclosure, the club stand including the box space and lawn in front, and the first floor of the reserved stand, is set apart for RCTC members and their guests.

The special interest in Calcutta racing is the Queen Elizabeth II Cup—the blue riband of the Indian turf. Besides this cup, the Trial Stakes and the Governor's Cup are some events which attract some of the finest national talent.

Since 1950 the club is equipped with an automatic totalisator. It now has various sophisticated and modern gadgets used in racing. The enclosures are provided with refreshment and service rooms and other amenities.

PLAYING IT AGAIN

A music critic's job seems to be the easiest paid one in the world. Free tickets, a chance to cut performers to size and watch celebrities from close quarters. Jack Dantes tells it like it was

Music critics are born everyday I didn't know I was a music critic myself till somebody asked me to write for a Calcutta weekly called *The Republic* This was in 1950. Ever since, I've been writing off and on for nearly 40 years on the music scene in Calcutta.

I have no musical degrees, but you don't need musical degrees to be a music critic. All you need is an extensive listening repertoire which in those days you built up with 12-inch 78s. By the time I had completed my library of some 300 12-inch 78s (mostly second-hand), I was an authority on music whether you believe it or not.

I saw my first concert pianist in 1951. His name was Richard Farrell. Extremely handsome with wavy hair and only 25. His picture was published in the advertisement for the concert and it drew a 'house full' of the prettiest stenographers in Calcutta. He was a New Zealander discovered during the war by an American GI concert pianist who arranged for his scholarship in America. At the age of 21, Farrell stormed Carnegie Hall.

It was my first sight of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in a live performance. Farrell played at such speed, his hands became invisible. After the performance, the Grand Hotel offered him Rs 1,000—then an executive's take-home pay for the month—to play this six-minute piece as a cabaret turn! Being only 25, Farrell would have been willing to try anything once, specially when cabaret turns at the Grand were all turning up from Paris. Farrell's host advised against it.

Then came the celebrated violinist Leo Cherniavsky. He used a Guarnerius violin insured for Rs 6 lakhs. I fixed up an interview with him. He was a big man, balding, with a charming smile. When he got excited, his eyes turned a mad blue. He wailed, "I can't understand why people say they don't understand classical music!" And then he exploded, "I don't understand classical music. Music is music. What is there to understand?"

At that time I was teaching myself the piano. (I had retired from piano playing at the age of ten to escape my impatient mother's lethal hair-brush.) So, I asked Cherniavsky to give a budding pianist some advice And he declared, "The quickest way to master your instrument is to watch a master play it. And if the master tells you to lift your fingers high or stick your



Zubin Mehta

elbows out—don't listen to him. He doesn't know how he's getting it himself." Maybe that's why he was called the "last of the great gypsy violinists."

And then he went on with other priceless tips: "The metronome is the secret of success. Tempo is everything. Tempo is like the reins of a race horse. You have to keep a tight control of the reins."

Writing about a performance, I did not depend too much on my musical knowledge. I only asked myself one question, "Was this concert worth two bucks?" Of course, I always got a free ticket, but sometimes a concert wasn't worth a free ticket.

From the fifties with the help of foreign consulates, we got to see some of the world's top performers. Naturally, we always got our money's worth notwithstanding free tickets. No local music critic would dare 'criticise' these concerts, he was too busy searching the thesaurus for superlatives Which reminds me of Winthrop Sargent of the *New York Times* who criticised the celebrated conductor/composer Khatchaturian after a week of conducting his own works in America. Sargent opened up with, "There is nothing to equal the garrulity and vulgarity of Khatchaturian...." Or the drama critic Alexander Woolcott when a certain Lady June had come from London to perform in New York Wrote Woolcott, after the first performance, "Oh, to be in England now that June is here."

There was, of course, one memorable European pianist who played in Calcutta. He was fat and 50. He came on beaming like a lighthouse, his big fat face all aglow, strawberry red He was obviously inebriated from the start because he seemed to be walking on eggs. Played with great aplomb, he did. Made lots of loud mistakes And the next morning, the critic of a leading daily wrote, "It was a disaster from start to finish..."

Calcutta is not noted for disasters though it is one of the most disastrously misjudged cities in the world It has been called all sorts of names Yet, Calcutta is neither a city of joy brimming over with happy impoverished slumdwellers nor is it a dying city nor merely a city of processions nor a city of pavement hawkers. These are only little bits and pieces of Calcutta unnoticed by the other little bits and pieces of Calcutta. Calcutta is simply a city of surprises, big and small. In Calcutta, you'll always find what you never expected to find. So when Calcutta can offer you a School of Music with a 104-piece Symphony Orchestra and a Spanish conductor thrown in, nothing's going to surprise you anymore—or that's what you think.

Our Calcutta School of Music, traditionally patronised by state governors since British times, had a rather venerable beginning in the twenties. One of the earliest pillars was Dr Philippe Sandre, a violin professor from the Paris Conservatoire. By the time I met him, he must've been 80. He spent a year in Darjeeling training our North Point school orchestra. I was then a 14-year-old saxophone player. Dr Sandre looked like a 19th century aristocrat complete with black string tie. He had practically lost his voice and managed to croak out his words. The piece he was trying to conduct or elicit from 20 recalcitrant boys was sup-

posed to be the deathbed scene of somebody's dying mother.

Every time my saxophone made its grand entree, Dr Sandre would croak, "Monsieur! Monsieur! Softer! Much softer!" After several such admonitions, he demanded I stuff my saxophone with a bedsheet. We compromised; we used a pillow. Being 14 and vindictive, I decided to move my fingers without blowing the instrument. And there he was again, croaking, "Softer! Softer! Much softer!" You can't teach an old dog new prejudices.

From the forties, the Calcutta School of Music organised regular concerts to popularise Western classical music in a city of bizarre tastes. The Calcutta Symphony Orchestra was once the most cosmopolitan in the world, a musical UNO. There was a cross-section of Europeans and a cross-section of the states in India. In the fifties, it became more unwieldy because the departing Europeans were replaced by a hotch-potch of local, jaded dance band musicians who were bored to death with the music and the indifferent money. The conductor was Francisco Casanovas, cousin and spitting image of the Hollywood-famous pianist, Jose Iturbi. Casanovas had worked in Spain as a virtuoso flautist and saxophonist. Possibly because musicians are most of the time jobless in Spain, he came to India to make a regular living with an old-fashioned dance band playing at the elite Firpo's. It would naturally be difficult even for a competent conductor to control such a cosmopolitan orchestra producing cosmopolitan sounds. In retrospect, I suspect Casanovas often escaped to his own ivory tower on the podium. He obviously didn't care much for the sounds of the orchestra which would be impossible to change anyway. So he conducted the music he heard in his head—making sweeping gestures which were completely ignored by the orchestra. Mind you, Casanovas successfully conducted Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with Benno Moiseiwitch at the piano, Brahms' Second Piano Concerto with Moura Lympany and other world celebrities. Somehow, there was a tacit understanding between Casanovas and these great artistes that it shouldn't matter whether there was an orchestra present or not.

After Casanovas left, another conductor appeared on the scene called 'Bunny' (Bernard) Jacob. Actually, he was a director of a large industrial house. Slim, dapper and balding at 40, 'Bunny' had this passion for conducting. It's a feeling of power that, I suppose, directors of companies get, but never have the chance to be seen using it. Now here was a chance for a company director to be seen wielding his power with a baton. Naked power. 'Bunny' helped to support the symphony orchestra financially which gave him the inalienable right to conduct it. 'Bunny' did have talent. He kept that unwieldly orchestra together, but he lacked showmanship—the prime requisite of a conductor. Like most amateur conductors, he unconsciously followed the interpretations of his favourite gramophone records.

A word about the Calcutta School of Music piano trundled out for world celebrated panists. A Borsendofer grand, it was the first insurmountable barrier that celebrities had to face. Lilli Kraus refused to play on it, but relented when she was assured that most of us were tone-deaf anyway. Baden-Skoda spent the whole morning re-assembling the piano. Louis Kentner was taken to Elliot Road to try an alternative 50-year-old Rachel grand belonging to an Anglo-Indian family. As he dropped his hands on the keyboard, an old lady screamed from the bedroom, "Who's trying to break my piano!" Kentner left in a hurry and settled for the Borsendofer.

From the time that piano was bought, it was unbalanced. The treble was brittle, the middle register was as hard as nails, the bass was much too loud. Today, it's over 30 years old and instead of depreciating, it is appreciating like an aging violin. Some piano!

On a visit to Calcutta, Clarence (Barlow) told me he had decided to go in for composing and let the performers do the work! Today, Clarence belongs to the small band of pioneers preparing the ground incognito for composers of the next generation. He'll never be rich

It was in the fifties that a Bombay violinist-conductor visited Calcutta. His name was Mehli Mehta. His son Zubin was around 15 years old, neither seen nor heard. Mehli, like a lot of fathers who produce geniuses, was himself highly ambitious. Belonging to a wealthy family, Mehli indulged his passion for music giving local violin recitals and conducting the Bombay Symphony Orchestra at his own expense. Before he came to Calcutta to play, he had taken a one-year refresher course with Zimbalist in New York. So when we heard him, he sounded as professional and polished as any foreign artiste. One of his quirks, however, was rushing back on stage almost soliciting encores—before the applause could die down. Today, he leads a renowned quartet in America. He's used to encores by now. Both father and son doing fine.

Back in 1953, a 19-year-old girl of classic beauty called Danielles was booked at the Grand to sing romantic French songs at Prince's. She made two or three appearances every night accompanied on the piano by her remarkably handsome 20-year-old husband, Jacques Charpentier. He was shorter than her, otherwise he would have been a filmstar. He offered his services to the Grand as a classical cocktail pianist at the bar in the evenings. The bar was then in the foyer—not to be confused with Oberoi Grand's present palatial lobby.

I went one evening to hear him play. Within half an hour, I knew that his repertoire consisted of only five pieces. All very noisy. An elderly British customer asked him to play Liebestraume. I could very well imagine that the customer's wife, probably a persistent pianist had been driving him crazy for a lifetime with this standard piece most popular with amateurs. She must have skipped the difficult cadenzas. So the customer now sat back to hear the real thing. I'll be damned if Jacques Charpentier did not mess it up—the cadenzas were a greater mess. He made up his own. Later, we became friends. He confided to me that he was not a pianist, he was a composer. Anyway, he got so unpopular at the foyer that he was eventually sacked. About 24 years later, around 1977, I became a member of the LP record library of Alliance Francaise. Lo and behold! there were a couple of albums with the composer's name emblazoned, Jacques Charpentier. At the back of each album was his lifesize picture. Except for a fringe of grey

hair, he hadn't changed one bit. He now holds the official post of 'Inspector General of Music' in France. No telling who your friends eventually turn out to be.

Calcutta-born Johnny Mayer, an unimpressive fellow with a lot of embarrassing tics and mannerisms, was a brilliant young violinist. He was an Anglo-Indian. He received superlative reviews for his appearances in the Calcutta School of Music Monsoon Chamber Concerts. Some 15 years later in the sixties, Johnny produced in London a top-of-the-chart instrumental disc called 'Indo-Jazz Fusions'. The first commercial record of its kind, beautifully effected with sitar, tabla and flute. A completely original concept in music. Johnny had composed it and himself played the sitar Later he visited Calcutta as a celebrity. Gone were all the tics.

A greater artiste than Johnny was his teacher, violinist Stanley Gomes, another Anglo-Indian. When Jascha Heifetz visited Calcutta in 1930 and heard the teenage Stanley play, he declared, "This boy has genuine talent He should be sent abroad to the very best teachers " It was not to be. Stanley did not hit the jackpot like his pupil Johnny, but he played for decades as concert master for the Calcutta Symphony Orchestra and made a living as a violinist, saxophone and clarinet player in a dance band In the latter part of his career, he went into the oblivion of the Bombay Hindi film world before settling for peaceful retirement in the UK

Clarence Barlow, also an Anglo-Indian, had passed his LTCL for piano (gold medallist) but discovered the joys of composing This was in the sixties Very modern compositions which he worked out with the help of calculus. The MaxMuellerBhavan sent his compositions to Cologne where the Radio Cologne Symphony performed them Max Mueller Bhavan then sponsored Clarence for further studies in West Germany There, Clarence decided to take piano lessons from the country's top pianist By the third lesson, the pianist told Clarence that the piano was not his bag Some time later, Clarence went to a concert of his own compositions when he met his piano teacher in the front row. The famous pianist told his girlfriend, "Imagine! I was trying to teach this brilliant composer the piano " On a visit to Calcutta, Clarence told me he had decided to go in for composing and let the performers do the work! Today, Clarence belongs to that small band of pioneers preparing the ground incognito for composers of the next generation. He'll never be rich.

Another notable personality was Liesl Stary. She was the daughter of the conductor of the pre-war Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. During the war, she was in a British concentration camp in India A trained concert pianist, her playing had a glass-like brilliance. Liesl was very petite, with small hands and a pretty face spoiled by the hint of a sneer. As she was the only concert pianist in the country, she was inclined to look down her short little nose at us lesser mortals. But nobody could fault her thrilling performances. It is said that one needs 11 fingers to play Rachmaninoff's concertos. In which case, Liesl needed three hands Yet, she gave a flawless



Richard Farrell

performance of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto I always felt she had a touch of class as a performer and the only reason I suppose she never hit the top was because the rising generation of teenage pianists (abroad) could play just as brilliantly. Later, Liesl became a concert manager in London On the roster of her clientele was the world renowned Peter Katin who also played in Calcutta.

There was one budding local concert painist with genuine talent. Gisele Guillaume, Pondicherry French, was only 15 years old when she stood first in India in the Licentiate of the Trinity College of London (LTCL) exams. As she was a French subject, she went on a scholarship in 1939 to Paris to study with the great Alfred Cortot. A few weeks later World War II broke. Poor Gisele worked hard the rest of the war, burning music books to survive those European winters. She did go through a course of lessons with Cortot, but had to complete her studies by herself. Her talent being natural-born, it was easy for her to blow us over with the Liszt Concerto in 1946 at her Calcutta debut. She had what is called the "gift of melody."Her performance would ring in your ears for days.

It was Gisele who accompanied Leo Cherniavsky. He was impressed by her musicianship and powers of instant sight-reading. Then there was the time she played the Emperor Concerto (Beethoven) with the Calcutta Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Francisco Casanovas. From the opening chord, it was obvious that the sostenuto ('loud') pedal was stuck and until it came unstuck the sounds would reverberate with each successive chord swallowing up all subsequent sounds Casanovas on this occasion was way up on the podium in his ivory tower He was not aware that chaos was underway or under him. In the spirit of 'the show must go on', Gisele carried on piling up the sounds under which the orchestra sank Titanic style. After this calamitous but interesting first movement, Providence in the form of a piano repair man came up from the audience. Had all three movements been performed with the pedal stuck, it would have made the Guinness Book of Records.

Gisele later emigrated to Australia where she established her own school of music at Kempsey, New South Wales, which stages every year a students' concert for charity (One of her pupils won a grand piano at a national contest) Sample tapes of these concerts prove that she is certainly succeeding in spreading the Cortot school of virtuosity and the influence of her own innate musicianship.

Tribute must be paid to the persistent amateurs who kept the Monsoon Chamber concerts going for these 40 years There were the Madan sisters, the persistent violinist Khorshed and the persistent pianist Mani, who played sonatas and quartettes galore for nearly two decades. Perhaps the most persistent veteran has been pianist Adi Gazder. A paediatrician by profession, he has taken part in concerts and broadcasts for an unbroken period of some 40 years. He has enjoyed some peak moments with a performance of Beethoven's First Piano Concerto at a doctors' conference abroad and in Calcutta. He has also served as accom-

panist to some celebrated soloists of other instruments. Even if they never reach professional heights, it is their love of music and enthusiasm that makes them so persistent and welcome. Special mention must be made of Roshan Chawna who is the only piano virtuoso in Calcutta and professional to her fingertips.

Every winter for four decades, Calcutta has enjoyed a continuous feast of performances by visiting violin, piano, cello, guitar, flute and lute celebrities. Eugene Liszt, the 'Potsdam' pianist who played for Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. Eileen Joyce, the glamour queen of the keyboard, whose performances rate her with the topmost pianists, male or female. Grant Johanssen, a giant of a man who also featured as a judge in important international piano contests Isaac Stern who played at 6 pm while his performance in a film portraying the great violinist Ysaye took place at 9 pm in the same theatre (New Empire)

From Yugoslav choirs to Gospel singers to Marian Anderson to Black singers belting out Broadway melodies to Yehudi Menuhin, the Bolshoi Ballet, Martha Graham, the London Symphony, Zubin Mehta, to mention a few –Calcutta hasn't missed much.

Some of the International Jazz Fests brought in the best jazz groups in the world Our own versatile pianist Louis Banks jammed in with these greats At one festival, the chief guest was Willis Conover, the 'Voice of America'. Over beer backstage, he confided to me that all this modern jazz was beyond him. One young Polish jazz sax player told Conover that he had been listening to his programmes since he was only "that high" lowering his hand knee-high, whereupon Conover gently raised the fellow's hand a foot higher. This was 1978 which marked his 23rd year of broadcasting He was 57

I once covered a series of lecture demonstrations on British composers by Peter Davies, director of the British Council Division. On his reference to Elgar's life, he said that Elgar "suddenly fell silent in the last 20 years of his life." Which, Mr Davies wryly commented in an aside, was also the case with the Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius, who stopped composing in the last 40 years of his life (died at 90) after his family finally managed to get him "off the bottle". And Davies sagely added, "There may be some kind of moral here." The next morning after this report appeared, Davies received an indignant phone call from a woman, the only Finnish resident in Calcutta. How dare he insinuate that Sibelius was a drunkard! Davies ruefully blamed me for publishing a bona fide aside, but we both agreed that there was "some kind of moral here."

Came the eighties and the new director of Max Mueller Bhavan, Dr K. Nagel (PhD, Mus) brought new life to the musical world of Calcutta Dr Nagel is a man of extraordinary versatility He was trained as a concert violinist and conductor He happens to be an extremely knowledgeable jazz buff and is a first-rate jazz double bass player who would unexpectedly jam in with the locally celebrated Arthur Gracias and his band on stage and in broadcasts. On the other hand, Dr Nagel arranged live concerts by top classical and jazz award-winning performers from Germany And again, on the other hand, he himself created a local symphony orchestra which comprised mainly Rev Mathieson's Oxford Mission School of young Bengali talent. Dr Nagel made a recording of Viennese waltzes with his local symphony orchestra which turned out to be as polished as any competent young orchestra in the West. Most of the young players were trained by Rev. Mathieson, himself an accomplished cellist Incidentally, one of Rev Mathieson's pupils to emerge in the eighties as a celebrity in England was cellist Anup Biswas.

Writing about a performance, I did not depend too much on my musical knowledge. I only asked myself one question, 'Was this concert worth two bucks?' Of course, I always got a free ticket, but sometimes a concert wasn't worth a free ticket

Nineteen eighty-four, Orwell's year, turned out to be a spectacular year for music lovers in India Zubin Mehta made his debut in Delhi with his 100-piece New York Philharmonic Orchestra. In Calcutta where he performed later, we saw his debut on TV Indira Gandhi was the chief guest Zubin presented Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto with 24-year-old Gavin Martin, a Goan, at the piano I had last seen Gavin Martin in 1972 in Delhi At that time I was giving piano recitals for schools in Delhi when an attractive young lady introduced herself to me, "I'm Shiela Martin I would like you to hear my 12-year-old son play." And without much further ado she took me to her place There I met this lanky boy in short pants Quite skinny altogether His name was Gavin He immediately plunged into a Beethoven sonata as if his life depended on it His technique was highly accurate at any speed and I thought to myself if I could have played a Beethoven sonata like that at the age of 12, I would have been a great pianist by now. I told his mother he was definitely exceptional but for his flailing arms and other histrionics He must stop imitating Rubinstein And then he followed up with 'Tico Tico' just as flawlessly.

And now, 12 years later, I was watching the same Gavin, still skinny, but very handsome, playing under the baton of Zubin Mehta with the awesome New York Philharmonic Orchestra Gavin had won competitive scholarships to England and then America where he eventually won an American national award for young talent Gavin's performance of the Beethoven concerto was very incisive In this competitive game of piano, a great deal of luck is needed Listening to a recording of 23-year-old Van Cliburn's spectacular Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto which won him the Moscow contest or the 22-year-old Askernazy who also won the Moscow contest at a later date—with pianists of this calibre coming up every year, I don't envy Gavin Martin Being very handsome and all things being equal as I've read, concert managers there look for sex appeal So anything spectacular can still be on the cards for Gavin The quickest short cut for him would be winning the Moscow or the Leventritt Prize contest (New York)

Apart from heady cocktail parties there's so much that makes the life of a music critic interesting (on and off) After all, the easiest thing to do is to criticise somebody else's performance the easiest paid job in the world The music critic may not be able to play any instrument, but he does find it much more fun performing on paper It's a smug way of life You gotta be born smug ■

QUIZ



Neil O'Brien

Bijoy Kumar Sahoo, Keonjhar (Orissa), asks about the Boer War.

On October 11, 1899, the Boer War broke out in South Africa between Great Britain and the Dutch settlers (Boers) in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Trouble had been brewing ever since a gold strike in the Transvaal had drawn some 50,000 Europeans, mostly British, into the once peaceful farmland.

The Transvaal President, Oom Paul Kruger, welcomed the riches brought by the mines, but sought to preserve Boer dominance in the area by taxing the Uitlanders (outlanders) heavily and denying them participation in local government. When the war finally broke out, the Boers stood ready with



Manoj Kumar Tuli

50,000 mounted infantry to take on the might of the British Empire. High morale, good supply lines, superior mobility, and knowledge of the terrain all worked to the Boers' advantage, and they scored some initial victories. But by June, 1900, British reinforcements under Gen Lord Kitchener had routed the last of the Boer armies That should have been the end of it. But then Her Majesty's forces came up against something beyond its military experience—in fact no European power had encountered it before—a spontaneous native resistance movement. For the next two years, small bands of Boer guerrillas, dressed in mufti, harassed Kitchener's men one day, only to melt into the households of sympathetic farmers the next. These were the kommandos—a new term to make an entry in the language of warfare.

To quell the rebellion once and for all Kitchener herded 120,000 Boers into concentration camps (another word first used in this war) and put to torch everything of military value. No fewer than 20,000 inmates died in these camps, mostly from disease. The tactic worked, and with the Treaty of Vereeniging (May 31, 1902), the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were annexed to British South Africa, though they were promised, and later given independence. The war cost Britain 22,000 dead, £222 million, and, when horror stories of the concentration camps reached Europe, prestige. The real losers, however, were the Black Africans, who were forced to watch White men squabble over their land, assured only that, whoever won, life for Black Africans would remain unchanged.

Sutanu Mukherjee, New Delhi 66, has sent a list of people who made it big under other names:

Richard Starkey (Ringo Starr), Walker Smith (Sugar Ray Robinson), Michael Shalouz (Omar Sharif), Henry John Deutchendorf Jr. (John Denver), Natasha Gurdin (Natalie Wood), Marion Morrison (John Wayne), Thomas Conner (Sean Connery), Norma Jones Baker (Marilyn Monroe), Reginald Dwight (Elton John), Archibald Leach (Cary Grant), Frances Gumm (Judy Garland), Charles Anderson (Chuck Berry), Harry Lillis (Bing Crosby), Hugh Anthony Cregg IV (Huey Lewis), Eric Blair (George Orwell), Issur Demensky (Kirk Douglas), Leslie King Jr. (Gerald Ford), Roy Scherer Jr. (Rock Hudson), Gertrude Telle (Mata Hari), Manoj Kumar Tuli (Kumar Gaurav), Magdalene Losch (Marlene Deitrich), Jacopo Robusti (Tinteretto), Shivaji Rao Garkund (Rajnikant), Roberta Joan Anderson (Joni Mitchell), Maurice Micklewhite (Michael Caine).



Norma Jones Baker

CBS

11th Question: **In British aristocratic society who are euphemistically referred to as "Undercover Naturalists"? (Niresh D. Pande, 3D Kanchanjunga Apartment, 5 B Robinson Street, Calcutta 17.)**
Ans: **People who wear no undergarments beneath their overclothes. They are also referred to as U.N.Os.**

QUESTIONS

1. What is common to Susanna, Judith and Hamnet? (Animesh Bhattacharya, Howrah)
2. From which metal is the Davis Cup made and how much does it weigh? (Shivani Pugalia, Hind Motor 33)
3. What is graphology? (Vinay Kumar Rastogi, BIT Sindri)
4. The Torres Strait and the Bass Strait separate which islands from the mainland of Australia? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
5. Who is the author of *So Near Yet So Far?* (Dharmendra Nath, Guwahati)
6. What is a White Night? (Manoj Kumar Singh, BIT Sindri)
7. Which actress's autobiography is entitled *Changing?* (Anuradha Kaimal, Calcutta 27)
8. Who were the original "Brains Trust"? (Rongon Neogi, Calcutta 1)
9. Whose last words were: "This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you"? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)
10. In the latest Sherlock Holmes film, *Sherlock and Me,* who plays Dr Watson? (Rakesh N Aman, BIT Sindri)

ANSWERS

1. They are William Shakespeare's children.
2. It is made of silver and weighs 7.166 kg.
3. The art of estimating character from handwriting.
4. Papua New Guinea and Tasmania,respectively.
5. Bobby Robson, the manager of the English soccer team at the Mexico World Cup Soccer, after the controversial defeat against Argentina.
6. A sleepless night.
7. Liv Ullman.
8. The nickname for a group of economists and businessmen in the US who were official advisors to President Franklin Roosevelt.
9. The Marquis De Sade.
10. Ben Kingsley. In this film, the role of Dr Watson and Sherlock Holmes are interchanged. That is, Sherlock is dumb while Dr Watson is intelligent.



What drove **Maninder Singh** to flight one to colleague Manoj Prabhakar, one will never know But the result was that the Delhi cricketing authorities saw a chink in his armer and fined both Maninder and Manoj on disciplinary grounds. And maybe he missed the recent Sharjah contest, too, because of that. This young cricketer, we hope, will steer clear of gamesmanship in future.
Photograph by PRADEEP MANDHANI

COVER STORY

AFTER THE INSURGENCY

As part of the accord between Mizo National Front chief Laldenga and the Union government, 580 guerrillas of the Mizo National Army laid down arms in August 1986. What are these former MNA men doing today? How are they adjusting to life overground? Saumitra Banerjee reports. Photographs by Ashoke Chakrabarty

Outside a modest house in the heart of Aizawl, the rather oversized nameplate reads: "Lalrawnliana, Colonel, Ex, Mizo National Army, Bungkawn, Aizawl." Lalrawnliana's record is formidable: As the head of the tactical headquarters of the MNA, the armed wing of the Mizo National Front (MNF), based in the jungles of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Bangladesh, he has been credited with successfully carrying out "operations" against the tough and trained Indian armed forces. Army sources describe him as a shrewd and ruthless commander who has seldom hesitated in killing people in cold blood in the 20 years that he has spent underground.

Inside the sparsely furnished house sits a middle-aged man with a slight pot belly, wearing a red *puan* (a Mizo *lungi*) a blue sleeveless vest, shoes and socks, and a large watch on his wrist As we step into the house, he gets up and approaches us. Stretching out a hand he says, "I'm Lalrawnliana Nice to meet you." The fatigues that he wore in the jungles are gone; the gun that he carried has been surrendered to the government; and the hard life of living underground in the jungles seems to be fading into the past. Today, Colonel Lalrawnliana is a businessman, living in reasonable comfort with his wife and children and generally learning to appreciate the pleasures of life

"I have to attend a dinner party tonight," he tells us as we settle down on the sofas, and then proceeds to explain the scheme he has drawn up for setting up a water heater manufacturing unit with a Rs 3.5-lakh loan from the Zoram Industrial Development Corporation. Then suddenly, as though sensing our thoughts, he quickly says, "Oh, well, its a long way from the jungles, but we have to do something now that we have come overground after all these years of fighting."

Lalrawnliana, along with about 580 MNF men, came overground in mid-1986, shortly after Laldenga signed the Mizoram accord with the Centre. One of the terms of the accord was that all the MNF men who were underground would have to come overground and surrender their arms. In return, the Union government, according to the terms of the accord, agreed to "take steps for the resettlement of underground MNF personnel coming overground after considering the schemes proposed in this regard by the government of Mizoram."

After returning to "civilisation", one of Lalrawnliana's first decisions, like that of many others in the MNF, was to jump into politics. "Since we spent our entire lives in the jungles (the MNA tactical headquarters was at Rangamati in the CHT), we hardly have any experience in anything Naturally, the choice before us was very limited." Unfortunately for Lalrawnliana, his foray into politics did not meet with much success. He contested the Assembly elections as an MNF candidate, but lost to former Congress(I) chief minister Lalthanhawla. "It was then that I decided to start my business with help from the government I am surviving, as you can see," the former MNF colonel says.

But despite the apparent ease with which he seems to be leading his life now, he still looks back fondly at the years he spent in the jungles. "Even though I am doing business today and I intend to return to politics, in practical life I am a soldier; it is difficult for me to lead a normal life. Despite all the difficulties in the jungles, there was a certain charm about it," he says, adding, "We are not properly educated and we are used to living with arms; that is what we enjoyed doing." Then, reflecting on his decision to come overground, he says, "When I heard about the agreement I was in the jungles and was not satisfied with its

At work at the Remna Run rehabilitation camp



terms and conditions. Since 1966, when the MNF decided to fight for Mizoram's secession from India, our goal was total freedom. Anyway, for the sake of peace we agreed, even though we did not know what the future would hold for us. But with help from the government, we are now on our feet."

Help for the returnees came in the form of Rs 20,000 each as a rehabilitation grant, Rs 2,000 each during the initial two months that they spent at the Remna Run(literally the"house of peace") rehabilitation camp, free plots of land in Aizawl, contracts and jobs in the government. And Rs 40,000 each was promised for house-building

Says Lalnithanga, a former lance corporal in the MNA, "We might miss the life underground and things might be quite different from what it was in the jungles, but at least we are not starving But what I really want now is a job in the government. I have been trying for it, but have not met with much success so far"

But R Malsawama has been luckier. He is among the 300-odd MNA men to have been absorbed into the state government From a private in the Mizo National Army (MNA) to a constable in the Mizoram state police, his journey into "civilisation" has been remarkable



Rehabilitation minister Tawnluia

"I didn't know what job I would get, since I did not have any qualification So when I was offered a job in the police force, I readily accepted it After all, I do know how to operate a gun?" he says. How did it feel to join the force that had had its guns trained on him and his colleagues just two years ago? Malsawama considers this question, and then says almost in a philosophical manner, "A job is a job Even underground in the jungles of CHT, I was working hard Today in the police I am working as hard for a living So how does it matter? I have no problems here and my colleagues treat me well Besides, where else could I have had a job?"

But what about his dream of an independent Mizoram that had prompted him to leave his village at the age of 15 and spend his life in the jungles? "Well, it was the decision of our leaders and I am quite happy with it. At least life is better here than in the jungles," Malsawama says, adding, "I feel a lot has been done for us by the rehabilitation department of the government"

Colonel Tawnluia, former chief of the MNA and confidant of Mr Laldenga during his years underground, sits in a leather-backed chair He wears a suit and a red necktie and easily reveals his newfound prosperity

He is now the minister for rehabilitation in the MNF government, entrusted with the welfare of the 580 MNF men who came overground in 1986 "The boys," he says, referring to the MNF men," are a very good lot and we are trying to do as much as we can to help them More than 300 of them have been given jobs in the government, all of them have been given land, free of cost in Aizawl, a number of them have been given contracts In addition, they have already been given

RCA members in their office



Rs 22,000 each and an additional Rs 40,000 house building grant is awaiting Delhi's sanction "

Explaining the rehabilitation scheme Mr Tawnluia says that the first plan was drawn up in 1985, when Mizoram was a Union Territory with a Congress(I) government The "peace talks" between Mr Laldenga and the Centre were on at that time According to this scheme it was decided that an initial cash grant of Rs 2,000 and a maintenance grant of Rs 1000 would be given to each of the MNF returnees for two months-- essentially during their stay at the rehabilitation camp It was also decided that there would be a rehabilitation grant of Rs 20,000 and a housing grant of Rs 5,000. However, the MNF refused to accept the amount which was being given for housing

Mr Tawnluia said that the MNF, while agreeing to all the other proposals for the rehabilitation of MNF returnees, insisted that Rs 50,000 be given to each MNF guerrilla who surrendered. The home ministry, according to the rehabilitation minister, suggested that this proposal be submitted during the term of the Congress(I)--MNF coalition ministry. This was done as soon as the coalition government was formed. However, the Centre did not find the proposal acceptable Mr Tawnluia said that in June last year a fresh proposal was submitted to the home ministry, where the housing grant was brought down to Rs 40,000. The Centre, according to Mr Tawnluia, is still considering this The home ministry, however, maintains that the amount which is under its consideration is Rs 30,000

Today this has become a matter of a major controversy in Mizoram with the MNF alleging that the rehabilitation of the guerrillas has not been completed simply because the "Centre has not kept its word." Talking to The Telegraph, Mizoram's chief minister, Mr Laldenga, said, "It is the Centre's fault that the housing amount, agreed to by the Centre has not been paid yet " He warned, "I shall not be responsible if my boys slip back into the jungles again " (see box)

Similar sentiments are also voiced by some other former MNA men Lalbiakmawia, a former private in the MNA, told this correspondent, "I think the state government is doing all that it can. It is because of MrLaldenga that I have a contract and I am working today But of all the promises that were made to us, one remains unfulfilled· the house building grant that was promised to us has not yet come through We have been given our half *bigha* at Muamual, but how do we construct our houses? We can't say what we are going to do if our housing grant does not come through " The threat is apparent.

If Lalbiakmawia is upset about the housing grant, government contracts are bothering others. In an effort to provide the MNF returnees with employment and a source of livelihood, the state government provided a number of them with contracts—either for road repairs or for constructing buildings. Others were given permits to run taxis. However,there was one problem; the MNF men, freshly returned from the jungles, did not have ready cash to invest. In fact, what they wanted more were loans to start their businesses But only a few fortunate ones, mostly from the senior ranks of the MNA, like Col Lalrawnliana, got loans. The rest got permits and contracts but no working capital. So, a large number of them decided to "sell" the contracts and permits. They handed over the papers and documents to wealthy investors in return for a consideration. Says a private in the MNA who did not want to be named for fear that his taxi permit would be confiscated, "I did not know what to do with my permit.

THE NOWHERE MEN

They are known as the "Blues"— the 3590 MNF men who came overground between 1986 and 1986, but before the Mizoram accord. It is a derogatory Mizo reference to someone who is neither black nor white. Obviously, the inference is that the "Blues" were neither loyal to the Indian government nor to Mr. Laldenga. Today, the "Blues" are a bitter lot: they feel that they should have been given a better deal by the government, especially when compared to the incentives offered to the MNF men who laid down arms after the Mizoram accord. In fact, the 2,000 MNF men who came overground before 1972 were given nothing as Mizoram then was a part of Assam. After 1972, when Mizoram became a Union Territory, the MNF men who surrendered to the government of India were offered either agricultural land or Rs 9,720, while others were given industrial loans of Rs 13,500 each.

Apart from this, they were given an initial cash grant of Rs 1,000 each. Said Bualhranga who went underground in 1966 but surfaced in 1971, "It is not that we are interested in money or incentives—in fact we fought for a cause—but we feel we should have been treated better. We joined the MNF and went underground because we felt we were being neglected. A second thing is that we were told that we would be given [illegible] our case. But [illegible] for [illegible] for [illegible] have been given.

decided to come overground and help the Mizo people. So we should be treated like those who surrendered after 1986. In fact, it was the lack of proper rehabilitation schemes that discouraged younger elements from coming overground earlier."

Reflecting on his decision to come overground, Bualhranga said, "To go underground is not difficult since one is charged with emotions at that time, but to come over-



Bualhranga

[illegible]

To buy a taxi would cost about Rs 70,000. From where would I get that kind of money? I have spent my entire life in the jungles of the Chittagong Hill Tracts as part of the MNF. So I gave my permit to a taxi operator who in return gave me a couple of thousands of rupees. Now he runs the taxi in my name--the profits are his "Another MNA man who was given a contract by the government for road repairs "sold" it to an established contractor, for: "Where is the money to buy the raw materials and pay the labourers?"

However, some MNF men sold their contracts simply because they wanted the money to have a good time: liquor flowed and the party went on for days But when it finally ended and the haze had cleared, they realised that they neither had contracts nor money. In desperation, a few of them even tried returning to the Remna Run rehabilitation camp

Perched on top of a hill, the Remna Run rehabilitation camp, about five km from Aizawl, wears a sleepy look these days. Most of the MNF men have left either for their villages or for Aizawl in search of employment. Only 25 MNF men, along with their families live here today. They do not want to return to their villages but after years in the jungles they are ill-equipped to make the shift to Aizawl either There are a few families who enjoy living at the camp and would be happy to just stay on.

Sangthang, a former sergeant in the MNA, who left for the jungles at the age of 15, is one of them. Living in his wooden house covered with an aluminium sheet, at the rehabilitation camp, Sangthang says it is "almost like living in heaven " The former sergeant, who is living at the camp with his wife and child, says that life in the jungles was "horrible". He recalls, "In 1972 I had an accident in the jungles and I came back to my village to recover. There I got married and after some time I decided to return to the CHT along with my wife. While in the jungles I had two children and both of them died because there was no one to treat them, there were no medicines. Here life so much simpler."

However, Major Rukhuma (former MNA men still refer to each other by their ranks) who is living at the Remna Run camp does not agree. "Life in the jungles was so simple," he says, "while life here is so corrupt."

"In the jungles there was brotherhood among us. We shared so much, but people here only say things, they never mean anything In the jungle



Children playing in the Remna Run camp



'IF THEY GO BACK TO THE JUNGLES I WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE'

Excerpts from an interview with the Mizoram chief minister, Mr Laldenga.

On the steps being taken to rehabilitate the MNF men who have come overground:

The state government has given plots of land to all the MNF returnees to construct houses and we have also given them Rs 22,000 each for rehabilitation. Another Rs 40,000 have been earmarked for each of them to enable them to construct houses. However, it is regrettable that the Union home ministry has not yet advanced this sum of money despite the fact that the provision for this was made a year ago. So now the great problem that the state government is facing is that those who were underground and do not have houses, are becoming restive and dissatisfied. We are somehow keeping them together. But if things continue to go this way, I will not be surprised if some of them slip back into the jungles, because that is the only way of life that they know. The problem of these people, his people more correctly, is that they have spent a greater part of their lives, a better part of their lives, in the jungles where they had power because they were armed. But if the goodwill vanishes, they can raid into the villages and force anyone to do whatever they want. Now, many of the persons who have come overground believe that they have not been treated right.

On why the housing grant has not been paid to them:

I don't know why the Union home ministry is taking so long in releasing the housing grant. If they slip back into the jungles, believe me I won't be responsible, because it is the home ministry that is responsible. There is no reason why they should delay so long.

On how the MNF men are adjusting to life overground:

There have been no difficulties so far and they have adjusted themselves to life overground very well so far. But with this dissatisfaction stemming from the non-payment of the house building grant, one never knows what they will do. They have to maintain themselves, but when they do not have any tool over their hands what can you expect from them? They are the essential needs of every person and they have to be fulfilled.

On what the chief minister is doing to get the grant released:

Every month I personally write a letter to the home minister, but there is no response. The only response that I get is that the matter is being looked into. I believe the home ministry is dragging its feet in the matter.

there were times when we went without food for days, but we were still happy. Here that love for each other, that common understanding is missing."

Though Rukhuma has brothers living at Tlangpui village in Mizoram, he does not want to return. "Since I have come overground I might as well try and make some money here in Aizawl. What will I do in the village?" he asks.

Rukhuma, who is living with this family at the camp, today earns a living by doing contract work. But he, like Lalrawnliana, wants to do business. "That is where the money is and that is what I want to do. Sometimes when there is no contract work to be done I go to Calcutta, buy things and sell them here," he says, and adds, "I think by and large I am getting along okay."

But Zachuanga, a lieutenant of the



MNA, seems to be having a better time "Maybe I don't have work all the time, but I am happier here than I was in the jungles You do feel like leading a proper life which is what we are doing here, even in this camp"

Does the scene appear to be extremely rosy?

Well, not quite

On October 17, 1987, the Remna Run Chauk Association (RCA- an association of MNF returnees living at the rehabilitation camp) came into existence primarily to give voice to the grievances of the former MNA men Unhappy with the treatment that they were getting, the RCA, which claims a membership of 500 former MNA men (the actual figure, however, appears to be much less) submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, on January 4 this year, which said "It is an irony of fate that no specific provision has been made for our rehabilitation in the memorandum of settlement We have thus been compelled to meet under seething poverty (sic) You would be aware that most of us do not have adequate education and cannot have many choices for the line of our rehabilitation Our primary need is food and shelter The state government has repeatedly announced that it would disburse the money to us for construction of our houses But all these have become but pious hopes till today You would share with us that hope deferred always makes the heart sick and our friends should not be allowed to be driven to the fringe of absolute frustration and disillusionment The memorandum was signed by R Zoluna, chairman of the RCA, and C Vanlalruata, its general secretary



Lalrawnliana outside his house

The resentment of the RCA, it appears, is not merely against the non-implementation of the housing grant A member of the RCA, who preferred amonymity, says, "Lalhlimpuii who joined the MNF just before the election in 1987, is today a minister Mr H Rammawi, who won the Assembly election on a People's Conference ticket, and then switched to the MNF, is today a minister in Laldenga's Cabinet How can we who have fought for the MNF beat this when today, for the sake of politics, we are being ignored?" However, not all those who joined the MNA are critical of Mr Laldenga Says V L Rengliana, the vice-chairman of the RCA, "Our organisation is meant to solve the problems of the returnees We are not a political party, we simply try and solve the problems of our friends. But we do believe that the state government is trying to solve our problems, which is mainly providing employment to us Some people have been taken into the government Others, we hope, would also be employed. We can say that some of us have settled down in our new environment"

But for most of them, the journey into a new life has just begun and a number of them are still taking their first faltering steps into a world till now unkown to them This is a difficult period of adjustment As 28 year old Rengliana says, "Most people of our generation have never known what it is like to stay in a town with people all around us We have grown up in the jungles and know the laws of that land Sometimes I feel very lonely Our hopes and dreams have suddenly changed Christ knows what the future holds for us" ■

hang with his family: 'A life in heaven'



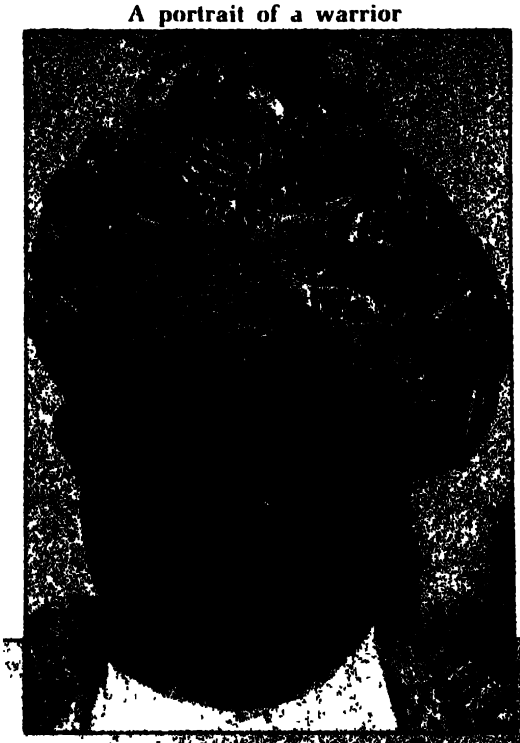
AN INDIA IN THE SUN

The lakes, the battlegrounds, the glittering palaces, the leaping fountains, the endless desert: all this ,and more, is Rajasthan. **Gopi Gajwani** captures the various moods and moments in the 'land of extremes'

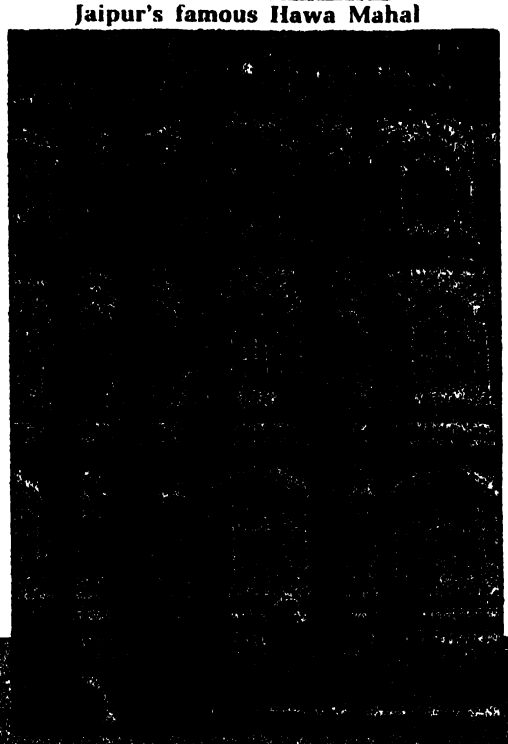


A natural grace for beauty

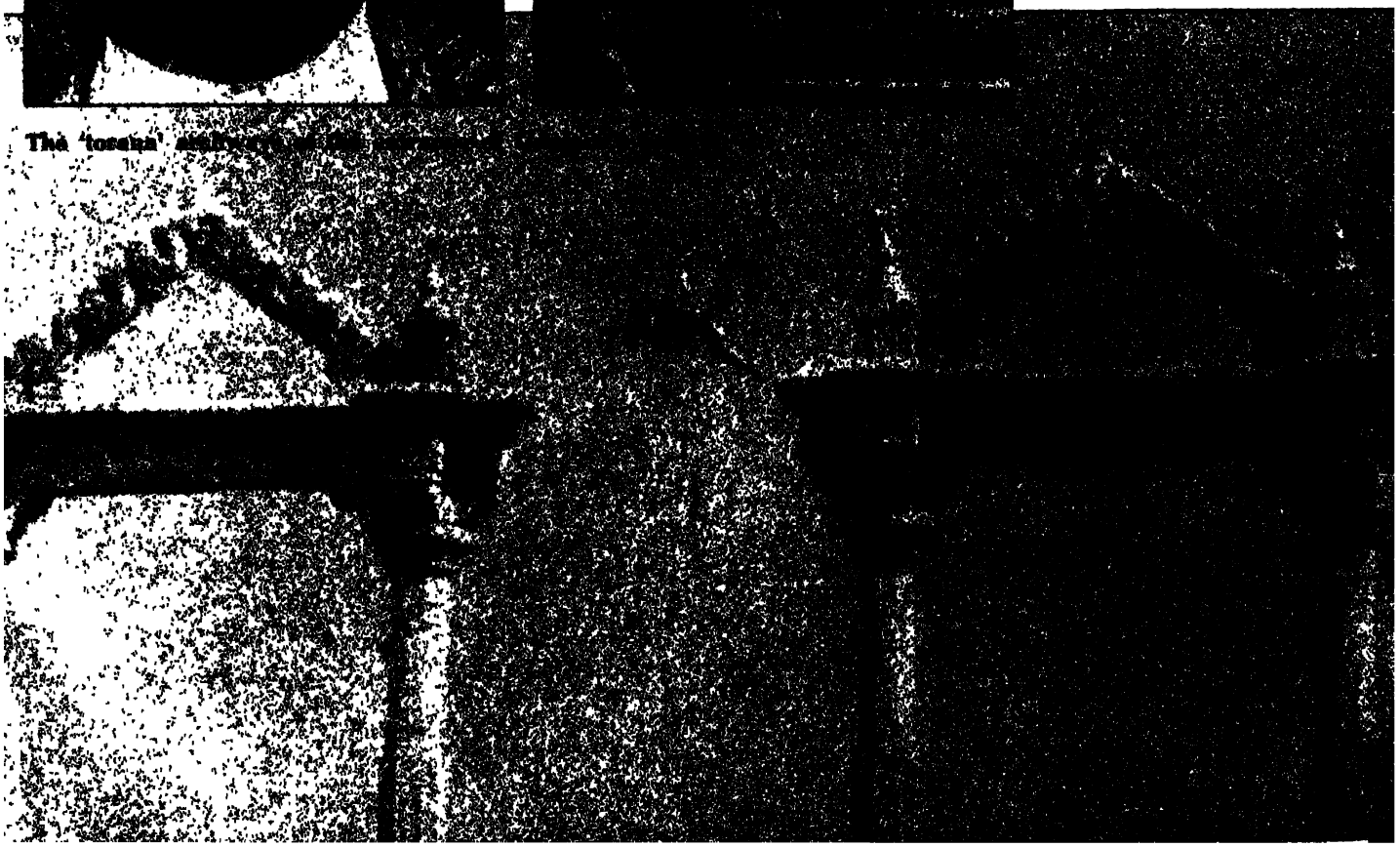
A portrait of a warrior



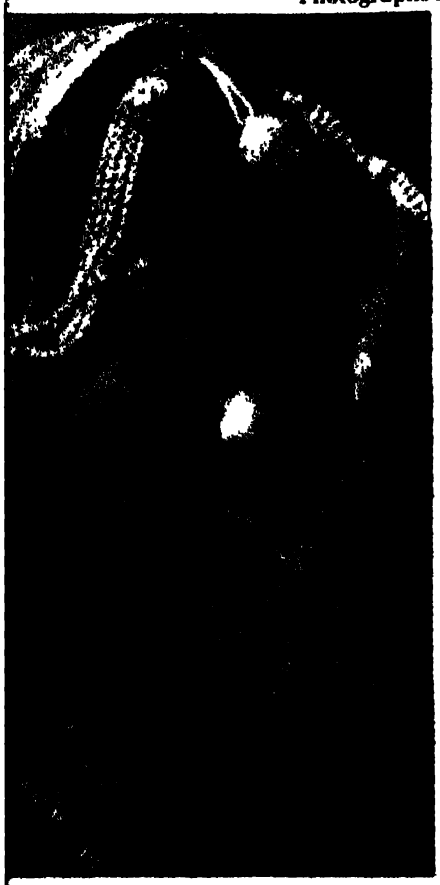
Jaipur's famous Hawa Mahal



The 'tosha' [illegible]



Photographs from *Rajasthan: Splendour in the Wilderness*, Himalayan Books, New Delhi, Rs 495





a bangle

The Pushkar fair attracts all kinds of people





Chiranjeet and Debashree Roy in *Hirer Shikal*

ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THESE PAGES IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

REGULAR SHOWS

HINDI FILMS

• **Jeete Hain Shaan Se:** Opera (Lenin Sarani), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)—4 shows

Directed by Kewal Sharma, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Govinda, Sunjay Dutt, Mandakini and Vijayeta The music is by Annu Malik

• **Paap Ki Duniya:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442)—4 shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956)—3 shows

Sunny Deol, Chunky Panday, Shakti Kapoor, Pran, Danny Denzongpa and Neelam comprise the cast of this Shibu Mittra film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Pyar Ka Mandir:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437)—4 shows

A film by K Bapaiah, starring Mithun Chakraborty, Madhavi, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand Aruna Irani, Kader Khan, Raza Murad, Asrani and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Shiva-Shakti:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)—12, 3, 6, 8 45, Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—noon

Shatrughan Sinha, Govinda, Anita Raaj, Kimmy Katkar and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Anand The music is by Anand Milind

• **Utsav:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664)—12, 3, 6, 9

A film by Girish Karnad, starring Rekha, Shashi Kapoor, Kunal Kapoor, Amjad Khan, Shekhar Suman and Anooradha Patel The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133)

Amala and Aditya Pancholi are the lead pair in this film, directed by T Prakash Rao. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Kasam:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 311090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)

Directed by Umesh Mehra and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon, Pran, Kader Khan and Gulshan Grover

Amala and Aditya Pancholi in *Kab Tak Chup Rahungi*



BENGALI FILMS

• **Antaranga:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road; 473462)—3, 5 45, 8 30; Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—2 30, 5 15, 8

Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy are the lead pair in this Dinen Gupta film Others in the cast are Rabi Ghosh, Anup Kumar, Chinmoy Roy and Basanta Chowdhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Apaman:** Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 8; Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—2.30, 5 30, 8 30

Sandhyarani, Prasenjit, Abhijit Sen, Abhisek Chatterjee, Shekhar Chatterjee, Anil Chatterjee, Tarun

Kumar, Chandan Mukherjee, Lolita Chatterjee, Indrani Dutta, Master Manku and debutante Shania comprise the cast of this Chandan Mukherjee film The music is by Robin Banerjee

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7

• **Hirer Shikal:** Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478807), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522)—3 shows

Directed by Murari Chakraborty and with music by Robin Banerjee, the cast includes Debashree Roy (in a double role), Chiranjeet, Madhabi Mukherjee, Satya Bandopadhyay, Shekhar Chatterjee, Gita Dey, Master Tapu, Kajal Gupta and Biplab Chatterjee

• **Ora Chaarjan:** Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080), Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road, 355059)—3 shows

Directed by Samit Bhanja, the cast includes Dilip Roy, Swarup Dutta, Chinmoy Roy, Abhisek Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Shakuntala Barua, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit The music is by Arun Rabin

FOREIGN FILMS

• **Breakdance:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141)—noon

• **Fire of Passion (A):** Globe (Lindsay Street, 296845)—12, 3, 5 45 8 30.

• **Hot Shot:** Jamuna (Marquis Street; 243715)—12 30, 3, 6, 8.30)

• **Police Academy:** New Empire (Humayun Place; 291050)—12, 3, 6, 8 30

• **The Blue Lagoon (A):** Lighthouse (Humayun Place, 291299)—12, 3, 6, 8 30.

• **The Worm in the Apple (A):** Society (Corporation Place, 241002)—4 shows

SPECIAL EVENTS

24 April: 6 pm

Agrabani presents Calcutta Youth Choir, conducted by Ruma Guhathakurta Also, folk songs by Swapan Basu.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937)

24-30 April

An exhibition of paintings by Malay Roy in the West Gallery

Group '87 will hold its exhibition of paintings and sculptures in the North Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 444205)

25 and 26 April: 7 pm

Alliance Francaise presents *Ars Antiqua de Paris*, a vocal and instrumental concert of Medieval and Baroque music.

At Max Mueller Bhavan (Ballygunge Circular Road, 479404)

27 April onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Charuchandra Khan in the New South Gallery

28 April onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Nikhil Dey and Sumita Das in the South Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

30 April: 6.30 pm

Anamika presents its latest Hindi play, *Reshmi Rumal*, directed by Swaran Chaudhry. The cast includes Yama Saraf, Bimal Lath, Pallavi Mehta, Anna Bhattacharya, Vinita Rellin, Punam Singh, Komal Hira and Mohit Shukla.

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street).

BARTER BANK

• **Novels:** I offer G Davis' *The Pretenders* and Irving Wallace's *The Sins of Philip Flemmings* for anything of corresponding value Contact Joydeep Chowdhury, 30/5, Northern Avenue, Calcutta 30.

• **Cassettes** and **records:** I offer 40 rock, pop and folk music cassettes and 20 LPs for anything of corresponding value Contact Pankaj Bhatia, 9/3 Hungerford Street, Calcutta 17

• **Video games, electronic shaver** and **coins:** I offer two double-screen video games, *Rainshower* and *Oil Panic*, a National twin-battery operated electric shaver and three Indian one-rupee coins for a 35 mm camera with built-in flash, all issues of *Sananda* since '87 or issues of *Electronics for You* from January '87 to March '88, or an air pistol in good condition. Contact Partho Roy, c/o K D. Roy, 11/57, Parnasree Pally, Behala, Calcutta 60

• **Study material:** I offer I.C.S.E. test papers from 1975-86 for the *Colour Magazine* from 1982-85. Contact Pradeep Kedia, Narayan Paper Agency, Naya Bazar, Siliguri 734405.

• **Biology box:** I offer a biology box in good condition for a cassette or anything of corresponding value. Contact Rajan Das, 12 A, Thakurdas Chakraborty Lane, Calcutta 6.

• **Typewriter:** I offer a typewriter in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact P. Chatterjee, P-32, Nepal Bhattacharya First Lane, Calcutta 26.

TRAVEL

PLANES

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

INTERNATIONAL

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350
London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta Arr (1) AI-132A at 1805
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910 Dep (2) AI-316 at 2020
Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (3) AI 307 at 2015 Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115
Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong Arr (4) AI-324 at 1050 Dep (4) AI 324 at 1150
Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235 Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330
Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU-588 at 1005 Dep (1) JU-588 at 1105
Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU-589 at 2350 Dep (2) JU-589 at 0050
Calcutta-Moscow Arr (4) SU 537 at 1655 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1955
Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545 Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1, 3 7) RA-214 at 1110 Dep (2 4 7) IC-247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1 3 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 4 7) IC-248 at 1525 Arr (3, 6) IC-248 at 1425
Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1145 IC 22 at 1340 Dep (1 2 4 5, 6) BG 694 at 1715 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1045 IC 224 at 1540 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1615
Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC 225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG 697 at 1220 (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640 Arr (1 3 6) TG 313 at 1240 Dep (2 4 7) IC 231 at 1050 Dep (1 3 6) TG 314 at 1355
Calcutta-Paro Dep (1, 2, 3, 5 6) GQ-102 at 0730 Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

DOMESTIC

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-477 at 1005.
Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1710 and IC-268 at 0615 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210
Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855
Calcutta-Madras. Dep (Daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225
Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay. Dep (1 3 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635
Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2 4, 6) IC-295 at 1640 Arr (2, 4 6) IC 296 at 2105
Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2, 4 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC-286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC-541 at 1240
Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235
Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC-277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC-278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC 270 at 2155
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 4 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 4 6) IC 270 at 2105
Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850
Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320 Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC-219 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 Arr (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2015
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh. Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal. Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1115 Arr (daily) IC 222

at 1405
Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC 242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar. Dep (1 3 5) IC-237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5), IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3 5) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (1 3 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625 Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

VAYUDOOT

Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (2 4 6) PF-717 at 0600 Arr (2 4 6) PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1 3 5) PF-725 at 0600 Arr (1 3 5) PF-726 at 1100

• Calcutta-Aizawl Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-705A at 1100 Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-706A at 1450

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5) PF-729 at 1130 Arr (1 3 5) PF-730 at 1610

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (1, 3 5) PF-721 722 at 0630, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723 724 at 1915

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1745

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat Dep (1 3 5) PF-731 at 0555 Arr (1 3 5) PF-732 at 1000

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep. (2 4 6 7) PF-727 at 0940 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF 728 at 1610

Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (2 4 6 7) PF 707 at 0610 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Dep (2 4 6) PF 715 at 0555 Arr (2 4 6) PF-716 at 1010

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) PF 701 735 at 0830 Arr (daily) PF-702 736 at 1705
Technical landing at Agartala while returning

TRAINS

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon. & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Gorakhpur Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs. Arri —Thurs & Sun	4-15	948
9	21-10	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-50	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-35	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express** Dep —Mon, Wed, Fri Arri —Tues, Thurs, Sat	20-35	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-20	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

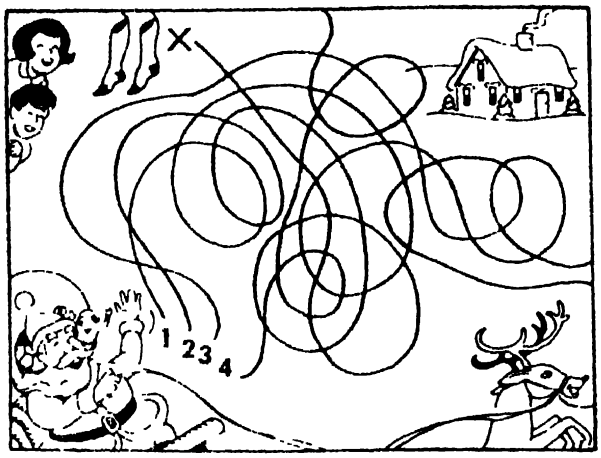
SEALDAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-30	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep —Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Fri, & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express**	4 00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5-30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	--
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep. & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

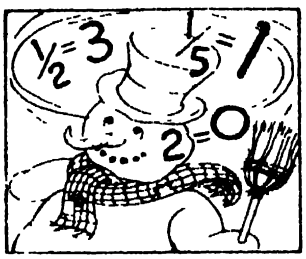
ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.



SOCK HIT! Which one of four paths does St. Nick take to reach point X, above? Decide quickly, if you can.

• **AH SO!** An Oriental saying having to do with indecision is scrambled as follows: Two in boats cannot one ride. Can you unscramble it?

(One cannot ride in two boats)



HELP SNOWMAN SOLVE RIDDLE

Batting around the brain of the snowman above are some crazy figures induced by this verse riddle

I'm a word of four letters akin to the snow

Just half of my first, my third letter will show

One fifth of my fourth, my first you may call

Of my second, the best to say nothing at all

What word am I?

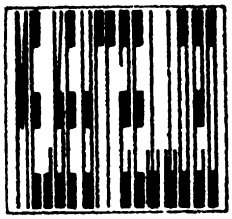
Clue: Think in terms of Roman numerals for first, third and fourth letters

• TEAM WORK! Words of a timely message from Santa and his reindeer appear in this diagram. Sight along lines at eye level and assorted letters may be seen, but the mystery remains.

How then can these words be read?

Simply scan the lines at eye level before a mirror.

What does the message say?



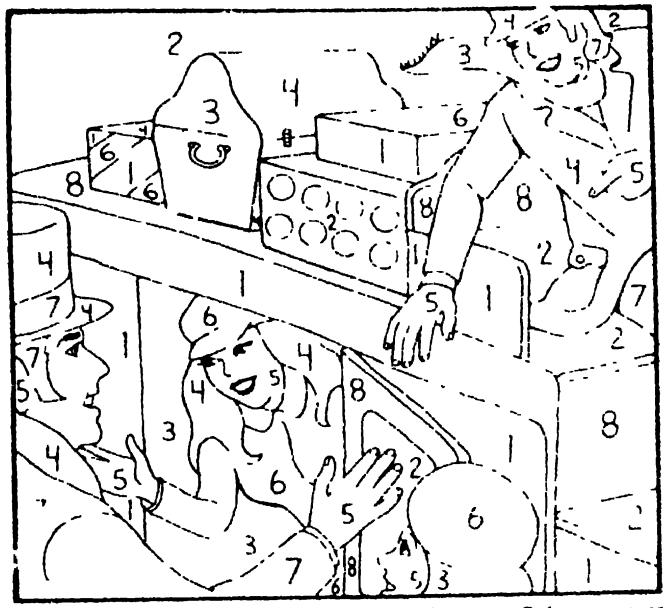
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Difference 1 Streamer is missing. 2 Sign is missing. 3 Arm is moved. 4 Hair is different. 5 Water level is lower. 6 Waste basket is missing.

FUNSPOT



HERE, HERE Now arriving on the overland stage. Color scene as follows: 1—Red, 2—Lt blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt brown, 5—Flesh, 6—Green, 7—Dk brown, 8—Maroon

SPELLBINDER

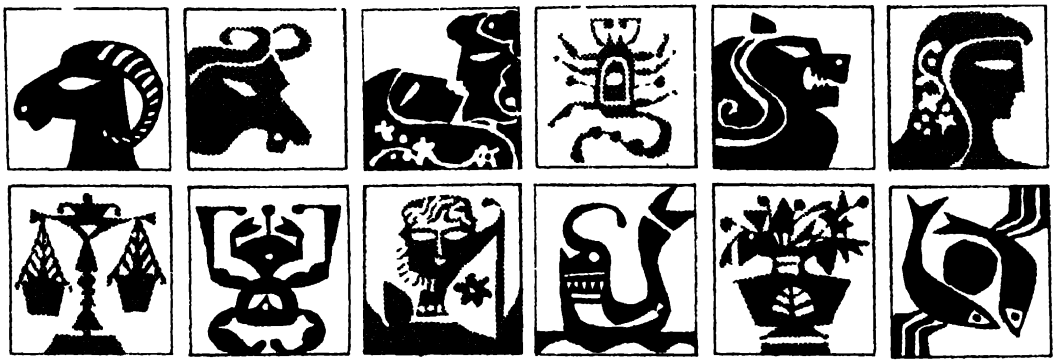
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

FESTIVAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Puzzle program Vast Inc



ARIES

March 21 –April 20

The moon's first quarter implies romance, speculative ventures and a spurt in creative pursuits and hobbies. There is a likelihood of improving your financial position and changing your job Some of you will get a promotion with added responsibilities Ties and partnerships are foretold.

TAURUS

April 21 –May 20

Domestic affairs will keep you busy A major shift or transfer is on the cards Sun trines Neptune and your imagination will know no bounds A hectic round of socialising and entertaining is foretold. Children and grandchildren will contribute to your happiness Romance is on the cards

GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

The Mercury Jupiter union will help you to reach out to people and places Take a practical approach to problems at hand and do not misinterpret news and messages Journeys are in the offing This is the time to introspect and meditate Health will cause concern Romance blooms

CANCER

June 21 –July 20

This is a good week to entertain, circulate and catch up with all pending correspondence It will be smooth sailing if you can overcome initial setbacks Good news will reach you soon Travel to distant places is on the cards. You will be in your element and friends will recognise your worth

LEO

July 21—August 21

The moon's first quarter will lead to advantageous monetary dealings and business transactions. This is the right time to sign deals Entertainment and socialising are foretold Your wardrobe could do with some innovations. Business pressures are likely to mount. Romance blooms

VIRGO

August 22– Sept 22

The moon trine sun placing will help to seal deals, collaborations and ventures You should know which way you are heading This is the ideal time to initiate campaigns and undertakings While you should not become conceited, do not underestimate your abilities either Health will cause concern

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

Sudden gains and rendezvous are foretold Friends will go out of their way to help you However, visits to health centres and welfare clinics cannot be ruled out. The philanthropic side of your nature will now come to the fore Personal losers and stormy relationships will be resolved amicably

SCORPIO

Oct 23- -Nov 22

Hard work, gains and gaiety are in the offing. The moon's first quarter in your tenth angle will help you to solve tricky problems and finalise business ventures You may have to take important decisions at work You will shine at meetings and conferences. Trips are in the offing. Good news will reach you

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

The moon trine sun Saturn formation focuses on your professional life. A job change and transfers are possibilities Chances are that expenses will rise but so will income Loans and funds will be available to start new ventures Socialising, renovation and decoration are foretold Businessmen will do well.

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 –Jan 19

Despite pressures and health problems, it will be smooth sailing You will bag several prestigious contracts and collaborations now The sun shifts into your fifth angle and you will successfully overcome all opposition to plans Children and friends will contribute to your happiness

AQUARIUS

Jan 20- Feb 19

Mars in your sign will help you to overcome all opposition. Litigation and land disputes are likely to worry you Renovation, decoration and refurbishing will keep you busy Reach out to people and places by all possible means of communication Moon squares Pluto and health is suspect

PISCES

Feb 20- March 20

The sun Neptune trine will help you to overcome opposition and communicate effectively. Romance in the air for the eligible and fancyfree Important contracts and deals will be signed Good news will come your way. Emotional ties are destined A trip is in the offing Loans and funds will be available to you.

BIRTHDAYS

April 24

Moon square Pluto· The square implies hard work and changes on the home front. Parents, in-laws and family members may prove difficult. Be clear about your objectives and be persuasive and tactful, accepting the rough with humour and grace Progress is assured.

April 25

Mercury conjunction Jupiter Progress on all fronts is foretold Love, money, company and status will be yours Domestic influences will work in your favour This is an exceptionally happy and prosperous year

April 26

Moon trine sun-Saturn You cannot go wrong Hectic activity is foretold Funds, romance, collaborations, pilgrimages, religious rites, inheritance, funds and creative pursuits will keep you busy

April 27

Moon trine Jupiter Marriage, alliances children, grandchildren, hobbies and creative pursuits will keep you busy Sportsmen, teachers, research scholars, socialites and politicians have it made Take a few risks

April 28

Moon square Saturn, late evening Finish all pending work and stick to your commitments Given that, this can be a good year Gains can be consolidated provided you are ready to work towards this end Children, romance, scholarship, hobbies and entertainment are higlighted

April 29

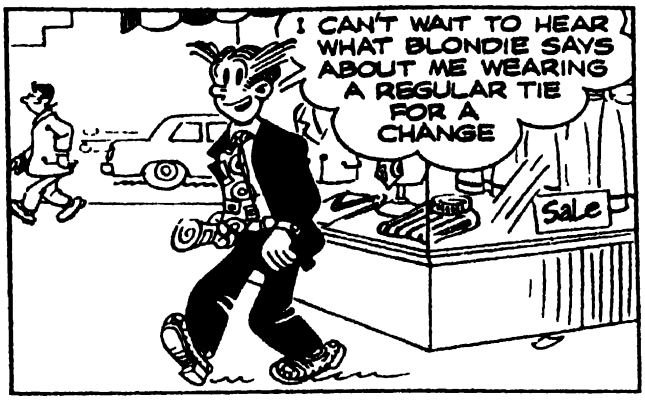
Moon trine Mars An exceptionally lucky year for singers, politicians, artists, musicians, industrialists and those dealing in metals, minerals and collaborations A job-switch is possible Get set to take on more responsibilities

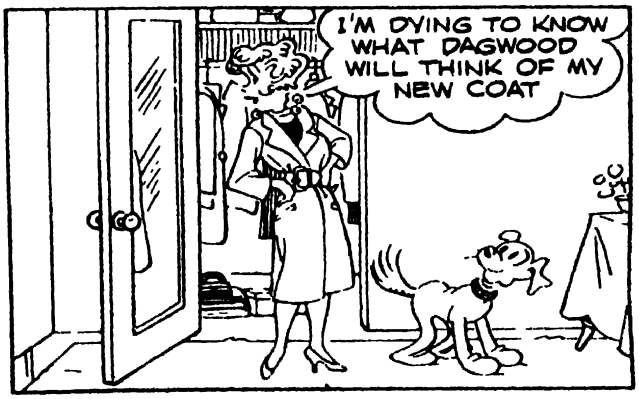
April 30

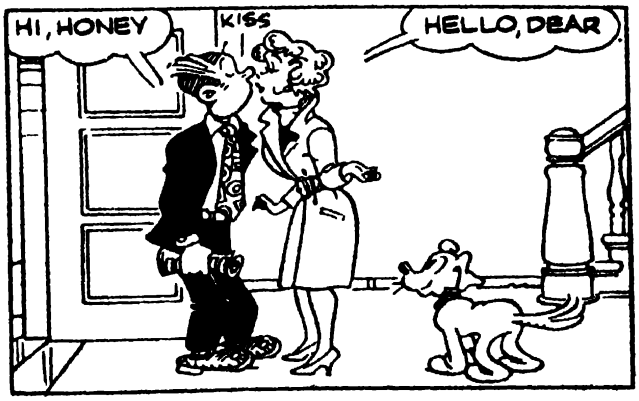
Sun trine Neptune The employed will get a promotion and businessmen will make it big. Funds and loans will be available for starting a major venture

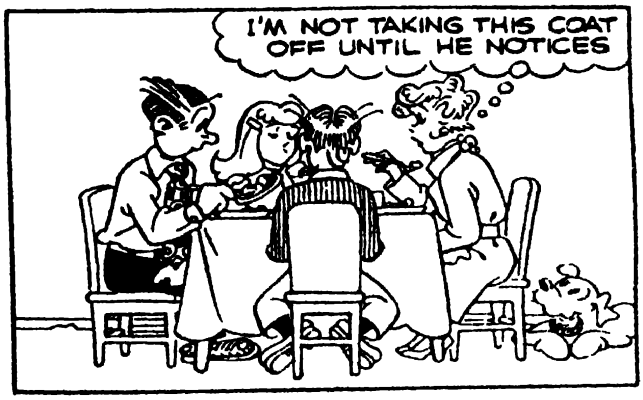

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

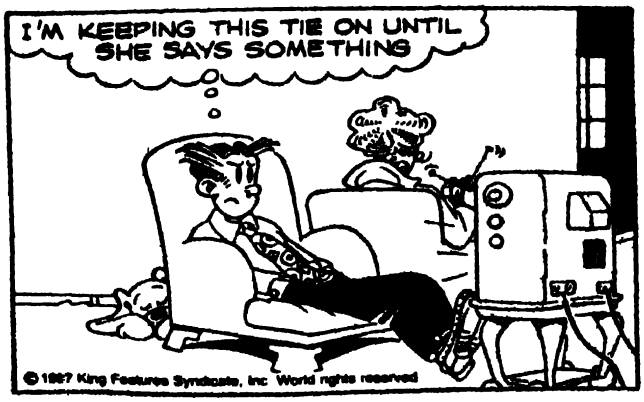

I HAVEN'T WORN A TIE IN YEARS

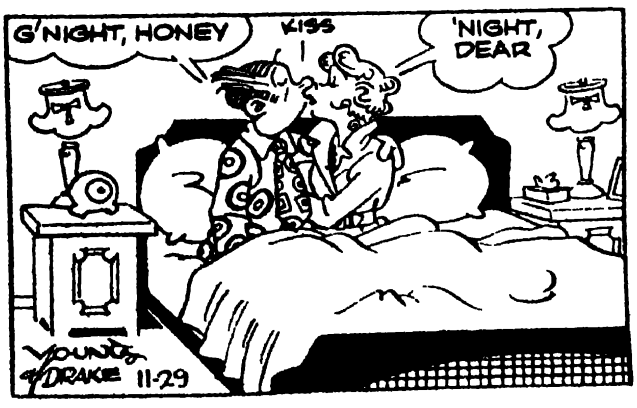

I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT BLONDIE SAYS ABOUT ME WEARING A REGULAR TIE FOR A CHANGE
Sale


I'M DYING TO KNOW WHAT DAGWOOD WILL THINK OF MY NEW COAT

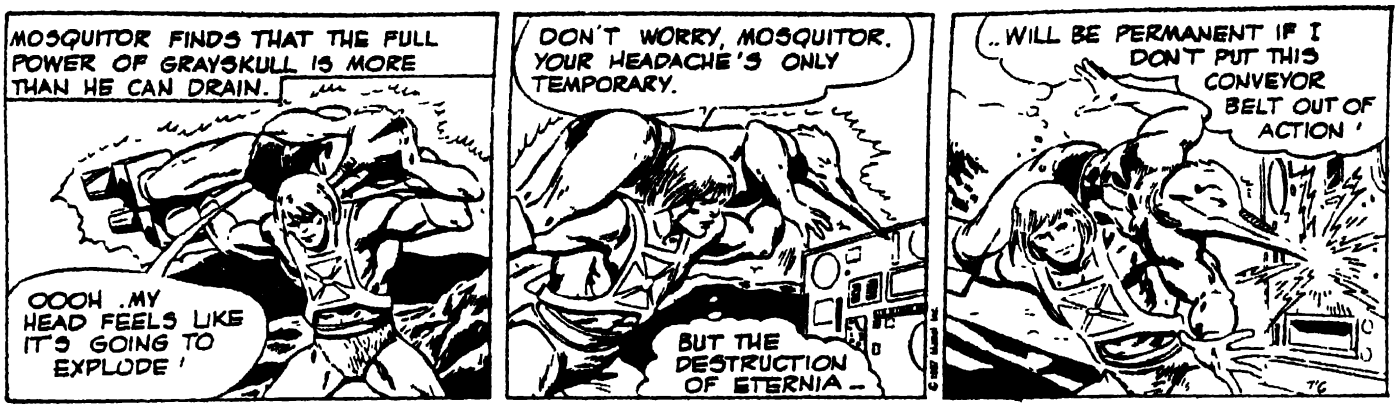

HI, HONEY
KISS
HELLO, DEAR

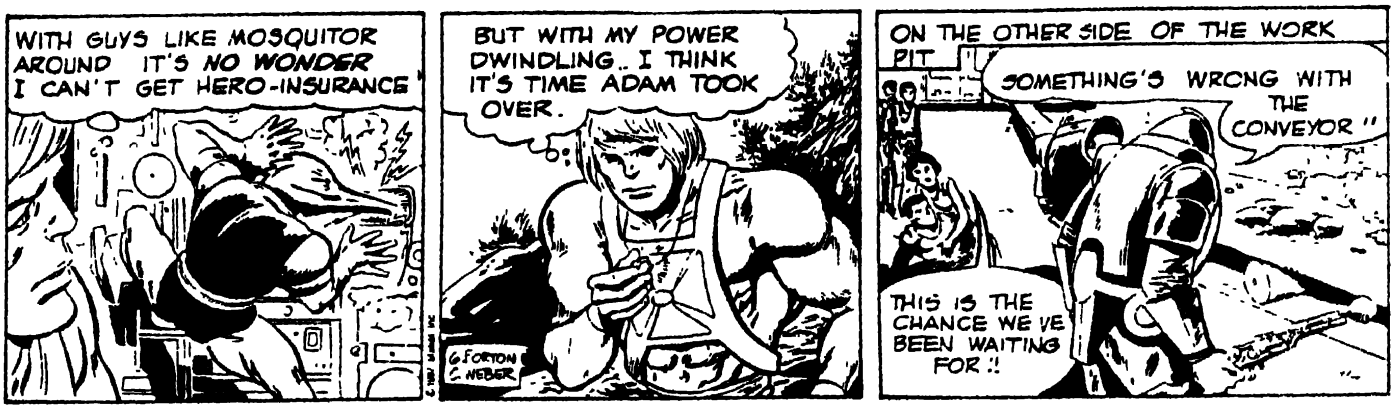

I'M NOT TAKING THIS COAT OFF UNTIL HE NOTICES


I'M KEEPING THIS TIE ON UNTIL SHE SAYS SOMETHING
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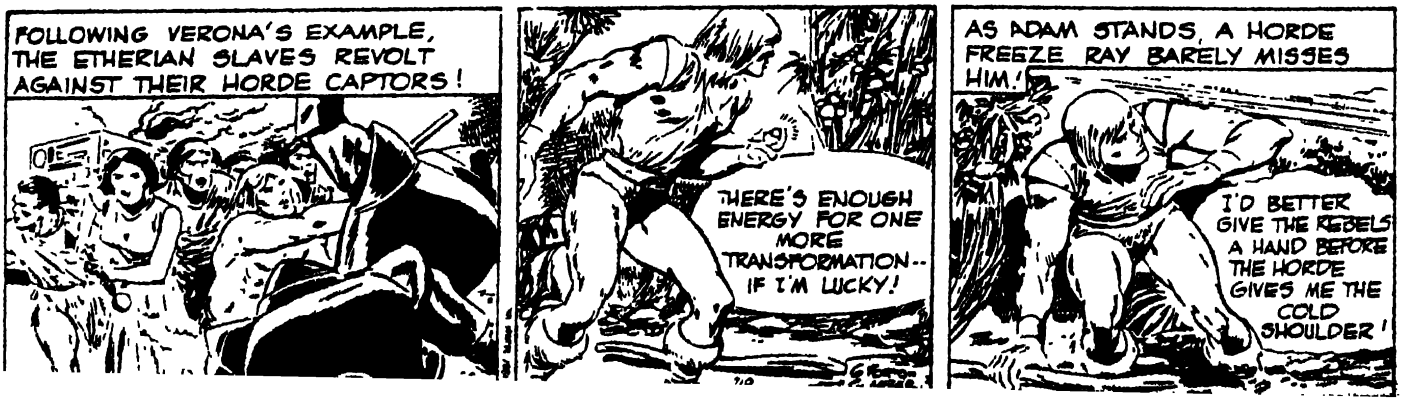

G'NIGHT, HONEY
KISS
'NIGHT, DEAR
YOUNG & DRAKE 11-29

HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull





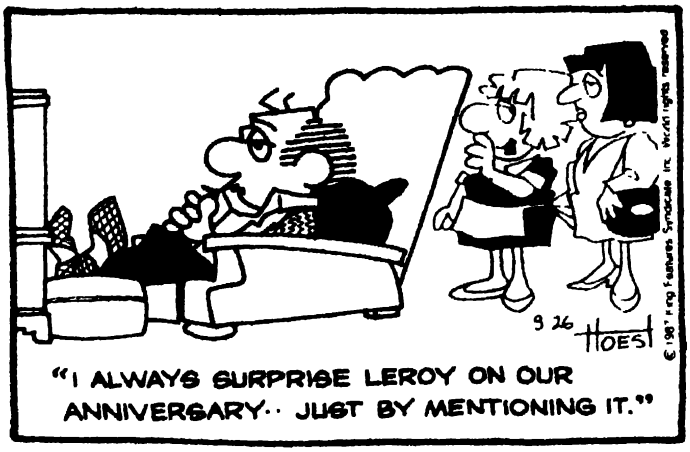




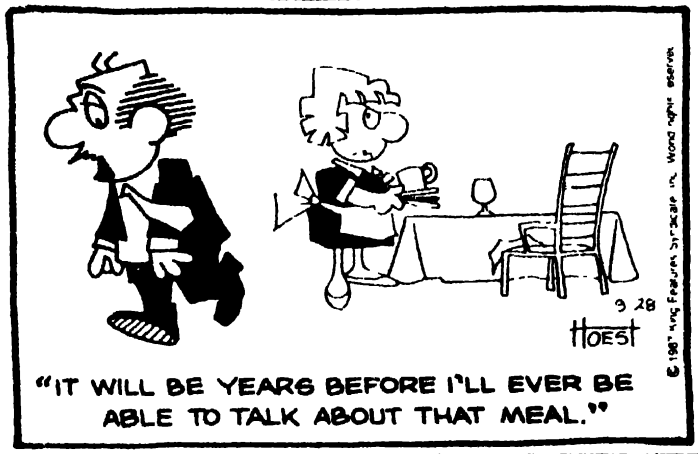
THE LOCKHORNS



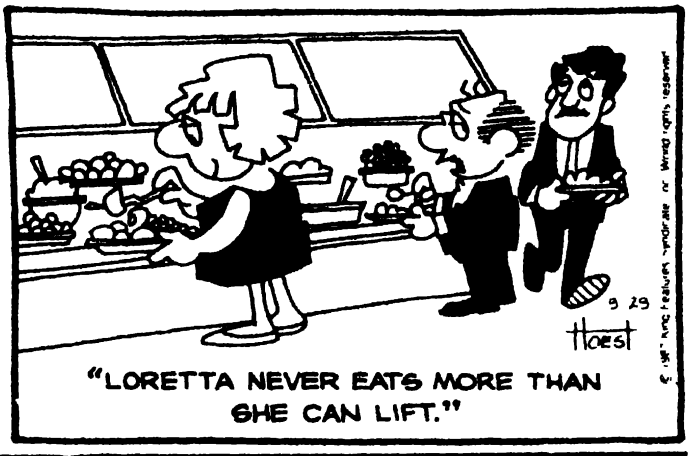
"I DID REMEMBER OUR ANNIVERSARY! DIDN'T I FLY THE FLAG AT HALF-MAST?"



"I ALWAYS SURPRISE LEROY ON OUR ANNIVERSARY.. JUST BY MENTIONING IT."



"IT WILL BE YEARS BEFORE I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THAT MEAL."

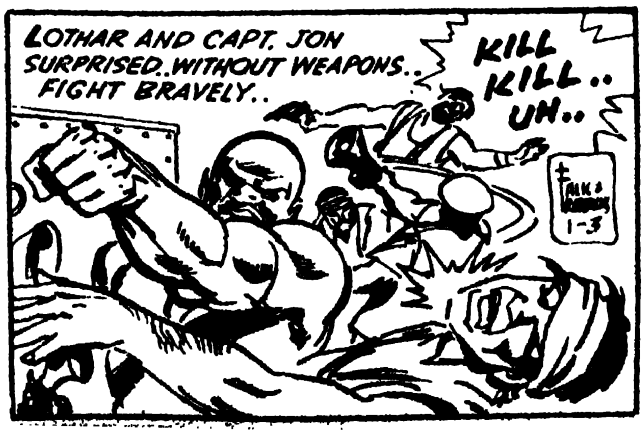


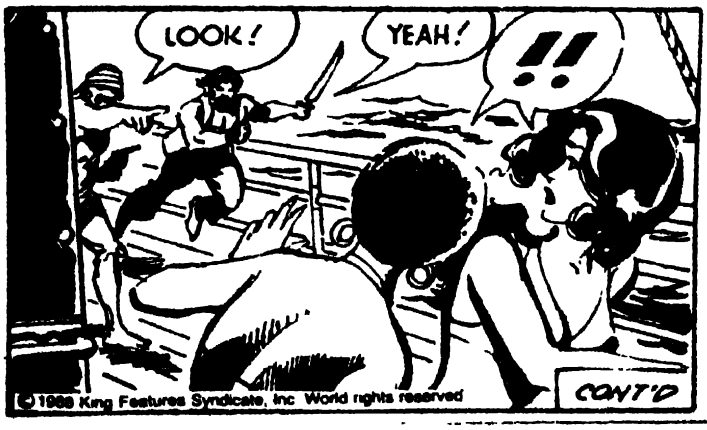
"LORETTA NEVER EATS MORE THAN SHE CAN LIFT."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk



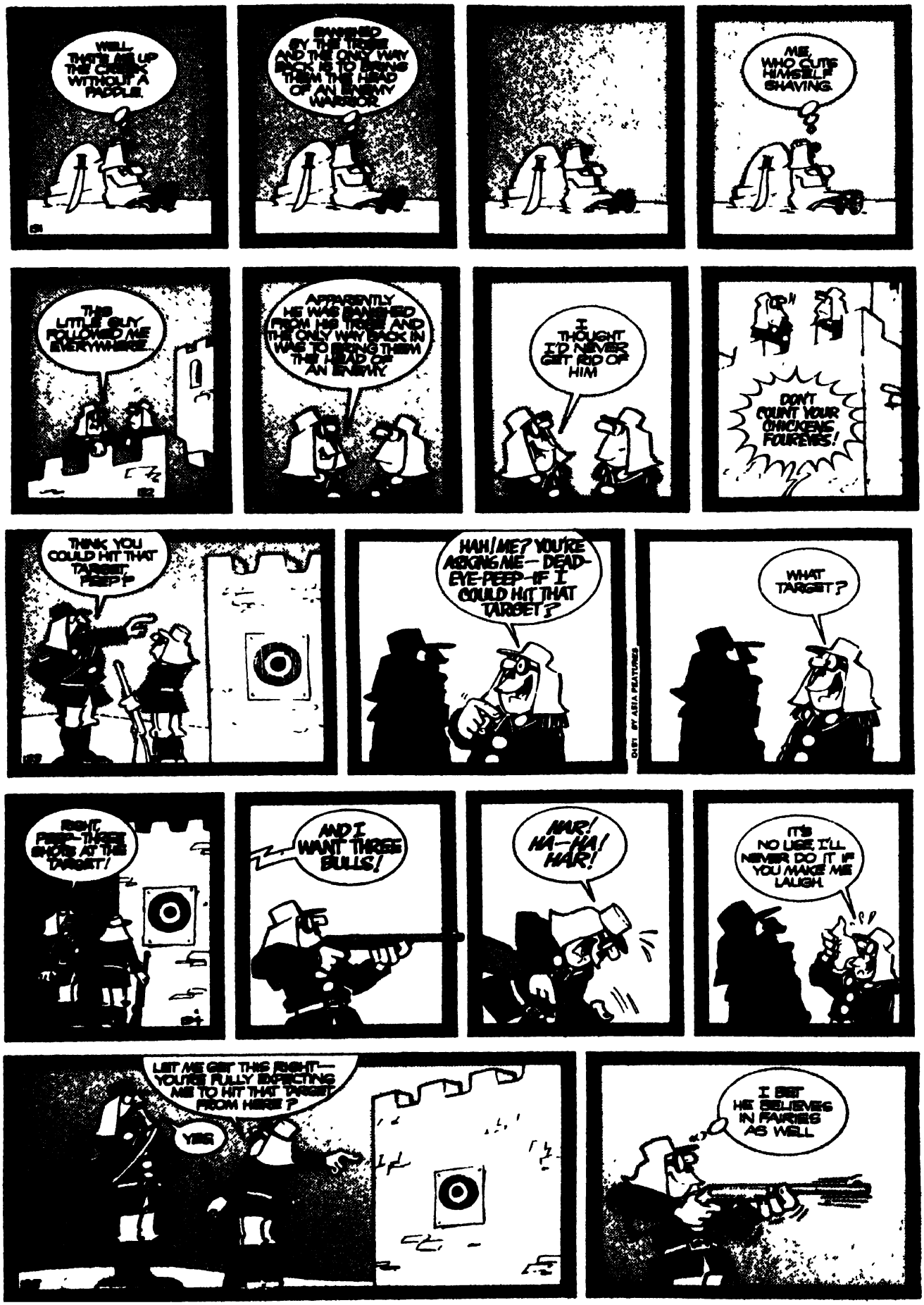






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THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE



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WHEN THE GRASS WAS GREENER...

Leslie Claudius sits back and recalls his hockey-playing days

For a man who has always led an active life, Leslie Claudius now seems intent on making up for it all. Having given up hockey long ago and having retired from his job with the Calcutta Customs not s long ago, Claudius nov spends most of his time c home and the Calcutta Rangers Club of which he is th president. Relaxing at hom in a pair of well-worn (an obviously very comfortable) shorts, his affectionate boxer lying obediently at his feet, he was only too glad to wander back into the days of old when he did battle for his country on the hockey field.

With four Olympic Games to his credit, the last one in 1960 as skipper of the side, and later a stint as manager of the national squad, Claudius has certainly seen his share of Indian hockey. And looking back, he has no regrets.

"I started hockey at Kharagpur where BNR, one of the biggest hockey outfits of the forties and fifties, was based. I arrived there with hopes of becoming a hockey star. But being an upcountry boy with a relative lack of skill at that stage I found it quite tough to make a breakthrough," recalls Claudius. "Finally, just before the Beighton Cup in 1945, the centre-half of the BNR first XI got injured and they asked the second XI to provide a replacement. The second XI having just got themselves into a tight unit, were reluctant to part with one of their regulars and suddenly I was thrown a stick and asked to play for the first XI! That was my real break."

He went on. "I played with the first XI for 10 or 12 days, getting coached on the job. In those days, BNR used to bring big teams from Calcutta to hone their skills on. It was on one such occasion that the Rangers team had come to Kharagpur for a warm-up game. I, on seeing the regular centre-half back on the field, stayed on the bench when the team walked on. Noticing this, the coach immediately sent me on and asked the regular centre-half to play deep defence and pulled the right back out of the game. That, you could say, started me off firmly on my hockey career."

Smiling almost ruefully as he takes a trip down memory lane, Claudius cannot help but add, "So, you see, it was a tough beginning. But I had a lot of help. There were stalwarts in the team like Joe Gallibardy, Carl Tapsel, Dickie Carr - all Olympians of 1936 - who took me under their wing and improved my game. In fact, they even had my hockey stick cut shorter by three inches so that I could use it more efficiently.

'Then, in 1948, I moved to the Port Commissioners and joined their auxiliary force which has since been disbanded. Having been overlooked for the Bengal squad I was sorely disappointed, but determined to do well in the Aga Khan tournament, which I did, eventually making the Bengal squad. Then, as luck would have it, I fractured a finger during the Beighton Cup just prior to the Nationals and I had to sit out all the matches with my finger in plaster. Finally, with the officials pressurising me to play the last match, some of the senior players in the Bengal team cut away my plaster and I took the field with my injured finger swathed heavily in bandage. Even then, the pain was excruciating and I came off after barely 5-6 minutes," recalls Claudius. "But those few minutes, and A.F.S. Talyarkhan's appeal on my behalf, was good enough to get me a call for the camp from where the Olympic team was to be selected. Even as I rejoiced at my being selected for the camp, I fell sick with filaria just one week prior to the scheduled start of the camp. Fortunately, the camp was delayed by a week, but even then I could barely run one length of the field before I would fall to the ground in exhaustion. As if this wasn't bad enough, I also had to be drilled into hitting the ball. My style of play until then had restricted me mainly to stop and push," Caludius says. "It was only when the aircraft finally took off that I finally accepted that I was going to play in an Olympic Games."

Comparing the styles of play then and now, he points out that the introduction of artificial grass like astroturf has negated the effect of stickwork to some extent. "But there are still some players wth exceptional stickwork in most top teams now," he hastens to add.

Recalling an incident, Claudius smiles, "Back in 1952, we had a chap called Rajagopal who was blessed with magical stickwork. He enjoyed standing in one place dribbling all his opponents. This team, which I would rate as the finest I have ever played with, had just beaten Holland 6-1 in a match at Helsinki and had been invited to Holland for an exhibition game. Rajagopal as usual was having fun when a burly, bewildered Hollander, tired of this cat-and-mouse game, bodily lifted Rajagopal and carried him off the field, depositing him outside the sidelines. He then coolly strolled back on! We were all in hysterics but Rajagopal wasn't amused. Oh, and by the way, we beat them 6-1 again."

Pradeep Paul



Anil Grover





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POST MORTEM

Lucky University

It is a pity that Shrishtik Nath was so bitter about Dr Bhaskar Ray Chaudhuri ('Post Mortem,' March 6). I have only met Dr Ray Chaudhuri in his professional capacity when he was attached to Belle Vue Clinic

He is definitely not a "rough man who never changes decisions." I would call him a strong man with firm decisions and very sure of his professional abilities. He was most understanding, sympathetic and conscientious

There is nothing wrong in being ambitious and idealistic I think it is sheer luck for Calcutta University to get a person like Dr Ray Chaudhuri as its vice-chancellor

Tumpa Palta,
Tinsukia (Assam)

The Smiths and Calcutta

We were impressed by the deep fascination and profound love of the charming British couple, Violet and Ted Smith, for Calcutta (March 13). Congratulations to Monisha Das Gupta and Sunil K. Dutt for taking us round the lovely Fairlawn Hotel where strains of Mantovani and Victor Sylvester can still be heard.

Sunil Banerjee,
Calcutta

Shadow Talk

While looking at the photograph of chief minister Jyoti Basu in your Candid Camera (March 20), my curiosity was aroused in finding a transverse ear lobe crease in his left ear lobule. I do not know for how long this crease has been present. It is an acquired condition that is defined as a diagonal "deep wrinkle in the ear lobe extending for a distance greater than or equal to one-third of the ear lobe length."

It remains unclear whether this sign represents a genetic trait. But the presence of the ear lobe crease has been positively correlated with coronary artery disease; 90 per cent of patients with ear lobe crease had coronary artery disease and 91 per cent of patients without it had no coronary artery disease.

The skin can serve as an important sign of underlying coronary artery disease The recognition of risk factors that the patient has little or no control over, such as the ear lobe crease, may serve as an added incentive to patients to have further check-ups and care

Dr Salil K. Panja,
Calcutta

Man of Music

The piece on Hemant Kumar ('Man of Music', February 28) by Anil Grover brought back the bygone era so vividly After reading it, one was drenched in the downpour of the good old days.

Janaki Ballav Dash,
Baripada (Orissa)



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THE ENCHANTED SCHOOL



Gautam Roy

A deer nibbles at the children's lunch

Narmada School is perhaps the only one of its kind in the world to have a zoo within its premises. A report



Gautam Roy

Ara the macaw is the self appointed *durwan* of Narmada School. Crimson and white, his beak poised menacingly, he stares defiantly at all entrants fromhis perch on the stool near the school door. A withering look followed by an indifferent toss of a feathered head is all that it takes to assure you that this is no ordinary school.

Housed in 33,Regent Park is a primary school with a difference. Chalk smeared hands, dusty black boards and frantic attempts to complete the school syllabus seem light years away from this school, perhaps the only one in the world to have a mini zoo within its premises. Classrooms and animal cages lie scattered around the principal, Mrs Shanti Mukherjee's office and the children no more than bat an eyelid when a deer trots into the classroom or Ara perches nonchalantly on their teacher's desk.

The primary objective of the school is to make children aware of the importance of animals and develop a humane approach towards all feathered and four legged creatures. "In our city we see how cruelly animals are treated. Hens are carried upside down tied to handlebars of bicycles, cows are beaten mercilessly as they are driven to the slaughter houses and goats tremble pitifully as they wait for a painful end One day, some children from this school will hold important positions and perhaps they will help to change attitudes towards animals," said Mrs Mukherjee

More often than not, the principal's chair is occupied not by the lady but by Kalchi, a daschund pup A couple of errant children standing in a corner and a massive boxer, Rose Petal, Rosie for short, lying sprawled under the prin-



Gautam Roy

Students playing with a deer at the school



Ara, the macaw

cipal's desk are fairly commonplace. Rosie, one is informed, has the remarkable ability to sleep anywhere and anytime,



Gautam Roy

The deer scamper on the playground

oblivious of any upheavals that may occur in her vicinity. However, she does have her active moments and during the winter months condescends to amble onto the playground where the children can pat and admire her

The classrooms and cages encircle the playground on which the children play during recess. "Tiffin time" is of special significance and a source of unending delight to the children who scamper around the grounds pausing occasionally to watch the 14 tortoises ensconced in the flower beds nibbling greedily at some celery or the elegant Sarah cranes pirrouetting on the lawns or the plump Brahma poultry strutting about, pecking intermittently at their trays of husk.

The primary objective of the school, no doubt, is to build a deeper and more sympathetic relationship between animals and humans, but it has not ignored the vague yet momentous fears and insecurities that haunt a child's mind. One four-year-old was terrified that his mother too would become a portrait with a garland around her as did his grandmother some months ago. The understanding authorities have allowed his mother to stay on at school to make her son feel more secure and eventually get over the fear of separation

As Mrs Mukherjee and her daughter, Mrs Monika Bhattacharya, eat a hurried breakfast in the staff room, Churni, the deer, waits impatiently, gently pawing Mrs Mukherjee's arm, not for a stray morsel, as we learn, but for a quick cuddle before the two ladies start their daily chores. A cat sits perched on a precarious hold close to the ceiling because, Mrs Mukherjee explains, she was mauled by an animal outside the school premises and chooses high roosts for security

What comes as a pleasant surprise is that the animals are totally docile and have lost their instinct to kill, as it were. In winter the 30 odd cats snuggle upto the silver and gold pheasants while Ara chooses one of the 12 dogs as a bed time companion. The cages remain open and the washing bear who sees sitting atop the [illegible] are [illegible] oblivious of the only rival that could be there with just one swift pounce. A tortoise duck and two geese with damaged wings complete the menagerie.

Pet shows are held frequently at the school where knowledge of the pet and the relationship between the child and animal are considered while choosing a winner. Our children get admission into reputed schools because our standards are high, said Mr Mukherjee with a justifiable sense of pride. Plans are afoot to start a high school again with the equitable if slightly rare mix of animals and children. Mrs Mukherjee is also producing an animated film for the protection of wildlife, the underlying theme of which is "Kill us, eat us, but do it humanely." After all, animals are man's best friend!

Ruby Radhakrishnan

BARTER BANK

• **Study material:** I offer the complete set of Agarwal classes for IIT-JEE for a Sony or Sanyo Walkman with headphones or anything of corresponding value. Contact Arindam Banerjee, Room No 122, Hostel B, Regional Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur 831011

• **Books:** I offer *Modern Education Its Aims and Principles* by J C Chakrabarti for *Comparative Government* by O P Goyal. Contact Anuradha Bothra, 45, Syed Amir Ali Avenue, 4th floor, Calcutta 19

• **Mini movie:** I offer a new electronic mini movie made in Hong Kong for a video game or anything of corresponding value. Contact M Alam, 122, Noor Mohammed Munshi Lane, Howrah 711101.

• **Video cassettes:** I offer four Hindi film cassettes of *Dostana, Hukumat, Hirasat* and *Ek Aur Sikandar* for *Junglee, Dil Deke Dekho* and *An Evening in Paris*. Contact Ranjan Kumar Sen 27/1, Kali Kumar Majumdar Road, Santoshpur, Calcutta 75

• **Video games, books, racket** and **blow ups:** I offer a single screen video game, Zap, a complete book on karate and kung fu, a ju jutsu book, a Silver's V 500 badminton racket and several blow ups for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sanjay Sharma, 51-B, Lake Place, Calcutta 29

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's question papers for the MBBS entrance for papers for the MBA entrance. Contact Sanjib Kumar Mohanty, C/o A K Mishra, Katjuridanga, Bankura 722102

• **Study material:** Ol offer *I S C Chemistry* by V P Saxena, *Practical Chemistry* by V C. Garg, *Principles of Physics* by Brijlal and Subramaniam, *Mechanics* by Abbot, *Practical Physics* by D N Bhattacharya and ICS question papers from 1977 to 1987 for a double screen video game or anything of corresponding value. Contact Rai Shah, 78, B B Ganguly Street Calcutta 12

• **Novel:** I offer Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes* for *Mreen*, a cassette of ghazals by Pankaj Udhas. Contact Sunil Kumar Barua, c/o Sriram Enterprises, 202 G T Road, Liluah, Howrah 711204

• **Stamps:** I offer 100 Indian and foreign stamps for a bicycle. Contact Anand Barua, P 228, Ramakrishna Samadhi Road, Kankurgachi Scheme 6, Calcutta 54

• **Records, magazines** and **novels:** I would like to exchange four LPs by Begum Akhtar, 100 issues of *Time* magazine and 10 English novels with a 35 mm camera with flash or anything of corresponding value. Contact O Majumdar, 137 A B Nagar, Calcutta 61

• **Novels:** I offer novels by Erle Stanley Gardener, Alistair Maclean and Sidney Sheldon for other novels or anything of corresponding value

[illegible]

• **Motorcycle** [illegible]

• **Video games** [illegible]

• **Cassettes** [illegible]

HOW RELIABLE



"Corruption Forte—2 tsf 3 times daily, Incompetence (10 mg) 1 cap 3 times daily, Ignorance Retard -2 tabs twice daily (after meals)." Thus was a cynical medical representative's prescription for becoming a successful doctor. "We have heard of thugs waylaying people and, at the point of a gun, demanding, 'Your money or your life'," said a middle class serviceman who had done some rounds of the doctors recently. "But doctors nowadays demand your money *and* your life." A reputed neurosurgeon of Park Circus, Calcutta, said: "The nobility of a doctor's profession is a myth. A doctor is as much a professional as a prostitute."

Heart-stopping words, these, but true too often. One still hears tales of doctors of yore who could diagnose ailments by feeling the pulse of the patient and physicians who accepted the fees that the patients would offer. But those days have gone with Hippocrates. Today, there are more quacks around than *panwalas* and the few competent doctors are busy doling out "percentage treatment" (meaning the cuts they get for referring you to the various specialists and test centres). Finding a good doctor, who knows his job and will not do surgery on your pockets, is today far more difficult than finding a decent groom for your poor-but-homely daughter.

Far from reading the pulse correctly, reputed doctors today diagnose 'stone in the gall bladder' and when the patient is being operated upon discover that he is a terminal case of cancer, five specialists do tests on a patient and are unable to diagnose appendicitis, and a patient is recommended to have his appendix removed when he has already had them removed by the same doctor a couple of years earlier. According to a renowned 75-year-old physician from south Calcutta, "The rate of diagnosis in the city today is inversely proportional to the increasing facilities in diagnostic aids." And, without doubt, the case is most serious in Calcutta when compared to other cities like Bombay and Vellore in whose medicare patients have infinitely more faith—and not for nothing. Which is very sad because it is West Bengal from where the most competent doctors and medical scientists came. Once upon a time.

How do we get such doctors? Medical education, students in the city opine, is inadequate on both counts, facilities offered and the teaching process. What initially struck Sanjeev Banerjee, an intern at the Calcutta Medical College, when he joined the institution was the state of microscopes in the college laboratories, some more than 50 years old. "And microscopes are one of the basic necessities for science and medical students," said Banerjee. Another thing that shook him was "the way cadavers were stored." He recalled that 40 students would often hover over one cadaver, he could not understand the perpetual shortage of dead bodies at medical institutions. "How can we have a proper dissection class like this?" he asked. Banerjee added that the biochemistry laboratories he went to during college did not have any gas burners, another basic requirement for experiments, and found that his pharmacology classes made him produce mixtures which

IS YOUR DOCTOR?

When you put your life in his hands, are you sure you are not being used as another milch cow in the money-making system?

were "partly obsolete and not at all cost-effective to be prescribed later—all futile exercises."

What commonly shocks students during the preclinical course, the formative years of a budding doctor, is the manner in which cadavers are stored. Said a student of R G Kar Hospital: "They are left out in the open to rot and often without preservatives. They are liberally doused with formalin which lets out an obnoxious odour, and sometimes cadavers are eaten away by maggots. I myself would never donate my body for future students."

Dealing with the dead in the first phase of their education leaves the medical students bereft of any emotions and, according to Debashis Basu, a doctorate from Calcutta University and former Calcutta Medical College student, "The budding doctors learn how to deal with emotionless cadavers and be ruthless with patients, their relatives and the community at large later." His opinion is echoed by a good number of students: the first year of medicos should be devoted to learning about medical problems of the community, the social factors, diet, first aid and how to make treatment possible within the financial constraints of different groups of individuals, they felt. In brief, they believe in a multi dimensional approach to medical education.

The next shock, or phase of 'de-emotionalising', takes place in the second MBBS period when the students visit hospital wards where there are no basic amenities, a complete absence of sanitation, rampant politicking and corruption; generally a very sick atmosphere. This affects their morale and, when they learn to become immune to it all, it affects their morals. "That is the only way to work and that is what the students and junior doctors are doing," said a resigned Sanjeev Banerjee.

The other side of the picture is the "outrageous" absence of prescribed textbooks or syllabi for their courses. "I have never seen the syllabus," said one student, "if there is one at all. You never know whether you have studied enough or not. And you end up in an ambiguous state of education—the examiner can ask you anything and you end up knowing nothing." The lack of equipment back-up is very palpable, too. At the Calcutta Medical College, arguably the best in the state, there are no electron microscopes and image intensifiers for X-ray machines. There are two ultrasound machines, one of which is always out of order, and one electro encephalogram (EEG), for which the waiting period is invariably six months.

Students also face great difficulties procuring blood for patients and more criminal, they felt, is the wastage of blood. "The blood we get from the Central Blood Bank comes in 300 ml bottles. If we need just 150 ml, half the bottle is wasted," revealed one of them. Debashis Majumdar, a house staff at the Nil Ratan Sarkar Hospital, finds the condition of the operation theatres (OTs) "appalling, to say the least." In the NRS emergency ward, there are two OTs, but the nurses are few and there is only one anaesthesia system. A student of NRS added: "The ventilation in the OTs is very faulty and subsequently a very high rate of post-surgery infection exists."

Students also complain about the inadequately equipped libraries in the medical colleges. The editions stored are mostly outdated while the latest foreign journals and books are locked up in glass almirahs for the exclusive use of teachers. And, of course, there are no photocopiers.

Debasish Basu felt that medical education here "lacks direction, foresight and any sense of utility" while Sanjeev Banerjee believed "it is useless producing hordes of incompetent doctors." Most students were of the opinion that the teachers were either "busy practitioners earning pots of untaxed money or frustrated practitioner from para-clinics who teach because they could not go in for clinical careers." Either way, the lesson they learn is how to thrive on disease instead of health.

Medical services have become a purchasable commodity and the reliability of the doctor is just one crucial aspect. Three centuries ago, John Dryden said:

Better to hunt in fields, for health unbought,
Than fee the doctor for a nauseous draught.
The wise, for cure, on exercise depend,



The hands that save a . . .

God never made his work for man to mend
and the 20th century . . . all after
whole heartedly with him . . . Gross world
nothing certain except . . . death and ta . . .
The doctor is . . . ing to be a . . . ial
middleman with . . . ing in
business.

. . . est is computer . . . id of . . .
. . . not require . . . except . . . for the
glimmer in your doctor's eye . . . but . . .
others pay through their nose . . . and more
they are paying a doctor . . . the . . . ore
use. A God-given gift . . . has . . . ecome
bend, bowed and bent, robbed . . . of
the doctors have . . . the patient's
his cat. But that is only the . . . of
their troubles.

Most doctors will . . . never to be . . .
gone case. The strategy . . . is to . . .
obey them completely . . . of his
saviour and those who . . . Nothing
serious, probably do not know . . . is
really wrong with you. The smarter . . .
tors are part shepherd . . . and . . . can feel
and know how to . . . Pills and . . .
their PR or that you think . . . the

only exceptions around in a world of white coated sharks So, whom do you trust? Of course, there *are* exceptions, as anywhere, but we are talking of a profession which was considered "noble" because doctors were knights in shining white even though there were the bad apples - the quacks and the racketeers.

Apart from charging exorbitant fees themselves, the doctors nowadays will do very little without foolproof" pathological tests or without referring you to a specialist. In more serious cases you will be admitted to nursing homes. And in [illegible] there is a cut to be had. Nursing homes and pol clinics in the city are now bringing in sophisticated machines for diagnosing but the old dictum holds good: the machine is as good as the man behind it. There are cases of medical staff unable to read electro car-

'HOW CAN THE DOCTOR BE CONSIDERED UNRELIABLE WHEN HE IS A FRIEND IN NEED?'

Dr Milon Mohon Mazumdar, honorary secretary, Indian Medical Association, West Bengal branch, asserts that the patients of Calcutta have full faith in their doctors and have no reason to question their reliability. Excerpts from the interview:

Q: *Most patients resent that private medical services in the city have been degraded to an unethical money-spinning business:. .*
A: I do not think so because the charging of high professional fees by a doctor is not unethical. It is the patients who have an inexplicable fancy for the most expensive doctors. This should stop. The patients should visit doctors whose fees suit their pockets. With the failure of government-run medical services, patients have no other option but to seek private sources and so they should be judicious in choosing their doctors.

Q: *What prevents the IMA from regulating the fees charged by doctors?*
A: Such an initiative should be made for all aspects of professional services and more so against the income of businessmen. There is an immediate need to bring down or stabilise prices of essential commodities. This is a social problem and cannot be done only by the IMA. It is for our ministers and administrators to bring such a move.

Q: *But, patients complain that even by comparative professional standards, they are forced to pay exorbitant fees for their treatment? Can the IMA check this as many of these doctors are its members?*
A: You cannot deny the fact that some doctors charge high fees because their patients readily oblige. In most cases the fees are not exorbitant, and those who do charge that way are encouraged by the affluent class. Doctors also modify their charges according to the means of the patients. Doctors are not mercenaries. If a patient does not have the ability to pay, his treatment is done free.

Q: *In what way has the state's health ministry failed to provide adequate medical facilities for the common man?*
A: The health ministry's initiative in providing preventive medicare and treatment at hospitals is absolutely in a shambles. And they will continue to remain so until health care is considered a citizen's right. If the health services are nationalised, the woeful dearth of medical facilities for the common man will persist.

Q: *Patients complain that as doctors get richer, their medical services get poorer. Do you feel that the standard of treatment in the city has deteriorated?*
A: While the standard of medical services has degenerated in district, sadar and overcrowded government hospitals, there has been a widening void which is filled up by the private health services. So long as the health services are not nationalised, medical services have to be purchased. So when health care becomes a purchasable commodity, it all depends on the money you can spend. There are doctors whose fees range from Rs 8 to Rs 50, but that depends on the number of years that the physician has put into the profession. I do not think that medical services have deteriorated as regards private practice.

Q: *Many of the city's nursing homes indulge in several unscrupulous practices and render services like medical termination of pregnancy for which they may not have a licence. Many reputed doctors are at the helm of these illegal outlets.*
A: It is for the government to take action as it is a criminal offence to operate nursing homes without official sanction.

Q: *The plethora of illegal pathological test centres that have mushroomed is doing more harm than good. Some doctors refer patients to these centres and allegedly take away a sizeable commission. Is the IMA aware of this?*
A: The IMA condemns the practice of illegal pathological test centres as it is against quackery. But once again, it is the duty of the government and the police. If any patient can bring forth to the IMA a specific case in which a doctor has taken commission or other advantages of these centres, we can take strong action. But, we are yet to receive any such complaint.

Q: *Multinational drug companies and Indian drug manufacturers continue to manufacture and market some drugs which are banned by the government. But doctors continue to prescribe them. What can be done about this?*
A: We have requested the government [illegible] effective arrangements [illegible] ill effects of [illegible] natural [illegible]. It is [illegible] because a doctor is unaware that [illegible] a banned drug. It is not a deliberate. But we are perplexed as to why the government remains unmoved by the sustained campaign of the Drug Action Forum.

Q: *How can you explain the numerous diagnosing errors caused by the sheer negligence of doctors. Is there any way that a patient can seek compensation?*
A. IMA members [illegible] to take insurance policies which compensate patients affected by diagnostic errors. But the realisation of compensation by the patients is a long drawn-out process and we have appealed to the government to make the system prompt. On diagnosing lapses, it is important to note that these errors can happen while a doctor attempts to cure the disease and not all of these cases are caused by negligence.

Q: *But this has led the patients to question the reliability of the doctor. Do you feel that the dependability of a doctor has deteriorated when compared to the situation two decades ago?*
A: The patients and general public of Calcutta have full faith in the capability of their doctors. With the advancement of medical science and the introduction of sophisticated tests, mistakes are easily identified. How can the doctor be considered unreliable when he is a friend in need?

diograms (ECG) correctly because they have not been trained properly. Last February, Bhavna Bellare, a victim, wrote about her experiences to *Sunday*, where she elaborated how the ultrasound tests in the city's leading nursing home and centre were done and how she was advised termination of pregnancy at a dangerously late period because the tests showed that the baby would be born deformed or mentally retarded. She went over to Bombay and now has a baby five months old, horny and gurgling.

A veteran physician decoded examples and said that it was accepted internationally that the chances of error in ultrasonography are five per cent, but in the hands of some doctors it is 50 per cent. In order to read the results correctly one needs training of about three years, but to get quick returns the doctor takes up cases and makes the investment capital to set up the machines. Most of the doctors in the city [illegible] and rarely [illegible]

[illegible] a nurse and the doctor charges the full amount. The latter [illegible] much higher [illegible] enough [illegible]

[illegible] for tissue, the same process has to be repeated for the second tissue and more than three such sections are impossible. 'What if, in one of the three cases, a baby is stillborn? Who does the poor mother abuse then? And [illegible] caesarian [illegible] could have cardiac arrest, pentolytic [illegible] apart from other [illegible] complications and rupture of the uterus," he said. He discovered that even doctors are too busy to attend to post operative complications. Patients suffering from post-operative respiratory depression have been given sedatives leading to respiratory arrest, antibiotics have been prescribed after operation without conducting sensitivity tests which have led to anaphylactic shock resulting in cardiac arrest. A too busy doctor could not attend to his patient with acute pre labour bleeding and the nurse administered a methagen injection which led to foetal distress. All this, and more, happens in maternity cases which are regular affairs and not a disease, one can only guess what happens in more serious ailments.

An average Calcuttan suffers from ear, nose and throat problems and visits a doctor who removes his tonsils in a posh nursing home even if it could be done without. In the case of haemoptysis (blood discharge from the throat), an endoscopy will be performed without any investigation. If you have a persistent headache, you will be given an antral wash and



Gautam Chatterjee

Agitations: Not part of the syllabus

charged Rs 200 and this has become common even in cases where a sinus is clearly visible in the X-ray. Many doctors will persuade their patients that a 'micro-surgery' is necessary even when they do not have microsurgery equipment. "Some of them don't even have a proper cold light source," said a renowned ENT surgeon of a city hospital.

In fact, most of the pathology laboratories do not have proper instruments to carve out tests properly and the samples are handled so carelessly that it is a minor miracle that the reports read anywhere near the truth. Said a professor of pathology: "Labs advertise saying that they have all the facilities for performing a biopsy, but you'll be surprised to see that they don't even have a microtome needed for section cutting from the tissue." So much for the propaganda of the Indian Cancer Society, "Cancer if detected early is curable." How many of our doctors want to lose their recurring fees by detecting cancer early? And how many of the biopsy tests are authentic? In such cases, the oncologist will *not* be referred to even if early signs are noticed.

Ignorance on the part of the doctor also leads him to treat a patient for tuberculosis in the early stages of lung cancer. Three to four months may lapse before it is learnt that it is cancer, by which time the crabs-pincers have well and truly sunk into the flesh. A leading oncologist believed: "A doctor can detect cancer at its early stage only if the entire medical fraternity of the city cooperates." Often, in cases where cobalt therapy is essential, doctors send their patients to private nursing homes for deep X-ray treatment instead. Natural! There is a commission to be had from the nursing homes.

Differences of opinion among the doctors will necessarily be there, but most often it is a problem of professional ethics. If one doctor prescribes a certain expectorant, the other doctor will promptly change it dismissively, sometimes reversing his own prescription later. One doctor may implant a pacemaker and the other doctor will remove it. A cardiac surgeon said: "Last year, I had implanted a pacemaker in a 45-year old man and it was removed later by another surgeon, saying it was not necessary. On one of my routine rounds I was summoned to the emergency ward where I found this man being given cardiac massage, his pulse rate was 16 with complete heart block. His wife revealed to me that the pacemaker had been removed and I had to resort to temporary pacemaker to save the patient."

No wonder, then, very few doctors have opted for the doctors' malpractice insurance which protects them against their legal liability to pay compensation to their patients for accidental bodily injury or death directly caused by professional negligence or wrong treatment. According to insurance industry sources, in



My doctor, my saviour

largely because patients in general are not conscious of their legal rights unlike those in, say, the USA where negligent doctors are often sued for huge damages. Here, the doctors know that patients rarely lodge formal complaints, let alone take legal action, against guilty doctors.

Dr P K Sarkar, professor of pharmacology, R G Kar Medical College, had many interesting examples to prove how the degradation percolates from government levels and is perpetuated by the lopsided education system. Said Dr Sarkar: "Novalgin is a drug which does not find a place in the textbooks of medical students. They are not taught about it because it is a toxic drug and safer alternatives are available. The students are also not taught about drugs like Analgin or Baralgan. But as soon as they pass out, they begin prescribing these drugs to their patients. The reason is simple. More than 95 per cent of the drugs in the market are not available by their generic names, by which they are taught in the classes. But as soon as they pass out, they are frequented by medical representatives who try to push the products of their companies. Thus, the brand names are ingrained in the junior doctors' minds. Slowly, but surely, the medical representatives become their practical teachers without informing them about the harmful effects of combination drugs."

Prescribing drugs that are banned is done either in ignorance or in deliberate connivance with medical representatives of the pharmaceutical companies. "A large number of hazardous drugs are freely sold in the market, for example, Oechogen-Progestogen combination, Chloramphenicol-Streptomycin combination, Anabolic Steroid, etc. These drugs are either banned or severely restricted because they do not give any benefit but may lead to irreparable damage," said Dr Sujit K Das, secretary, Drug Action Forum. "The Oeshogen-Progestogen combination (sold as E P Forte, Orasecron Forte, Menstrogen Forte, etc) is used for pregnancy test and certain ailments of females. It causes damage to the foetus and results in a deformed baby. This drug is banned in every other country including Bangladesh. But here consumers buy it for themselves for pregnancy tests even without prescription."

The wild claims made about the efficacy of the banned drugs by some of the companies confuses and misleads the doctors. "And it also appears that the pressure of the drug control authorities to disseminate scientific information to the medical practitioners in other developing countries, but here the job is neglected. This creates serious problems," elaborated Dr Das.

Multinational drug companies do not restrict their promotion of banned drugs to glossy pamphlets and well designed literature. According to Dr Das, they adopt other means as presenting gifts to doctors, donating generously to doctors' associations, funding their conferences and so on. Physicians' samples are collected by the hordes and mostly sold to illiterate patients. The unlettered patient also gets distilled water injections most often by the local compounders who strut about as "*daktar sahibs*". Pacemakers of a cheaper variety are implanted while charges for the better variety are made. And anti tetanus shots for a minor nail injury cause viral hepatitis because the syringe needle was not sterilised properly. Who knows, your one-year old baby may be the next AIDS victim only because his blood was taken for a simple test.

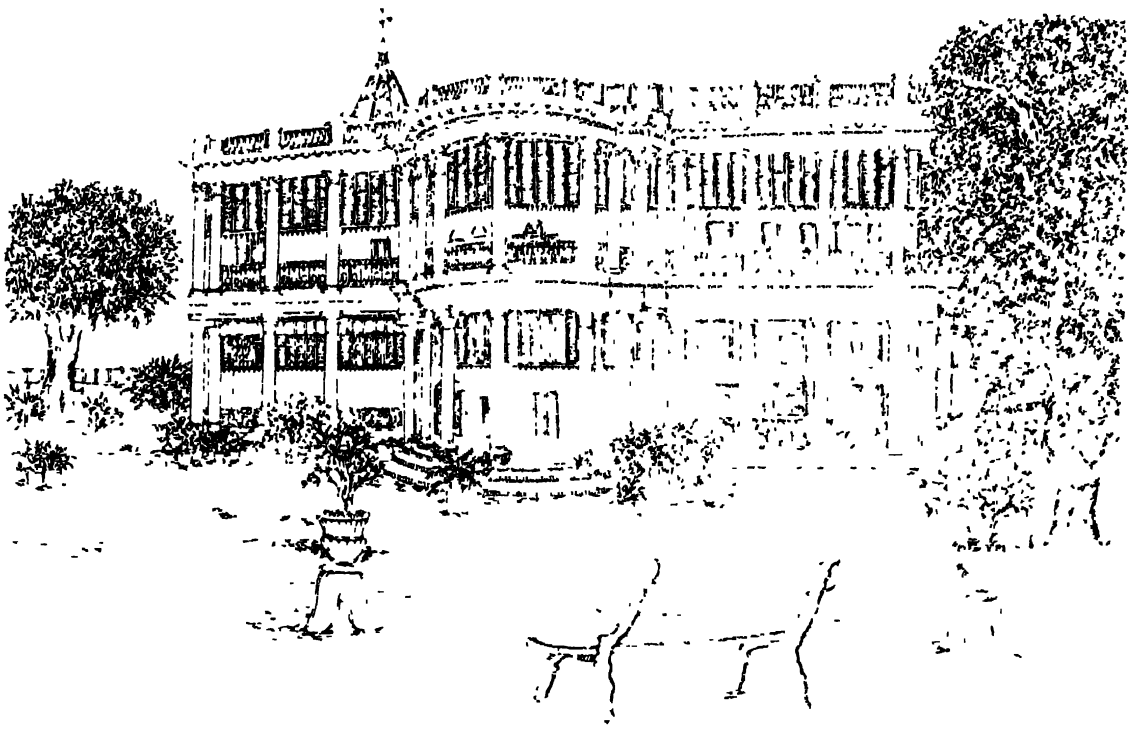
All these and scores of other cases have actually taken place and, what is worse, may be taking place every hour of the day. We are not talking about the legions of quacks. We are not talking about the few sincere and competent doctors whom we should thank the heavens for. We are talking of the dear doctor next door. Considering what the medical profession has come to, would you be able to put your life in his hands and say, "Okay, doc, I'm all yours"?

Or, would you prefer to send him an apple everyday?

Anil Grover with reports from Debashis Aikat, Soutik Biswas, Monimoy Dasgupta and Jaideep Bose

HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

BURDWAN PALACE



Built in 1903, the Burdwan Palace or Vijay Manzil at Alipore was the Calcutta residence of the Maharajadhirajas of Burdwan. The 72-bigha estate once belonged to the Apcar family, the original Apcar House was destroyed in the 1899 earthquake.

The once spacious parks of the Burdwan Palace (now cluttered with modern constructions), the driveway, the empty servants' quarters and stables are all witnesses to the hey days of the raj. The estate at one time required more than 50 servants and 15 gardeners to keep it in shape. The stables once housed carriage horses, riding horses and polo ponies - numbering about 60 in all.

The rooms are decorated with enormous oil paintings and family mementoes. The grand staircase is [illegible] shrine of statuary. The [illegible] ornate [illegible] some architectural [illegible] at Shanghai [illegible] [illegible] chairs and [illegible] and carved wood. The [illegible] also boasts of [illegible] how where [illegible] errors [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] was [illegible]



QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

Rose Thomas, Calcutta 16, asks "Who played the wedding song *Here Comes the Bride* on the piano?"

If the song is almost synonymous with Hindu marriages the "Bridal Chorus, (or *Here Comes the Bride*)," is played at almost all traditional weddings in the West as the happy couple walks to the altar. However, it is sung to quite a different setting in Richard Wagner's opera *Lohengrin* from which it is taken. In the opera, the chorus start singing as the hero Lohengrin accompanied by his new wife Elsa, enters the bridal chamber, which is separated by a large bed. Their attendants then help them to disrobe for the wedding night. Because of this sensually oriented scene, some religious sects have objected to using the "Bridal Chorus" as a wedding march.

Wagner wrote *Lohengrin* in 1848, but it was ignored until 1850, when Franz Liszt presented the opera at Weimar. The production, which was five hours long, was not seen by Wagner. He was living outside Germany at the time because he was afraid of being arrested for having engaged in revolutionary activities. He finally attended a production of *Lohengrin* in Paris in 1861. The "Bridal Chorus" had already been used as the wedding march at the first royal wedding, that of Princess Victoria, the daughter of Queen Victoria, to Prince Frederick William of Prussia in 1858. From then on, the "Bridal Chorus" became a traditional wedding march.

The story of *Lohengrin* is classic. The hero, Lohengrin, arrives in Antwerp in a boat drawn by a swan. He defends Elsa and wins her as his bride, but makes her promise never to ask him his real name or where he comes from. Encouraged by the heartless Ortud, she does ask Lohengrin on their wedding night, and he is obligated by his vows to the Grail to leave her forever. So Lohengrin and Elsa do not live together until "death us do part," but separate rather quickly. Ironically, critics have said the "Bridal Chorus" is one of the weakest parts of this opera.

Wagner, incidentally, had a tendency to put women on pedestals and then knock them off when they didn't live up to his expectations. Today he would be called a male chauvinist for his negative views about equal rights for women. During World War II, Wagner's heroic works were so identified with Nazi Germany that his operas were rarely produced by the Allies. Even recently Israel banned the performance of his works. Despite all this, English-speaking countries retain the "Bridal Chorus" as a wedding march.

A quiz report from Dipta Sen, Bhadrakali.

"The fourth annual quiz contest organised by Uttarpara Quiz Club was held at Uttarpara Raja Peary Mohan College. From the start it was an absorbing battle between 'Diad,' 'Eccentrix' and 'Renaldo' but in the second half, 'Diad' (Asit Mukherjee and Amitava Sengupta) were far ahead of the others and stayed there to come first. 'Eccentrix' and 'Ronaldo' were second and third respectively.

Ziaullah Khan writes from Ranchi.

"Spring Time '88 of H E C Rourkela was another milestone added to quizzing in Orissa. It was an hour of rapid fire questions. The quiz master, Professsor Terrence O'Brien of St Xavier's College, Ranchi, came up with stunners and sitters. Some of the questions were as follows. Whom did the press once describe as 'Virgin Iron pants' (Benazir Bhutto), What is a 'head' in a ship (Toilet), What is common to Morarji Desai and Superman (Both celebrate their birthdays on February 29). The quiz saw a neck-and-neck fight between most of the teams and H E C. Rourkela finally emerged first.

CBS

***11th Question*: Who is an "Idiot Savant"? (Vinay Kumar Rastogi, Hostel No. 8, Room No. 9, BIT Sindri, Dhanbad)**
***Ans:* A mentally retarded person who demonstrates remarkable talent in some restricted area such as memorising or rapid calculations.**



Richard Wagner

QUESTIONS

1. To whom is the authorised version of the Bible dedicated to? (Ashish Kumar Das, BIT Sindri)
2. In his "Dandi March" how many miles did Gandhiji walk? (Alok Verma, BIT Sindri)
3. Which chief minister was nicknamed "Purashi Thalaivar"? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
4. Who was the first man who portrayed a double role in a feature film in India? (Murali Krishna, Rourkela 3)
5. Which court has given orders to the government of India to examine afresh with an open mind the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
6. Whose last words were: "Once I was waxing—now I am waning"? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)
7. Who said, "God made the country, but man made the town."? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)
8. Who made her debut in the film *Kahan Kahan Se Guzar Gaye?* (Sutanu Mukherjee, Calcutta 47)
9. What ailment is a person suffering from, if he is said to be a case of the "Van-Der-Merve reaction"? (Ajit Narayan, Calcutta 25)
10. Robert Bell fronts for which pop band? (Avik Chaudhuri, Calcutta 88)

ANSWERS

1. James I of England.
2. 241 miles, starting from Sabarmati in Gujarat.
3. M G. Ramachandran.
4. Master Vithal *Prisoner in Love.*
5. Rajasthan High Court.
6. Madame Tussaud—famous for her waxworks!
7. William Cowper.
8. Sharon Prabhakar
9. He is suffering from an unstopable urge to laugh over long periods
10. Kool and the Gang

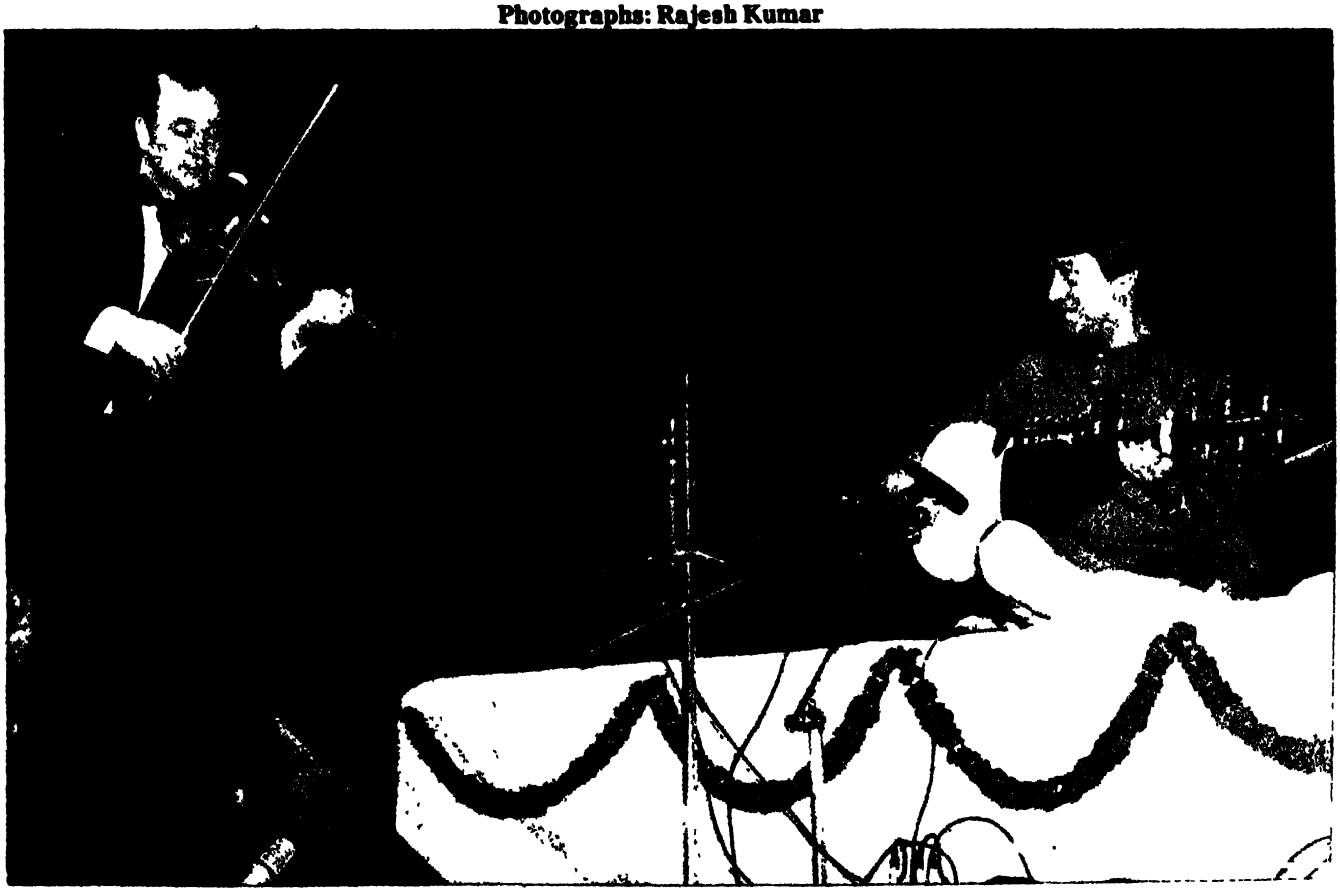


DOUBLE DELIGHT

When Indian sarodist **Amjad Ali Khan** and Soviet violinist **Igor Frolov** were presented together by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in New Delhi last fortnight, they struck notes of universality. Music, they showed, was the food of international understanding, and played on...



Photographs: Rajesh Kumar



DOTS, AND DASHES OF COLOUR

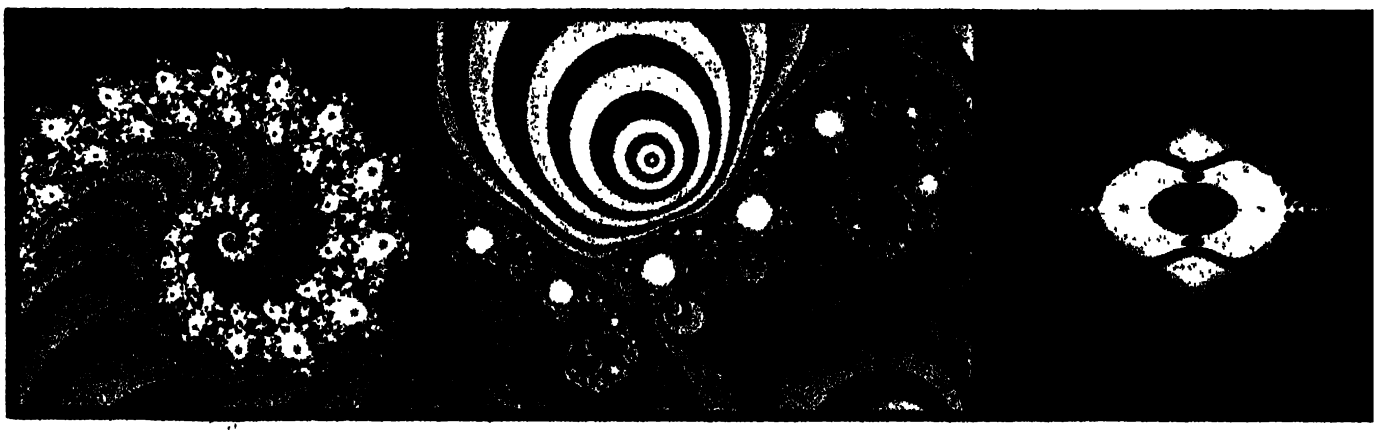
Computer art might look like trick photography, but the brilliant graphics are the result of mathematical formulae in computer language



The borderline between pure mathematics and art is fast vanishing. The two streams of knowledge have merged and blended into each other to explore the frontiers of chaos. With the aid of computers, the dynamic nature of familiar things as water boiling in a vessel or a bud unfolding were studied and then expressed in their pure mathematical form on the monitor screen. The result, a breathtaking display of visual arts hitherto undreamt of. Recent strides in computer graphics have enabled centuries-old mathematical techniques to be transformed into striking images. They come as bizarre worlds, ragged snow-clad mountain peaks or fabulous spirals What to the uninitiated appears to be trick photography is simply the product of mathematical formulae expressed in computer language

At the Technogerma fair at New Delhi last month, German scientists of the Goethe Institute held a week-long exhibition of computer art known in common parlance as "computer graphics." The exhibition called *Frontiers of Chaos* was the fruit of a collaboration between the mathematicians and physicists of the University of Bermen.

The exhibition allowed simultaneous views of two new frontiers. The first, is

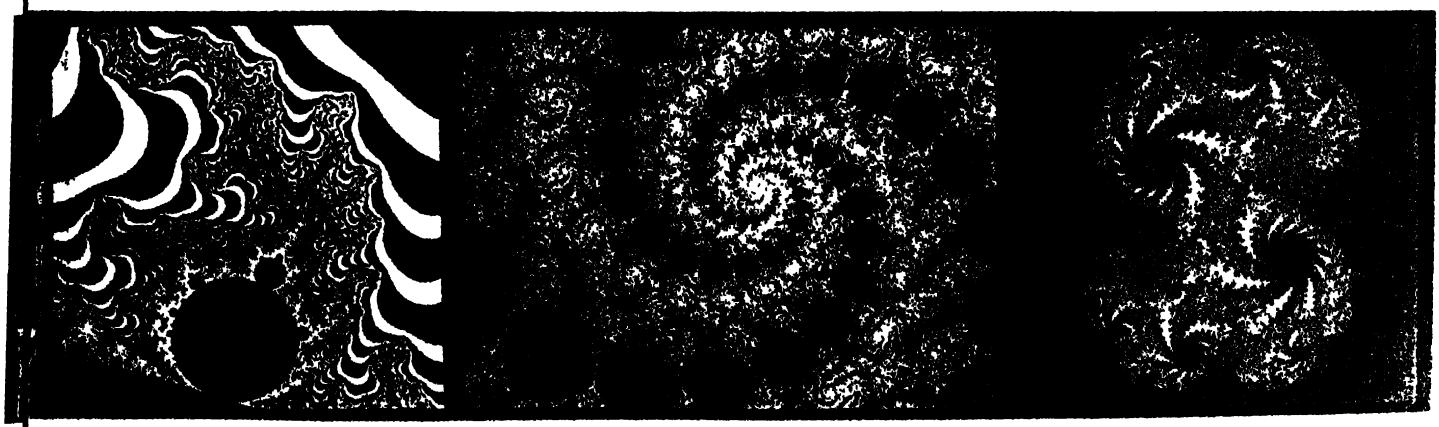




the recently explored boundary between determinism and apparent chaos in physical systems The mathematical description of that boundary and of related theoretical systems provides the subject matter of the pictures in the exhibit The second is at the level of the pictures themselves rather than what they depict, a newly created area of overlap between the normally distant domains of pure mathematics and visual arts

There is one fundamental point that should be emphasised Forced to characterise in some fashion the pictures in the exhibition, one would have to describe them as "computer art " They are, in fact, all visual images generated by the computer However, they differ in an essential way from earlier forms of computer art, where the role of the computer was as a technological tool in the hands of artists Here, all the shapes that occur are in some sense determined by mathematical expressions It is most remarkable that the seemingly endless variety and intricacy of those shapes are derived from some of the simplest possible mathematical formulae Although the shapes themselves are mathematically determined, there are still two elements of freedom where purely aesthetic decisions come to play First is the choice of colours, they may be selected at will The second is "composition"—just as ordinary photographs are cropped, so computer images may be cut off in any way that one chooses The computer in its new role of an artist has a dual function, best explained in imaging the monitor screen as the canvas of a pointilliste painter The object is to cover the canvas with dots of different colours, over 2,00,000 dots to be precise. The colour of each dot is determined by a mathematical process that is elementary but lengthy and tedious—the perfect job of a computer That is its first function The second is the conversion of numerical formations into the production of an actual dot of colour on the screen

Abhijit Roy



WAR WITH THE RIVERLORDS



Agitating fishermen demanding an end to the panidari system

Fishermen in Bhagalpur have begun in earnest their war against the archaic system of panidari, report Uttam Sengupta and lensman K.M. Kishen

The ancient system of panidari or "riverlordship" in Bhagalpur district of Bihar seems at last to be on its way out. The Bihar government in December asked its law department to formulate a draft ordinance to ban the practice. Simultaneously, the fishermen of Bhagalpur, tired of waiting for the government to take action, last year decided to stop paying the customary fees to the panidars in return for which they were allowed to fish in an 80-km stretch of the Ganga, from Pirpianti to Sultanganj. The panidars of Bhagalpur—Mahasay Mahesh Ghosh, Ghani Mian and Balram Mandal—claim fishing rights to this stretch of the river on the basis of a Mughal *hukumnama* which they say dates back to the 17th century.

The panidari system is as much of an anachronism and as exploitative as zamindari. The fishermen have to enter *pattas* or contracts with the panidars before they can fish in the waters under their control. The fees, which are paid in cash and kind, are fixed arbitrarily by the panidar and in



Panidar Mohammed Ghani's *sipahis* pose outside their kutchery





Fishermen near Kanalgaon throwing in their nets

case of default, the fishermen's boats and nets are seized by his hired musclemen called *sipahis*. The fishermen have no legal rights whatsoever and the panidars take full advantage of this The fishermen of the area organised themselves under the banner of the Jal Shramik Union in 1982 and since then have been pressuring the government to ban the archaic system

It is not that the Bihar government has been totally passive. It did try to abolish the system as early as 1962 but lost a case challenging its action in the Patna high court. An appeal to the Supreme Court has been pending for over 22 years Technically the government is at a disadvantage because panidari cannot be abolished by an executive order. Hence the decision to formulate an ordinance

But the ordinance could have been framed long ago and a possible reason for successive Congress governments of the state avoiding doing so could be that the panidars have been traditional Congress supporters while the agitation by the fishermen is being spearheaded by the Opposition. This also probably explains why neither the present chief minister, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad, who represents Bhagalpur in the Lok Sabha, nor the Speaker of the Assembly, Prof Shiv Chandra Jha, an MLA from the district, nor other legislators from the area have ever bothered to highlight the issue

The divisional commissioner of Bhagalpur, Mr Phool Chand Singh, claims the total revenue loss of the state government due to the panidari system is about Rs five lakhs annually. The Ganga Mukti Andolan (GMA) activists who are mainly behind the agitation against the panidars, claim the earnings amount to "crores of rupees" Asked about the conflicting versions, Mahasay Mahesh Ghosh says, "I have never seen one lakh rupees in my life"

Mahasay Mahesh Ghosh outside the temple at his residence





Fisherwomen displaying their catch

Mahesh Ghosh "controls" the western part of the Ganga from Barari to Sultanganj. Earlier, the entire rights of the 80-km stretch belonged to his family but his forefathers sold the eastern part—from Barari to Kuppaghat in Pirpianti—to the ancestors of Mohammad Ghani and Balram Mandal. The three panidars lease out the rights before each fishing season, some time in June-July, to the highest bidders among a host of contractors and subcontractors.

The fishermen purchase *pattas* from the contractors for a month, three months or a year. The rates they have to pay depend on the types of net they use and the prevailing prices of fish. If they use the *phaansi jaal*, meant for big catch, they have to pay less, roughly Rs 600 annually, because the amount of big fish has gone down over the years. For those using the *bisara jaal*, the rates are sometimes as high as Rs 4,500.

Ajay Prasad Shah manages the kutchery of Ghani Mian at Kagajitola, one of the 64 fishing villages of the area under the panidars. Shah claims he issues only 50 pattas in a year and that his total annual collection amounts to Rs 1,200. He adds that with such a meagre income, patrolling the rivers is difficult and it is becoming impossible to control free fishers. But his kutchery with its large rooms and more than 10 employees belies his claims

It is believed that the state government was shocked into drafting the ordinance against panidari last year after 11 fishermen, who were coming to Bhagalpur from Raimahal on the invitation of one of Mahesh Ghosh's subcontractors were brutally killed. The fishermen were suspected to have died in an encounter between rival groups of contractors who were trying to capture them because skilled fishermen were then scarce because of the noncooperation agitation launched by locals. Directly after the incident,



Fisherfolk cooking meals on boats at Kanalgaon



Fisherwomen display their ware at Kagajitola

however, the contractors accused the GMA activists of killing the fishermen Many of them were also arrested and they, in turn, accused the contractors of engineering the incident to defame them

The GMA members have taken up cudgels against pandari in right earnest but they admit that it is a dying system and that the fishermen have far more serious problems confronting them Ram Sharan, a senior member of the GMA, says river pollution and the barrage at Farakka have seriously affected the quality and quantity of fish at Bhagalpur. He adds that there are as many as three traditional fishing villages in the area where not a single member practises the profession today

Mahesh Ghosh says he is "the last of the dinosaurs " He adds, "After me the deluge " None of his children is dependent on the income from fishing and none of them lives at the ancestral home at Champanagar Mahesh Ghosh himself lives there only for a few months of the year but is nevertheless quite a legend in these parts He is known to be a tantric of sorts and he says the income from fishing was consecrated by his ancestors to the resident deities- Vishnu and Bhairab -of his sprawling, crumbling mansion As proof of his pandari rights, he shows a marble plaque which says the "Dilhishwar" (Emperor of Delhi) was pleased to grant the family that privilege

Mahesh Ghosh is bitter at his 'character assassination" by the media "They have portrayed me as a criminal, a murderer, a common goonda," he says "I have rehabilitated criminals, given them jobs, stopped communal riots The people listen to me not because of my *sipahis* but because I have always been fair and served their interests And you dub me a monster."

Several eminent persons in Bhagalpur echo Mahesh Ghosh's sentiments and say he has been wronged Says a distinguished doctor, "He has tamed the wildest criminal because he is a tough customer himself But he belongs to an old aristocratic family and is hardly the mafia don he is made out to be " Considering such opinions, it is not surprising that the GMA has made more headway in the east than in the area west of Bhagalpur which is Mahesh Ghosh's domain.

While Mahesh Ghosh and the other pandars acknowledge that their ilk is on the way out, they are sceptical about whether the fishing cooperatives which will replace them will help to improve in any way the condition of the fishermen "The corrupt officials will exploit them they say Even GMA members agree that the fishing cooperatives could end up being as bad as the pandars, but they add on a hopeful note "At least they would be a little more democratic and amenable to change " ■

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Falak:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147)—4 shows

Raakhee, Jackie Shroff, Supriya Pathak, Anupam Kher and Madhavi comprise the cast in this Shashilal Nair film whose music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Jeete Hain Shaan Se:** Opera (Lenin Sarani), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515)—4 shows

Directed by Kewal Sharma, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Govinda, Sunjay Dutt, Mandakini and Vijayeta The music is by Annu Malik

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place. 284138), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)—4 shows; Gem (Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)—3 shows

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T Prakash Rao. The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kasam:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 311090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—4 shows.



Rekha in *Utsav*

Directed by Umesh Mehra and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon, Pran, Kader Khan and Gulshan Grover.

• **Paap Ki Duniya:** Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442)—4 shows.

Sunny Deol, Chunky Panday, Shakti Kapoor, Pran, Danny Denzongpa and Neelam comprise the cast of this Shibu Mitra film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Pyar Ka Mandir:** Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666)—4 shows.

A film by K. Bapaiah, starring Mithun Chakraborty, Madhavi, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Aruna Irani, Kader Khan, Raza Murad, Asrani and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Utsav (A):** Lotus (S.N Banerjee Road; 242664)—12, 3, 6, 8.30

A film by Girish Karnad, starring Rekha, Shashi Kapoor, Amjad Khan, Kunal Kapoor, Shekhar Suman and Anooradha Patel The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

Bengali films

• **Antaranga:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 553045), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—3, 5.45, 8 30; Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—2.30, 5 15, 8.

Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy are the lead pair in this Dinen Gupta film. Others in the cast are Rabi Ghosh, Anup Kumar, Chinmoy Roy and Basanta Chowdhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Aparadhi:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440)—3 shows

Directed by Nandan Dasgupta, the cast includes Deepankar De, Sumitra Mukherjee, Abhisek Chatterjee, Soma Mukherjee and Abhijit Sen The music is by Samir Mukherjee.

• **Gurudakshina:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Ranjit Mullick, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Kali Banerjee, Shakuntala Barua, Bhavesh Kundu, Soumitra Banerjee and Ishani Banerjee. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Hirer Shikal:** Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 478807)—2.45, 5.45, 8.30; Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522)—2.30, 5.30, 8.30; Prachi (Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road; 271282)—3 shows.

Directeed by Murari Chakraborty and with music by Robin Banerjee, the cast includes Debashree Roy (in a double role), Chiranjeet, Madhabi Mukherjee, Satya Bandopadhyay, Shekhar Chatterjee, Gita Dey, Master Tapu, Kajal Gupta and Biplab Chatterjee.



Satabdi Roy and Tapas Paul in *Antaranga*



The Bolshoi Ballet of the Navoi State Academic Bolshoi Theatre

Special Events

1-4 May: 6 30 pm

Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Anamika Kala Sangam present the Bolshoi Ballet of the Navoi State Academic Bolshoi Theatre (of Uzbekistan) as part of the Festival of the USSR in India The repertoire includes *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Tommis* and *Amulet of Love* Bernara Karieva is the leading ballerina of the troupe

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 419937)

1-7 May: 6.30 pm

Bohurupee's week-long festival of plays features *Juati* on the 1st *Kinukaharer Thetar* on the 2nd, *Galileo* on the 3rd, *Rajdarshan* on the 4th, *Agunei Pakhi* on the 5th *Mister Kakatua* on the 6th and Tagore's *Mahua* on the concluding evening

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Raod, 444205)

1 and 7 May: 6.30 pm

Anamika presents the Hindi play, *Pagla Baba* Directed by Bimal Lath, the cast includes Rajaram Yajnik, Pallavi Mehta, Swaran Chaudhry, Hira Lal, Mohit Shukla, S Anand, Ramesh Sharma, Ajay Mishra, Jamal Waris, Gaurav Dube, Dinesh Thakkar, Yogesh Suri, Nandkishore and Bimal Lath

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

2 May: 5 pm

A programme to felicitate Sunil Kumar Paul, eminent artist, and poetry recitation by leading poets along with an exhibition of paintings by Charu Khan in the New South Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

4 May: 6 pm

SRA Music Circle presents Chitra Visweswaran in a Bharata Natyam lecture-dance demonstration and R Visweswaran in a santoor recital

At Aldeen (1 NSC Bose Road, Tollygunge, 463395)



Chitra Visweswaran

6 May: 6 30 pm

Open Theatre presents *Shesh Bhalo* a play in Bengali based on Brecht's works

At Mukta Angan Rangalaya (S P Mukherjee Road, 465277)

6 May: 6.30 pm

Ragnee's evening of classical dance and music features Komala Varadan (Bharata Natyam) and Pritish Bhattacharya (vocal)

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Saram, 449086)

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) AI-132A at 1805

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910, Dep. (2) AI-316 at 2020

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015, Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong: Arr (4) AI-324 at 1050, Dep. (4) AI-324 at 1150

Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay: Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235, Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-492 at 0955; Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU 493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Moscow: Arr (4) SU 537 at 1555 Dep (4) SU-538 at 1855

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1345 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1545, Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1245 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0925

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3 6 7) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC-248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dkaka Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1 2, 4 5 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340 Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045 Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok. Arr (2 4 7) IC 232 at 1640, Arr (1 3 6) IG-313 at 1240, Dep (2 4 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1 3, 6) IG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5 6) GQ 102 at 0730 Arr (1 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710 Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1 3 5, 6 7) IC 478 at 1045 Arr (1 3 5 6 7) IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6), IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC 278 at 2215, Arr (4 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800 Arr (1, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3 5, 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC 229 at 1320 Dep (1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6) IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3, 5) IC 249 at 1610, Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 Arr (1 2 3, 4 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC 255 at 0530 Arr (daily) IC 256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala. Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC 241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC 242 at 1610

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep (1, 3 5) IC 243 at 0610 Arr (1, 3 5) IC 238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (1 3, 5) IC 202 at 1040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (7) IC 219 at 0[illegible]

7 DAYS

IC 220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 717 at 0600 Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna. Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 725 at 0600 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 726 at 1100

* **Calcutta-Aizawl** Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 705A at 1100 Arr (2, 4, 6) PF 706A at 1130

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 729 at 1130 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 730 at 1610

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 721, 22 at 0630 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723,724 at 1915

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF 703 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF 706 at 1745

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-732 at 1000

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 727 at 0940 Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 728 at 1610

Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 707 at 0610, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) PF-701,735 at 0830, Arr (daily) PF 702,736 at 1705

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning

NOTE: A number of train timings have changed from May 1. But we have not been able to incorporate all these in this issue as the railway authorities were unable to provide the information when we went to press.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19 00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8 45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep -- Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri --Tues, Wed & Sat	17-50	82
103	8 45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep — Thurs up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-50	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri --Tues, Wed Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri --Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-00	**Purbanchal Express** Dep --Mon & Thurs Arri --Thurs & Mon	4 15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-30	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
165	12-30	**New Bongaigaon Janata Express**	13-35	166
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-30	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19 00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-10	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 35	34
303	18-15	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-30	304

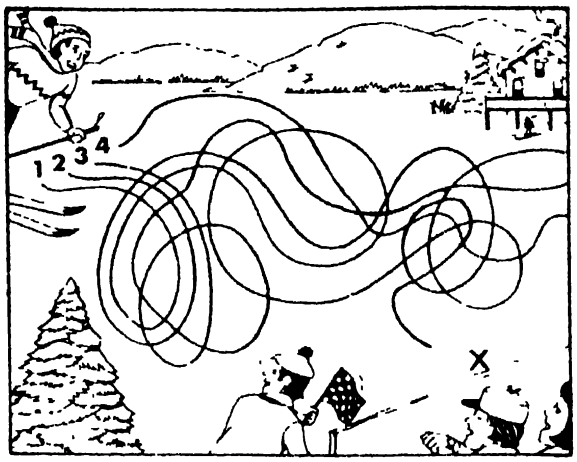
SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-35	**Madras Mail**	6 00	4
2	20-25	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep -Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arri --Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat	14-15	59
134	20-50	**Ahmedabad Express** 4 days a week Dep Tues Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Fri & Sun	4-10	133
30	12-15	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11 15	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express**	4 00	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-25	**Sambalpur Express**	5 30	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	18-45	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-15	10
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-40	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-05	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
-	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



GUIDE LINES! Can you guide the skier above across the finish line? One of four routes reaches point X

• THINK LESS! Subtract from 46 a fourth, a fifth and an eighth of a certain number and the answer is zero What is the number?

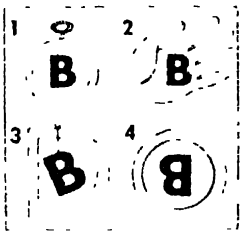


FIGURE AGE WITH LUCK!

• B RESOLVED! A set of New Year's resolutions appears below in rebus form Each involves the letter B Number 1, for instance, is B on time

After deciphering the other three, see if you don't agree that they present some good advice

Perhaps you can think up some more, similarly



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference 1 Plant is different 2 Fur cuff is missing 3 Hair is different 4 Vase is missing 5 Arm is lowered 6 Head is tilted

FUNSPOT



TIME TESTED! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments of this New Year's scene Code 1 Red 2 Lt blue 3--Yellow 4--Lt brown 5 -Flesh 6--Lavender

SPELLBINDER

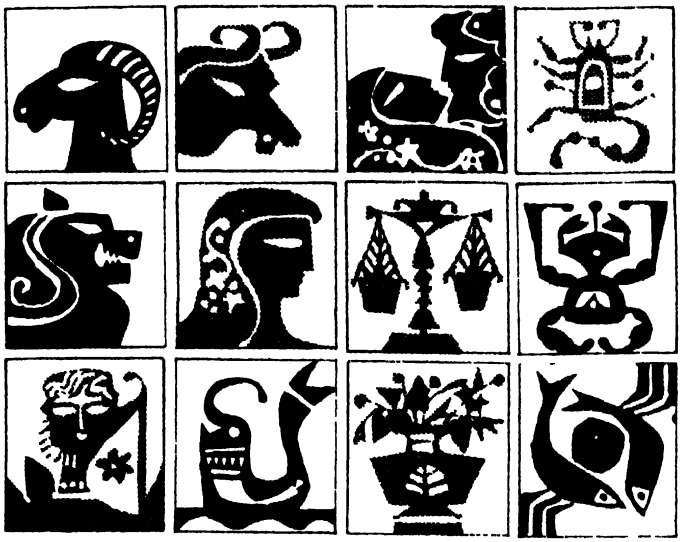
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

RESOLUTE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

INNER EYE □ Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES

March 21—April 20

The full moon in your sign ensures that contracts and collaborations will be signed Socialising and group activity is signified Friendship, fun and entertainment are on the cards This is the right time to join a club At the same time do not neglect your work Health may cause concern.

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

The sun Jupiter conjunction will prod you into travel On the work front you will shine and friends and colleagues will finally recognise your worth Expenses are bound to rise but so will income Influential people will go out of their way to help you A lucky week ahead

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Gains and gaiety are foretold You will be duly rewarded for all the good work you have put in A journey is on the cards You will donate generously to charitable institutions Romance is in the air for the eligible and fancyfree Matters pertaining to legacies will now be resolved

CANCER

June 21—July 20

The moon trine sun formation will inspire a new spurt in creativity Your imagination and intuition will see you through many tricky situations Intimate ties are foretold You may come into some wealth Stay on guard and do not take people at face value

LEO

July 21—August 21

Moon trines Jupiter and you will succeed in any business venture or collaboration that you may now undertake Buying and selling are also highlighted A housewarming party is on the cards. The time is right to embark on trips Partnerships at all levels are strongly indicated

VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

Increased responsibilities are likely to bog you down Your sense of perfection may make you too demanding on colleagues and friends An engagement or new arrival will keep you busy Children and grandchildren will contribute to your happiness Fuse work with pleasure for best results

BIRTHDAYS

May 1

Moon conjunction Pluto Do not take people at face value Be sure of your facts This is not the right time to take chances A pragmatic approach is advised Take one step at a time

May 2

Sun conjunction Jupiter Friends will be cooperative Learn to reciprocate in kind Sudden help and foreign connections are foretold Deals, behind the scene activity and gains are indicated A venture comes through splendidly for you

May 3

Moon semi-sextile Saturn This position favours engineers, surgeons, real-estate agents, cinema, stage and theatre artists, theologians, lawyers and diplomats You must take the initiative Group activity spells success. Romance blooms

May 4

Moon sextile Mars You will go places Keep your options open

LIBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22

A hobby can now be converted into a profitable profession Despite your busy schedule you will have enough time to enjoy yourself as more than one interesting offer will come your way Marriage, business partnerships collaborations, fun games and money are all destined

May 5

Moon opposition Venus Expect help and compensation from the government, large corporations and multi-nationals This is the right time to take a chance Those in export-import, publicity and journalism will win laurels

May 6

Moon trine Jupiter Things will go your way You will succeed in ventures There is a possibility of misinformation and deception, so be sure of your facts Socialise and entertain It will be good for business and will also give you the relaxation needed to balance work pressures

May 7

Moon semi-sextile Uranus This is a superb placing for artists, traders, commission agents and copywriters. Promote your image Profitable contacts, partnerships and collaborations will come your way this year Take a chance on an enterprise and socialise An engagement or reconciliation with loved ones is on the cards Those involved with sports, teaching, painting and research will do well

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Matters pertaining to house, property, renovation, decoration and refurbishing will keep you busy Rents, taxes and property disputes are bound to irk you The time is right to sign legal documents, but do not do so till you have consulted experts There is a strong possibility of a job change

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

Learn to take chances Use every possible means to circulate and communicate Take the initiative and reach out to influential people through every means of communication Try and keep to schedules You will shine at meetings and conferences Friends will finally recognise your worth

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

Moon sextiles Mars and there will be a spurt in business activity Press ahead with all pending matters as deals will be struck to your advantage You may find yourself going in for luxury purchases like cars Expenses are likely to soar but you will feel it is for a good cause

AQUARIUS

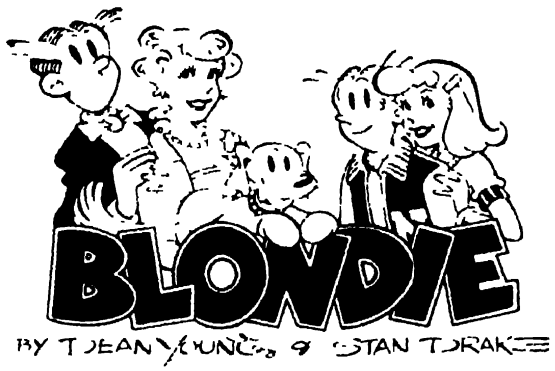
Jan 20 Feb 19

There will be numerous problems that will plague you now but happier times lie ahead Friends and relatives will lend all possible support to all ventures that you may have in mind Romance blooms for the fancyfree and eligible A second marriage is fated for some Guard health

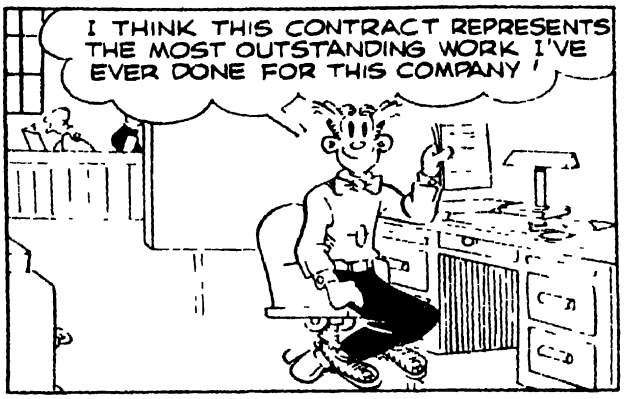
PISCES

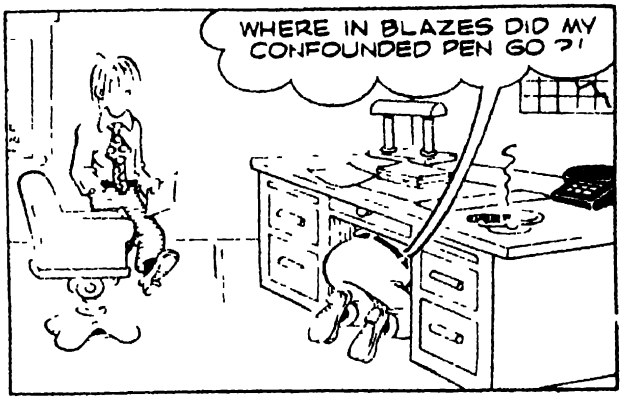
Feb 20 March 20

Heavy expenses are foretold Travel to foreign countries with chances of building good contacts is destined Your intuition will help you This is a time to reassess your goals and make yourself more open to ideas and opinions You may meet someone who will make an impression on you

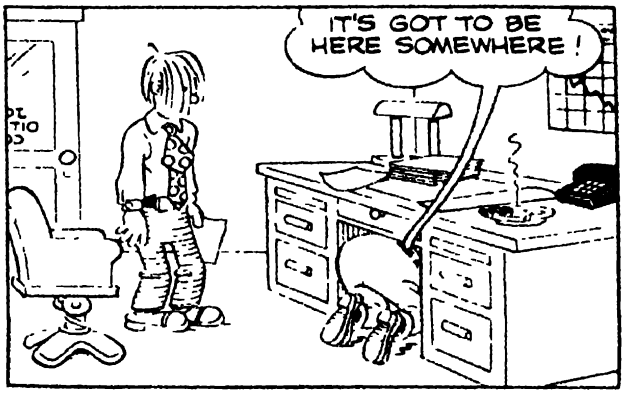


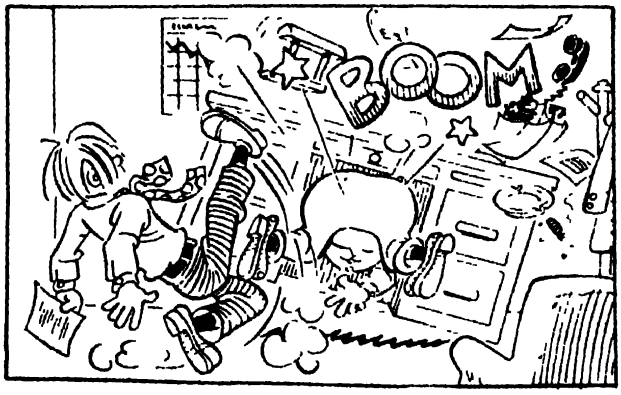




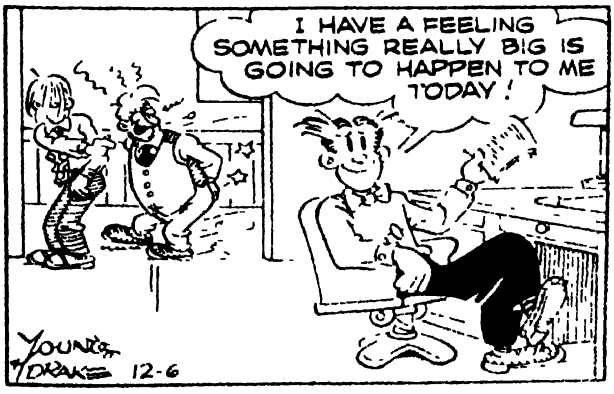








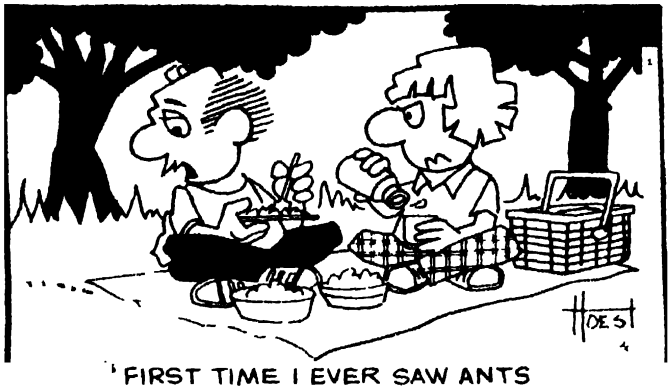
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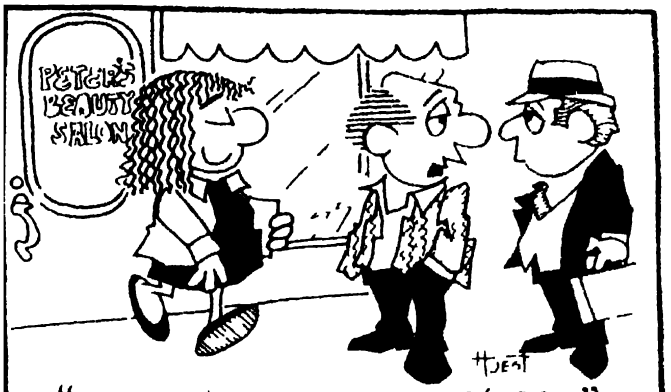
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



THE LOCKHORNS



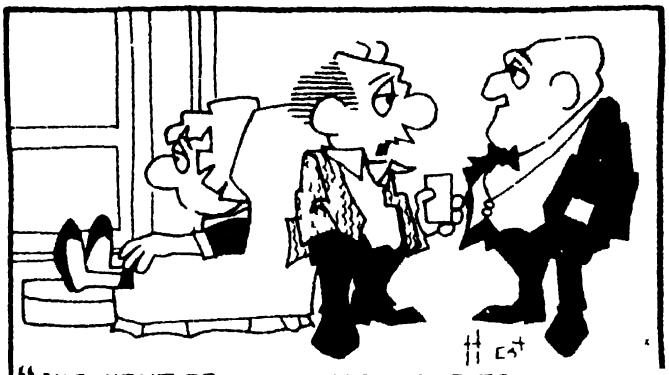
"FIRST TIME I EVER SAW ANTS RUN AWAY FROM POTATO SALAD."



"IT'S THE 'NATURAL DISASTER' LOOK"



"LEROY ORIGINALLY CAME FROM NEW JERSEY THE FIRST HUNDRED AND FORTY POUNDS OF HIM, ANYWAY"



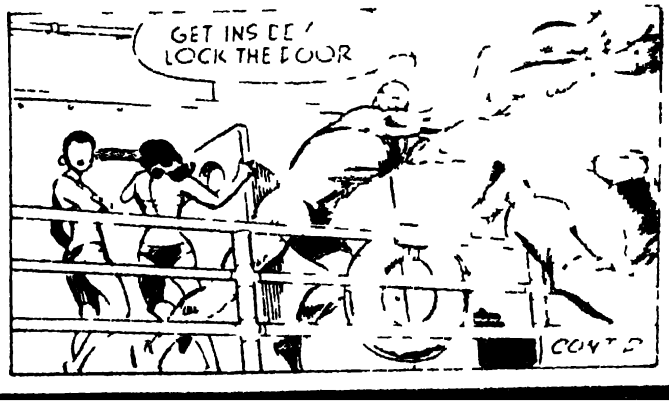
"SHE WENT FROM HAVING A ONE-TRACK MIND TO A HAVING AN OFF-TRACK MIND"

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk









THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


OKAY, CLASS...TURN IN YOUR PAPERS ON AERODYNAMICS!
PHEW! I OVER-SLEPT, BUT I STILL MADE IT.
RING
SAY, ARCH, CAN I BORROW A PENCIL?
SURE.
HEY, ARCH! HOW ABOUT LOANING ME SOME PAPER?!
NO PROBLEM!
IS IT OKAY IF I USE YOUR HISTORY BOOK?!
I GUESS SO.
ARCH... DON'T YOU HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE COME TO CLASS UNPREPARED TO WORK?!
I SURE DO, JUG...
11-1
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S THE TEACHER!
NOW, CLASS, WE CAN FINALLY GET TO TODAY'S TOPIC.
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Photograph: **Dr Pranab Mookerjee**

Say Style! Say Usha!

Sleek pearly whites Stella Pulsar Prima

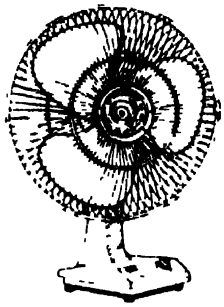
Rich, ornamental browns and golds Kohinoor Super Deluxe Senator New decorative 3 - Blade Pulsar

Usha makes a breathtaking range for every taste and price preference From the most premium to the most affordable

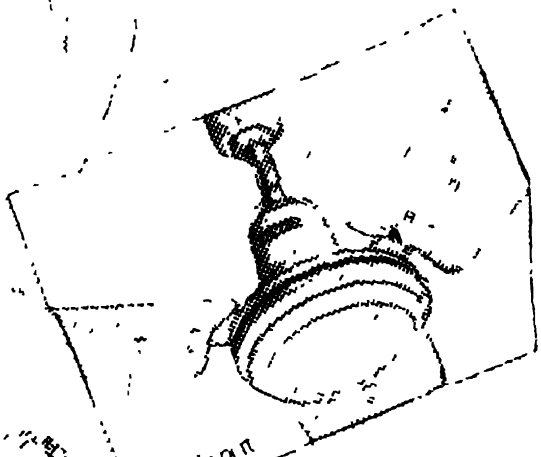
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LEATHER NOURISHING CREAM

New Cherry Blossom Leather Nourishing Cream.
Extra creamy richness that goes deep down into leather, nourishing and protecting it. Specially formulated by the makers of Cherry Blossom.

New Cherry Blossom Leather Nourishing Cream.
Use it alongwith Cherry Blossom Shoe Polish—and give your shoes a softer, suppler, richer shine!
You can use Cherry Blossom Leather Nourishing Cream on leather of any colour.

POST MORTEM

Bandh Fanatics

Indians have, of late, developed a penchant for *bandhs* ('Bandh is my birthright,' April 3) whether it is against the portrayal of Sita in the TV serial, *Ramayan*, or for demanding the resignation of our Prime Minister Do these *bandh* fanatics realise the damage to our financial resources which directly affects the security of our country?

After 40 years of braving hardships, India is on the threshold of power and glory These *bandhs*, instead of strengthening her, are only a stumbling block
Chitra Hariharan (13),
Calcutta

Special Gift

Your Poila Baisakh issue (April 10) was like a special gift on the eve of Bengali New Year In the cover story, you have paid rich tributes to



Aloke Mitra

Sagarmoy Ghosh ('Doyen of Bengal') Under his dynamic editorship, *Desh*, the only literary magazine of its kind in the country, has reached the peak of popularity and quality.
Manohar Mandal,
Nadia (W B.)

■ It was interesting to read Sagarmoy Ghosh recalling his association with the great writer, Samaresh Basu. But I think that was not enough to pay tribute to the great soul You should publish some of his short stories in English
Kalyan Roy,
Asansol

Sad Truth

'Our Beautiful Laundrettes' (April 3) threw light on the professions that the Chinese are better known for, but failed to mention that they make excellent dentists and carpenters, too The article ended with the statement by one of the Chinese , "I hate to put it this way, but we are really second class citizens " It is the sad truth, but sadder still is the community's open support for Chinese in China, whether it is the case of an Indo-China military conflict or a visiting football team Are the Indian Chinese themselves to be blamed for the situation they find themselves in?
Subrata Sen,
Calcutta

Making Sense

The Candid Camera photograph of Dilip Vengsarkar (March 13) was startling, but made sense. I liked it, but I fear it may set a trend in the magazine.
Tuhin Bhowmik,
Ranchi

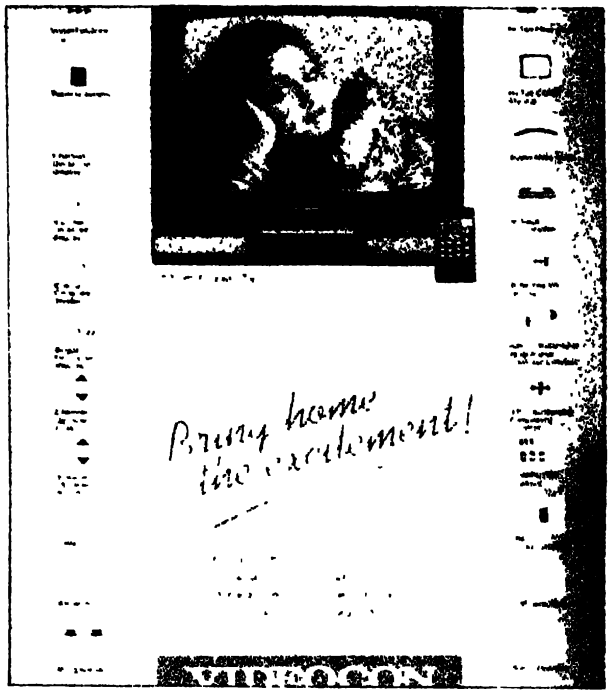
Inspiring

Thanks for bringing us the sketches of Debayan Mookerjee ('Children of a Cleaner City,' March 27). It will inspire many of us to brighten up cities all over the country.
Binod K. Dash,
Palbani (Orissa)

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The Telegraph

8 MAY 1988



10 Indian advertising seems to rely entirely on celebrities to push products An assessment Plus, a companion piece on the 10 best campaigns of the past year

Goutam Roy



6 A report on the new medical facilities soon to be available in Calcutta

SECTIONS

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20 7 Days
23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Candid Camera

POETRY ◻ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Lament of a Public School Teacher

The sense and sensibility and sensitivity
that were a part of me
have lost themselves
under the dead weight
of the daily chore
of shoving Shakespeare
into the infertile imaginations
of legal bastards of tycoons
for whom eduction
is
being branded by
an elite 'Eton'
Chandak Chattarji

Gulmohar Leaves

The place is not where the moment was
In the start of a city-crowd,
a petalled shower of golden gulmohar
leaves
gilds a face held up to sun,
and the moment, lost,
shifts inland into the black fog
of dark wooden staircases—
while a sea with gullwings
as distant as salt from lips closes in.
Suma Josson

Existence

Like a mosquito
caught
in the seamless halo
around a street light—
we trudge on
through the drudgery
of routine day—
diverted only
for finite seconds
by some
novel sight—
which soon fades
into the distance
like
the departing sun ray—
and we,
flow on
with the tide
towards the unknown—
free to move
yet,
slaves of our bonded lives
Swati Pal

The Politician

His moving finger writes
the budget of bribery,
the terms of tyranny—
betrayal and damnation
And having writ moves on
never seeing the writing on the wall:
that fall from a dictator's grace
to turn the smooth sycophant into an
angry rebel
Bela Datta

Beyond

Flinging aside the chains of destiny,
you stretch your steady talons.
Your flight takes you beyond the
uncertainties
humanity has turned life into.

Your sight probes deep into their cloaks,
showers indifference at their pointed
fingers.
Look down at their emotional scarcity,
And adopted forms of self-destruction they
embrace.

Complain not of self-alienation or
loneliness,
they are trifles for the height on which you
thrive.
A stumble would injure or a fall could kill,
For you have ceased to be one of them.

Build a monument for yourself,
it's existence within your mind.
Wings of flight you bear,
Wait for none, soar above

Contradiction to this would be a crime.
...against thyself
Maher A. Khatri



Mortuary

The
overflowing ashtray
and the charred
butts of cigarettes are
all the traces of the
life that we once
displayed.

The
lingering over empty
cups are all
left of life, here.

A
sterile silence
creeps in to write
the obituary
of the living-dead
Paroma Sanyal

The Poet

The poet
Like a dying man
He clutched
At the emotions
That rush past him.
He was a poet.
Prosenjit Sarkar

Midnight's Children

For you no relying, no trusting, no
believing
No dreaming, no future,
No real friend, no real foe either
You only run endlessly to nowhere

Run, son, run for dear life,
The whole world's after you,
For you there's no relaxing, no peace.
Not for you the life of ease.

That's life for you, son
And there's no escape,
You only run
There's none
For you
To rescue.
Sudhiranjan Pal

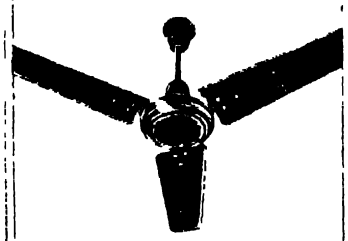
Say Style! Say Usha!

Sleek pearly whites Stella Pulsar Prima

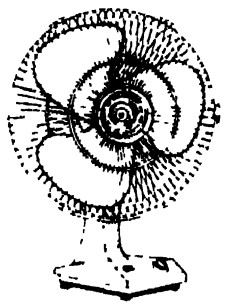
Rich ornamental browns and golds Kohinoor super Deluxe Senator New decorative 3 Blade Pulsar

Usha makes a breathtaking range for every taste and price preference From the most premium to the most affordable

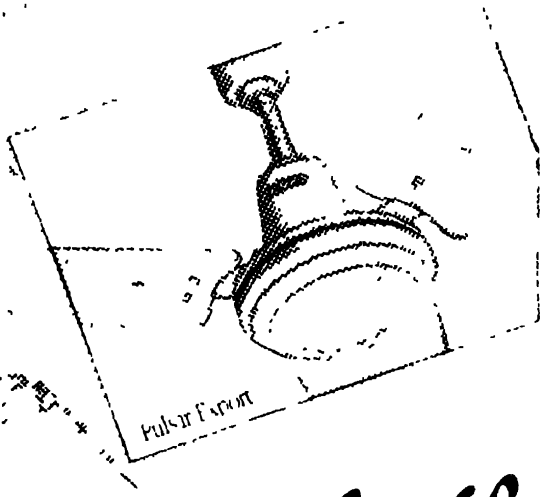
Also a galaxy of table wall cabin pedestal and ventilating fans All superstyled superengineered by Usha for the world's most discerning users Get the latest from the largest selling in India



Kohinoor Super Deluxe



Diplomat





Pearl of the Palace

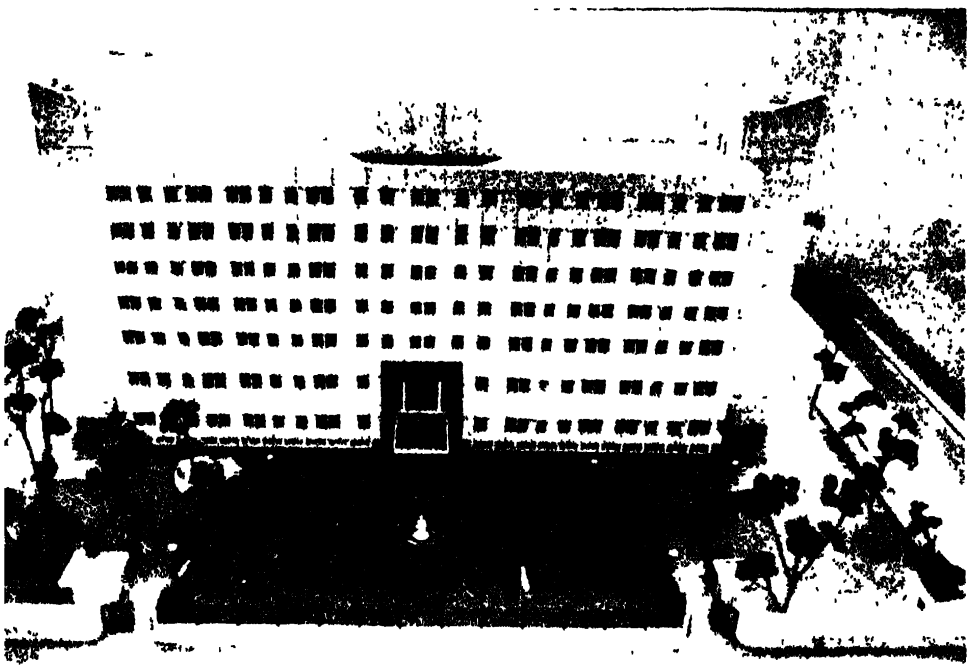
USHA

India's largest selling fan.

A HEALTHY ATTITUDE

Calcutta can soon look forward to more sophisticated medical facilities. Debasis Ray reports

"I am confident that the surgeons in Calcutta can perform as ably as those of Christian Medical College, Vellore," says Prof N N Sarangi of the Bangur Institute of Neurology which boasts the best medical facilities in eastern India. The institute has modern investigation facilities like EEG, EMG, CT scan, isotope brain scan and a radiology unit capable of angiography and myelography. It is also equipped with a sophisticated operation theatre with amenities like mi-



Goutam Roy

Model of the B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre, Calcutta Hospital

...surgery, intraoperative monitoring, bipolar coagulator and CUSA.

There has been a decline in medical standards specially in the state hospitals of Calcutta, no doubt. But who is accountable for the drift? Rival factions spend the time blaming one another while things get from bad to worse. Now the state government has decided to stem the exodus of patients from Calcutta to Delhi, Bombay and Madras. Health minister Prasanta Sur has launched a drive to improve conditions and has announced a number of major new projects.

Consultations are on with NRI groups in and the USA and the UK, a state-leased industrial house and the authorities of the renowned Apollo Hospital, Madras for hi-tech set-ups in Calcutta. Three plots are reported to have been earmarked on the southern and eastern fringes. Some private hospitals with state-of-the-art equipment are under construction while many existing ones are constantly upgrading their amenities to meet the increasing demands of the patients.

Doctors, both in government service and outside it, agree that the malady does not lie in the dearth of specialists, but in existing facilities "which are limited and overworked." They are hopeful now that with this new wave of development Calcutta will soon catch up with the other metropolitan cities in bringing the latest in health care to patients.

Prof. Sarangi says that in neurology, Calcutta is "not much behind centres in other metros" but there is no room for "complacency." He said that modernisation in the city started much later, but in the course of the last 10 years commendable progress has been achieved. He said patients went out to hospitals in Bombay, Madras or Vellore mainly due to a "psychological tendency" and certain limitations here. The limited facilities in the city with a "large catchment area" led to overcrowding, he said, adding that those who can afford it looked for alternative treatment elsewhere.

The inadequate facilities have specially hindered cardiological treatment in Calcutta. The specialists are there, and many of them even perform open heart surgeries, but the city has lagged behind in the "timely introduction" of the latest technology. With West Bengal requiring the highest number of open heart surgeries and pacemakers in eastern India, the existing amenities, which were inadequate even two decades ago, have failed to cope with increasing pressure.

Doctors in state government service feel that the cardiological units at SSKM, NRS and the National Medical College offer good service but more such units need to be set up. To meet the challenge, a private hospital like the Assembly of God Hospital and Research Centre on Park Street, has set up a modern cardiological unit which is specially designed to treat acute myocardial and other serious ailments. The S.V.S. Marwari Hospital on Raja Rammohan Sarani will also shortly start an intensive care unit.

The city will be in for a big leap in cardiological care once the B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre, adjacent to the Calcutta Hospital, goes on stream later this year. The project director of the centre, Dr Debal Sen, says it will offer treatment "which will be at par with the best hospitals in the world." This 150-bed hospital will include a 10-bed coronary unit and a 10-bed surgical intensive care unit. The latter will be supplied with equipment by Hewlett Packard, a US company and market leaders in the field. Among a host of facilities here, the nuclear cardiology unit will offer radioisotopes using computer processed images for diagnosing cardiac ailments. The three planned operation theatres will regularise open heart surgeries for coronary bypass, valve equipment and correction of complex congenital defects. It also envisages a 24-hour ambulance service with "most modern" resuscitation equipment and paramedical staff. This centre, with central computerisation, will have wards and cabins for patients from "every financial status."

Hi-tech is also being introduced in the 10-storey, 200-bed hospital being promoted by the Kothari Scientific and Research Institute. Dr D. P. Ray, the coordinator for the project, says that the hospital, now under construction, will have ultrasound, gama cameras, four operation theatres with imported light and tables, central pipelines for oxygen and suction

and a computerised management system

In line with these ultramodern hospitals, a very small beginning has been made in Agarpara, where the Netaji Shebayan Hospital plans to introduce the latest equipment. This 50 bed hospital, which is being expanded by the promoters Arta Tran Samity, covers all disciplines. It has a fully equipped operation theatre, an outdoor outfit, a laboratory and a modern X-ray machine, and can take care of most medical and surgical cases.

Calcutta is also reaching the frontiers of cancer treatment at a very rapid pace. Dr Utpala Chatterjee, assistant director of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre, says that Dr Saroj Gupta's hospital at Thakurpukur and the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital in Bhowanipore "can intercede" in most cases of cancer. She, however, agrees that there is an exodus of patients to Bombay (Tata Memorial Hospital for example) mainly because of more "treatment outlet". She says there are plans to introduce better equipment in Calcutta for cancer treatment. She adds that the city's forte is its brilliant specialists, some of whom are even summoned to Bombay for treating complex cases, and its researchers whose works are regularly published in international journals.

Limited but commendable efforts in cancer treatment are being carried out at the Assembly of God Hospital which has a seven channel auto analyser, coulter counter and blood cell separator for leukemia and cancer treament under cytotherapy. The S. N. S. Marwari Hospital has also opened a cancer detection centre in collaboration with the Indian Cancer Society.

It is, however, sad that a city with such a rich tradition in specialists has poor facilities for psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation. Calcutta houses the oldest mental hospital in Asia, the Mental Observation Ward (MOW), which was set up around 1817. There are three other centres—the Sarkarpur Mental Hospital, the Lumbini Park Hospital and the Calcutta Pavlov Hospital. The MOW and the centres at Lumbini Park and Sarkarpur are run by the state government.

A senior state government doctor, who prefers to remain anonymous, says that with the government sector lacking infrastructural support, private psychiatric clinics "have mushroomed mainly for a upper middle class clientele." He says Calcutta has no rehabilitation centres and very limited facilities for blood and urine tests.



Intensive care unit, Calcutta Hospital

There is no unit for the lithium estimation test, which is vital because an excess dose of lithium-based drug, frequently used by psychiatrists, can kill a patient. Pointing out that hospitals in Delhi, Madras and Bangalore are far ahead, he says that the state government should ensure mental health facilities at the primary health centre level.

The city is also expected to have state-of-the-art facilities for the treatment of kidney and gall bladder stones. Patients, who want to avoid the tribulations of an operation, will be able to avail the of lithotripsy, a technique where waves are used to disintegrate the gall bladder stones into [illegible]. These particles are excreted in urine.

The treatment [illegible] two days. [illegible] being promoted by the [illegible] Centre with [illegible] Chittaranjan [illegible]. The [illegible] patient being charged [illegible] the fee may sound exorbitant it is [illegible] the doctor's fee and all other [illegible] post treatment [illegible] machine, EDAP [illegible] from France.

The project is being promoted [illegible] others by Mr Alex Kanoi [illegible] NRI, and Dr C. Devadas Reddy [illegible] already is involved with such [illegible] and Hyderabad. Lithotripsy [illegible] in operation in Germany and south [illegible]. Mr Alex Kanoi says the joint venture [illegible] city will help it catch up with other metropolises. Dr Dipu Raut [illegible] urologist and surgeon with the Calcutta Medical Centre, will be in charge of [illegible].

The story is not much different in the field of de-toxification. The Mental Observation Ward is the [illegible] state government hospital to have [illegible] clinic, but it does not have [illegible]. There are a few such [illegible] notable among these being the [illegible] Rev Pavamani of Bhai Peer [illegible] number of best and Rs [illegible] Satyajit Dasgupta [illegible] will have its first [illegible] drug addicts when [illegible] Mother Teresa, comes [illegible] But, one hopes this new [illegible] development, does not go [illegible] amenities in this city.

BARTER BANK

• **Book:** I would like to exchange *All About Love and Sex* by Marie Biswas with *The Celestial Bed* by Irving Wallace or *Lonely Lady* by Harold Robbins. Contact Md Sayeed, c/o Mood Photographers, 28/B, Elliot Road, Calcutta 16.

• **Motorcycle:** I offer a Rajdoot Special-175 motorcycle with accessories for a well-maintained 350 cc motorcycle or Yezdi. Contact Saumitra Banerjee, 1/429, Gariahat Road (south), Jodhpur Park, Calcutta 68.

• **Bicycle:** I offer a BSA 28" bicycle fitted with imported three-speed gears, dynamo and other accessories for anything of corresponding value. Contact S. Mitra, P-237, A Block, Lake Town, Calcutta 89.

• **Books** and **magazines:** I offer books on genetics, paleontology and biochemistry for the Honours level for anything of corresponding value. I also offer 12 issues of the *National Geographic* of 1985 for cassettes of best songs of Kishore Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhonsle and Mohammed Rafi. Write to Radha Raman, Flat no. H-12, Pushpasree co-operative housing society, Diamond Harbour Road, Barisha, Calcutta 8.

• **Video games** and **shaver:** I offer two double-screen video games, *Oil Panic* and *Rain Shower*, for a 35-mm manual camera. I also offer a National Japanese electric shaver for anything of corresponding value. Contact P.K. Maitra, 13/71, Government Quarters, Parnasree, Calcutta 60.

• **Stamps:** I offer 500 Indian and foreign stamps for anything of corresponding value or other stamps. Contact Chandramallika Sen, 77 B, Rash Behari Avenue, Calcutta 26.

• **Study material.** [illegible] new guide book [illegible] jects of the ICSE 1988 [illegible] bus for anything of [illegible] ponding value. Contact [illegible] Sethia [illegible], Motilal Sethia [illegible] Calcutta 29.

• **Stereo** with speaker [illegible] offer a stereo with [illegible] for anything of [illegible] value. Contact [illegible] 88, Chowringhee Street [illegible] cutta.

• **Cassette** [illegible] I offer [illegible] settes of Mohammed Rafi [illegible] Lata Mangeshkar's songs [illegible] anything of [illegible] value. Contact Samir [illegible] 68, Grant Street, Calcutta [illegible].



QUIZ © Neil O'Brien

"Where will you see Orion the Hunter?" asks 10-year old Kum Kum Sen, Calcutta 6

In the sky, as Orion is a constellation of stars above the celestial equator In Greek mythology Orion was a mighty hunter, and when he was slain by Diana he was taken up to the heavens together with his dogs The constellation contains the shoulder stars, Betelgeuse, an orange-red, first magnitude, irregular variable star, Bellatrix, and the giant pure white star, Rigel

Shyamali Mahapatra, Calcutta 72, wants to know how the *Bismarck* was sunk

With the European continent in Nazi hands, the Atlantic convoys were Britain's lifeline Those convoys were already under constant German U-boat attacks when the Germans planned to unleash yet another danger—the battleship *Bismarck* Built in 1939, the 50,000-ton *Bismarck* was the largest and most powerful ship afloat If it were loose in the Atlantic, its radar-controlled 15-in guns could sink whole convoys

On May 21, 1941, a British reconnaissance plane spotted and photographed two German ships hidden in a Norwegian fjord. They were the *Bismarck* and its companion, the cruiser *Prinz Eugen* The British navy was alerted, but it was too late The *Bismarck* bolted for the open seas the same day

The two German raiders were sighted heading south between Greenland and Iceland on May 23. The British sped the battleships *Hood* and *Prince of Wales* to intercept them The next day at 5 30 am the British battleships located and fired on the *Bismarck.* In turn the *Bismarck* shot a salvo into the *Hood* which exploded and sank into the icy Arctic waters within three minutes Of the *Hood's* 1,419 men, only three survived The *Prince of Wales* was hit eight times but managed to limp away to safety The *Bismarck* had been hit twice, one shell had punctured its tanks causing a severe oil leakage

With insufficient fuel, the *Bismarck* was forced to head for the French port of Brest for repairs But on May 26, 15 planes from the British aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* plowed two torpedoes into the Bismarck, destroying its rudder and steering gear Out of control, the ship sailed in circles, but finally located 400 miles from Brest

At nine the next morning, the British battleships *Rodney* and *King George V* with two cruisers, began bombarding their prey The crippled *Bismarck* fought back, but by 10 15 am its guns were silent and its decks ablaze A British cruiser delivered the death blow, sending two torpedoes into the lifeless hulk Amid explosions, the *Bismarck* rolled over and slid beneath the waves, with 2,000 German sailors aboard

The British thus destroyed the deadliest ship in existence and proved the they were capable of keeping the sea-lanes open to beleaguered Britain.

Sheila Pradhan, Calcutta 34, wants to know about the first manifesto of the rights of feminists

In 1792 Mary Wollstonecraft, a former governess, published her *Vindication of the Rights of Women,* the original feminist manifesto It was a time when women had the same civil status as American slaves and were given superficial education aimed at making them useful and pleasing to men Wollstonecraft advocated that they should be given serious education She ascribed their "follies" to "the natural effects of ignorance "

Although she did not question the traditional belief that most women belonged inside the home, she urged opening new areas of employment for them so that they need never be driven to marry for economic reasons Unlike modern feminist, Mary had no idea about organising women to gain concessions which men could not be persuaded to grant Her life was scandalously "liberated," with a career in journalism, two lovers, an illegitimate child, and an attempted suicide.

CBS

***11th Question*: Why was the 15th century Aztec emperor Montezuma II (meaning "our angry looking lord") so named? (Anindya Das Gupta, 298, Prince Anwar Shaw Road, Calcutta 700045.)**
***Ans*: An Aztec ruler was never supposed to laugh or joke. Hence, the name.**

QUESTIONS

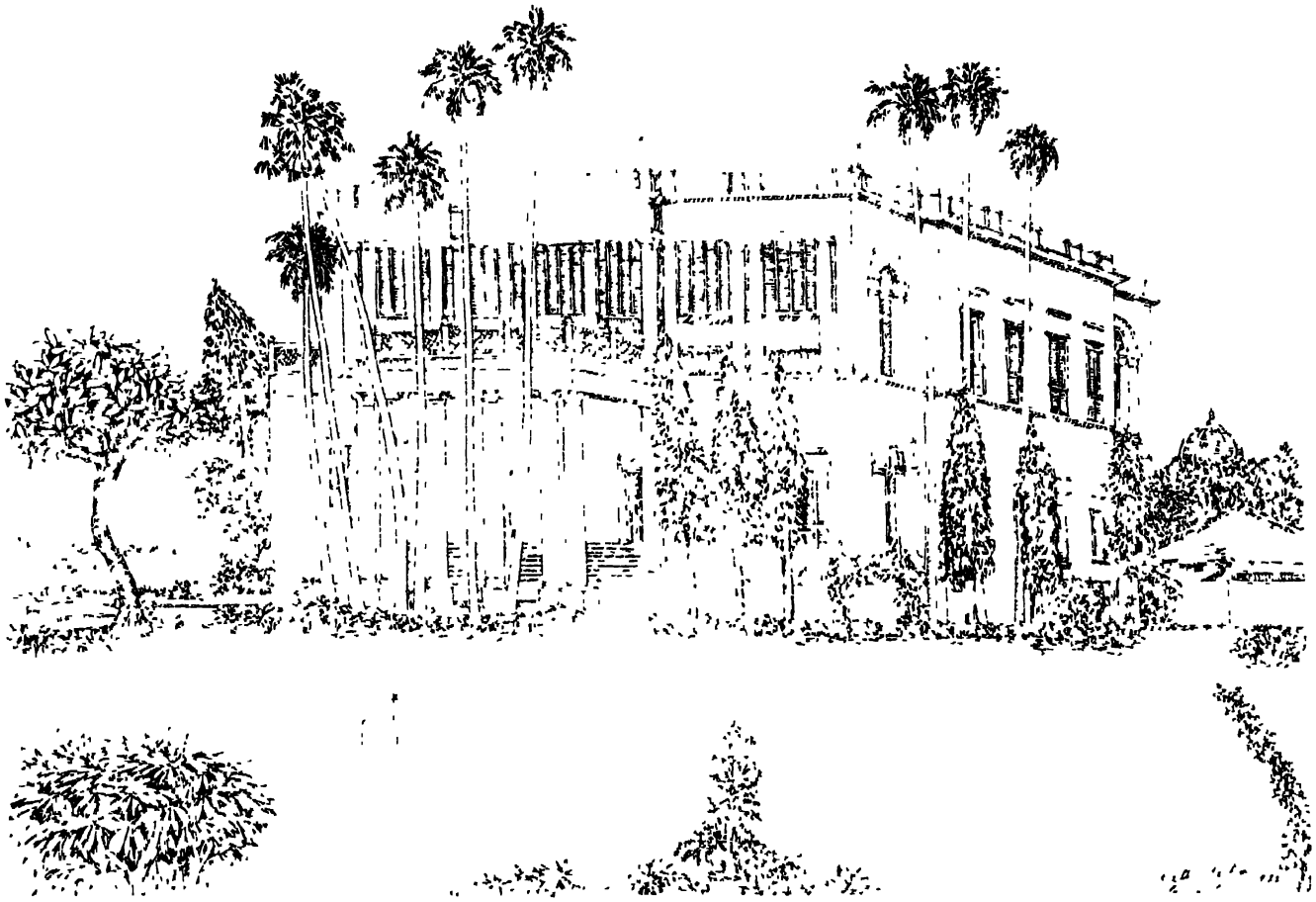
1. Who said, "Wives are young men's mistresses, companions for middle age, and old men's nurses "? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)
2. Which of the planets has the lowest temperature? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
3. What is common to these cricketers: K. Srikkant, Tiger Pataudi, Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, E.A.S. Prasanna, B.S. Chandrashekhar,,S. Venkatraghavan? (Pritam Jaipuriar, BIT, Sindri)
4. Who was the goddess of the dawn in Roman mythology? (Rajeev Pillai, Calcutta 25)
5. Who is a geometer? (Gaurab Bhattacharjee, IIT Kharagpur)
6. Who is called the father of the modern cartoon? (Shiharan Das, Ranchi 2)
7. During an election you vote by ballot. What does this word literally mean? (Raja Biswas, Calcutta 29)
8. What is a friction hole? (Romit Majumdar, Calcutta 91)
9. Whose autobiography is entitled *Black Beech and Honeydew?* (Sutanu Mukherjee, New Delhi 66)
10. Mickey Mouse, Goofy and Pluto are known the world over, but can you name Mickey's horsy friend who appeared in the early thirties? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)

ANSWERS

1. Francis Bacon in *Essays: Of Marriage and Single Life.*
2. Pluto (-220.C).
3. They all appear in the two and a half minute filler film, *Spread the Light of Freedom* on the Spirit of Freedom.
4. Aurora.
5. A person who knows geometry. It is an old use and is not used in current English. Newton, Galileo, all were then known as geometers.
6. William Hogarth of England who lived in the 18th century.
7. It comes from the Italian word "Ballota" meaning "A little ball." In ancient Greece and Rome small balls were put secretly in a box, which was a method of voting.
8. It is a hole caused in the sole of a shoe due to constant friction with the ground.
9. Nagio Marsh the detective books authoress.
10. Horace Horsecollar.



PENETI'S HOUSE



The year 1872 saw an epidemic of dengue fever in Calcutta and its neighbourhood. Rabindranath Tagore was then 11 and was studying at Bengal Academy. One of the national papers wrote about this epidemic: "The dengue is now violently raging in Calcutta, sparing neither age, sex or rank. The fever is rife in European quarters, too. In the native quarters there is not one single home where its fearful visitation has not taken place and made one or more of the inmates thereof victims of the disease. The disease is terrible indeed."

During summer when the epidemic became widespread, some members of Tagore's family took shelter at Peneti's House at Panihati on the outskirts of the city. It was the garden house of Chhatoo Babu (Ashutosh Deb). Tagore gave a charming narration of his stay here in his *Jiban Smriti*: "For the first time I went out of the Jorasanko House. Perhaps, the place was linked with my previous birth because of which I am attracted to the side of the holy Ganga. I used to sit on the verandah near the servants' quarter and would observe the Ganga through the guava orchard, the movements of the boats and the tides on the river. I would be thrilled at the smouldering glow of the sunset over the other bank on the Kamalgir forest range. I used to observe the change of colour over the foliage.

Once I quietly followed my elders who were out for a stroll near the village pond. On being noticed, I was promptly asked to go back. Perhaps, I was not properly attired. I didn't have a proper shirt or a pair of stockings — something like a must for me when I moved out of the house. In Jorasanko I felt like being sitting in a cage, but here it seem the cage door was opened and I was free, but my feet were still bound in chains, similar to a domestic parrot's tied to a rod though out of cage."

LOVE ME,





Anooradha Patel and Ashok Kumar



Jaya Prada

Remember the face, remember the product Gavaskar, Pataudi, Imran, Sridevi, Vinod Khanna . . faces you would notice and remember in any crowd anywhere in the country. They stand out by virtue of being celebrities, men and women who have captured the hearts and minds of adulating millions and filled their dreams with wonderful visions

Can the same be said of the products they endorse or for which they model? Are celebrities as good at selling products as they are at selling dreams? Does the consumer dream of the shoe polish his hero has plugged on TV the evening before?

Maybe, maybe not, but a large number of advertisers and advertising agencies seem to think so gauging from the spate of celebrity advertisements bombarding the consumer today.

Spend a couple of hours in front of your TV during prime time and you can be sure of seeing a galaxy of cricket and movie stars shoot across the small screen, pitching in for products as diverse as shaving cream, TV, coffee, tyres, pan masala, textiles, soft drinks, shoe polish and even pension schemes Quite often, the same celebrity can be seen plugging for more than one product.

The use of celebrities is certainly not unique to India. Pick up any foreign magazine and you will find famous faces endorsing almost every possible product.

Nor is celebrity advertising a new trend. Lux for instance has been using filmstars for almost half a century. Ashish Mitra, senior vice president of Hindusthan Thompson Associates (HTA), describes it as a "historical campaign".

Nevertheless, till recently, celebrity advertising had by and large, confined itself to the world of cinema. Only occasionally would someone like Faroukh Engineer (for Brylcream) be used. Thanks to the impetus the media has given to celebrity creation, the advertising agencies now have a host of stars to choose from.

With every Test match held in the country being telecast live, nowadays cricketers have become household faces. Doordarshan's soap operas have also spawned a new class of mini-celebrities who enter the homes of millions of people across the country every week. They arouse strong feelings and at times, even become a part of the lives of these people. Alok Nath alias Haveli Ram of *Buniyaad* fame was once found by a survey to enjoy tremendous credibility in the Hindi belt. According to an ad industry source "They caught his character more than his star appeal."

Every country has certain symbols to unite its people. They all have their own heroes. In India, our film and cricket stars have come to occupy that place. The masses worship them and even die for them.

Strictly speaking, says Pradeep Kakkar, director of marketing services and media, Lintas India, celebrities can be used to fulfil any of the three basic objectives of advertising:

- Communicating information and generating awareness,
- Creating preferences,
- Triggering action

In the commercial context, ad campaigns attempt to generate action while in a broader sense they seek to change the way people think or feel, says Kakkar.

There is, however, no unanimity among ad men on how a consumer exactly responds to an ad. Many argue that his response does not necessarily follow the straight-cut awareness-preference action route. According to them, there are other subtle elements in the decision making process—interest and desire, for instance. Not surprisingly, different agencies follow different models to explain consumer behaviour.

The one thing on which almost every ad man agrees is that celebrities help create quick awareness. They serve as "hooks" or "stoppers" to make the reader pause, at least momentarily, before flipping over to the next page. Being instantly recognisable or at least familiar, they arrest the attention.

Says Malavika Tiwari, one of the country's leading models and a photographer: "If you have Shabana Azmi endorsing a product, people would say, what is she

LOVE MY SOAP

The use of celebrities to sell products has come into vogue lately. Is this a clever bit of advertising or just a lazy way out?

Jaideep Bose analyses the phenomenon

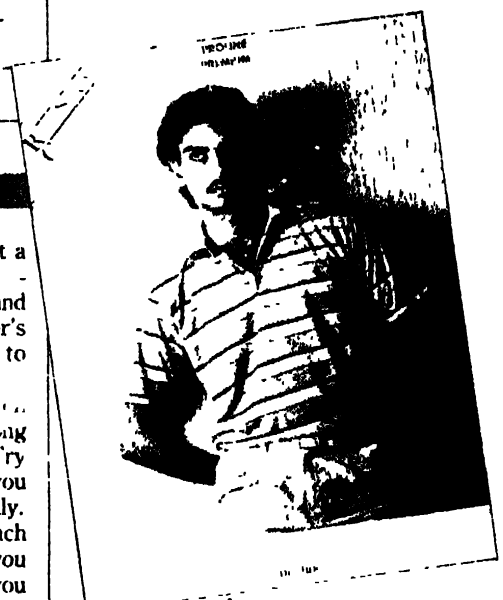
advertising? They would at least give it a second look" Otherwise, in a clutter - there are hundreds of advertisements and commercials vying for the consumer's attention today- an unknown face tends to get overlooked

But,quite often, celebrity campaign[illegible] the risk of being noticed for [illegible]ng reasons. You can test yourself on this Try and remember the celebrity models you have seen on TV or in magazines recently. Now, recall the products for which each one of them models Chances are that you will start fumbling, or worse still, that you will associate the celebrities with the wrong products, if you can remember the products at all Even if you do recall correctly, it is very likely that in most cases, the celebrity's image will come across very strongly while the product itself may seem almost incidental to the ad. It's a clear case of the celebrity swamping the product.

The exercise here may have been slightly oversimplified. Says Ram Ray, chief of Response, "Off the cuff, you may not remember an advertisement But that does not mean it hasn't worked. The purpose is to create a favourable predisposition so that you can recall it in the proper context. I need so many different products, but right now, I may not be able to say which brands I prefer. I make my choice when I'm in the shop. That's the moment of truth" Nevertheless, he does admit there is a real danger of a product being completely forgotten in a celebrity campaign.

To find out if a particular ad has worked or not, it would be necessary to measure within a given framework the level of favourable predisposition to the product in question before and after the campaign, says Ray

Says Kakkar, who used to earlier teach marketing at the Indian Institute of Management (Calcutta). "There is a mountain of evidence in psychology to show that the



Ravi Shastri

message a celebrity campaign conveys is not necessarily the right one and in certain circumstances may even be counterproductive."

The danger of using the "peripheral" instead of the "central route" lies in the focus of attention being diverted from the object of the communication to the celebrity himself, thus doing more harm than a straight-forward non-celebrity campaign, says Kakkar.

The use of celebrities poses other problems as well Says Ashish Mitra, "The biggest problem of celebrity advertising is credibility. Say, Vinod Khanna were to model for a brand of cigarettes which costs Rs 3. Now, everyone knows that he smokes 555. The consumer might find it a little incredible that he should smoke such a cheap brand. The consumer must believe that Khanna really smokes the brand."

Ray offers a close analogy. "Amjad Khan may be right for biris but would be totally wrong for high-priced cigarettes You need a dapper guy with a lot of savvy who has been to the right tailor--maybe a young Kabir Bedi."

Research studies have shown that a celebrity is far more effective as an advertising tool when his personality profile fits in with the product image Says R Sridhar, vice president of OBM "There are many campaigns which have successfully promoted sales or put across messages by being more relevant "

But who decides what is relevant? Let alone consumers, even ad men do not always agree on the relevance of a particular campaign Take,for instance, the high profile Gwalior Rayon campaign with Pataudi and Sharmila Tagore Says Mitra, "I personally feel Pataudi does not add anything to it He overshadows the product On the other hand, Rui Engineer, executive director of Market Appraisal Product Promoters (MAPP), attributes Gwalior Rayon's success to Pataudi The campaign pushed Gwalior Rayon from ninth to second position, second only to Raymonds It's certainly the personality and style of Pataudi which caught the audience attention The way he wears his clothes, his department another type of celebrity would not have been able to carry it off with such ease and grace. He has done so well that he is synonymous with the suitings, so much so that it is sometimes called 'Pataudi Suitings ' We thought of using him alone in the campaign, but Sharmila's supportive role has evolved a greater programme ' Paradoxically, this is a case of a product which is flourishing though its actual brand name is sometimes forgotten

Ray feels the Vimal campaign with Ravi Shastri, Vivian Richards and Allan Border is quite effective Ashcreas Mitra considers it inappropriate

Imran Khan's Cinthol campaign too has generated some controversy It is claimed that he has done a lot of good to Cinthol sales Rama Rao, director of marketing MAA Communication, disputes this He feels Godrej's use of the cricket star was quite wasteful. Says Rao "I don't believe for one moment that existing consumers were reassured seeing him in the commercials. Everyone knows for sure that Imran Khan is not a regular user of Cinthol "

Godrej also used another mega celebrity, Dimple Kapadia, for Crowning Glory She shot through the night to

Parameshwar Godrej's private pool. It was winter, the pool was heated and a waiter stood by holding a glass of Brandy for her. The importance of being a celebrity!

"All those ladies who wish to become as beautiful as Dimple and get the same kind of treatment should use Crowning Glory." Naturally, no advertiser or agency would say such a thing blatantly, but it is a fact that celebrities are often sold as symbols to upward strivers. The strategy works insidiously at the subconscious level. Says Engineer of the Gwalior campaign, "Pataudi may symbolise the person who identifies with the consumers' aspirations. So they buy the product."

The use of celebrities as aspiration symbols also has its pitfalls. It often generates a lot of "dissonance", according to Mitra. Celebrity advertising is not at all effective where "public personal products" like cigarettes are concerned, he says. Explaining the psychology behind this, he says: "I want to be Imran Khan to myself. I have put my own values into the cigarettes. I don't want anyone telling me that I smoke a particular brand because Imran endorses it. Who is Imran anyway to tell me which brand I should smoke?"

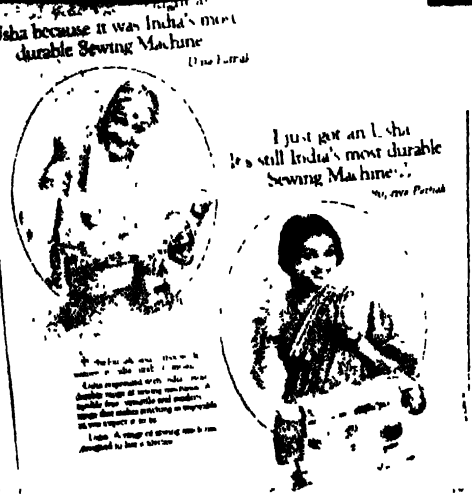
This is probably the reason why cigarette campaigners have never used celebrities till now. Some years ago a cigarette manufacturer was planning a campaign with an Amitabh Bachchan look-alike, who walked, talked and perhaps smoked like the mega-star. Just before it was to be launched, Bachchan met with a near-fatal accident while filming *Coolie*, which put him out of action for a long time. The campaign remained stillborn. No one can tell what impact it would have had on the sales of the advertised brand.

The use of celebrities works better with personal products which are privately used, such as soaps, argues Mitra. "The consumer can fantasise in the privacy of his bathroom, which is a haven of retreat for him. Not even his wife knows his fantasies," he adds.

There is no hard and fast rules as to which products can or cannot be effectively advertised by celebrities. Rao points out that worldwide, celebrities are used to sell only lifesyle products, which are bought largely on impulse, or highly-priced exclusive products.

According to Kakkar, experimental studies have shown that between an appliance, a food product, and a product used in social situation, celebrity campaigns created a positive reaction only in the last category.

The growing standardisation of products has also necessitated the use of celebrities, say some admen. When there is very little to differentiate between one brand and another, logic and argument become



Usha Sewing Machines.
The No.1 choice for generations
Supriya Pathak and Dina Pathak

useless. The ad agencies have no option left but to play on the consumer irrationalities and weaknesses, using a celebrity as a hook or a persuader.

However, according to the celebrated ad man, David Ogilvy, celebrity testimonials usually score above average on recall, but below average on changing preference unless the celebrity happens to be an expert like Gavaskar on cricket bats. On the other hand, speaking of the master batsman's campaign to promote All Seasons Foods, Sridhar says: "I, for one do not believe that Gavaskar is any kind of authority on cooking or food." The source credibility here is suspect.

Another factor which goes against celebrity commercials, Ogilvy adds, is the reader's assumption that the celebrity "has been bought, which is usually the case."

Once in a blue moon, an agency picks up an unknown face and creates a star through a single campaign. Lalitaji of Surf and Suchitra of Horlicks are two such celebrities. In the long run, they have a greater impact. Since the advertisers rarely, ever, allow them to appear for other products, consumers do not look upon them as mere commodities. They continue to grow on viewers long after the less-durable and readymade stars have lost their aura or been brought down from their pedestals.

The long-running "Made for Each Other" campaign of Wills Filter, has also assumed celebrity status though the couples keep changing. But such campaigns are few and far between.

Our stars can rest assured they will have enough modelling assignments to keep them occupied for a long time. More and more advertisers and agencies are joining the stampede to sign them on at all costs.

Many of them do not even pause for a moment to think whether they really need a celebrity. In many of the cases, an ordinary face would have sufficed. Celebrities, who might once have considered it below their dignity to model are now aggressively marketing themselves. Sports stars have formed syndicates like Professional Management Group and Dev Features, among others. Gavaskar reportedly charges Rs 5 lakh per commercial. He and Kapil Dev are said to have earned Rs 10 lakhs each from modelling assignments during the Reliance Cup.

Some of the smaller companies would love to use celebrities but find their prices too steep. A client who once paid over a lakh for a starlet through a major advertising agency assumed that such an astronomical sum included the starlet's "favours". He invited her to his hotel room in Bombay. Panic ensued. The agency got rid of the client. He went and got a starlet from another agency. His present arrangement with her is not known.

It is because of the increasing number of celebrity advertisements, and not in spite of it, that many in the ad world have started to question their effectiveness.

Mitra and Kakkar agree that advertisers have gone overboard and are using celebrities indiscriminately. Says Rao. "Right now, celebrity advertising is being used for anything and everything, even for mid-course corrections on marketing. This is very risky and should be avoided."

Says Kakkar. "Lintas tries to ensure that the function that the celebrity is performing is part of the entire communication strategy so that celebrity does not become the central point. On the whole, I would be prone not to use a celebrity unless there is a complete fit."

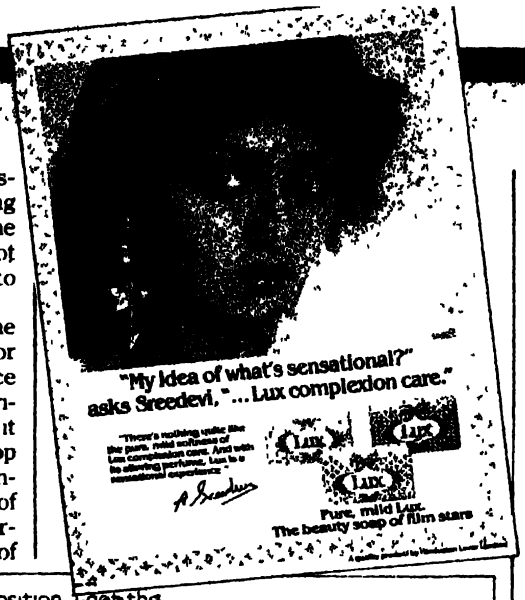
However, Ram Ray holds a somewhat different view on the subject. "You don't always need a Harvard educated chap to tell what is good for your product. A businessman might now and then want to follow his own instincts and hitch the entire destiny of his product to a celebrity. Building a campaign around a star might not be such a stupid idea. It could click."

Mitra, in turn, counters: "If I spend Rs 50 lakhs to Rs 1 crore without knowing what I want, and if the celebrity does not add anything to the campaign, I think it is a waste of money. The celebrity becomes an expensive strut and nothing more."

Kakkar feels there are only six or seven really marketable stars around, and ad people keep coming back to them. According to Ray and Mitra, Gavaskar has stopped being effective. "He is now a model, not a celebrity. He has been overexposed and has lost that little bit of mystery that makes a celebrity," says Mitra. Adds Ray, "He is advertising every product that's coming his way. He cannot hold much respect. The reader is no fool and knows Gavaskar is doing all this for the money."

There are various reasons for the indiscriminate growth of celebrity advertising in the country Mitra puts his finger on one of them when he says· "Today, I'm not sure if people aren't using celebrities to get a rub-off on themselves."

Continuing in a more outspoken vein, he says. "A lot of advertisers hanker for upward social mobility. They announce their arrival on the scene by using celebrities to model for their products. In fact, it is uncanny the number of people who drop celebrity names at the slightest opportunity." He is convinced on the basis of "empirical evidence" that celebrity advertising is to a certain extent a function of social recognition.



A number of ad men echo this view. Businessmen who have made it rich are constantly on the look-out for new status symbols "Acquiring" celebrities appears to be the "in-thing" now Many businessmen would give a lot to be able to say something like *"Gavaskar tho mera pass hai."*

Says Malavika Tiwari. "When a client tears a page out of a magazine and says 'that is what I want,' pointing at a full page ad display, then that is what he gets It is his money."

But the larger agencies are not always in a mood to acquiesce to every whim of their smaller clients Recently, when a TV manufacturer insisted on using a certain star, the agency politely told the company to find someone else to do the job, according to advertising industry sources.

However, some agencies too like using celebrities because they ensure that the campaign is talked about, which is what a good campaign is supposed to do, says Ray

Mitra also argues that celebrities are being used as a kind of "short-cut" "Advertisers and agencies are not thinking. They perhaps believe that a celebrity can carry a campaign through single-handed," he says.

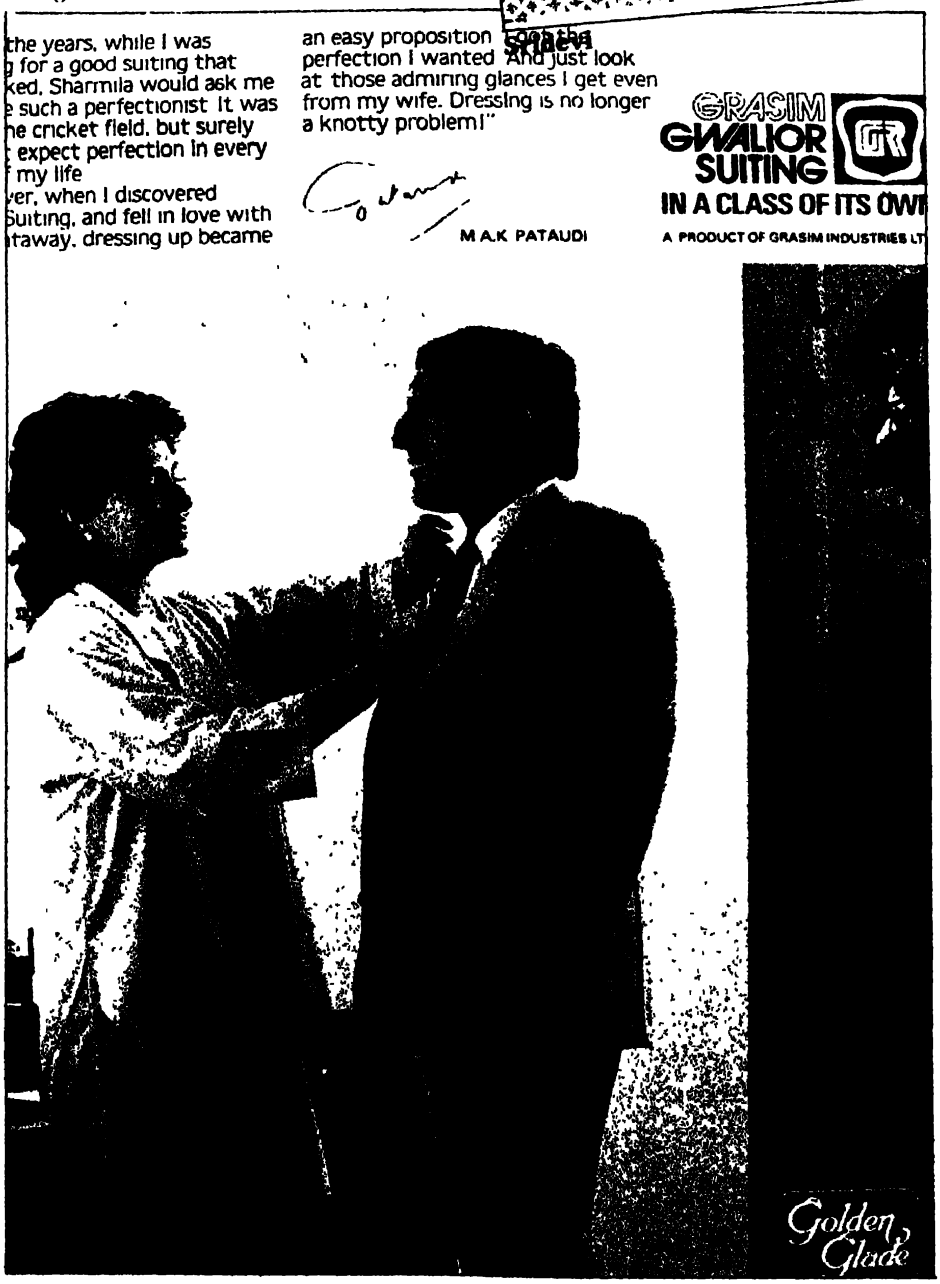
Pratik Basu of Lintas feels the use of celebrities reflects a certain degree of laziness. "It's the easy route, the quick fix It is much more difficult and takes a lot more effort to create a star like Lahtaji," he adds.

What does the future hold in store for celebrity advertising? Almost everyone agrees the trend is growing As to whether it is in the right direction is a debatable issue

The need for celebrities will continue in the years to come, says Kakkar According to Ray, the Indian economy will continue to produce for the next decade and beyond an "economically viable" number of people—large enough to support profit-bearing markets for select products—with a lot of "first generation money"

Therefore, the "mindless-adoption of Western lifestyles, gurus and guru images" will continue, and grow Since celebrities "appeal to a certain vanity", such people often have a weakness for the celebrity cult, Ray theorises "I see a period in which this segment of the population, with a lot of money to spend on inessentials, will be exploited by marketing people. They will fall productive victims of celebrity advertising and in the process have their purses lightened Its natural fit"

Also, with the consumer boom gain-



M.A.K. Pataudi and Sharmila Tagore





Allan Border

ADULATION FOR SALE ?

A list of some of the brands that use celebrities:

Dabur Chyavanprash	Shreeram Lagoo
Cema Bulbs	Sridevi
Cinthol	Vinod Khanna, Imran Khan
Crowning Glory	Dimple
Bagpiper Whisky	Ashok Kumar
Sylvania Lakshman Bulbs	Asrani
Rajnigandha Pan Masala	Paintal
Maaza	Jalal Agha
Tata Tea	Amjad Khan
Konark TV	Deepika
Sevashram Brahmi Amal Kesh Tel	Jaya Prada
Chur Yum	Satish Shah
Nelco TV	Vinod Khanna
Jaykaylon Fabrics	Dev Anand
National	Mithun Chakraborty
Nutramul	Dara Singh
Indana Ghee	Dara Singh
Adhunik Washing Powder	Moon Moon Sen
Boro Calendula	Anooradha Patel
Hawkins Pressure Cooker	Neena Gupta
Tortoise Mosquito Coil	Satish Shah, Keshto Mukherjee
Digjam	Shekhar Kapoor
BSA Bicycle	Vijay Amritraj, Kapil Dev
Ginni Oil	Moon Moon Sen
Surya Bulbs	Swaroop Sampat
VIP Vests	Shafi Inamdar
Dinesh Suitings	Sunil Gavaskar
Cherry Blossom Whitener	Sunil Gavaskar
Masik Ayojna	Sunil Gavaskar
Boost	Kapil Dev
Vigil Soap	Dilip Vengsarkar
Mayur Suitings	Dilip Vengsarkar
Laser Blades	Dilip Vengsarkar
Wilman Blades	Ravi Shastri
Prohne	Ravi Shastri
Gwalior Suitings	M.A.K. Pataudi
Gold Cafe	M.A.K. Pataudi
PHX TV	M.A.K. Pataudi
Maltova	K. Srikkant
All Seasons Foods	Sunil Gavaskar
State Bank Card	M. Azharuddin
Vimal Suitings	Viv Richards, Ravi Shastri, Allan Border, Geet Sethi
Complan	Anita Sood
Lifebuoy Personal	P.T. Usha
Srichakra Tyres	Dilip Vengsarkar, K. Srikkant
Prudent Toothpaste	Ashok Kumar, Annoradha Patel
Murphy TV	Om Puri, Sridevi
Pan Parag	Shammi Kapoor, Ashok Kumar, Jalal Agha
Khaitan Fans	Hema Malini, Raj Babbar
Bata Shoes	The whole cricket team
Rajdoot Motorcycle	Rishi Kapoor, Dilip Dhavan
Lux	Sri Devi, Parveen Babi, Zeenat Aman, Padmini Kolhapuri, Rekha, Meenakshi Sheshadri
Kwality Icecream	Kitu Gidwani



Imran Khan and Sunil Gavaskar

momentum and new products being introduced in the market every day, companies will try to get their hands on any weapon they can use quickly to fight their competitors. Celebrity advertising will thus continue to be used to catch the attention of the consumer.

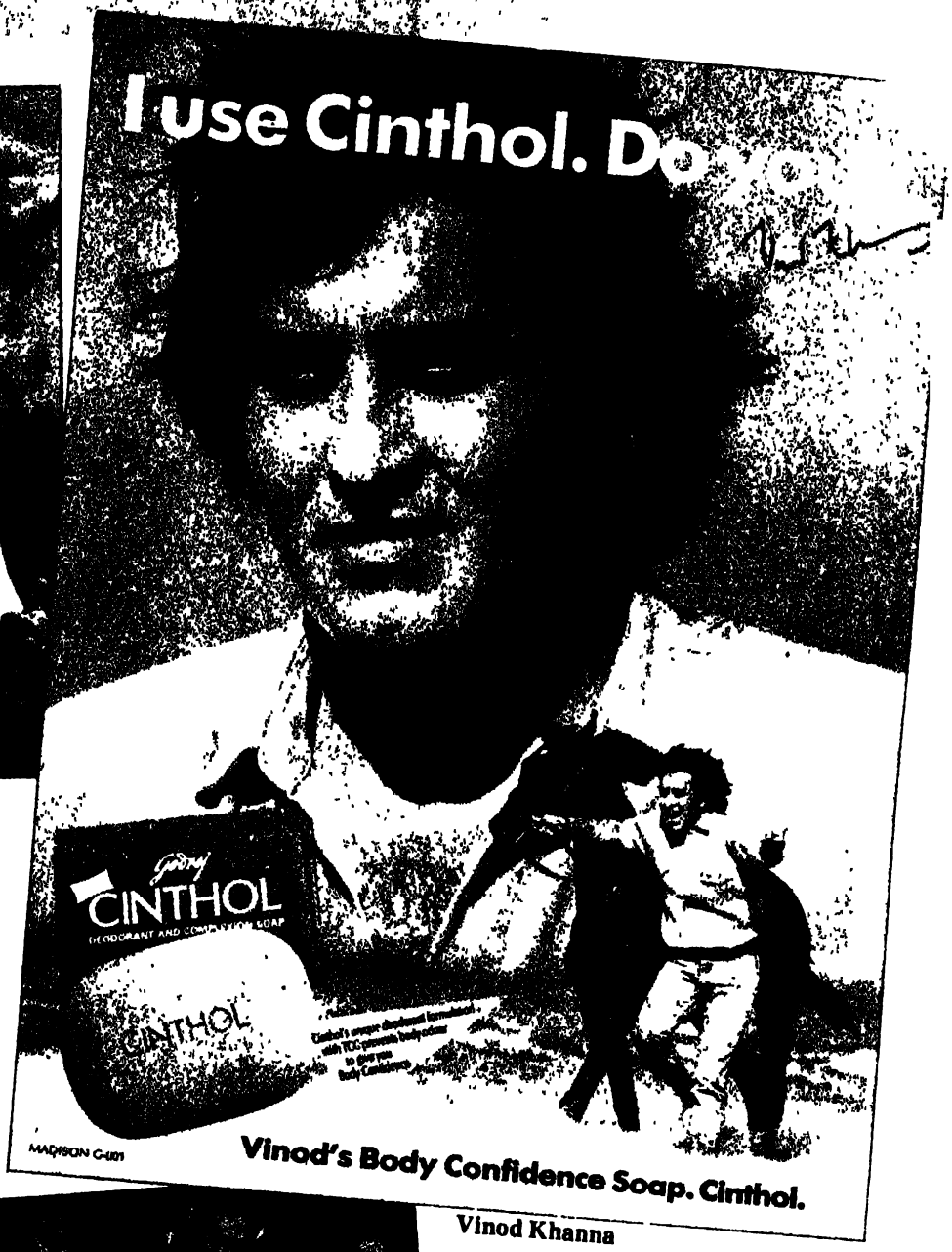
Kakkar feels the indiscriminate use of celebrities will carry on though others are a little more optimistic. Some of them feel advertisers will become more discriminating once they find some of their celebrity-endorsed products failing in the market. They will perhaps be more careful about the product-celebrity match, says Mitra.

Says Rao, "Ten years from now, advertisers and agencies should be using celebrities in the right context for the right kind of products." Sridhar feels ad agencies will have to improve their technique of using celebrities a lot more "for the gimmick to work."

Also, in a few years from now, the ad industry will have adjusted itself to its rapid growth over the last few years, and for which it was initially ill-prepared.

The market too will mature, Ray believes. Paradoxically, celebrity advertising itself might then become less effective because the consumer would no longer be taken in by "falsified claims," he points out. In the distant future, celebrity advertising might not even be considered fashionable, he says.

That will remain mere conjecture for at least some more time. On the contrary there is today considerable scope for extending the celebrity-fashion association beyond individual products, to cover entire



Vinod Khanna



Sunil Gavaskar

ranges, particularly in sportswear, say ad men. They point to the Rod Laver and Lacoste ranges which have, among others, become almost household names in many foreign countries.

In general, as the society opens up and social mores, fashions and fads change new possibilities will emerge, replacing those worn thin by the passage of time. The days of the megabudget films are on the wane. Will the stars of tomorrow be capable of replacing our celluloid superheroes of today and the days gone by? Will the dreams be the same? The answers will have a bearing on the course of celebrity advertising in the years to come, as will many other things.

Additional reportage from Lekha Dhar in Bombay, Saritha Rai in Bangalore and Seema Paul in Delhi

WHISPERS ABOVE THE

The consumer is besieged by advertisements in this age of hard sell, but only a few of them stand out. A review of the 10 best campaigns of the last year, in the opinion of

June Valladares

As everyone knows, the Eighties have been a boom time for advertising. Ad men and women are raking the lucre faster than ever before, and clients are shelling out the same for large-size press and magazine advertisements with gay abandon. In a highly competitive industry, the name of the game is "Are we making our presence felt?"

The age of consumerism, it appears is here to stay. Gone forever is the simple era of the Seventies, when soaps, detergents, cigarettes and soft drinks dominated the market. When ad men scratched their heads and came up with the magical solution lifestyle advertising. Today's consumer is bombarded by more brands of quartz watches, personal computers and colour television sets than there are brands of cigarettes. There is much of a muchness in the qualities of consumer goods—even the high tech ones—and our consumer is conversant with them all. He has become accustomed to sophisticated products and services, and he is rapidly becoming inured to their highly-finished glossy advertising.

The consumer has also, in the Eighties, become accustomed to a new commercial medium, the television. He has begun to learn to use his ears. Perhaps more and more, if advertising is to catch his eye, it must as well 'catch his ear.' Never have the words of David Ogilvy been more true, "If you want your voice to be heard above this ear-splitting barrage, your voice must be unique."

This article makes a modest attempt to recognise some unique voices in newspaper and magazine advertising. An effort has been made to represent a spectrum of categories: corporate, services, consumer durables, consumer edibles, industrial advertising. The criteria adopted have been (a) visibility and impact (b) good advertising idea (c) excellence in execution and art direction. I would like to have included campaigns like Blue Star Quantum (Mudra Advtg.), Orient Fans (ASP) and Raymond's Suiting (Frank Simoes), but they had to be left out in favour of the 10 finalists.

Many years ago in England I was mesmerised by a television commercial for a biscuit called 'Tuk.' In the midst of the clamour and clangour of the other commercials, a homely man's face filled the television screen and in hushed tones he began to extol the virtues of 'Tuk.' A soft, crackly biscuit, he whispered, so fresh that when you broke it (suiting action to words) in two, it went 'Tuk'. Just like this 'Tuk.' One actually heard that biscuit break! Brilliant. But it was the man's voice--in this case a cathedral whisper—which made itself heard above the rest.

In the 10 campaigns that follow, some have won awards, and some have only been a point of discussion in the industry. But all of them, I think, have something in common. Their voices—like the Tuk salesmen--can be heard above the din.

In compiling the above campaigns, my sincere apologies to those hundreds of other "voices" that are probably being heard by ears closer to the ground than mine.



Voice in the Wildness: Batliboi

Coming across the Batliboi Engineering campaign by OBM is like happening on a clearing in the jungle of corporate advertising, where sparkling brook and sunny nook offer welcome rest to a weary



traveller The voices of Kipling, Stevenson and Aesop speak to one in accents long-forgotten but ever familiar, to reassure one that even in this hi-tech century some old fashioned values still survive

Comments: "Our client is a very low-profile, non-flamboyant engineering company," says Anvar Ali Khan (OBM copywriter) "They wanted us to create an image consistent with their simple, down-to-earth, homespun yet hardheaded professionalism."

Creative team: Suresh Mullick, copywriter; Keshav Kuckian, art director

VIP: A self-assured voice

In the words of Ivan Arthur, creative head of HTA, the VIP campaign is "HTA's best press campaign of 1987...because of its immaculate execution, especially the art direction."

Strategically too, he feels, VIP has taken the right stance Seen in the light of its brand history and the new strategies adopted by its competitors, it has chosen the right positioning, 'Luggage to be seen with '

All said and done, it seems an open and shut case!

Creative team: Clarinda de Souza, copywriter, Sudhir Deokar, art director and creative director; Bhagwan Advani, account director, Client, Blow Plast Limited

A smooth, creamy contralto: Vadilal's Ice cream

Even without the gratuitous recipe, the Vadilal icecream campaign looks good enough to eat. A different flavour was made the hero every month. According to Mohammed Khan (Enterprise Advertising), these still-lifes cost a small fortune in photography (done by Swapan Mukherjee) Rs 5,000 and more was spent on just the dry ice required at each day's shooting, to keep the product from melting away. Also, a special 'scooper' merely to attain those perfect 'scoops'.

Murphy Colour Television: A stage whisper

What happens when a company known for its valve radios tries to break into the electronic television market? Murphy television sets simply sat in the shops while everyone gaped at Onida, Bush and Videocon. The client's problem was how to get 6,000 upright sets off the shelf in three months—in Bombay and Madras Contract's campaign based on this popular film *Mr India*, solved the problem, so much so the sets didn't even reach Madras; Bombay is taking them all

Comments: It takes a show-biz man to exploit the show-biz world Bhargava Krishna (*Mathemagic* fame) is responsible for the successful Murphy campaign idea. "We knew it would be too difficult to get the real life stars of *Mr India*

to extol the virtues of our television set, but it would be alright for Mogambo, Mr India and Hawa-Hawai to do so in fictitious interviews," he grins "Murphy television is now a top-of-mind brand and that's what we wanted "

Creative team: Noel Godin, Bhargava (Bugs) Krishna, Rekha Nigam and Sharad Nigmekar, Product, colour television, Agency, Contract Advertising (India) Ltd, Client, Murphy

The Voice on the Phone: Pyramid

The Pyramid EPABX campaign addrsses senior management (with tongue firmly in cheek) about the perils of using out-dated switch boards Trikaya's Christopher D'Rozario claims that "an independent research carried out by one of Pyramid's competitors ranked Pyramid as the brand with the strongest image "

And this, the agency says, despite the fact the Pyramid had one of the smallest advertising budgets

And a soft, compelling voice: Optonica Television

When Optonica, a new and relatively unknown brand entered the colour television market, Lintas India was given the task of establishing the brand and making the promise of 'true-to-life' picture credible

The agency decided to take an unusual route It created a series of advertisements in which the 'model' didn't realise they were watching a picture on television a dog barking at a burglar, a cat pouncing on a saucer of milk, a baby trying to grab a toy from another baby

The theme "When a picture speaks, it must be Optonica "

The result A soft, emotive campaign that has enabled Optonica to create a niche in a highly aggressive market and has firmly established TLV (True-Life Vision) as a very desirable USP Says Anita Sarkar (Lintas) who masterminded the advertisements "It all goes to show that a picture – specially one taken with feeling and good taste -is worth a thousand words "

A Voice with Perfect Pitch: Johnson Tiles

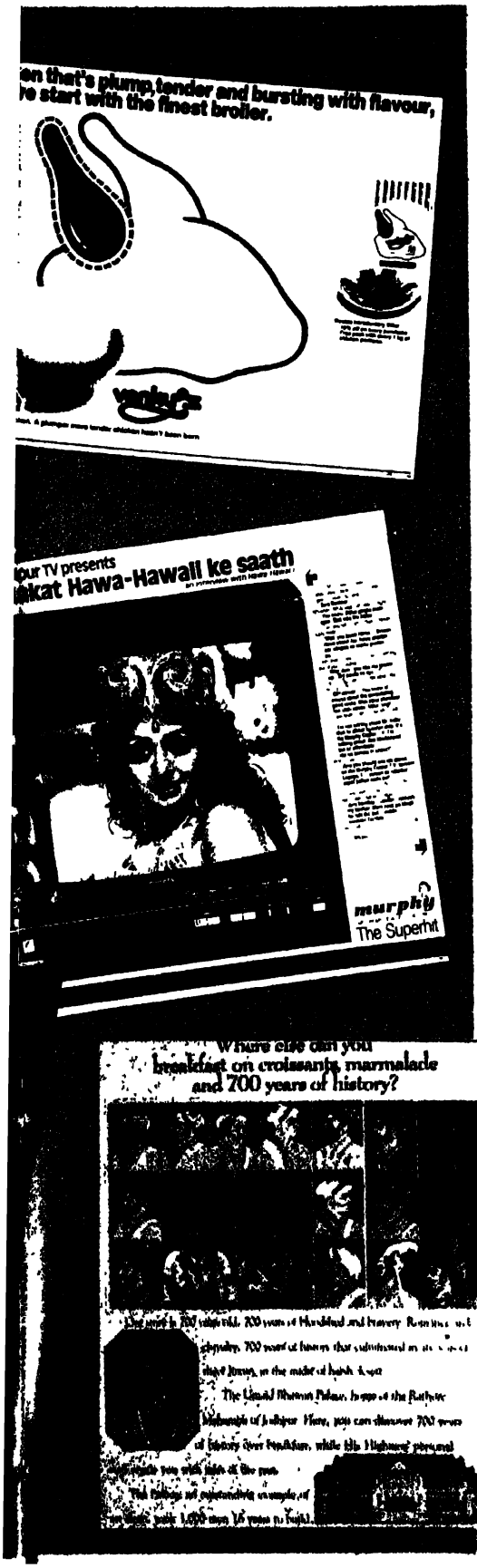
A pure clear note is sounded in Trikaya's lovely advertising idea, 'wall-to-wall uncarpeting' and echoes in the art direction

Comments: The advertising objective is to create a very up-market brand image around Johnson's new range of designer floor tiles Johnson's were very well known in the bathroom tile business This campaign had to change that perception and plant their name firmly in the living room as well)

The target audience includes upper income households, architects and designers

Creative team: Christopet D'Rozario,





copywriter, Viru Hiremath, art director, Product, floor tiles, Client, H and R Johnson (India) Ltd , Agency Trikaya Advertising Pvt Ltd

Voice with a Chuckle in it: Skypak

A *New-Yorker* type campaign that exploits bizarre situations with grace and verve

Comments: Statements which are not entirely factual become acceptable when treated hyperbolically—hence Avenues hit on a clever way of getting round the obstacles (Skypak is not number one, neither does it deliver goods to the Eskimoes!) through this humorous approach, which has made the Skypak man a household word

Gopi Kukde, art director on the job, says that they had a very supportive client in Dilip Kulkarni (managing director) who took decisions briskly Until this campaign broke, Skypak advertising was at best tentative and run-of-the-mill "We had to get the customer to have faith in Skypak as a large, trustworthy courier service," grins Kukde "And I think we have succeeded," he adds The client, needless to say, is delighted

Creative team: Gopi Kukde, Ashok Roy and Gautam Rakshit; Client, Skypak Courier Private Ltd, Agency, Advertising Avenues

Advertising objective: To position Skypak as a leader in the courier service field and project it as worldwide service

Voices from the past: Welcomgroup

There is a subtle difference between corporate campaigns that realistically reflect their company's philosophy, and those which attempt to invent an image that the company will have to reflect, or be seen to reflect

Welcomgroup's advertising falls into this latter category It's all very well creating a beautiful umbrella, but will the 'individual properties' of Welcomgroup be content to live beneath it? Welcomgroup talks traditional hospitality with finesse and class, if you don't mind the hot potato in its mouth In this context, it is interesting to note Welcomgroup's advertising (created by Ivan Arthur of HTA) for its Maurya Sheraton Towers, which speaks exclusively to the 'top-level corporate executive' in a scalded whisper, ignoring—and quite rightly—the rest of us

Comments: "Individual hotels of the Welcomgroup have their own definite styles and brand identities, specially in the major cities," says Mohammed Khan "We were given the task of devising a campaign to hold the chain of hotels together " Khan, who is tired of being known as the man who made Charms cigarettes famous, thinks the Welcomgroup corporate advertising is the "best work I have done in 25 years " The eight-advertisement campaign took eight months to research and photograph

Creative team: Mohammed Khan Rajan Nair and Elsie Nanji, Photographers, Hardev Singh, Pablo Bartholomew and Das Gupta, Client, Welcomgroup Hotels, Agency, Enterprise

Advertising objective: Using individual properties to create an overall corporate image for Welcomgroup

The Voice of Venky's: Cluck,Cluck!

Speer, the agency that launched Venky's Chicken (and ultimately lost the account to Enterprise) devised a hard-hitting launch campaign which brought home to the consumer a new concept in fresh frozen-food - blast freezing In a voice that compelled the curious to try the product even at the exorbitant prices

Comments: The chicken market is a fairly unorganised one Venky's stepped in with their branded chicken portions and easy-to-cook chicken products Frozen chicken was perceived as a compromise on fresh chicken meats Speer tackled the problem head on with a series of four ads that worked at convincing the consumer about Venky's special American blast-freezing process that retained the chickens' juicy freshness

To back their claim of being a premium chicken a softer, naughtier approach stated, "The parts he wants are the parts he gets!"

Venky's created a niche in the chicken market, and Speer in turn proved that with the right advertising even frozen chicken can be made easier to swallow'

Creative team: Sajid Peerbhoy copywriter, Agency, Speer Communications Pvt Ltd , client, Venkateshwara Hatcheries ■

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)

Directed by K Bapaiah, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra, Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Jeete Hain Shaan Se:** Opera (Lenin Sarani), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—4 shows

Directed by Kawal Sharma, the cast includes Mithun Chakraborty, Govinda, Sunjay Dutt, Mandakani and Vijayeta The music by Annu Malik

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)—4 shows

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T Prakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kasam:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 311090), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—4 shows

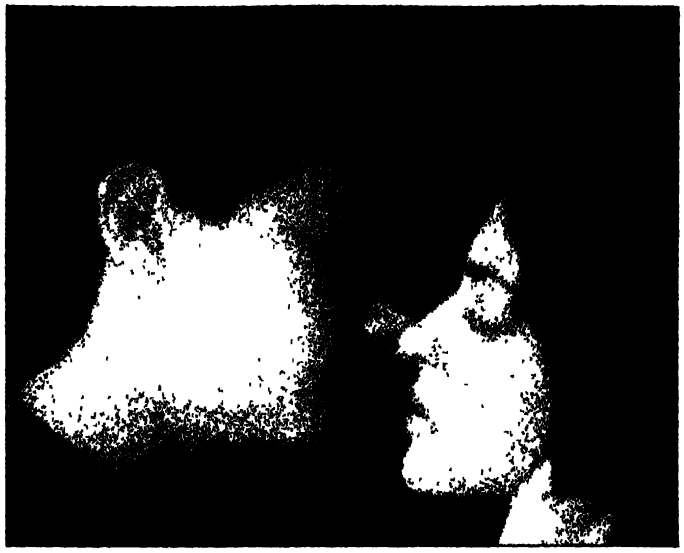
Directed by Umesh Mehra and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon, Pran, Kader Khan and Gulshan Grover

• **Pyar Ka Mandir:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200)—4 shows.

A film by K Bapaiah, starring Mithun Chakraborty, Madhavi, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Aruna Irani, Kader Khan, Raza Murad, Asrani and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind



Aamir Khan and Juhi Chawla in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*

• **Utsav (A):** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664) 12, 3, 6, 8.30

A film by Girish Karnad, starring Rekha, Shashi Kapoor, Kunal Kapoor, Amjad Khan, Shekhar Suman and Anooradha Patel The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal



Prasenjit, Debashree Roy and Abhisek Chatterjee in *Ora Chaarjan*

Bengali Films

• **Antaranga:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473162), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—3 shows

Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy are the lead pair in this Dinen Gupta film Others in the cast are Rabi Ghosh, Anup Kumar, Chinmoy Roy and Basanta Chowhury The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Aparadhi:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045) 2.30, 5.30, 8.30, Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440) -3, 6 8.30

Directed by Nandan Das Gupta, the cast includes Deepankar De, Sumitra Mukherjee, Abhisek Chatterjee, Soma Mukherjee and Abhijit Sen The music is by Samir Mukherjee

• **Ora Chaarjan:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567), Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road, 355059) - 3 shows

Samit Bhanja's first directorial venture, starring Dilip Roy, Swarup Dutta, Chinmoy Roy, Abhisek Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Shakuntala Barua, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit The music is by Arun Rabin

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayasree T. and Sukhen Das The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

Special Events

8 May: 5.30 pm

Calcutta Malayalee Association presents a Bharata Natyam recital by Kumari Jogitha Chandran, disciple of Thankamani Kutty

At Vidya Mandir (Moira Street; 446420)

8-11 May: 3-8 pm

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Th Debendra Singh in the South Gallery

8-14 May

An exhibition of Ganymed reproductions of Rabindranath's paintings in the West Gallery

Supriyo Banerjee will hold his exhibition of paintings in the North Gallery

10 May onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by the students of Bharatiya Sanskriti Sansad in the New South Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205).

10 and 11 May: 6.30 pm

A cultural programme, organised by Calcutta Young Association, on the occasion of Asian



Ustad Amjad Ali Khan

Paints Shiromani Purashkar ceremony, features a sarod-Rabindrasangeet duet by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Suchitra Mitra on the 10th, and dances to Tagore songs and solo classical dance recitals (participants Sanjukta Panigrahi, Chitra Visweswaran, Malavika Mitra, Alokananda Roy and Aloka Kanungo in dance and Suchitra Mitra, Purba Dam, Arghya Sen, Subir Mitra and others in songs and recitation) on the 11th.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

11-13 May: 7 pm

Stagecraft presents two one-act plays, *The Interview* by Peter Swet, featuring Rohit Pombra and Kersi Anita, and *September Song* by Alex Gottheb, featuring Amber Tikari and Pratap Mazumder Direction. Rohit Pombra.

At Kala Mandir (B) (Shakespeare Sarani; 449086).



Jogitha Chandran

14 May: 6.30 pm

Padatik Dance Circle presents a Kathak recital by Bireshwar Kumar

At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7 AJC Bose Road, 446087)

14 May: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory will stage *Kanyadaan*, a play written by Vijay Tendulkar and directed by Shyamanand Jalan The cast includes Chetna Jalan, Shyamanand Jalan, Sharmila Biswas, Jitender Singh and S Khan

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street).



Suchitra Mitra

14 May: 7 pm

Workshop presents Bohubrihi's production of I S Johar's *Bhutto*. The cast of the play, directed by Ashoke Vishwanathan, includes Suhel Seth, Sandhya Narayan, Ratna Chauduri, Uttiya Rahut, Arindam Basu and Rupanjana Sengupta

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1) AI-132A at 1805

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (2) AI 316 at 1910, Dep (2) AI-316 at 2020

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015, Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong: Arr (4) AI 324 at 1050 Dep (4) AI-324 at 1150

Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay: Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235, Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU 492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU 492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU 493 at 2325 Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Moscow: Arr (4) SU-537 at 1755 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1855

Calcutta Singapore Dep (-) SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep (-) SQ 413 at 1530, Arr (-) SQ 416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ 411 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1 3 7) RA-214 at 1110 Dep (2 4) IC 247 at 1740 Dep (3 6 7) IC-247 at 1610 Arr (1 3 7) RA 213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC 248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka Calcutta Delhi Arr (7) IC 441 at 1920 Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dkaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1115, Dep (1 2 4 5, 6) BG 694 at 1715 and IC 223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1045 Arr (1, 2, 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok. Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640 Arr (1 3 6) TG-313 at 1240 Dep (2 4 7) IC 231 at 1050 Dep (1, 3 6) TG 314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 3 5, 6) GQ 102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ 101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC 402 at 1710 Dep (7) IC 444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras. Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi. Dep (1 3 5 6 7) IC 478 at 1045 Arr (1 3 5 6, 7) IC 477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (2 4 6) IC 295 at 1640, Arr (2 4, 6) IC 296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC 288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2 3, 4, 5, 6 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC 541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215 Arr (4, 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445, Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1, 4, 6) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta. Dep (3, 5, 6) IC 281 at 1305, Arr (3 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2 3, 4, 5 6) IC-204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1040

Calcutta Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530 Arr (daily) IC 256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra. Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1305

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC 243 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC 244 at 1640

Calcutta Agartala Silchar: Dep (1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650, Arr (1 3 5) IC 238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3 5) IC 201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC 219 at 0625, Arr (7)

IC-220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6)· PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2 4, 6) PF 718 at 0800
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0600, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100
*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4 6)· PF-705A at 1100, Arr (2, 4, 6)· PF-706A at 1450
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 729 at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 730 at 1610
Calcutta Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh Guwahati Calcutta. Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 721 722 at 0630 Arr (1 3, 5) PF 723/724 at 1915
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1745
Calcutta-Malda Balurghat: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 727 at 0940, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-707 at 0610; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6)· PF-716 at 1010
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) PF-701/735 at 0830; Arr (daily) PF-702/736 at 1705

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19 00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12 55	4
81	8 45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri Wkly via Gaya Dep - Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep Sat up to Amritsar Arr Tues Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8 45	**Air Cond Express** Bi Wkly via Patna Dep - Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep Sun up to Amritsar Arr - Mon & Fri	[illegible]	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 day a week Dep Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arr - Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	[illegible]	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep -Tues Fri & Sat Arr Tues Wed & Sat	[illegible]	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep - Mon & Thurs Arr Thurs & Mon	[illegible]	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Loop Chord	7 [illegible]	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** to Main Line	18 [illegible]	8
49	13 05	**Amritsar Express**	15 45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6 05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** to Main Line	5 [illegible]	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6 15	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 [illegible]	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6 30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	308
309	17 15	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8 15	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6 [illegible]	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep Wednesday Arr - Friday	4 15	106
171	22 30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep –Tues, Thurs & Sat Arr --Mon, Thurs & Sat	6 00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 45	16
959	15 25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep - -Thursday Arr - Thursday	7 30	960

SEALDAH

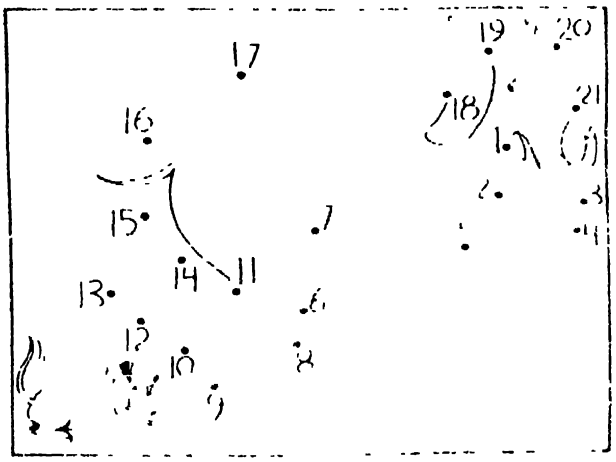
Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

3	20 45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
5	20 30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13 50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep --Mon Tues Wed, Fri & Sat Arr --Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14 15	59
133	21 00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
29	11 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15 15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11 15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21 30	**Sambalpur Express**	5 55	6
15	21 30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22 45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7 45	10
45	10 00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22 35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
	11 10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	11 10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arr —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.

JUNIOR WHIRL □ Hal Kaufman



THINK BIG! Something big is shying away from a lowly mouse What's that? Draw lines 1, 2, 3 etc

• WIN-LOSE! A team played 135 games Of those games played it won 27 more than it lost How many games did the team win and lose?



VERSE-RIDDLE TO PONDER
Clues to individual letters of a certain five-letter word are provided in lines of the following verses

My first is in wool, but not in silk
My second's in water not in milk
My third's in king, but not in jack
My fourth's in fore, but not in back
My all pays off when the race is won

What word am I?

Remember each line provides a letter clue Hint letter number 1 is a W

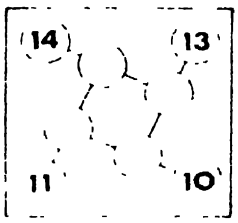
The word is "wagon"

• SUM TESTER! Challenge: Place the four numbers 7, 8, 9 and 12 in blank circles of the diagram shown so that each of the four straight-line rows of three numbers totals 30.

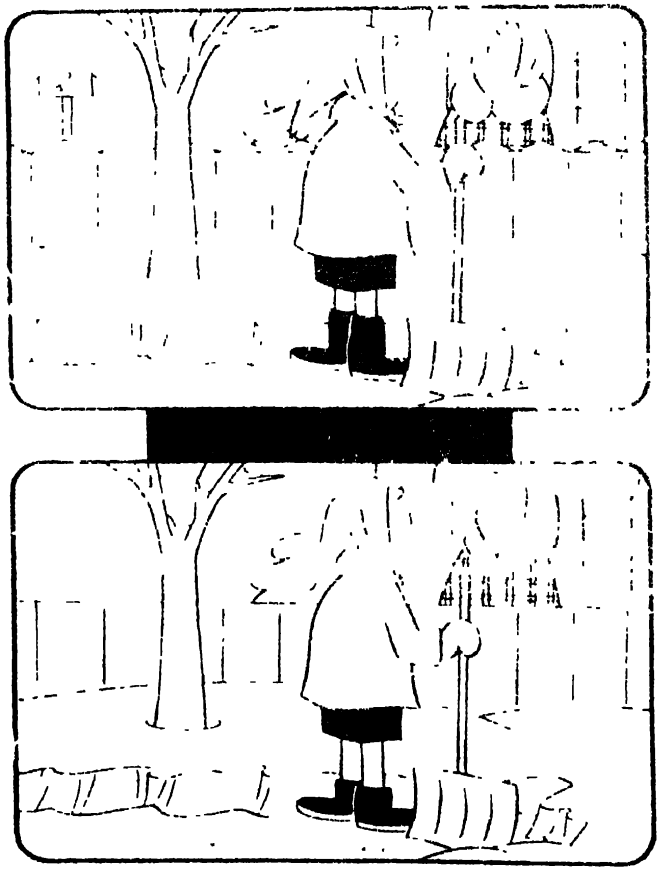
Present numbers remain in positions shown.

How quickly can you insert the four numbers correctly?

Across—14, 7 and 12; 8, 10 will do it



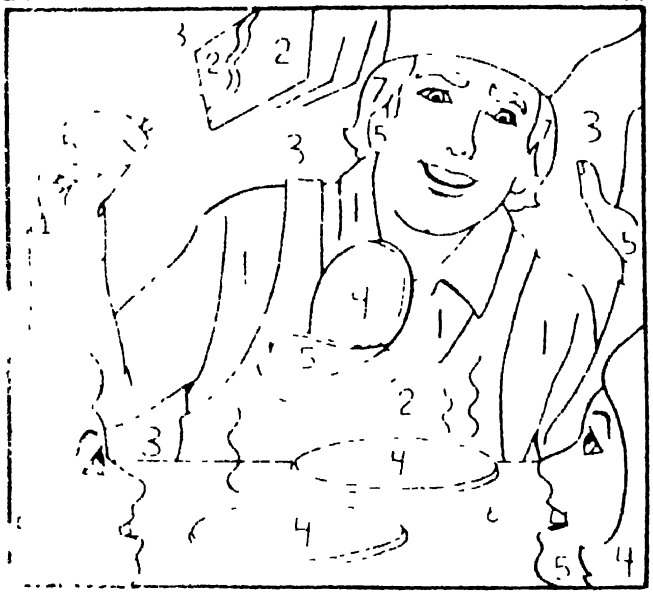
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Birdhouse is missing 2 Fence is different 3 Scarf is smaller 4 Arm is moved 5 Collar is different 6 Bows are shorter

FUNSPOT



BATTER UP! Flapjacks are on the menu above Simply add the following colors to the scene 1 -Red 2-- Lt blue 3 -Yellow 4 Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Purple 7—Dk brown

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

COLISEUM

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible answer: More than 50

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The moon's last quarter will make things look up for you. Friends and loved ones will lend a helping hand. Socialise and entertain in style. Money will pour in and pressures will now ease The time is right to forge new contacts. Make an effort to enjoy yourself but at the same time do not neglect your work.

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Moon trine Pluto indicates strong relationships, an official engagement, an offer of matrimony and the beginning of a new collaboration or venture. Money and fame will both be yours. Do not neglect your health and go for regular checkups. This is likely to be a week of hectic business activity. Do not take people at face value

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

The Mercury Venus conjunction in your sign will give you an edge over others and help you to finalise deals and collaborations Expenses will mount but the increase will be well worth it. You will soon receive important news. Travel is in the offing. Reach out to people and places by all means of communication. Guard health

CANCER

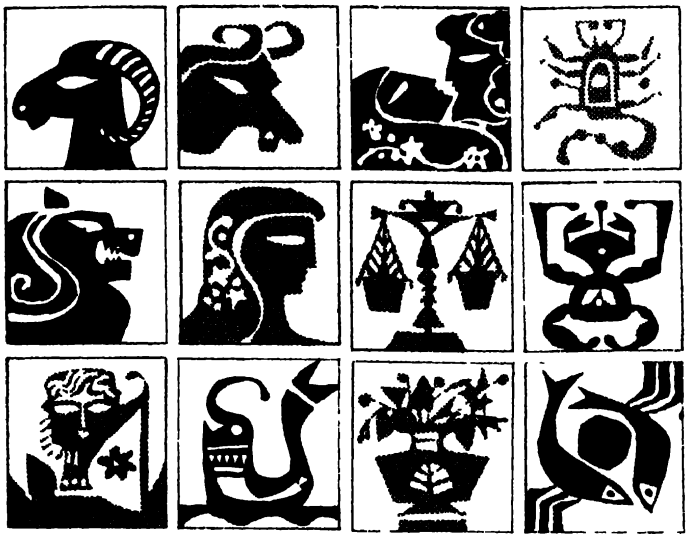
June 21—July 20

Money will now pour in Socialising and entertaining are indicated. Matters pertaining to joint finances, loans, trusts and securities are likely to demand attention. This trend will continue for the next two months. For emotional happiness, rituals and prayers are recommended. Donate generously to a worthy cause.

LEO

July 21—August 21

Do not take unnecessary chances New contracts may not turn out to be as profitable as you think A change in your schedule or programme is likely. Do not get impatient and take all upheavals in your stride Be patient and reasonable in all your dealings. Love blooms Be prepared to travel. Friends and relatives will drop in for prolonged visits.



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

A rewarding week lies ahead as gains are indicated at work. Collaborations and contracts are likely to be signed within the next two months. A job hop or transfer is likely for some. Your relationship with colleagues and relatives will undergo a change. Donate towards a charitable or welfare scheme.

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

The moon's last quarter will help you to reach a decision on major issues. This is the right time to go in for a relationship if you are so inclined You will return to a hobby with renewed vigour Romance is in the air for the fancyfree and eligible Home affairs will demand attention A transfer or shift is indicated for some.

BIRTHDAYS

May 8

Moon trine Mercury square Pluto: Changes on the work front are likely. Accept all obstacles with fortitude. Children, hobbies and creative pursuits will keep you busy. Romance is in the offing for some.

May 9

Moon's last quarter Aquarius: Progress, success and recognition will all be yours. This is the ideal time to branch out on your own. You may also win awards. Those of you who are planning to settle down should do so within this year.

May 10

Moon sextile Jupiter-Neptune: All the good things in life will be yours for the taking. Matrimony, business collaborations, alliances and contracts are in the offing. Travel to foreign countries is likely. You will have ample scope for advancement now.

May 11

Moon sextile sun, square Venus: Expenses will rise. Buying, selling, entertainment and socialising are on the cards. A long standing wish will now come true. Celebrations in the family are likely before your next birthday.

May 12

Moon sextile Mercury, square Saturn Uranus: Take one step at a time. The health of parents and elders may cause concern Money will pour in and income is sure to increase Plan ahead if you are planning to embark on a long trip. A major collaboration is on the cards.

May 13

Moon sextile Mars. Architects, industrialists, chemists, painters, musicians, those involved in land development and brokers will do well. Engineers and computer personnel will also gain recognition. Expenses are likely to rise.

May 14

Moon trine Saturn-Uranus: Dramatic and happy changes will take place in your personal life. Be prepared to take risks and do not worry too much about the consequences. Romance, socialising and entertaining are highlighted.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Buying, selling, renovation, decoration and refurbishing are on the cards. Parents and in-laws will show an undue interest in your affairs. Health problems will continue to bother you, so do not take chances. Do not drive rashly Use tact and discretion in dealing with elders. Romance is in the air for the eligible

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

The moon Mars conjunction suggests changes on the domestic and professional fronts You may receive news that will be both happy and worrisome You will have to give up something to acquire something new. An important deal will be finalised soon Do not take people at face value and learn to look beyond appearances

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Even though you will have a busy schedule, take time off to entertain and socialise Preparations for a celebration are on the cards Retrograde Saturn in your sign will make you introspect and meditate Weigh all the pros and cons before taking an important decision Do not neglect your health and go for regular checkups

AQUARIUS

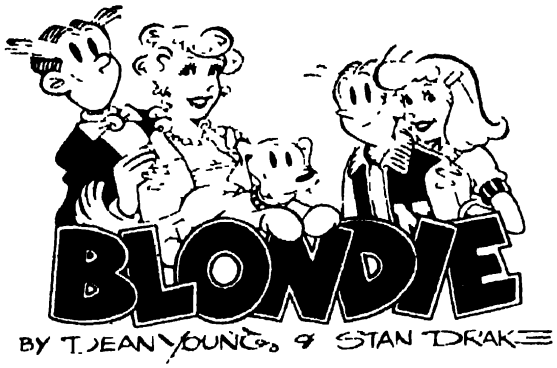
Jan 20—Feb 18

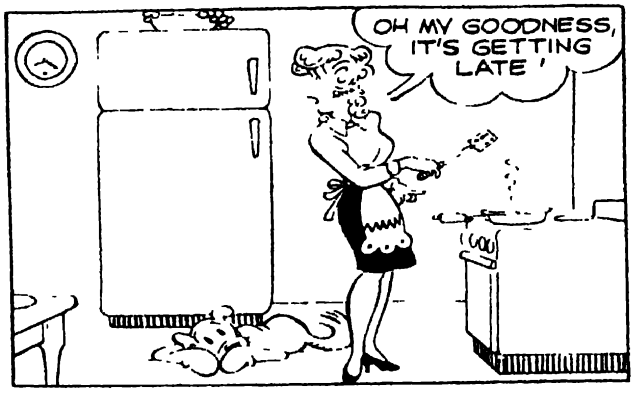
The moon's last quarter in your sign highlights matters pertaining to work and home Comforts will hold greater attraction for you now. Installation of gadgets and new machinery is foretold. A job hop or transfer is likely for some. You may face problems at work. Friends and relatives will come froward to give all possible support

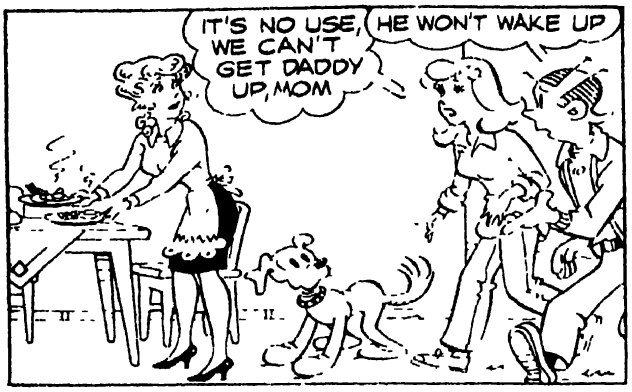
PISCES

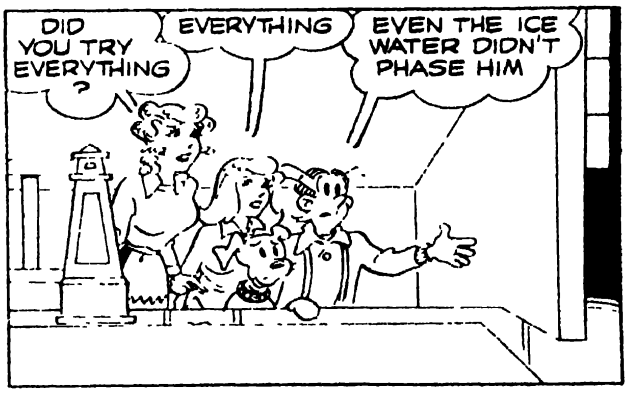
Feb 19—March 20

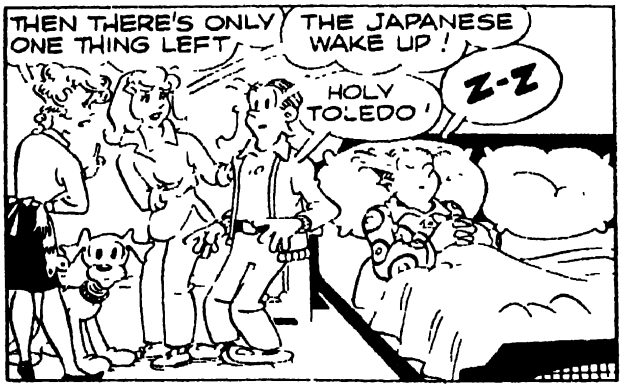
Do not neglect your health. Some of you may have to go in for an operation Collaborations, contracts and joint ventures are likely. Travel is on the cards. Do not worry, you will be able to complete all pending assignments by next week Do not let unemployment matters bog you down. Everything will get sorted out eventually.



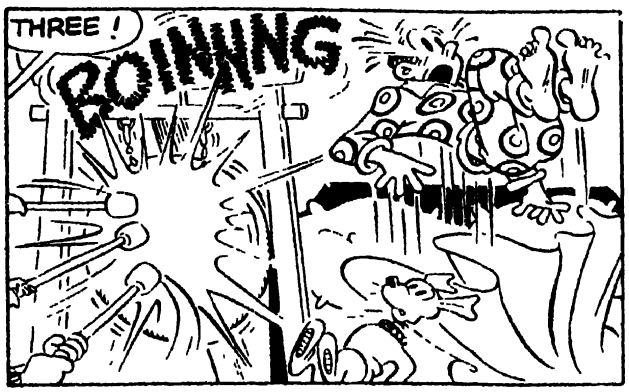




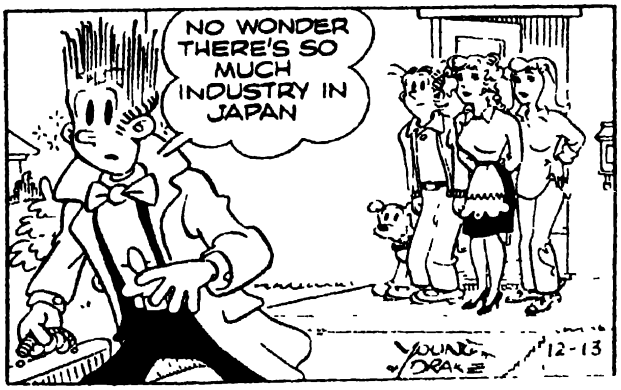




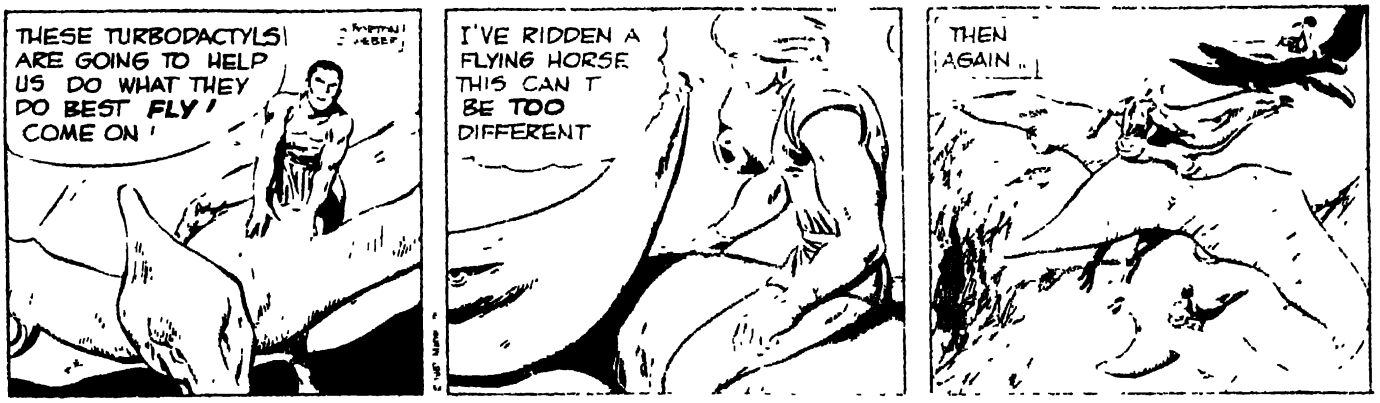




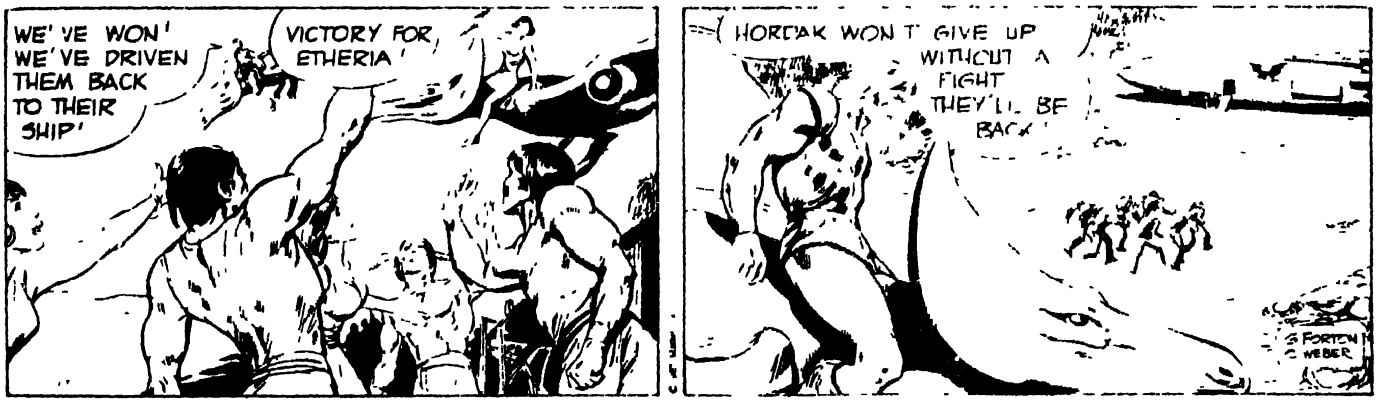
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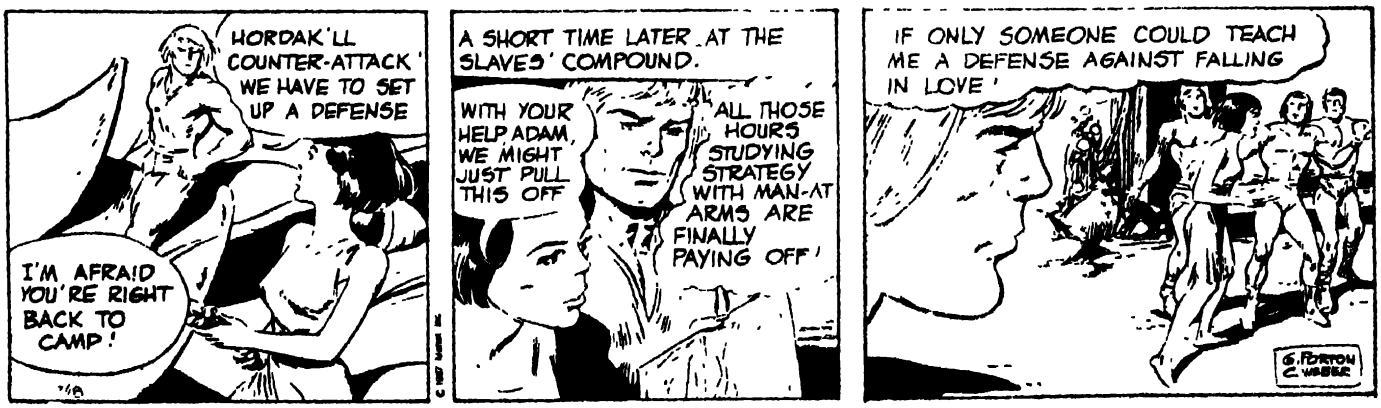


HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

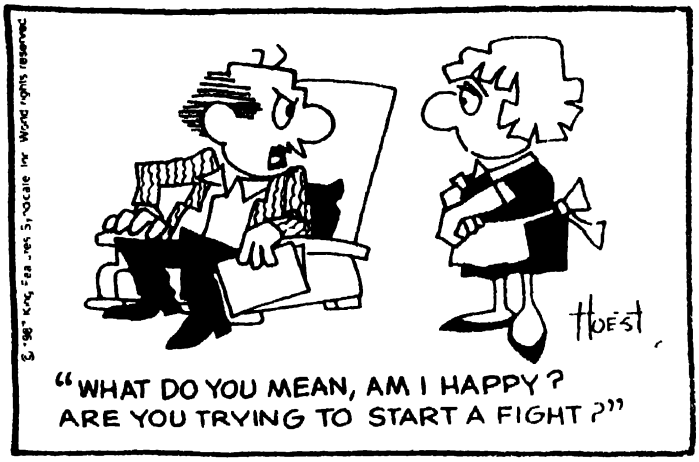


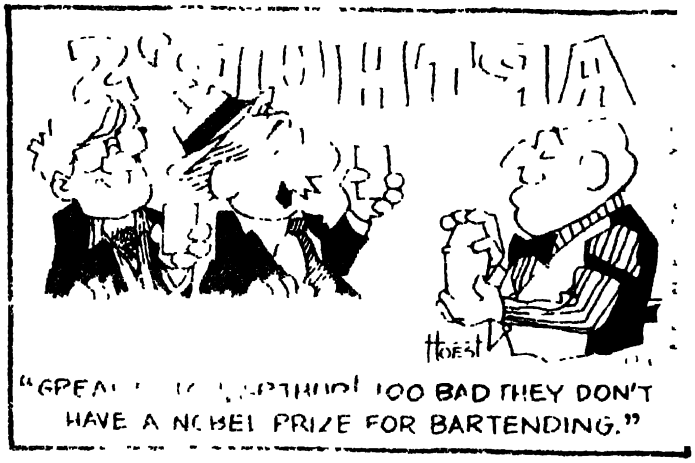




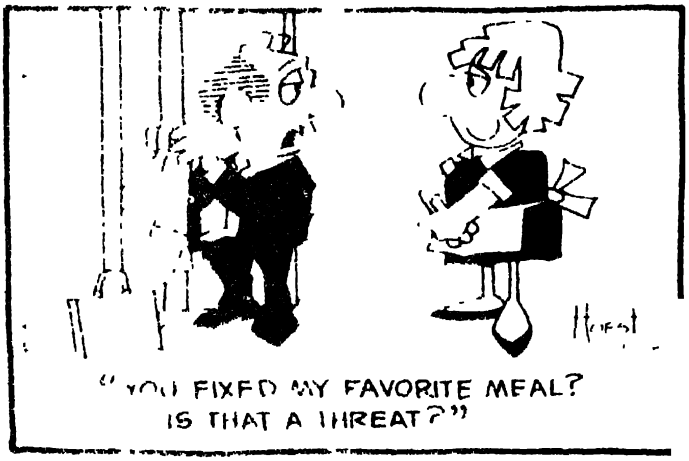


THE LOCKHORNS

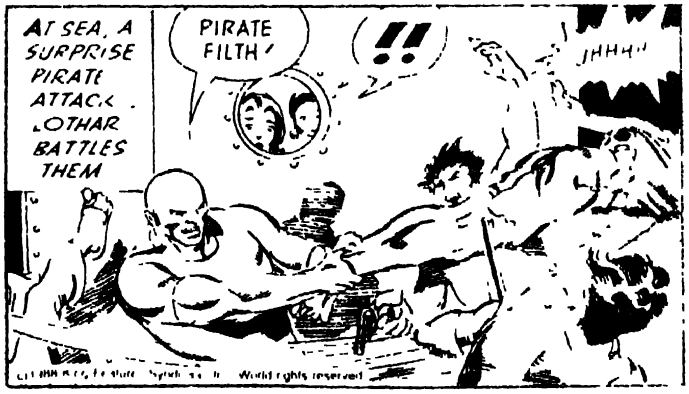




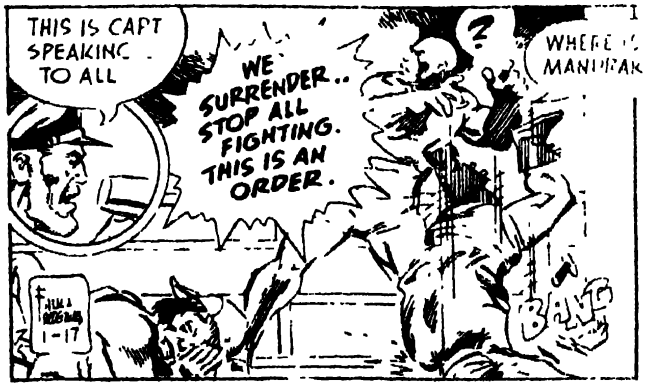




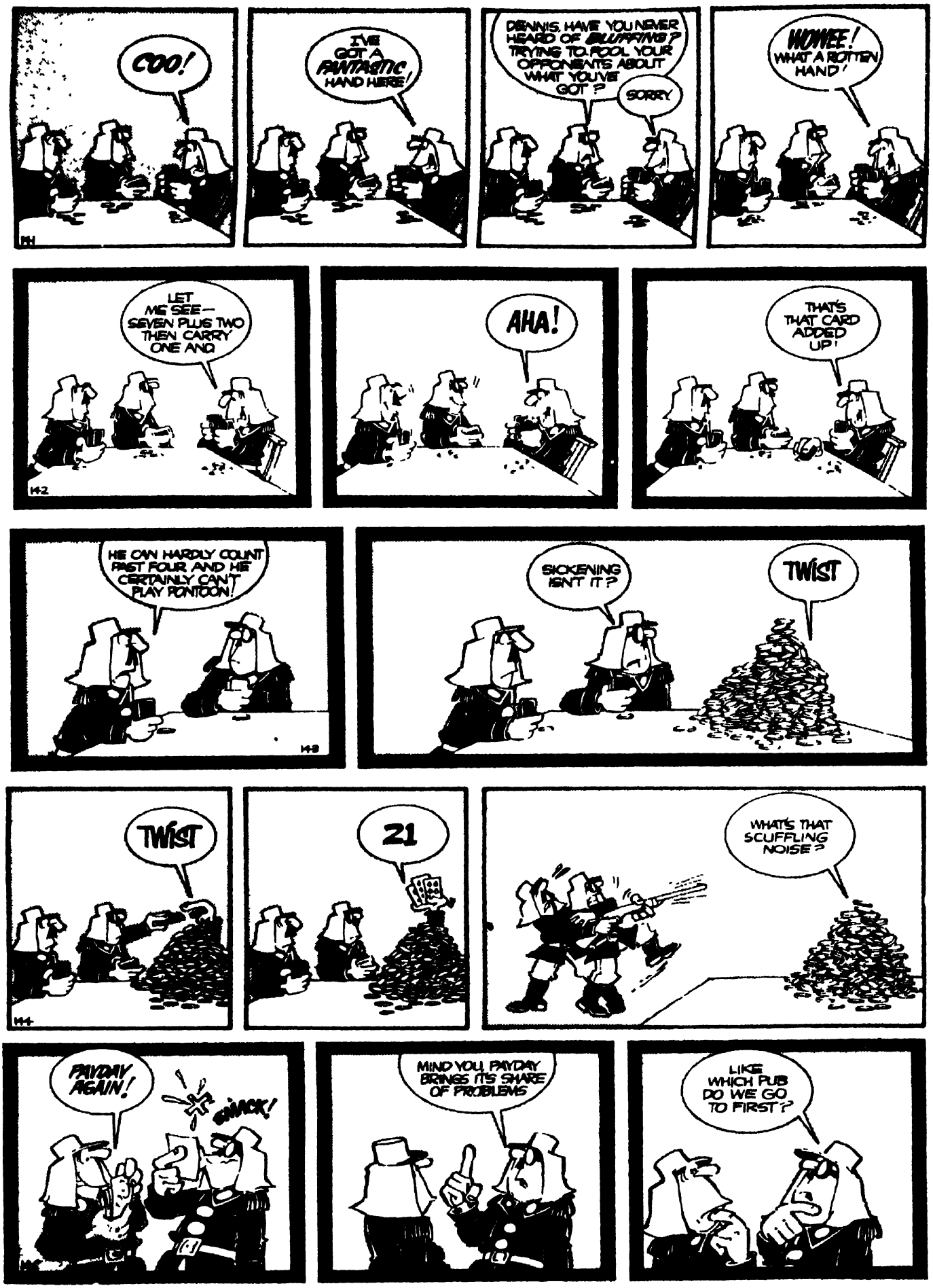
MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

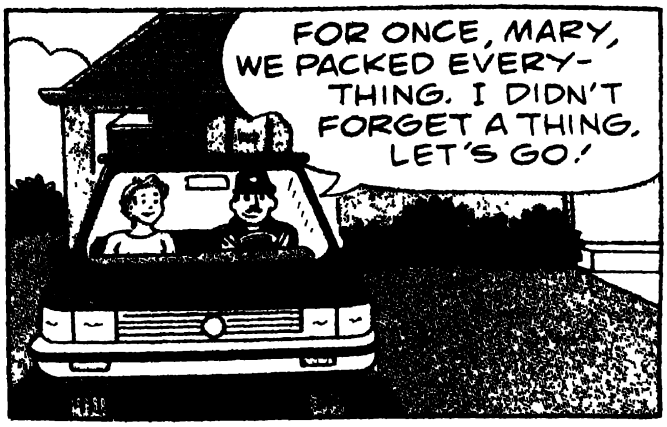


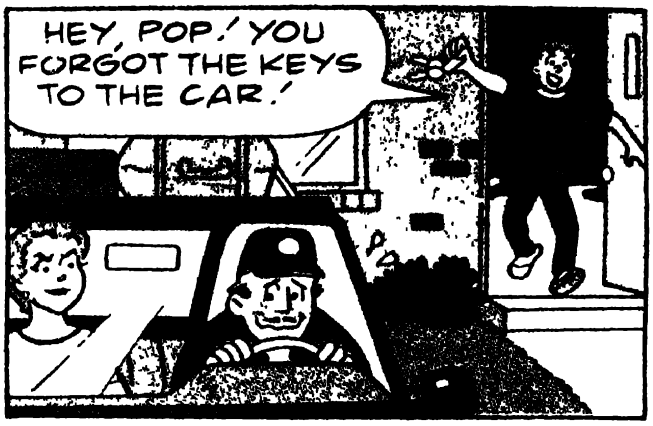


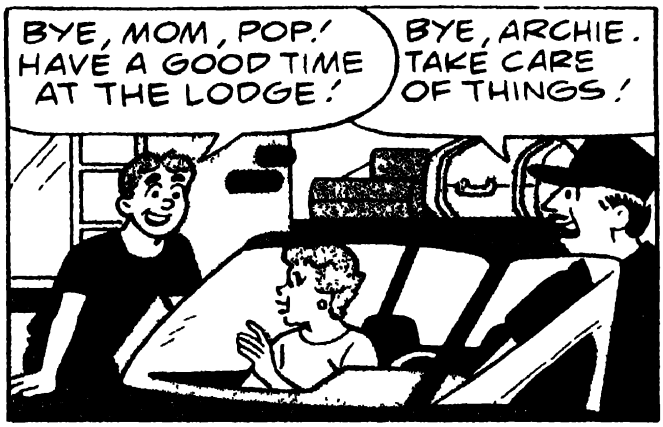


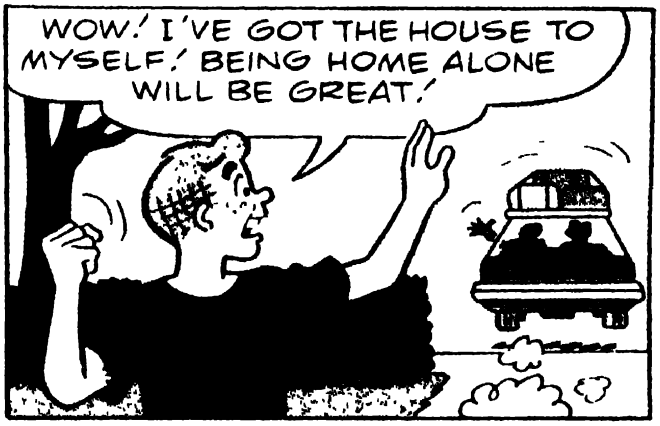



COO!
I'VE GOT A FANTASTIC HAND HERE!
DENNIS, HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD OF BLUFFING? TRYING TO FOOL YOUR OPPONENTS ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE GOT?
SORRY
HOWEE! WHAT A ROTTEN HAND!
LET ME SEE— SEVEN PLUS TWO THEN CARRY ONE AND
AHA!
THAT'S THAT CARD ADDED UP!
HE CAN HARDLY COUNT PAST FOUR, AND HE CERTAINLY CAN'T PLAY PONTOON!
SICKENING ISN'T IT?
TWIST
TWIST
21
WHAT'S THAT SCUFFLING NOISE?
PAYDAY AGAIN!
SMACK!
MIND YOU, PAYDAY BRINGS ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS
LIKE WHICH PUB DO WE GO TO FIRST?


FOR ONCE, MARY, WE PACKED EVERY-THING. I DIDN'T FORGET A THING. LET'S GO!


HEY, POP! YOU FORGOT THE KEYS TO THE CAR!


BYE, MOM, POP! HAVE A GOOD TIME AT THE LODGE!
BYE, ARCHIE. TAKE CARE OF THINGS!


WOW! I'VE GOT THE HOUSE TO MYSELF! BEING HOME ALONE WILL BE GREAT!

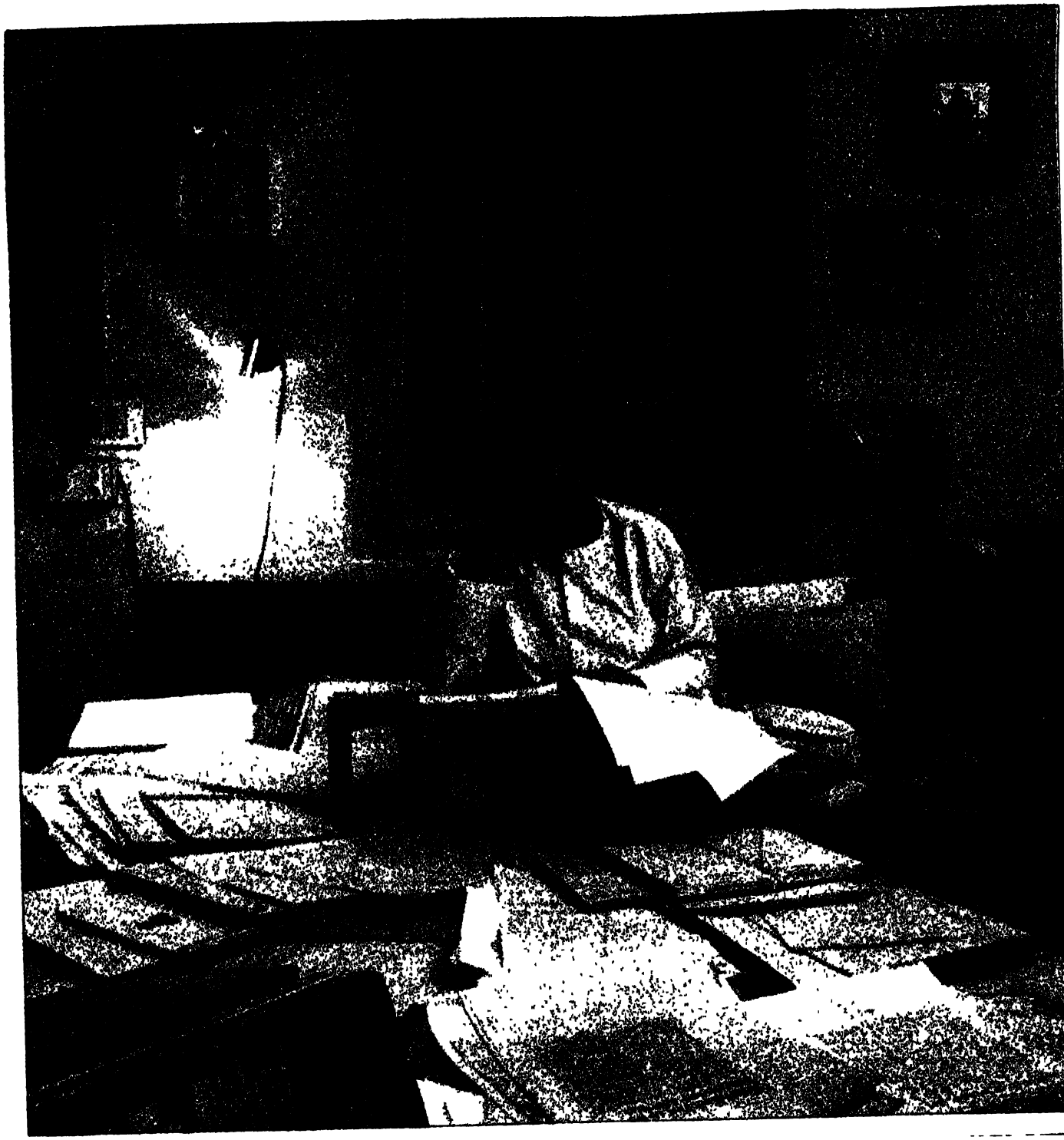

IT'S GOING TO BE ONE LONG, HAPPY, CAREFREE WEEKEND!!


GEE, THE CAR SOUNDED FUNNY AS THEY DROVE OFF! ... HOPE THEY REACH THE LODGE SAFELY!
10-25


... AND THOSE MOUNTAIN ROADS ARE SO SLIPPERY! I HOPE POP DRIVES SLOW!


IF THE WEATHER TURNS BAD, THEY COULD GET SNOWED IN FOR WEEKS!
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:GULP!: MY CARE-FREE, FUN WEEKEND IS SURE OFF TO A NERVE-WRACKING START!



Delhi lawyers felt that **Kiran Bedi** had gone beyond her brief when she handcuffed one of their fraternity for picking a girl student's purse. After plenty of heat and dust, the deputy commissioner of police was transferred to the CRPF and then to the Narcotics Control Bureau, but only time will tell whether she is 'a comeback girl' or not. From 'Crane' Bedi to 'Danda' Bedi, the high-voltage Kiran has at least proved that she is a woman of action and not afflicted by 'filaria'. Photograph by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA /*India Today*

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350	25,500	—
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840*	52,750	7,400
1300*	82,500	11,500

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*Personal Accident cover available on payment of additional premium.

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POST MORTEM

No Need for Bribes

We do not agree with Mrs Aijen Lee Pardiwala that we have to bribe people to get our papers renewed ('Our Beautiful Laundrettes', April 3). We do have problems every year, but Mrs Pardiwala may be the only person needing to bribe.

The cover photograph should also have been of the Wong family, not the Pardiwalas. The latter are not Chinese, but Parsi. Also, there are many more Shanghai families, who are residing in Tiretta Bazar.

Kathy Wong and seven others,
Calcutta

Pulse of the People

I congratulate your reporters for the bold story on doctors (May 1). Most doctors cater to those who have money and even when a patient goes to a government hospital, he is told by the doctor to switch to his clinic for "proper treatment". In the film, *Nasoor*, the role of a doctor was correctly described.

Dr Milon Mohan Mazumdar, honorary secretary, Indian Medical Association, makes a mockery of himself when he says, "The patients and general public of Calcutta have full faith in the capability of their doctors." I request your reporters to conduct a poll and find out exactly how many patients have faith in the doctors of Calcutta.

Sanjay Agarwal,
Calcutta

■ The article made one shudder, to say the least. But I disagree that Calcutta is the only city stricken with the malaise; it has affected the whole country. The findings of Justice Lentin are too recent to be forgotten.

While there can be no two opinions on the necessity of ethics in the medical profession, we can only feel sad about the poor quality of doctors being turned out by our medical colleges.

P. Srinivas,
Bokaro Steel City

■ Your team has given a most reliable picture of the deplorable state of medicare and medical education in West Bengal, particularly Calcutta. The medical profession as a whole has reneged on the Hippocratic oath by abandoning its vow of service to the ill and suffering and turning into leeches who care for nothing except lucre, though fortunately there are still a handful of exceptions.

Very few doctors are reliable and those who could theoretically be reliable are totally insincere and often inhuman in their treatment. Every doctor is a specialist who is often not thorough with the fundamentals of medical science and practice which the good old general practitioners used to know so well.

Insincerity has combined with ignorance in increasing the number of wrong diagnoses and prescriptions. Modern equipments will not improve the situation and professionalism bereft of the human touch will only worsen it.

Indrajit Banerji,
Calcutta



Arijit Ghosh

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The Telegraph

22 MAY 1988



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10 Caught in the cross-currents of time almost 200 years after Tipu Sultan's death, how are his present descendants surviving? A report.



Kushal Gangopadhyay

16 Chorida is a little village whose 70 families produce the famous Chhou masks. A photofeature.

18 When will this weather-beaten, though basically aristocratic, lady become a queen again?

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23 Junior Whirl

24 Inner Eye

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Cover
Saibal Das

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Bhaswati, Dear

When I turn human this life is heavy
donkey-load
Like a cold leaf, I fall fall, my stomatal pores
beget tears.
I practise love to touch you with my fears
walking towards Pattaurah besides Ghia river

How long is Time? As long as I can think
the world has remained correct Your reality was only created in dreams, the past
becomes matter, stone or dust

As glories of vegetative parts vanish into flowers,
my sacrifices to you
Please judge me from my simplicities—
a day is good for a clock, not me, I know
I use my sorrows for literature
selfish-poems,
Let nature lay her back on my passionate nerves so
I may turn my eyes from you,
a court-yard without jack-fruit trees

Boudhayan Mukhopodhyay

Candle Night

This candle is an obstinate thing,
it melts, flickers, but will not burn itself out
It streaks into veins for all the world to see.

Nothing flows through the arteries but wax—
molten, liquid, somewhat warm on occasion.
Then it hardens and chokes the throat

This candle came from the grocery store,
fooled god, looked like any other in the box.
Then it matured like wine in the sideboard till it was lit.

For a moment the matchstick sputtered,
touched the thread, came alight and blew out.
Then the room got dark as the electric current too went dead.

In the darkness it sits expectant
for a hand to find the matchbox again,
unaware that nobody is home

And the copper wires crackle with conversation,
all secret, not exploding into light.
This is their day, not the candle's

But wax is stubborn if shapeless,
it moulds itself to any circumstance
It stretches, it survives, it's suicidal,
while the wick runs through it like a nerve.
Strike the synapses, somebody, let it go
The roots are solidifying too fast,
like an ossified bone in the spine.

Ossified bones belong to coffins,
but this candle will not burn itself out

Menka Shivdasani

Answering Back Dark

The dark has come out of its bark
as the window of pain has thrown itself open
to the look of a new-moon-night desire
The wind in the trees begins to unwind itself.
The possibility of flowers and fruits stirs
like the pupils coming out peeling the shut eyelids
The incessant tappings on the insubstantial door
that slowly settle down to an inaudible song
like a web-entangled gong in some ruined temple
seem to tell you exactly what you want to know
from this night that sparks only dark.
Your fingers touch and retreat.
Baffled, you ask yourself
what have you missed in the sands of this night.
Is it like that what you lost on some unknown beach



KRISHNENDU CHAKI

that never speaks to you, that you can never again
uphold, like a prejudice, in your life?
Or just those faces which you used to wear on your's
before the mirrors of the past and which is now with the dark
glowing with the phospherscence of glow-worms
in the innumerable questions you have asked
to yourself as many times as you have tried to define
your needs sheltered in the dark like fallen dry leaves
that have no more anything to do with their trees.

Rabindra K. Swain

I Need the Blotting Green...

I need the blotting green frequently
When my owlish expectancies embarrass me
And to the rains I entrust my grey,
staring, loose-fleshed minutes
Under a baby's frail-padded bones I store a bit of my strength
In a song cowled in midnight pain
I hide my quaking fears
Owing to my habit of playing grievously with
Handfuls of time and honest lovers

Chandni

Bells

A penny whistle screamed out the boisterous night—
A goddess and her festival whirled the city round
On a throbbing storm of harsh, hot light and sound.
The stars blazed. Pale multicoloured moons
Soared above the river of heads, sublime and still
Rapt in their own enchantment. My friend sighed
And below the tall, straight pole I saw who it was owned
those moons;
Strange dinosaur, contorted silhouette of boy and looming
hunch
Incongruous in this human zoo. Only the mad, fevered, festive joy
Could have made it so far forget itself, half-beast, half-boy,
As to smile without permission. (I saw him smile.)
An indistinct forgiveness of far-off temple bells
Trembled through the night. The children mocked him and
struggled for his balloons.

Chandan Das

LOTS IN A NAME

So what if Shakespeare felt otherwise...

"What's in a name?" said Shakespeare, in one of his unguarded moments. No, it was not Shakespeare's unguarded moment. It was Juliet's mad moment of adolescent love. She was rash enough to add "If a rose would, by any other name, smell as sweet. Would it smell as hippopotamus and see what happens. Ah, its colour and fragrance vanish. I sometimes wonder what a poet genius that was who gave names to objects. It is no accident that flowers have sweet names—rose, lily, daisy, peony, marigold, oleander, gulab, rajnigandha and the rest. And conversely, look at hippopotamus, rhinoceros, hedgehog, *bathi chattan, vaithoo* and the rest. I have sometimes felt on looking at a stranger, that his or her name should be this or that. His figure and movements suggest it. A fitting name is a matter of inspiration. "Giving a name," said Carlyle, "is a poetic art and all poetry, if we go to that with it, is but a giving of names."

It is my fancy that the popularity of the nightingale among poets is due more to its name than to its song. It is further my fancy that if Shakespeare were called Pumpkin, instead of Shakespeare, the problem of the authorship of the plays would have long been decided in favour of Marlowe or Bacon. Don't we often form impressions about people on hearing their names before seeing them? That is so not only in life, but in literature as well. "None can care for literature itself," said R.L. Stevenson, "who do not take a special pleasure in the sound of names." The name of a highwayman, Jerry Abersham, so enchanted him that he took it as a poem in itself.

De la Mare, one of the masters of sound effects, said that Kit Marlowe, Richard Lovelace or Geoffrey Chaucer was a good name for an English poet, as Vasco da Gama or Francis Drake for an adventurer and Diego Rodriguez de Silva Velazquez for a painter (and, one may add, Florence Nightingale for a nurse and Napoleon and Washington for generals.) Some of the stars, he said, have starry names, for instance, Merak, Megrez, Alcor, Zosme and the rest. As for aromatic herbs, their very names, he thought, seem to perfume the air. He had in mind lavender, meadow-sweet, rosemary, balm, etc. Fitzgerald felt certain that the sea liked to be called 'the ocean' rather than the miserable name 'sea'.

Haven't we all read as little children, the remarks of Humpty Dumpty, when Alice announced her name:

"It's a stupid name enough," Humpty interrupted impatiently. "What does it mean?"

"Must a name mean something?" Alice asked doubtfully.

"Of course, it must," Humpty Dumpty said with a short laugh. "My name means the shape I am—and a good handsome shape it is, too. With a name like yours, you might be any shape, almost."

Zeenat is the name of a woman. Even if you do not know any woman of that name, the beauty of the word itself, both of sound and sense, evokes some kind of a reaction in you. You might form an imaginary picture of what kind of a woman with that name would be or even have a longing to see her. Everyone, I am sure, will form a different picture according to his or her evocation. But suppose Zeenat is the name of your wife or beloved, how very different the name then becomes for you.

Let us go further. Shakuntala. It opens out a vast field of magic and romance to a man who has read Kalidasa's play and is soaked in the *Mahabharata* tradition. For Goethe who, though he had not read the play in original and was foreign to that tradition, was extremely acute in poetic perception, it meant

Wouldst thou the young year's blossom and the fruit of its decline,
All by which the soul is charmed enraptured feasted fed
Wouldst thou the earth and heaven both in one sole name combine,
I name thee O Shakuntala and all at once is said.

But what does it mean to a man who knows neither the play nor the setting? To Eliza, it is only the name of a woman, any woman, (perhaps) a little fair looking.

If to name Shakuntala reminded Goethe of the best of the flowers of spring and the fruits of autumn and the confluence of both earth and heaven, 'to name Voltaire,' said Victor Hugo, 'is to characterise the entire eighteenth century.'

To rise higher, from literature to divinity, we notice that most religions preach the repetition of name—the mantra—for the attainment of spiritual ends. Ram, Krishna, Om, Hari, Jesus, Allah, Waheguru and the rest. These names have gathered round them centuries of inspiration and at once spirit you away from mundane involvements. And, conversely, there have been tyrants and dictators who have left behind names at which the world grows pale.



SUKHIA AND TECHNOLOGY

BY
SHYAMAL GHOSH

It was in the year 1917 that Gandhiji started his satyagraha from a remote village in north Bihar. Sukhia was born the same year in an adjacent village. In fact the year is remembered for many other important events like the Russian Revolution and the successful use of tanks and submarines in war. Yet, the very next year, Sukhia's father died of septic wounds inflicted by a rusted *talla* a prehistoric weapon, incongruous in an era when basic human emotions like violence are aided by the wonderful achievements of 20th century technology.

[illegible] to the political and social [illegible] the world war [illegible] interest [illegible] death was [illegible] significance to [illegible] the attention [illegible] temporary journalists. Sukhia father committed the unpardonable crime of [illegible] when the Rajput landlord of his village was about to exercise his holy right to deflower all village virgins, on Lakhia eldest of Sukhia's sisters. Lakhia was 13 at the time and according to their social norms had crossed marriageable age already. Her father being abjectly poor couldn't manage to earn enough money to marry her off. Besides he was a little lazy and consequently, got most of his responsibilities [illegible] one day the all powerful landlord [illegible] Lakhia and was to [illegible] on his holy duty by one of his aides. The reason for this particular patriotic decision was that he was the recipient of [illegible] in these matters.

Nothing was unusual up to this point. The most surprising thing was Lakhia's father's protest. From where had he got the funny notion of questioning zamindar *sahib's* authority remained a mystery. According to his docile nature he should have taken it this case also [illegible] village [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] zamindar move [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] world after [illegible] for two [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

ordinary mortals, Sukhia got the rare privilege to be among the viewers. She had been working there as a maidservant for the last 40 years and was considered family property. The fact that MLA's *saheb*'s late father was her paramour was obliterated by time and the short and conveniently selective memory of people and of course, the newfound sophistication of the landlord family.

Sukhia had been to the nearby town a couple of times with others to see religious films and always thought that there were real actors behind the screens But close ups and natural surroundings surprised her. Her son and daughter-in-law were not equipped to answer questions on this and almost always closed the chapter with a rude snub. But the TV kept her mouth agape with wonder—surely you can't keep people in that small box.



In fact for Sukhia's simple and unprepared mind, the occasional and delayed arrival of tiny fragments of man's scientific achievements was enough. She had no way to know about rockets, atom bombs or computers which were impossible for her to comprehend. Besides, something more powerful than her god or MLA *saheb* could not exist.

There is a popular saying that history repeats itself. In a way it did indeed. The youngest son of the landlord's family, Rampratap came to the village with a few friends during his college's summer vacation, an institution where they all spent the best part of their life doing everything other than study. His father and rest of the family were at the state capital at that time which meant uninterrupted fun for the youngsters. All of them came from rich and powerful families, studied in the best colleges, secured first class marks, were blissfully unaware of the existence of Shakespeare or the quantum theory but had an authoritative knowledge about liquers and city call girls

Naturally when they arrived they brought crates of beer and whisky with them. For two days the kitchen staff kept the boys happy with their culinary expertise. But as it is seen from the mythological ages, the *forener* god Bacchus is very friendly with our own Kamdev Soon one of the revellers complained that their enjoyment seemed bland in the absence of the opposite sex. Rampratap took this as a prestige issue and sent some of the estate staff to nearby towns in search of dancing girls. The henchmen tried their best, for these activities, if not encouraged are ignored with an indulgent attitude as signs of aristocracy. Unfortunately, they came back without any of the girls as all of them were booked for the marriage season. Rampratap saw red. His reputation as an MLA's son, a good host, a zamindar, everything was at stake. He immediately summoned some of the musclemen who were employed by his father solely to ensure continuity of the unswerving loyalty of the villagers. The henchmen immediately sprang into action and forcibly brought as many as five young girls from the village, all weeping silently and hopelessly as they knew any sign of resistance would be looked upon as extremist activity. Of the five girls, Sukhia's daughter-in-law was one. Emboldened by the fact that her Calcuttan uncle was a *lal jhanda* party worker, she tried to resist but gave up after taking a punch in the solar plexus. He husband was not at home and the *lal jhanda* party was in Calcutta Not that their presence would have altered the situation

Sukhia was in a different part of the sprawling building helping other domestic servants and gossiping Another maid came running and informed her about the goings on, adding that two of Rampratap's friends had taken her daughter-in-law in a room and locked it from inside There was a lot of excitement, discussions and profane remarks among the staff but none really cared There was nothing unusual and all the maids had gone through the experience sometime or the other, many of them willingly Nostalgic memories came flooding back. After all, Rampratap was simply maintaining the true blue blood tradition

They, as it happened 69 years ago were surprised at Sukhia's reaction Something snapped in her head According to some eye-witnesses, she was definitely possessed by a ghost, maybe her father's, who forced her to act so atrociously. She ran like a woman possessed, a surprising feat considering her age, entered the wing where Rampratap and his friends were about to start a Roman orgy, a-la Indian. She kept shouting, using all the filthy expletives and curses she knew, beating the closed doors, throwing everything around and within minutes succeeded in interrupting the revelry.

What prompted her to act like that baffled everyone as Mahatma Gandhi is not around any more, and naxalites, who are restricting their activities to giving interviews to glossy magazines with photographs of their [illegible]ed faces Those who are less fortunate donate their bones to be used as fertilisers after Dr Mengeles of the Indian police had finished with them and shoulder the entire blame for the movement's failure, being unable to protest. So who taught her the forgotten art of protesting? In the atmosphere of the over-all development today, protest is counter progressive. Sukhia's crime was unpardonable.

Rampratap came out, a small automatic in his hand, blue blood boiling. He also had to prove to the others how well he controlled the menials with an iron hand Sukhia lunged at him, her hair dishevelled half of the torn saree trailing behind her Eyes bulging, she looked like a mad witch It was only when the bullet entered her chest that she came back to her senses, though for a few moments only Her amazement at the marvels of modern technology took over.

Her last thought was how could such a small thing make so loud a bang. Her dead face had a surprised look on it Probably, realising the significance of the scientific revolution the automatic brought, she died within two minutes and not in two agonisingly long days as her father had ■



QUIZ ◻ Neil O'Brien

S A Ahmed, Calcutta 16, asks "What is the origin of the name Canada?"

Very little is certain about the name Canada. It was first mentioned in Jacques Cartier's narrative of his 1535 voyage. He used the name to refer to a large and indefinite region around the St Lawrence River. Since communication between explorer and Indians was dubious, we can have little confidence in the accuracy of even this conclusion, and no one is certain which Indian language gave rise to the term.

It is commonly believed to be Iroquois and derived from *kanata*, "village, town," or "my house." But with any of those meanings it is not a suitable term for a whole region. Besides, the Iroquois, as far as records go, lived farther inland than the spot where Cartier heard the name. Altogether, then, Canada must be put down as only another of those early-transferred Indian terms about which we are reduced to mere guesswork.

And guesswork there has been plenty, including one famous and often-repeated story. The Portuguese explorer, Cortereal, came to this region in 1500 but became discouraged at not finding much that was interesting. He or his men then said, "*Ca nada!*" which means, "Here nothing!" As with so many such stories, the likelihood is that some humorist was the originator, and only later was the tale taken seriously. Its acceptance demands that the local Indians must have preserved the Portuguese exclamation, and fed it back to the Frenchmen a whole generation later!

Sheila Pradhan, Calcutta, asks "How did the Impressionists get their name?"

In 1874, 30 painters, including French artists Cezanne, Degas, Monet, Pissarro and Renoir, exhibited their avant-garde work at a Parisian photographic studio at the first of several Impressionist exhibitions. One of Monet's entries, entitled *Impression, Sunrise* became the title piece in a critical review of the showing, and the word Impressionism thereby entered the language to describe any painting which seeks to represent the artist's first brief glimpse of a subject.

This new generation used strong, bright hues and even applied broken colors to represent daylight and air. Pissarro came to be the chief spokesman for the art form and best summed up what the group was trying to achieve. "Precision drawing is dry and detracts from the overall impression, it destroys emotion. Don't adhere to rules and principles. Paint what you see and feel—boldly, without hesitation, for it is best not to lose your first impression. There can be but one teacher—nature. She must always be consulted." Although the exhibition closed to public ridicule, the Impressionists eventually attained respectability and sparked the many schools and trends known today as modern art.

Postscript: Don't miss the Sports Quiz organised by *Sportsworld* and Calcutta Central Round Table 38 for the Britannia Rolling Trophy on May 25, 27 and 28 at the Dalhousie Institute at 5.30 pm. Quiz masters: Tiger Pataudi, Neil O'Brien and leading sports personalities of the city.



Pissarro

CBS

***11th Question:* What is the Stockholm Syndrome?, (D.P. Raychowdhury, 87/2A, Apcar Garden, Asansol 713304).**
***Ans:* When the hostage develops a strong positive feeling for the kidnapper or hijacker.**

QUESTIONS

1. What is co[illegible]o Colva, Calangute, Vagator, Baga, M[illegible]mar, Majorda and Canaaulim? (Brijesh Kr Singh, BIT Sindri)
2. What is a "Computer Virus"? (Ashutosh Shasabt, BIT Sindri)
3. What is common to *Inner Eye, In Orbit* and *The Coming Week*? (Rakesh Kr Sahay, BIT Sindri)
4. Who said, "It is easier to die for the woman one loves than to live with her." (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 18)
5. What is *Yahoo* other than an expression of enjoyment? (Miss Supriti, BIT Sindri)
6. Who was the actress who had turned down the role of the famous Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* which went to Vivien Leigh? (Banirupa Sengupta, Calcutta 43)
7. What is arachnophobia? (Rakhi Bhattcharya, Calcutta 31)
8. What is the salary of the US President? (Manoj Kumar Bothra, Howrah 1)
9. To whom did Jimmy Connors dedicate his 1982 Wimbledon singles championship win? (Ashish Kumar Das, BIT Sindri)
10. With the broadcasting of Indian Standard Time through INSAT-1B, India has become the second nation in the world, and first among the developing nations, to use a satellite for a time signal service. Which is the first nation? (Sushil Kr. Poddar, Calcutta 29)

ANSWERS

1. These are the names of different sea-beaches in Goa.
2. It is the information introduced without permission into a data processing system in order to alter, destroy or completely eradicate the stored information.
3. These are names of the column under which *The Telegraph*, *Times of India* and *Hindustan Times* respectively publish next week's fortunes-in-store for various star-signs.
4. Francis Bacon
5. It is an imaginary race of men in *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.
6. Bette Davis, who thought that her co-star was going to be Errol Flynn, with whom she refused to work.
7. The fear of spiders.
8. $2,00,000 per year.
9. His son Brett, then only 3 years old.
10. The US.



HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

KADAMBINI GANGOOLY (1861-1923)



A brilliant student, a dazzling beauty, a renowned doctor and a prominent social and political figure of the age, Kadambini Gangooly had many firsts to her credit. She was the first woman to pass the Entrance Examinations of Calcutta University (1878). Along with Chandramukhi Bose, she was the first woman graduate (from Bethune College) in India and in the British Dominions (1882), the first female student of Calcutta Medical College, the first lady medical practitioner and the first woman speaker from the Congress platform.

Daughter of a school teacher, Kadambini was born on July 23, 1861, at Bhagalpur. After a brilliant school career, she joined the five-year course at Calcutta Medical College. She obtained her LMS in 1886 and became a "graduate of the Medical College of Bengal." In 1883, she was married to the prominent Dwarkanath Gangooly, a political co-worker of Surendranath.

After a short stint at the Eden Hospital and a few years' private practice (first at 15.5 Bentatola Lane and later at 27 Sukia Street), she left for the UK in 1892. She had lost her husband just prior to this, and was the mother of four children; the youngest, Provat Mohan, was just a year old then. She obtained the triple diploma of LRCP (Edinburgh), LRCS (Glasgow) and DFPS (Dublin) and returned to India in 1893. The same year she joined the Lady Dufferin Hospital as a senior doctor, but after some time left the service and settled for private practice in which she gained immense fame and recognition.

Kadambini had a dashing published political career as well. She was a leading member of the women's representative group at the Bombay Congress (1889). She addressed the Congress' Calcutta session (1890) in English. She was the first president of the Bengal Provincial Indian Association, founded by Henry Polock, a co-worker of Mahatma Gandhi. An Imade a name for herself as one of the principal members of the Commission to investigate the conditions of women workers in Bihar and Orissa. She was also widely known as an orator. She died in harness on October 3, 1923.

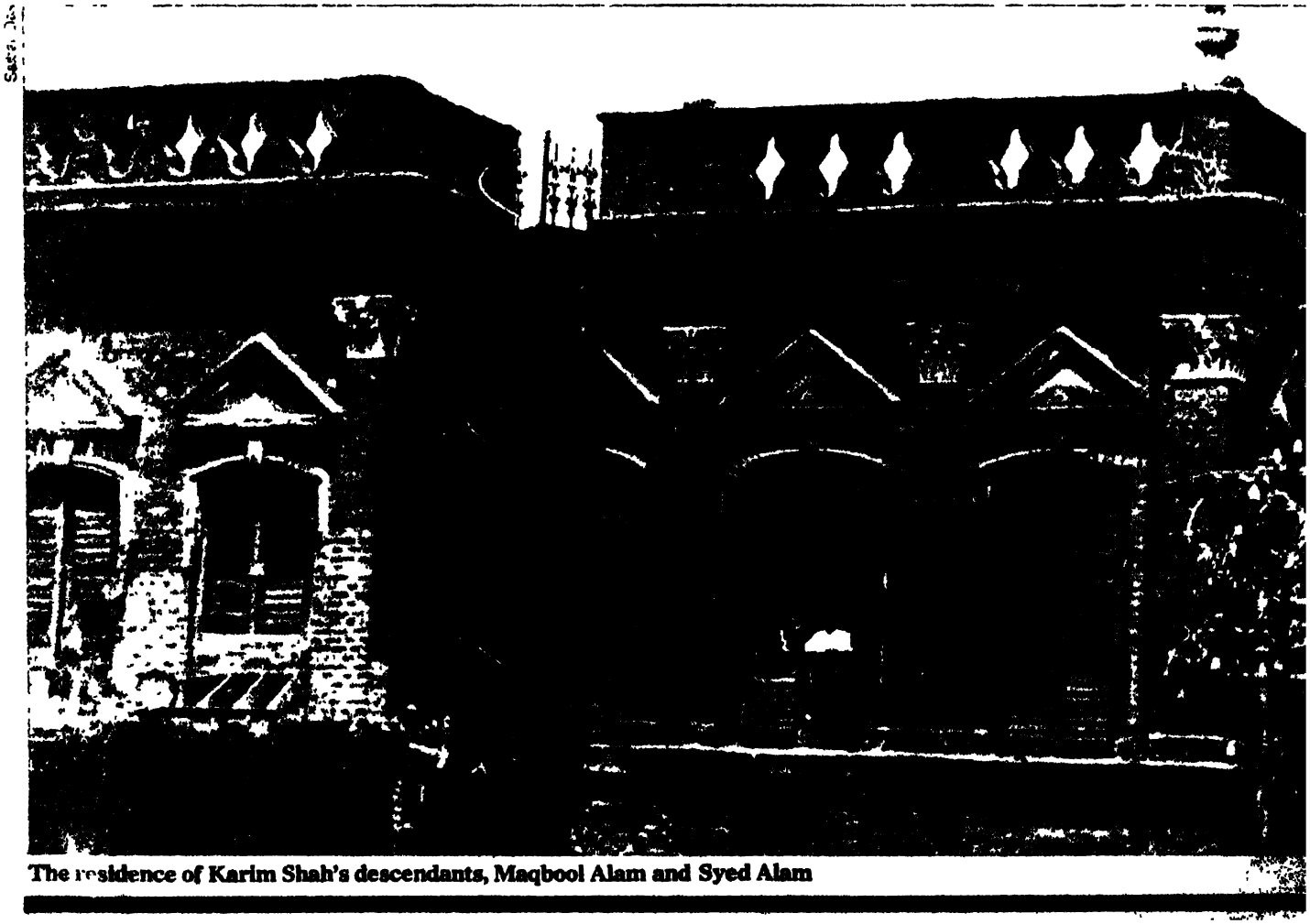
The house she lived in shows her north Calcutta residence at 6, Guruprasad Chowdhury Lane.

THE HEIRS OF TIPU

Seven years after the 'Tiger of Mysore' died fighting the British at Seringapatam, his descendants came to Calcutta. Two hundred years later, where are they, how do they live? **Paromita Ukil** finds out

The story of the three branches of Tipu Sultan's descendants in Calcutta is the story of India itself. If one represents the well-to-do trading class, which anticipating the changing times moulded itself to suit the emerging cultural codes, the other symbolises the decadent aristocracy, caught between the cross-currents of time. And the third is almost lost in the dusty bylanes where the vast majority of the urban poor lives

Tipu Sultan's desendants came to Calcutta in 1806. That was 7 years after the 'Tiger of Mysore' died fighting the British at Seringapatam in May 1799. The British never felt secure as long as he was alive. And they were not willing to take chances even after his death, particularly after the rebellion at the Vellore Fort in 1805. So the following year Tipu Sultan's 12 sons, his brother Karim Shah and their wives and children were deported to Calcutta.



The residence of Karim Shah's descendants, Maqbool Alam and Syed Alam



Sahai Das

Children of the Alam family peer out of their home

Initially, they were kept prisoners in small mud huts. These were built on the compound of an indigo tax-collector's bungalow, which is more famous as the Tollygunge Club today. The prisoners were not allowed to move about freely and their correspondence was censored.

But with time the family was allowed to acquire property. Tipu Sultan's 11th son, Prince Ghulam Mohammad, perhaps was the most diplomatic of those who had survived the uprooting of the family. Deported to Calcutta at the age of 11, he learnt how to keep himself in the good books of the British. And with the pension they granted him, he went on adding to his list of properties. At the head of this list was the bungalow where Tipu Sultan's family was brought as prisoners. In 1872, Prince Ghulam Mohammad set up a trust in his name. Today it is one of the richest Muslim trusts in the country. Its assets include the Tollygunge Club, the Royal Calcutta Golf Club, the Shaw Wallace building, the Shahi Masjid on Prince Anwar Shah Road, and Tipu Sultan Mosque on Dharmatalla Street apart from a couple of burial grounds and pieces of land.

The Tipu Sultan Mosque still stands as a reminder to that brave son of India in the busiest part of the city. It was built by Prince Ghulam Mohammad as a token of his gratitude to Allah. In 1859, he went to London with a representation to Queen Victoria on behalf of the deported family. The Queen permitted its members to take up government jobs and increased Prince Ghulam Mohammad's pension by Rs 500, making it Rs 2,000 per month.

But Prince Ghulam Mohammad died in 1874. With his death followed the fight among family members to win the tag of 'true heir'. The matter was finally settled in 1944 at the Calcutta high court. Justice Amir Ali set up a five-member Ghulam Mohammad Waqf under a *mutawalli* (head) to manage the affairs of the trust.

Prince Hydar Ali, a sixth generation descendant of Tipu Sultan, was nominated the first *mutawalli* of the trust. He retained the post till his death [illegible] that his eldest son, Asif Ali [illegible] the head. Born [illegible] Lucknow, Asif Ali has married into Wajid Ali Shah's family. He has very little connection with Calcutta today, almost none with his stepmothers [illegible] de Bano and Hamida Bano.

The two surviving widows of Prince Hydar Ali and their children [illegible] in penury in the squalor of the bylanes of Chetla. The main gate of the house [illegible] into a courtyard with cowsheds which [illegible] upon a time had horses in them. A [illegible] staircase leads to a balcony with [illegible] down doors and plots for [illegible] bridge in mud [illegible] verandah where Zaheda Bano [illegible] Bano cook frugal meals on [illegible] *chullahs*. Peeling potatoes for the [illegible] course of the meal, Hamida Bano [illegible] the time when the [illegible] was more like [illegible] and portions have now been [illegible]

A BETRAYAL OF TRUST ?

The trust set up by Tipu Sultan's son has a turbulent past and present. A report

[illegible] the *mutawalli* (head) of the trust of Prince Ghulam Mohammad, son of Tipu Sultan has finally moved the [illegible] court against the trustee for [illegible] office. While the *mutawalli* [illegible] Sarah Tipu's legal heir [illegible] Khidderpore, the [illegible] two flats and a [illegible]. The trust's properties [illegible] Shaw Wallace building at [illegible] Bag, Tollygunge race course, [illegible] Golf Club, the Tipu Sultan [illegible] Lenin Sarani and the Shahi [illegible] Prince Anwar Shah Road. [illegible] meagre in proportion to the [illegible] income is more than Rs [illegible] the interest on fixed de- [illegible] per month.

[illegible] by Prince Asif, the [illegible] West Bengal and [illegible] Tipu's family, seeks to [illegible] members administrative [illegible] over the trustee Mohamm [illegible] the trustee's financial pow [illegible] present scheme passed by a [illegible] on August 31, 1944, on [illegible] the *waktnama* of Prince Mohammad states that the prop- [illegible] assets of the trust of Prince [illegible] shall be deemed to [illegible] the powers have been [illegible] the trustee shall have all the [illegible] conferred including those [illegible] civil procedure and [illegible] defend all suits regarding to [illegible] (a) open bank account in his [illegible] deposit thereon (b) [illegible] charge of the collections of [illegible] payment of all outgoings, [illegible] revenue expenditure, [illegible] towards and mainte- [illegible] (c) the amounts necessary [illegible] incomes shall be paid by [illegible] the *mutawalli* (d) payment of [illegible] secular and religious [illegible] (e) the *mutawalli*, the trustee, [illegible] royal family mem- [illegible] Government Mus- [illegible] the *wakf* commissioner of [illegible]. The present petition seeks [illegible] the scheme or cancel the office [illegible] and give administrative [illegible] the *mutawalli*, who would present [illegible] to the *wakf* commissioner [illegible] Bengal Wakfs Act.

[illegible] Tipu Sultan had set [illegible] August 8, 1972, as a [illegible] heritage and for social and [illegible] work. He was deported to [illegible] with his relatives in 1806 [illegible] at he prepared a *wakf* [illegible] which he explained the objectives of the trust and its mode of operation and also named the four future *mutawallis*- Ahmad Halimuzzaman, Karimun-nissa Begum, Omaida Begum and Farukh Shah. The prince clearly stated that the subsequent *mutawallis* would be from the male line.

Meanwhile, in 1933 one Abbas Ali filed a suit (numbered 1013) in the Calcutta high court to become the *mutawalli*. While Abbas Ali lost the case to Prince Hydar Ali, Justice Amir Ali in the same ruling (in 1944) introduced the present scheme supposedly for the smooth running of the trust. The scheme grossly misinterpreted the *waktnama* (translated into English) to one Maneck A. Davar's advantage and thereby made the trustee all-powerful.

The *wakfnama* states the trustee's role as following: "Further after the payment of all disbursement and charge . it shall be the duty of the trustee to prepare a credit and debit account of the same and to deliver it to the . *mutawallis* and on the occurrence of breach of trust or misappropriation on the part of the trustee... the *mutawallis* will be at liberty to appoint in his stead the official trustees of the Supreme Court and if the *mutawallis* should not appoint an outsider to be the trustee but keep the *Tahvil* (money) of *wakf* in their own hands." The scheme, therefore, reverses the order making the trustee virtually the owner of this huge trust. "A recent press report states that I am not taking adequate interest in the trust's functioning. But how can I work satisfactorily when even for an expenditure of Rs 200 I have to go to Mr Mobinuddin because the income of the trust is deposited in his name," said Prince Asif.

Maneck A. Davar, owner of a chartered accountants' company of the same name, at 8, Old Post Office Street, died in 1966. It is as an employee of this firm that Mr Mobinuddin came to discover the rich trust. He later bought the company and uses it as his office till date. Mr Mobinuddin used his friendship with the then *mutawalli*, Prince Hydar Ali (Prince Asif's father) to become the trustee in 1968. Though the *mutawalli* had been reduced to a cipher by Amir Ali's judgment he had to formally recommend the trustee's name to the fiveman panel.

"Mr Mobinuddin used to spend days at my father's residence in Chetla during the two years preceding his *mutawallishup*. And now I have to go to his office at Old Post Office Street to collect my monthly remuneration of Rs 1,800," Prince Asif Ali said. Mr Mobinuddin's remuneration of Rs 2,000 per month is also in violation of the *wakfnama* which provides for only one per cent of the total annual income. Prince Asif added, "The scheme, made to favour Davar, places the employee above the owner. The outsider above the heir. Justice Amir Ali perhaps did not know that he was ruining a whole family."

Admitting that the trust's income in proportion to its assets was too meagre Mr Mobinuddin said, "What can I do? All the trust's properties were leased out long ago, before 1947. Till 1986, the trust's income was only Rs 65,000. This income which comes mainly in the form of rent, increased to Rs 3.75 lakhs in 1986 when Shaw Wallace's new management agreed to increase their monthly rent from Rs 2,250 to Rs 32,000." He did not mention the interest on the trust's fixed deposits. Interestingly, in 1986, Mr Mobinuddin, who has also purchased a house in Patna, bought his first car and the following year hired a second flat in south of Park Street after paying a handsome advance.

According to the *wafknama* the trust's activities include the distribution of clothes during Id, feeding common people during the month of Ramzan, conducting religious ceremonies during Moharram and making donations to hospitals and educational institutions. While the distribution of clothes and donations to hospitals have nearly stopped, the educational allowances do not exceed Rs 8,000 each year.

The Metro Railway authorities acquired nearly 30 acres of the trust's land, now under lease, to construct the Tollygunge railway platform and compensated the lessee instead of the trust with nearly Rs 1 crore. "We requested Mr Mobinuddin to file a suit against the lessee but Mr Mobinuddin refused to move the court against them. I am at a loss to understand the cause behind his reluctance," Prince Asif said. On several occasions the Wakf commissioner refused to accept Mr Mobinuddin's balance sheets. However, Mr Mobinuddin laughed off these charges. "The charges against me are totally baseless and fabricated," he said. "The issue is in court. You will soon know the truth."

S.B.

add to the 300-odd rupees that each begum earns as interest from the sum that Prince Hydar Ali left his two younger wives.

Hameda Bano has two sons and a daughter while Zabeda has two daughters. They all study in Bengali in school, but speak Hindi at home. Hameda Bano's eldest son, Anwar Ali Shah, barely 16 years old, has just recovered from cholera. His right arm has gone stiff, he can hardly use it as a result of the saline that was injected through it. He has been going to the M.R Bangur Hospital regularly for the past few days.

"The hospital was also built by our family," Hameda tells us after tying up the goat that had strolled into the balcony just then. "But we don't like to tell the doctors that. After all, we used to go by car one day. Now we go on foot Who will pay any heed to us now?

It is this same pride that has kept the two widows from taking up work. Zabeda Bano was perhaps referring to menial

Looking into the future: Sahebzada Syed Alam's daughter



Hameda Bano with her youngest son, Akbar Ali



The tombs of Roshan Begum and Ruqayya Begum, wives of Tipu

work when she said "It will be an insult to our husband's memory. Our children will also blame us for it later." For, only a little while ago she confessed that she can neither read nor write.

That, however, did not make her feel she was lacking in confidence when she once stayed at the Raj Bhavan in Bangalore as a state guest with her husband. "Only I would travel with our husband. I have been to many places with him." They would go to Lucknow at least thrice a year. It was on these occasions that the youngest wife of Prince Hydar Ali met the eldest (Asif Ali's mother), who used to live in Lucknow. Zabeda Bano and her husband would travel by car most of the time, but she remembers flying with her husband once. "Indira Gandhi had sent us the tickets. She wanted him to meet Devraj Urs urgently. I don't know why, but I went with him." Prince Hydar Ali, the begums tell us, was fairly close to Mrs Gandhi. "There is even a photograph with her."

Did Prince Hydar Ali not think about the future of his family in Calcutta? "He was very ill the last couple of years of his life," say the begums. And it was then that they started selling off the cars one by one. And after his death even household things like copper vessels and chairs had to go to make ends meet. "But the trust should give us something. It is not as if we don't get to know." Hameda Bano's anger is evident. "Shaw Wallace has just paid the trust a *salami* of seven lakh rupees. And we don't get even seven paise of that!" To make matters worse the *waqf* committee has been asking the two ladies to vacate the house they live in. "Why should we? And where will we go if we leave the house?" The two ladies are firm about staying put in the house they have been living in ever since they got married. As we take our leave they tell us we must go and see Prince Hydar Ali's tomb at Shahi Masjid on Prince Anwar Shah Road.



The Alam brothers' drawing room

The tranquil ambience at the Shahi Masjid hits you as you enter it from the Tollygunge side. Once inside the compound gates you shut yourself to the drone of trams and honking cars. A few yards away from the mosque, on a raised platform, lies the tomb of Prince Hydar Ali shaded by mango trees. A few paces away rest Roshan Begum and Ruqayya Begum, wives of Tipu Sultan.

Bhagwan S. Gidwani gives an interesting account in *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*, of how Tipu came to have two wives. Fakhr-un-nissa and Sultan Hyder Ali were having problems in finding a suitable bride for their talented young son. No girl came up to the mark. Tipu took matters into his own hand and sent word to the parents of Ruqayya Begum, a young girl who had caught his fancy one evening 14 years ago. He married her at 24 and must have first met her when he was 10. Hydar Ali, meanwhile had selected Roshan Begum and given word to her parents. Since neither would retract from his word of honour, Hyder Ali thought Tipu should marry both Ruqayya and Roshan the same day.

Sahebzada Maqbool Alam, a sixth generation descendant of Tipu Sultan's brother Nawab Karim Shah, recounted a slighted different version of Tipu Sultan's two marriages the other day. Both Tipu's parents had looked up a bride for their son, he said, pointing to the tombs from the window of his red brick house that overlooks the Shahi Masjid.



Tipu Sultan's decendants at *namaz*

Both Sahebzada Maqbool Alam, who looks after his family's assets, and his brother Sahebzada Syed Alam, a railway employee, seem to be living in the past. How can they help it? Their huge house itself, with its Italian marble flooring and painted high ceiling is of the past century. The two boat-shaped chandeliers help conjure the sparkle of the massive drawing room when Fazlul Haq and Shahid Suhrawardy used to be regular visitors. Saheb-



Zabeda Bano

zada Maqbool Alam got visibly excited talking about how he would push his personal Citroen till the gates to escape his father's notice and zoom off into the streets with friends.

Today the tenant's cars line up the portico of the house. Inside, the three bare cots and the small sofa set that are scattered in the sprawling drawing room only heighten its starkness. The two brothers have even stopped regretting the lack of maintenance. "Where is the money for repairs?" they ask in their accented Bengali. The entire palatial ground floor had been rented out more than 20 years ago for only Rs 250 a month.

Hussein Shah is the only descendant of Tipu Sultan who lives with his family in a rented house on Lower Circular Road. His sister, who is a doctor, has her chamber in the outhouse. The great grandson of Prince Anwar Shah, Hussein Shah, today has a kerosene agency of the Indian Oil Company. He considers it lucky that he was not brought up to be spoilt on the tales of their princely past and instead went to St Xavier's School and College.

A good sportsman, with rows of trophies on display in a glass case, Hussein Shah, however, learnt to take an interest in his past at a much later stage. He comes across as a practical man. "What is the royal memories if you have no money?" Tipu, he says, "was a progressive ruler" and adds rather wistfully, "but had he been more pragmatic, he could have saved his kingdom and perhaps his dynasty from the fate today."■



The initial white coating on the dried masks

BEHIND T

Chorida is the little village where the famous Chhou masks are made. And the 70 families in the business have been at it down generations

Photographs: Kushal Gangopadhyay

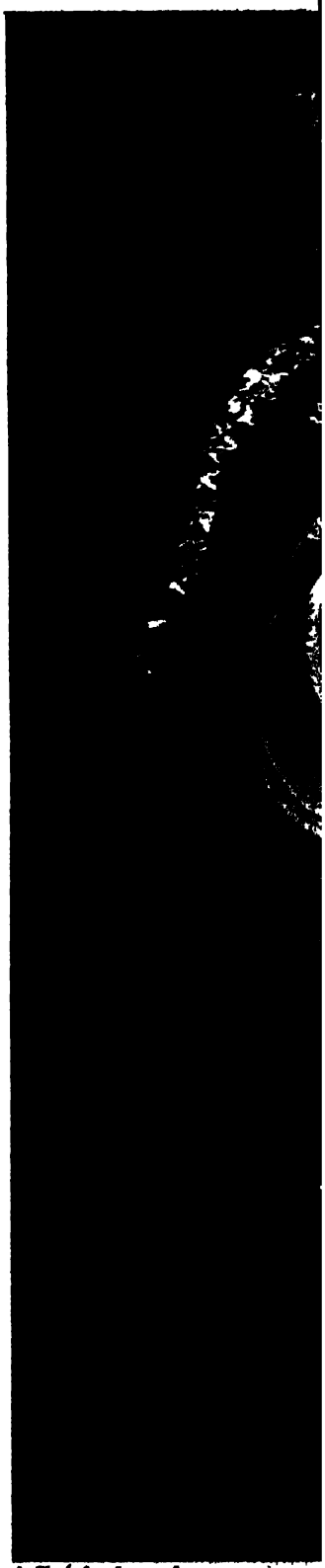


Each mask is [illegible]rated elaborately

Come Chaitra, the last month of the Bengali calendar, and the Chhou dancers of Purulia spring to life. While the dancers burst into action, the mask-makers of Chorida, a hamlet in Purulia district of West Bengal, start their seasonal trade. Chorida, a small village some 60 kms from Purulia, specialises in making masks for Chhou dancers. Besides being the largest producer of the best quality Chhou masks, Chorida is also the birthplace of the famous Chhou dancer, Padmashri Ghambhir Singh Mura.

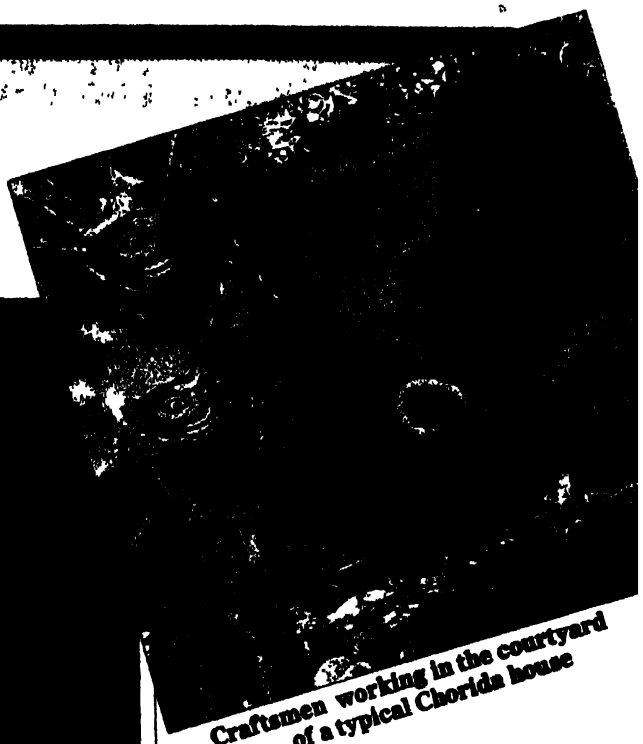
Almost all the 70 families in Chorida make a living from the mask trade. The villagers do not recollect who actually started it and when. Each mask-maker has learned the art from his father who had learnt it from his father in turn. Being a seasonal trade, masks are produced during the period extending over three months—February, March and April. During the remaining months the craftsmen earn their bread as idol-makers. Preparations start during mid-February and by the end of March, the mask-makers hardly have time for meals as the profit is directly proportional to the number of masks produced.

Mask-making is a difficult job. It requires extraordinary skill on the part of the manufacturers to produce the best quality Chhou masks. The process is a long-drawn one and the children lend more than helping hands, participating actively in the mask-making. The masks are made out of a special kind of local soil. This soil is mixed with water and kneaded into a semi-solid state. The masks are shaped totally by hand. Balls of the kneaded mixture are put on wooden instruments called *patas* and a piece of cloth is wrapped over the shaped mask. The cloth is then covered with a piece of paper and again mud is applied. With the help of a sharp



A finished mask

HE MASK



Craftsmen working in the courtyard of a typical Chorida house

wooden instrument called *thapi*, the eyes, ears, nose etc. are drawn with the utmost care. *Thapis* are not available in markets, but are made from wood of trees found nearby.

After the masks are shaped, they are dried in the sun for a few hours. Then comes the question of painting which is done in two stages. A white colour is used as base paint and after one or two coatings, each mask is finally painted in various attractive colours. Each mask is painted as per the order specified or according to the mask-maker's choice. Once this is complete, the masks are passed over for decoration. Mainly plastic and synthetic materials, brought from Calcutta, like *Jamer pata, Kethi, Rakhi, Juhi, Chameli* and rolex bands are affixed to the masks to make them more attractive.

The price of each mask depends on the amount of decoration. Starting from Rs 40 for an ordinary one, a gorgeously decorated mask may even cost Rs 500 or more. Each mask lasts for two to four dance performances after which it is rejected. This comes as a boon to the mask-makers who are worried at the recent decline in demand. The problems of the mask-makers are manifold and are mainly economic. They depend largely on moneylenders who charge as high as 50 per cent interest. The demand being not up to the mark, a bad season may put a mask-maker in a miserable condition, the amount of interest may easily cross the actual. As it seems, the government has done nothing to export Chhou masks that have considerably interested the foreigners. And a time may soon come when the lack of demand may force the mask-makers to close shop.

Indranath Chattopadhyay

Cinderella Again

Who can resist her, who can stop loving her, asks **Iti Misra**. Someone, someday, will make her the Queen she was meant to be

The morning mist clung to the tree tops like a lover reluctant to part It was the magical moment when night turns to day. I sat on a bench watching the ragged urchins poke among the rubbish left by last night's revellers, searching for some worthwhile morsels. How like me, trying to rummage among the debris of my experiences for something to write about.

My solitude was broken by the arrival of a lady at the bench I saw from the corner of my eye that she was somewhat shabbily dressed and poverty stricken. Knowing it was rude to stare, I continued to appraise her with covert glances. How unlike the silk saree or jogging suit attired population who will soon crowd the landscape; and my interest deepened Her clothes were not rich; perhaps in the past they had been of excellent quality, but now they were merely shabby genteel. Her hands and feet were clean and well kept—the definite mark of a lady. Daring to raise my gaze to her face, I was struck by the exquisite beauty and grace of her features, the classic lines of a woman of superior birth, but ravaged by hardship and time. Our glances met and her eyes were like lakes of sorrow and in their depth swam inconceivable pain. I would know no peace till I solved the mystery of this woman whose bearing, face, eyes said so much more than her shabby exterior, as if a rare bird had been imprisoned in a filthy bamboo cage. Who was she?

"Who are you?" My ugly curiosity had changed to compassionate interest and she sensed my sympathy. A faint sigh escaped her emaciated frame and the rising sunlight glinted on the unshed tear that hung on her lashes. She began her story.

"No, I'm not a beggar, nor am I a street-walker. I come out at this time because dawn is the only time when Hope has a chance. The night is too full of despair and the day too realistically cruel.

"I belonged to an extremely wealthy and aristocratic family and my life was steeped in luxury. My father, brothers, uncles spent their time in pursuit of pleasure and ostentatious display of wealth and power. Soon the rivalry and jealousies started to break up the family unity. More and more time was wasted on outmanoeuvering each other. We had resources and wealth which were unimaginable in their extent, but the men in our family had not thought for such things. There arrived on the scene a foreign trader, an Englishman, who had done well and established himself elswhere in the country. He came in the guise of a friend, a business associate, and stayed to take over the reins of the family. The men of the house were too bemused by wine, women and warfare, to even realise what was happening, let alone resist. In their desire to outdo one another they went to him for help. In his wily and shrewd way, he played off one against the other till they were all rendered powerless and penniless, with only delusions of grandeur.

"I was young and vulnerable, he was lonely and powerful—we became lovers. He was very good to me, gave me expensive gifts, educated me, trained me,



but he also altered me. I was remodelled on the lines of the women he had known back home. But I was enchanted by him and ready to change into a westernised woman just to please him. Along with me, the whole ambience of our family also changed. We spoke English, ate English food and adopted an artificial veneer of anglicised behaviour. No longer did we have *Mujras* or *Jalsas;* we had Christmas Dinners and New Year's Eve Dances.

"So the years passed, and in the security of his protection I began to lose my identity, I became a slave to his desires, a mere extension of his ego. When the delirium of our extraordinary union passed, I began to see the true nature of our relationship and later, much too late, so did the family. It took all our efforts and resolve to break away from an association that had degenerated into exploitation and mutual distrust We threw him out of our home and out of my life and with a ravaged body and wounded soul, I took up the challenge of living again.

"But the experiences of the past had maimed us. We needed someone to guide our lives, someone strong to lean on. In answer to our needs or, perhaps, because of it, we found a young politician. Intellectual, aggressive, with the ability to fire our imagination. He rekindled my desire to live as an independent human and shook me out of the stupor induced by indifference. As before, with the ability of a chameleon, my lifestyle changed. The flamboyance was replaced by austerity. Everything was Indian, no matter how poor, how mediocre—it had to be our very own. We revived forgotten memories of our glorious past, but trimmed them to suit our frugal means. We now lived for a purpose, not just for pleasure. Dinner and dances were taboo—we attended seminars, lectures and rallies. It was just very plain living and high thinking.

"A few more years passed like this and beneath this superimposed austerity, my soul became restless. My feet tapped to the strains of music buried under political treatises. I was a beautiful, sensuous woman and I longed for the rustle of expensive silk against my skin, for rich food, for luxurious surroundings and for the pleasure of being touched in love.

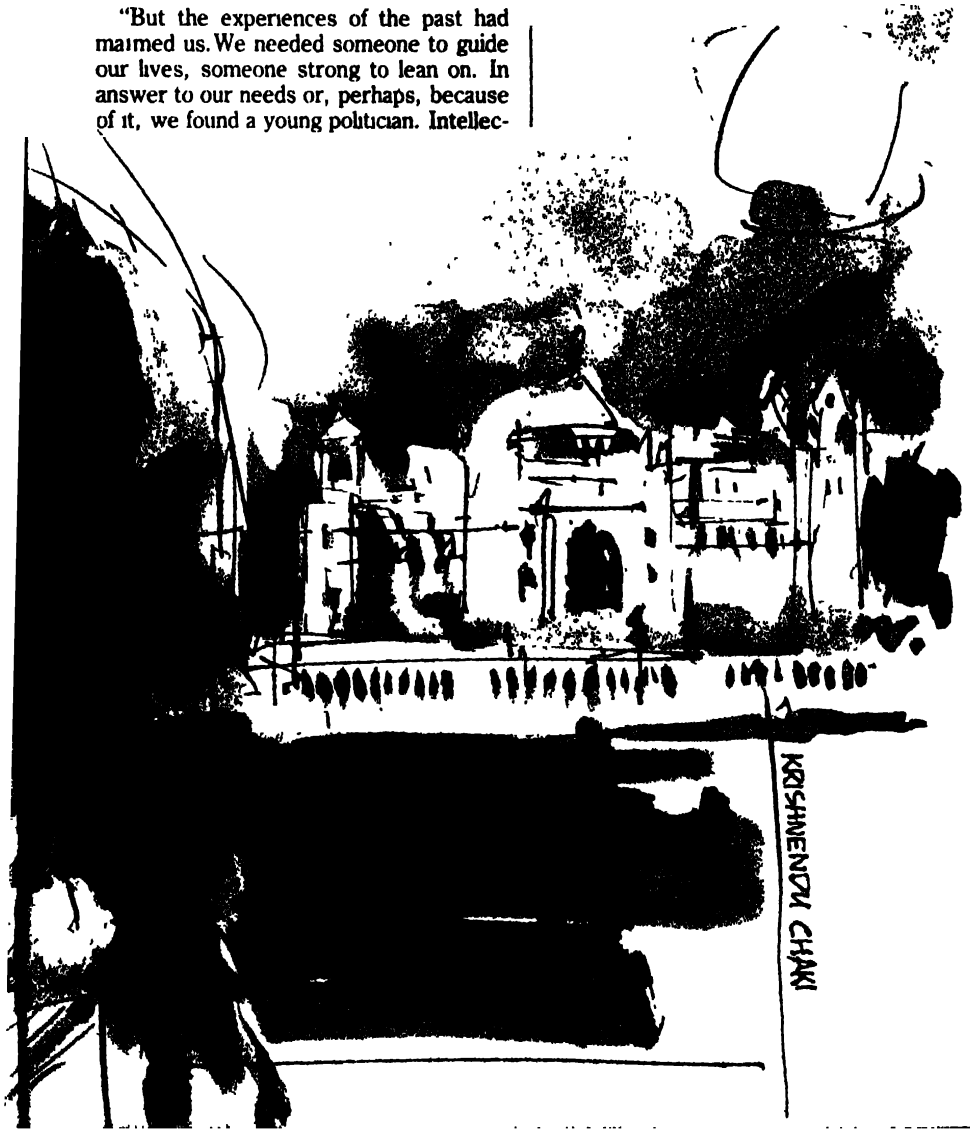
"Soon, I became desperate. Poverty, frugality and depression of spirit robbed me of my looks and my desire for living. Most of my friends left me, those who had known me in our golden days and had enriched themselves with the patronage of my English lover, deserted us. They took their wealth and friendship to others. I became the object of disgust and disdain. From a distance they rejected my shabby exterior, cheap clothes and dirty surroundings. They were ashamed to be associated with me. I began to see other men. Rich men, young men, sometimes even old men—but men who had money and power.

"I became the mistress of many such men and each in his own way satisfied his needs and used my contacts with the others to further his means. As for my young intellectual, he knew that I had other men, but pretended ignorance. I believe he was secretly relieved to have the great financial burden of supporting me lifted from his shoulders He deluded himself that he was enriching my mind and improving my character by discipline. Perhaps, he even secretly encouraged them to support us so that he could concentrate on his political interests, because I know now, I am only the instrument and not the object of his activity.

"Thus, you see me today, I belong to none and no one belongs to me. In my own way, I love both my young intellectual and my rich businessmen for I need them for different reasons. Food for my body and food for my soul. You are young and idealistic; perhaps, there is contempt in your heart for me and my life. Most people who don't understand me scorn me and those who do pity me and love me but are ashamed to admit their love. I don't care either for your pity or your scorn but tell me, can you look into the future? Do you see life for me. Will I ever be a whole woman again?"

Her question was purely rhetorical, for without waiting for my answer, she rose from the bench and as unobtrusively as she had come, she moved away. "Wait," I called, reluctant to let her go. "Tell me your name?" Her smile did not touch her eyes; if anything, it was sadder than a sob. "I am Calcutta."

I stood mesmerised by her presence even after she had gone Conscious of the powerful attraction of an indomitable spirit, the charisma of an indestructible force Calcutta, what man can resist you, who can stop loving you, someone someday will make you the Queen you were meant to be! ■



All information given on these pages is correct at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132) Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)—4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Madhuban (Regent Park)—3 shows

Directed by K Bapaiah, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra, Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place 284138)—4 shows

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film directed by T Prakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kasam:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266)—4 shows

Directed by Umesh Mehra and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon Pran Kader Khan and Gulshan Grover

• **Pyar Ka Mandir:** Orient (Bentinck Street 281917) 4 shows

A film by K Bapaiah starring Mithun Chakraborty Madhavi, Raj Kiran Shoma Anand Aruna Irani Kader Khan, Raza Murad Asrani and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak.** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956)—4 shows Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828) 3 shows Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Hussain film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Utsav (A):** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664)—12, 3, 6, 8 30

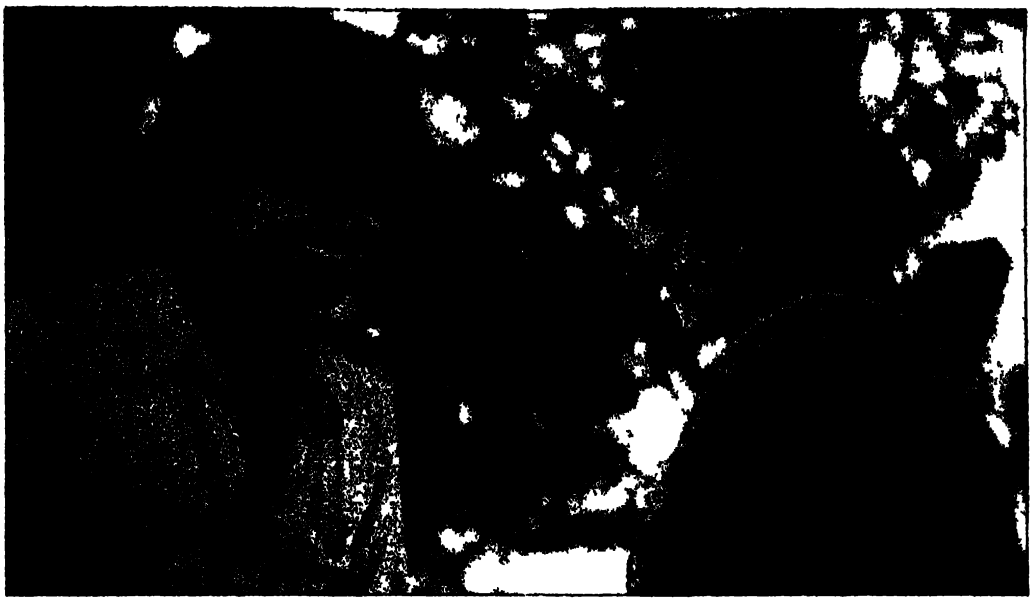
A film by Girish Karnad, starring Rekha, Shashi Kapoor, Kunal Kapoor, Amjad Khan, Shekhar Suman and Anooradha Patel The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Veerana:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403)—4 shows, Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road, 355059)—3 shows

Hemant Birje and Sahila Chadha are the lead pair in this film, directed by Tulsi Ramsay and Shyam Ramsay Others in the cast are Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Satish Shah, Vijayendra and Gulshan Grover The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Waaris:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—3 shows; Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515) & Ujjala (Russa Road 478666)—4 shows

Directed by Ravinder Peepat the film stars Smita Patil Raj Babbar Amrita Singh Raj Kiran Kulbhushan Kharbanda Sushma Seth and Amrish Puri The music is by Uttam Jagdish



Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy in *Parashmoni*

Sahila Chadha and Hemant Birje in *Veerana*



Bengali Films

• **Agoon:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 473462) Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740) 3 shows

A film by Victor Banerjee who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee Tanuja Divya Rana Utpal Dutt, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar Subhendu Chatterjee Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury The music is by R D Burman

• **Ora Chaarjan:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road 474567)—2 30, 5 30, 8 30

Samit Bhanja's first directorial venture, starring Dilip Roy Swarup Dutta, Chinmoy Roy, Abhisek Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Shakuntala Barua, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit The music is by Arun Rabin

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayasree T and Sukhen Das The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

7 DAYS

Special Events

22 May: 6 30 pm

Padatik Repertory will stage the play, *Salim Sherwani Ki Shaadi*

At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7 AJC Bose Road 146087)

22 May: 6 30 pm

Calcutta Cultural Centre presents an evening of Indian classical music and dance featuring Ajoy Sen (sitar) and Sushmita Banerjee (kathak)

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

22-28 May

Usha Chatterjee will hold her exhibition of paintings in the West Gallery

Photo Explorers of Bengal will hold their exhibition of photography in the North Gallery

23 May onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Nihar Ghosh in the New Gallery

24 May onwards

Atelier's week long exhibition of paintings in the New south Gallery

26 May onwards

Abani Halder's exhibition of paintings in the south Gallery till June 1

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 114200)

26 May 6 pm

In aid of its building fund, Sahamana, a rehabilitation, rehabilitation and therapeutic centre for the mentally handicapped presents Manata Shaikia's Dance Troupe in *Basanta Utsav* and a dance drama, *Hatkhela*

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086



Kathakali (Kiratham)

28 May: 5.30 pm

The inauguration of a three-day Kerala Cultural Festival, organised by Calcutta Malayalee Samajam and the government of Kerala, followed by Mohanattam, Kolkali, Thiruvathirakali and Kathakali (Kiratham)

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (1) AI-103 at 2350

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1), AI-132A at 1805

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910 Dep (2) AI-316 at 2020

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015 Dep (3) AI-307 at 2115

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong: Arr (4) AI 324 at 1050, Dep (4) AI-324 at 1150

Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay: Arr (4) AI-325 at 2235, Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU 193 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Moscow: Arr (4) SU-537 at 1555, Dep (4) SU-538 at 1855

Calcutta-Singapore Dep SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep SQ-418 at 1755, Arr SQ 416 at 1025 and Arr SQ 418 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4) IC 247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510 Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC-248 at 1425

Delhi Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC-227 at 1340, Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720, Arr. (daily) BG 691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily). IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr. (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5 6, 7): IC-478 at 1045, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7), IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 20[illegible] at [illegible] IC-296 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay. Dep [illegible] IC-[illegible] at 1640 Arr [illegible] 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair [illegible] (6) IC-[illegible] IC-286 at [illegible]

Calcutta Port Blair-Nicobar. Dep [illegible] Arr (1) IC [illegible]

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi [illegible] IC-410 at [illegible] 409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag Mondays (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) at [illegible] Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) [illegible] 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2230

Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC 247 at [illegible] Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-247 at 0640 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-248 at 2215, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-248 at 1915 Arr (7) [illegible] 1410

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC-[illegible] IC 270 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (1, 5, 7) IC 2[illegible] at [illegible] 7) IC 269 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep [illegible] 6) IC 269 at [illegible] IC-270 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Guwahati-Gorakhpur Dep [illegible] 5, 6) IC-281 at [illegible] 6) IC 281 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep [illegible] ly) IC-229 at 1300 [illegible] 4, 5, 6) IC 20[illegible] Dep [illegible] 3, 5) IC 2[illegible] IC-230 at 1610 [illegible] 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr [illegible] IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat Dep (daily) [illegible] Dep (daily) IC-213 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep [illegible] at 0540, Arr [illegible] 1040

Calcutta-Silchar Dep [illegible] (daily) IC [illegible] ly). IC 270 at [illegible]

Calcutta-Bagdogra [illegible] ly) IC-221 at [illegible] IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala [illegible] ly) IC-243 at [illegible] 1440, Arr (daily) [illegible] and IC-24[illegible]

Calcutta Ap[illegible] Dep (1, 3, [illegible] Arr (1, 3 [illegible] 1205

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 201 at [illegible] 5) IC 202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep. (7) IC 219 at [illegible] Arr (7)

BARTER BANK

• **Novels:** I offer Robert Ludlum's *The Matlock Papers* and *The Osterman Weekend* for Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet* and any books by D H Lawrence or anything of corresponding value Contact S. Mukherji, 21/2/1 Mohendra Goswami Lane, Calcutta 6

• **Scooter:** I offer a WMZ Bajaj Super Scooter for a VCR, VCP, colour TV or anything of corresponding value. Contact Anindya Guha, 10/61, Netaji Nagar, Regent Park, Calcutta 40.

• **Study material:** I offer a complete set of Agarwal classes for '87 together with books containing IIT question papers with solutions for a Walkman or anything of corresponding value. Contact Saibal Das, 40/A, Ramdulal Sarkar Street, Calcutta 6

• **Records:** I offer Bob Dylan's *Real Live* and *Empire Burlesque* for anything of corresponding value. Write to Preetam, C/o L. Ghosh, 28, Raja B Roy Road, Calcutta 26.

• **Video game** and **Bullworker:** I offer a video game, *Oil Panic*, and a Bullworker for a Walkman. Contact Manak Sarkar, 43/1, Babu Ram Ghosh Lane, Calcutta 5.

• **Magazines, records** and **novels:** I offer issues of *Time*, LPs by James Brown, Ben E. King and *Rocky* (part 3), and 10 novels for anything of corresponding value. Write to M.K. Mazumdar, 137, A.B. Nagar, Calcutta 61.

IC 220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-717 at 0600 Arr (2 4, 6) PF 718 at 0800
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 725 at 0600, Arr (1, 3 5) PF 726 at 1100
*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4, 6): PF 705A at 1100, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF 706A at 1140
Calcutta Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1 3 5) PF 729 at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 730 at 1610
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro Daparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat Along Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati Calcutta: Dep (1 3 5) PF-721 722 at 0630 Arr (1 3, 5) PF 723 724 at 1915
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF 705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF 706 at 1745
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep (1 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 732 at 1000
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 727 at 0940, Arr (2 4 6, 7) PF-728 at 1610
Calcutta-Cooch Behar. Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 707 at 0610, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF 708 at 0910
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6), PF-716 at 1010
Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) PF-701 735 at 0830, Arr (daily) PF 702 736 at 1705

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8 30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8 05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep -- Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep -Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues , Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8 45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi Wkly via Patna Dep -- Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep — Sun up to Amritsar Arri - Mon , & Fri	18 20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep — Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri & Sun Arri —Tues , Wed , Thurs , Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep Tues Fri & Sat Arri Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri -Thurs & Mon	4 15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 30	8
49	13 05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	8 30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues , Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon , Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15 25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

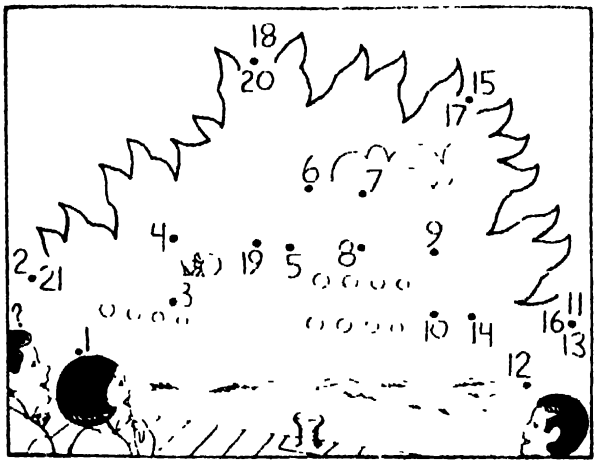
Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20 15	**Madras Mail**	6 00	4
2	20 30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Wed , Fri & Sat Arri —Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri , & Sat	14-15	59
134	21 00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4 30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21 50	**Sambalpur Express**	5 55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
--	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



WHAT HO! What can you add to complete the dot picture above? To find out, draw lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc

• **DIG IN!** Its head is 6 feet long Its tail is as long as its head and half its body Its body is half its whole length How long is it?



VERSE RIDDLE WORD HUNT!
Peruse the following verse riddle carefully and see if you can state the two words to which it refers

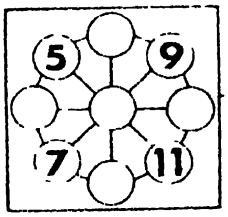
I know a noun of plural number,
Foe to rest and peaceful slumber
Most other nouns I must confess,
Are made plural with an "S,"
But if you add an "S" to this,
Strange is the metamorphosis
That "plural noun" is in retreat,
And what was bitter,
now is sweet

What are the two words in question?

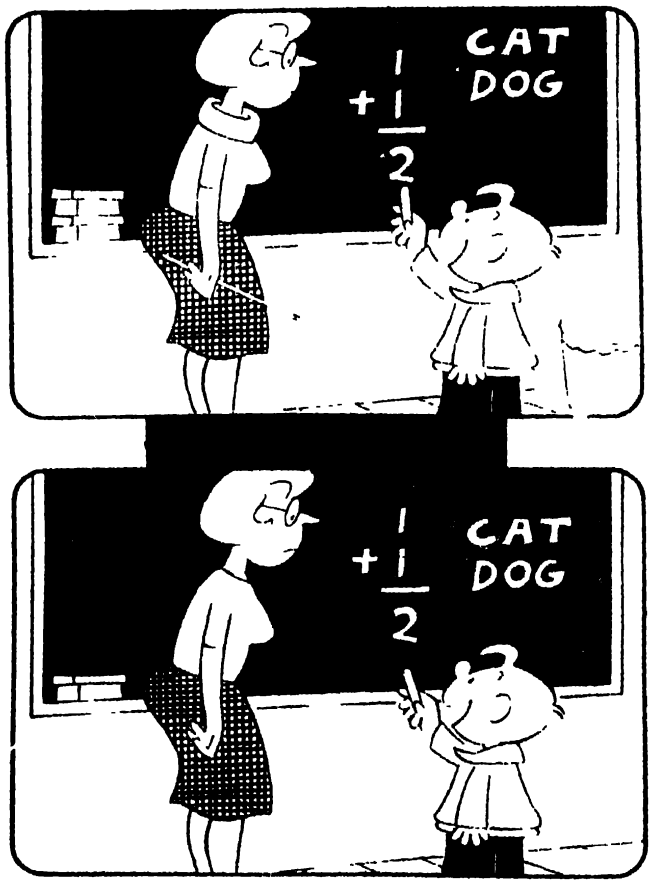
• **EVEN SO!** Challenge Place the five even numbers 4 through 12 in blank circles of the diagram below so that each row of three numbers across the figure totals ex actly 24

Finding the centre number is easy How quickly can you insert the rest?

Remember, object is for 3-number rows to total 24

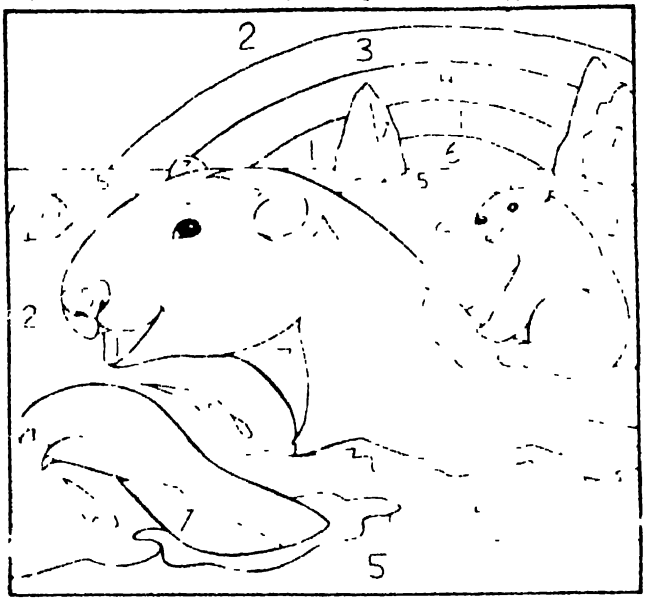


HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differ ences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

FUNSPOT



ICE SHOW! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments of this polar scene· 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Orange 5—Dk blue 6—Lt Green, 7—Lavender

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ALBACORE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

ARIES

March 21 - April 20

The sun in your third angle indicates new ventures, increased popularity and success in all collaborations and business deals Money will be available to start new projects Your job front may demand attention and there is a possibility of misunderstandings at work The home front will give joy and children and your spouse will add to your happiness

TAURUS

April 21 - May 20

The Mars Uranus sextile signifies increased opportunities, buying, selling, trading, refurbishing and decoration You will entertain in style This is the opportune time to enlist in clubs and socialise Those of you who are employed will get a promotion soon Friends and relatives will give joy Health may, however, cause concern

GEMINI

May 21 - June 21

Moon sextile Mercury will help you to bargain, negotiate and strike deals At work, you will clinch a major agreement or sign a contract, thus winning recognition and appreciation from colleagues and friends Home and property affairs will turn out favourably Money will pour in However, do not splurge Learn to look below appearances

CANCER

June 21 - July 20

News, views, messages and information will take on added significance Grab every opportunity that comes your way Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication Venus in your sign highlights trips ties renovation, decoration, a possible reconciliation and increased expenses Love is on the cards

LEO

July 21 - August 21

Money will pour in so monetary pressures will now ease Property affairs will be settled in your favour People will reach out to you and fame and recognition will both be yours Entertainment and socialising are foretold Trading is favoured If you have recently changed your job success is assured



VIRGO

August 22 - Sept 22

The moon's first quarter in your sign indicates tensions and pressures both at work and at home Take care not to overstrain yourself Despite your busy schedule, take some time off to relax Though relationships will be marked by an intensity that will surprise you, tension and uncertainty will prevail Do not neglect the home front

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 22

The Venus trine Mars formation highlights travel, trade, home, property affairs, socialising and reaching out to people and places Research, education and information will receive a boost Entertaining is foretold Be helpful to people but do not let them take you for granted Learn to assert yourself forcefully.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

The Mars Saturn trine highlights all matters pertaining to finances, joint ventures, investments, loans, collaborations, creative pursuits and hobbies There may be an addition to the family soon Intimate ties and romance is foretold for the fancyfree and eligible Transfers and shifts are on the cards for some

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

The sun in your seventh angle indicates partnerships and alliances Health may cause concern so go for regular checkups Catch up with all pending correspondence and learn to streamline your work Do not sign any documents without consulting experts The domestic front will demand attention On the whole, a hectic week lies ahead

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 19

Hard work and reshuffling of schedules are foretold The blue print of a master plan will now be finalised Matters pertaining to sales, property and furniture are highlighted Those in import and export and manufacture of fancy items will make it big Romance and socialising are foretold Wedding bells in the offing for the eligible

AQUARIUS

Jan 20 - Feb 18

The moon's first quarter favourably highlights romance, merrymaking, modelling, fashion designing and children You will make the right contacts now Friends and relatives will pool all their resources and help you in every possible way Success will be yours and so will popularity A job hop or transfer is on the cards

PISCES

Feb 19 - March 20

The next three months highlight all matters pertaining to home, property, renovation, decoration, travel, communication, friends and an official engagement. Do not be too finicky and learn to be more tolerant about your surroundings Rely on your intuition in all matters and grab every opportunity that comes your way

BIRTHDAYS

May 22

Moon sextile Mercury Teachers, writers, copywriters, salesmen, traders, commission agents, advertisers and students will do well You will shine at meetings, conferences and interviews Expenses will rise but take that in your stride

May 23

Moon first quarter, Virgo This is an excellent year for travel, property matters and decoration Your income will increase substantially Money will pour in from other sources as well All disputes pertaining to legacies and joint finances will be solved amicably

May 24

Mars trine Saturn Success is assured in all ventures Those in real estate, social welfare and politics will do well Sportsmen, lawyers and industrialists will earn money and fame Renovation, decoration, buying, selling, campaigning and fund raising are highlighted.

May 25

Moon square Mercury. You will have to make an extra effort to steal a march over your rivals. Family disputes will finally be settled A change in the nature of your work is foretold Elders may prove to be demanding. Learn to deal with them firmly but gently Concentrate on your work.

May 26

Moon trine sun, square Saturn: Tact and caution should be your watchwords Changes on the home and office front are fated. Learn to adapt to changing times You may adopt a child soon Artists, musicians, singers and painters will win accolades

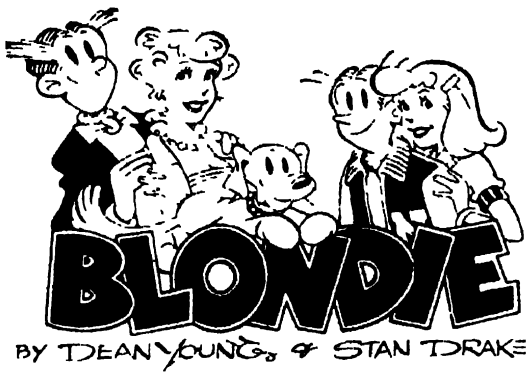
May 27

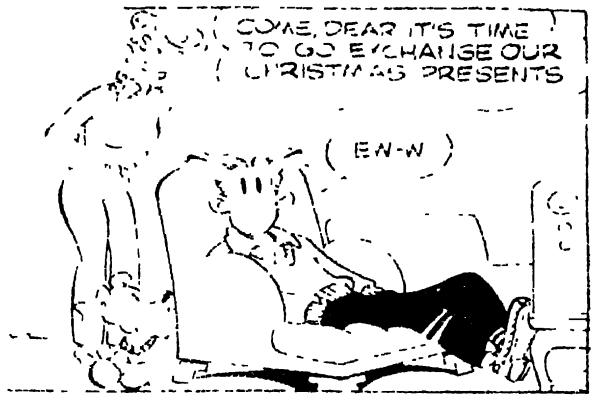
Venus opposition Uranus. A dramatic love life and spurt in creativity are foretold On the work front make an effort to adapt and modify your reactions. The health of elders may cause concern. Verify all facts before going in for a partnership.

May 28

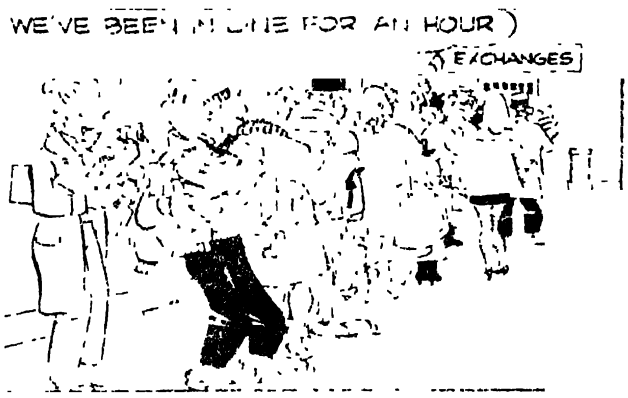
Moon trine Mars, sextile Saturn: This is a year for money A longstanding wish will be fulfilled. Partnerships, collaborations, romance, children, publicity and decoration are highlighted Travel is on the cards.

COMICS







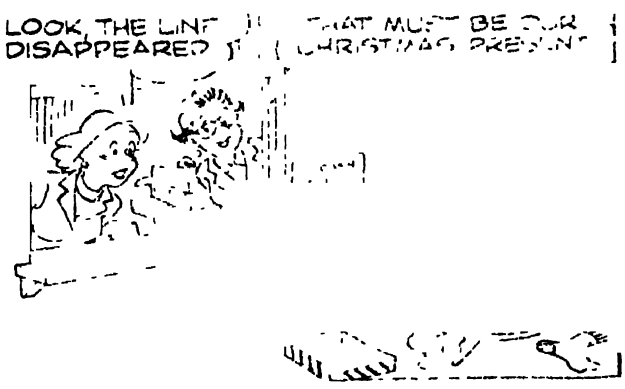




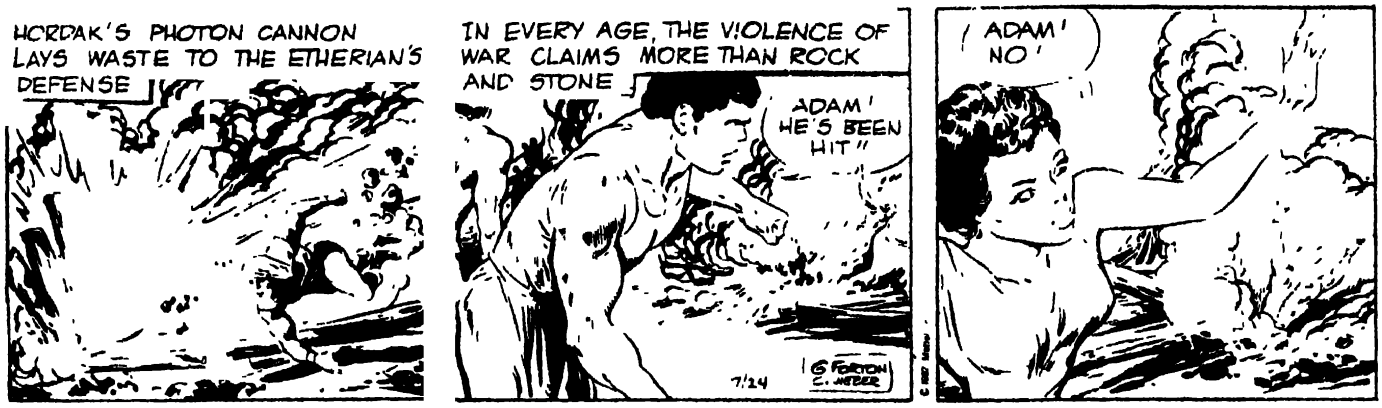


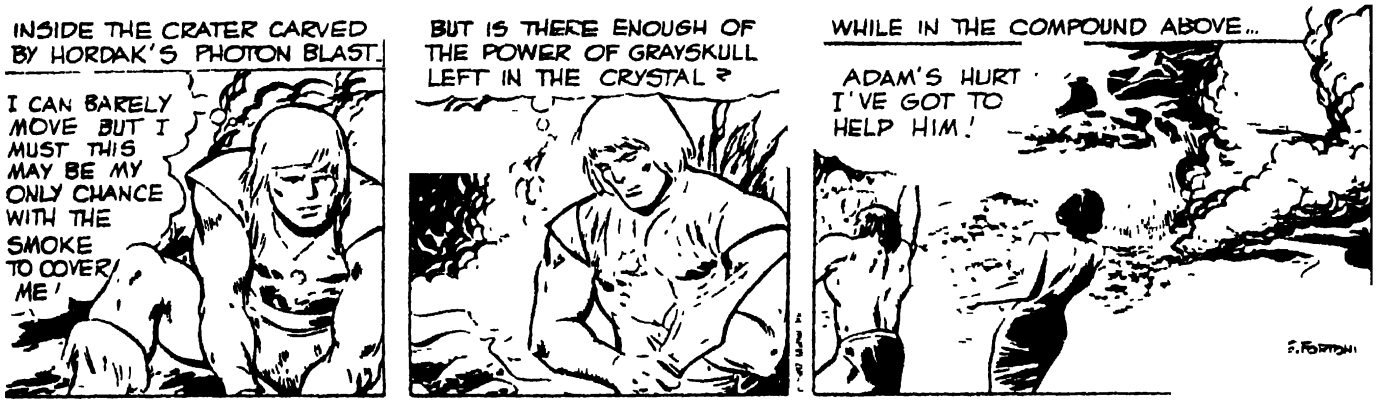


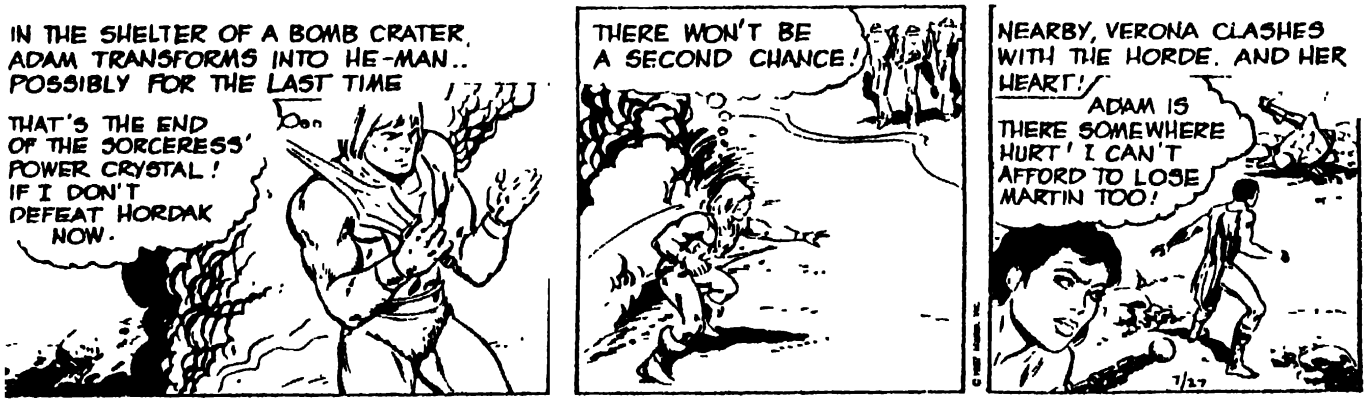
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HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

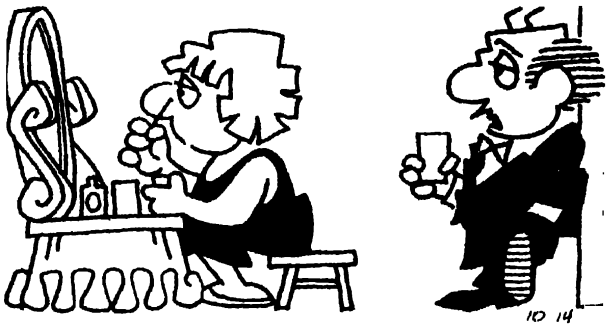




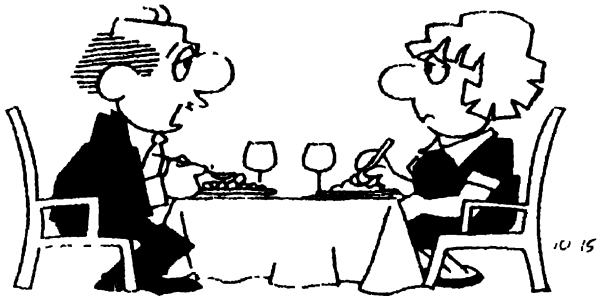




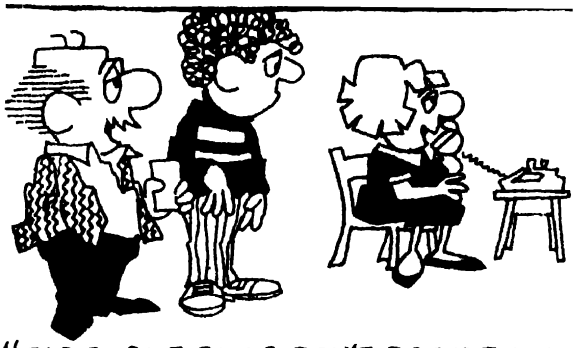
THE LOCKHORNS



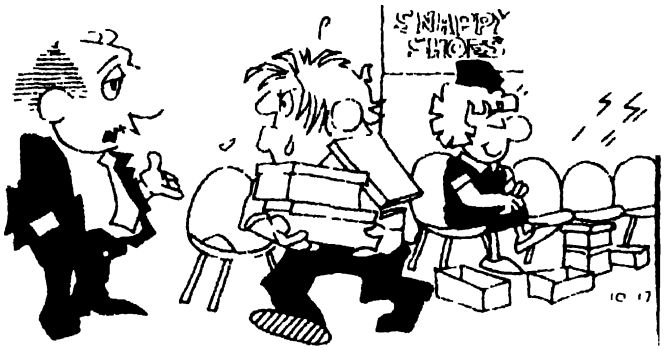
"WHEN WILL YOU BE READY, LORETTA? I MEAN, BE SPECIFIC...GIVE ME A DATE."



"DID YOU SAY THIS WAS HUNGARIAN GOULASH OR HUNGARIAN GALOSHES?"



"BIG PHONE BILLS DON'T BOTHER ME, HERBIE... I FIGURE IF SHE'S TALKING SHE'S NOT SHOPPING."



"ONCE SHE MAKES UP HER MIND TO BE INDECISIVE, SHE STICKS WITH IT."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE



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Dadasaheb Phalke award winner **Raj Kapoor** had his countless fans catching their breath when the news broke that the master of showbiz had taken critically ill during the national awards ceremony in New Delhi last fortnight.
Photograph by VIJENDER TYAGI





RAVI'S STYLISH WINNING STROKE

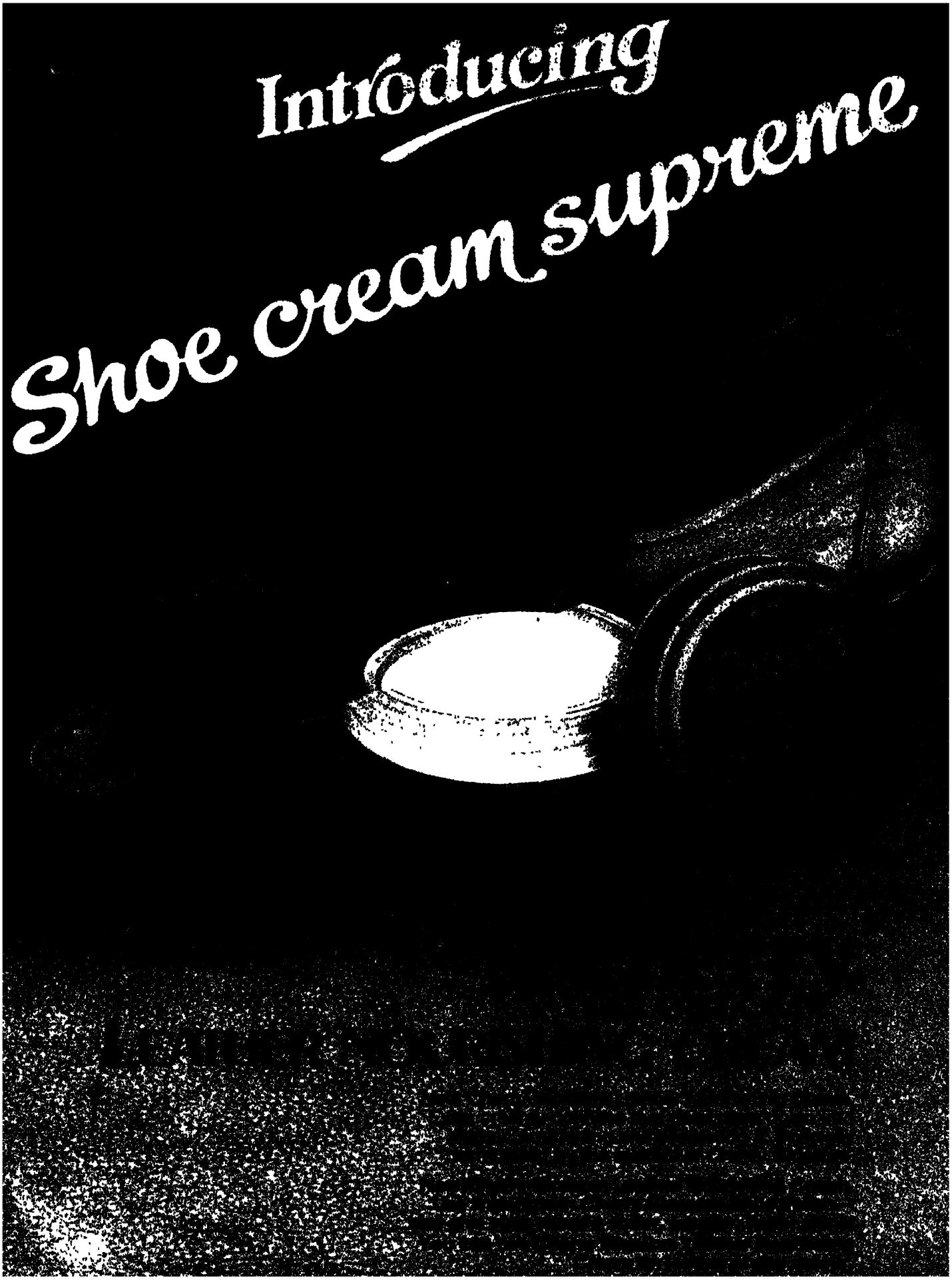
Ravi Shastri All rounder extraordinaire Flamboyant celebrity Aerobic enthusiast Arresting dresser

And now Ravi s hit upon a winning combina tion Vimal Suitings He featured in contemporary blouson jacket Coat styl notched lapels Special notched collar lemon shirt Off white trousers for this cool summer sensation

VIMAL

Polyrich & Wool Blended Suitings

The looks of a winner


Introducing
Shoe cream supreme

No Longer Noble?

You are perfectly right when you say that but for a few exceptions, doctors in Calcutta now learn nothing in medical colleges and get 'educated' at the hands of medical representatives ('How Reliable is Your Doctor?', May 1). I know personally that the "gifts" for the doctors start from scribbling pads and go up to motor cars.

I am also personally acquainted with cardiac and ophthalmic cases, treated by the greatest specialists of Calcutta, which were categorically proved otherwise in Madras.

A few more disgusting instances deserve mention. About three weeks ago, a girl next door had to shell out Rs 700 on the first day and an equal amount on three or four successive visits after her pet cat had scratched her forearm.

Doctors keep increasing their fees with a corresponding decline in their capabilities because of the rising number of patients, and go on their murderous spree with total abandon. Don't you remember the boycott of an examination on the plea that the questions were "out of syllabus"?

Vedantam Subrahmanyam,
Calcutta

■ The article was an eye-opener. I feel the government is greatly responsible for the pathetic state of the medical institutions. The only way to remove such corruption is to elect a sincere and devoted government.

Dorothy Gomes,
Calcutta

■ The [illegible] of the Bihar minister are alleged to have been behind. The transport minister took the most lucrative information to foreign hands, just for [illegible]. The health [illegible] of the state is [illegible] in a [illegible] deal of the CMC, and the plot distribution [illegible] in Salt Lake. The [illegible] is all out to sell the [illegible] of the city in the black [illegible].

It needs the [illegible] of Karl Marx to be [illegible] in the office to occupy the highest academic chair of the university. The teachers are more interested in tutorials than in classrooms. The acumen and dependability of the modern architects can be gauged by looking at the second Hooghly Bridge which collapses so often. Baby food and life saving medicines are being adulterated.

Never has corruption flared up so much in every sphere as in recent years, so why blame the doctors only? A few doctors may be dishonest, but how do you expect yours biceps to swell up when the whole body is decaying?

Dr Asok Ganguli,
S.S.K.M. Hospital, Calcutta

■ A few days ago, a dentist practising in south Calcutta refused to treat a patient simply because the latter happened to be a relative of the dentist's abandoned wife. This is how those who belong to this noble profession behave.

D.R. Jain,
Calcutta

■ You rightly focused on the deplorable way patients are treated by doctors. Quacks, qualified doctors and those in authority have joined hands to make the noble profession a corruption front.

[illegible],
Nadia (W.B.)

■ Your story was very relevant. Doctors nowadays have forgotten that medicine is not just a profession but a service to the community.

Gautama Ghosh,
Howrah

The Telegraph

29 MAY 1988



4 Management graduates nowadays stride confidently into their heavily cushioned, swivel chairs Or do they? The outward symbols of progress are all there, but beneath it all is an undercurrent of tension

22 Summer is here And the modest hand-fan is back in favour A photofeature



25 The new railway project in Siberia, commissioned four years ago, runs parallel to the old track and has its own uses.

SECTIONS

9 Heritage

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14 Science

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31 Junior Whirl

32 Inner Eye

45 Poetry

46 Candid Camera

Cover. Sandip Bhattacharya

FUTURE TENSE



MBAs think they are God's gift to Indian industry. But God and industry are not so sure. Jaideep Bose profiles India's managers of tomorrow

His rise has been meteoric. What if it should falter now? He realises that a lot of hope has been pinned on the new toilet soap which is scheduled to be launched next week. The company is facing intense competition and the market shares of almost all its products have come down in the last year.

His reputation as a marketing whiz kid is on the line. All eyes are on him, watching every move he makes. The stakes are high, for him and for the company. A successful campaign would either land him a directorship or at least bring him within striking distance of it. But the road to the top, in this case from the bathroom to the boardroom—is a slippery one.

The tension is beginning to show despite his regular morning workouts. For months, he has consistently been putting in 18 hours a day, seven days a week. He is aware that a lot of people consider him over-rated and attribute his success largely to his ability to smooth-talk his way through anything. They would love to see him down. Pure jealousy, of course.

At 31, he is marketing manager of a multinational consumer products company. His gross remuneration adds up to almost Rs 2 lakhs per annum. He has all the perks to go with his kind of salary: fully furnished three-bedroomed apartment in a posh residential area, a chauffeur-driven Premier 118 NE (in addition to the Maruti he bought some years ago), membership to one of the city's elite clubs, five-star vacations and extravagant medical facilities.

To him, his 240-watt Sony stereo system, National VCR and IBM PC/80 compatible are basic necessities and are therefore to be taken for granted. What he notices much more are the intangible perks which go with his position. Such as the smile of recognition every time he steps into the executive class of the Indian Airlines Airbus; his Gucci shoes in perfect harmony with his casual yet immaculately tailored clothes picked up in Bond Street on one of his regular visits to London; his gold Cartier pen clipped to his breast pocket, his Samsonite briefcase stuffed with official papers, the latest edition of *Fortune* and yet another bestseller on the triumph of Japanese management; he rushes through life forever trying to outpace his Rolex, seeking relaxation in endless Dunhills.

Five years ago, our protagonist would probably have been indentified by most people as a Doon School-St Stephen's-Cambridge product. Today he is most likely to be an MBA from one of the Indian Institutes of Management with a B.Tech from IIT. He is a member of a new breed which is rapidly emerging in this country. Jayram Ramesh, the flamboyant officer on special duty at the Planning Commission, calls them "our home-grown yuppies" a term often used as a synonym for "upstart", though Ramaswamy Aiyar, director of IIM (Calcutta) detects a note of envy in the derogatory usage. (Ramesh himself has an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University, USA).

Nevertheless, from an objective point of view IIM MBAs are yuppies because they are "certainly young and upwardly mobile," says Aiyar They are today playing a major role in bringing down the average age of the Indian manager. By 35, many of them have moved into senior management positions, which previous generations could dream of aspiring to only in the twilight of their careers. Among the first few batches of graduates who are now between 38 and 45, quite a few are presidents or managing directors of their companies The prospect of reaching the top of the corporate ladder at an age when one can leave a lasting impression has suddenly become a real possibility for thousands of younger managers. Thus, in turn, has fired the imagination of MBAs who are joining industry or have put in a year or so.

S.Padmanabhan, who has just joined Asian Paints after two years at IIM(C), speaks for a large majority of his batchmates when he says that in five years from now, he would like to be in a middle management position like product or branch manager. He hopes to be part of the senior management (at the level of regional or all-India sales manager, or vice-president, marketing) by the time he is in his mid-30's. Ten or 15 years ago people would have called this daydreaming. Today any MBA who wishes to settle for anything less is a write-off.

Says Deepak Marwah, account group manager of Lintas and an IIM(C) alumnus: "Everyone expects much more of an MBA because he is a privileged person. You often hear people say, 'Is that guy an MBA? How come he's still just a product manager? "

Simultaneously, rising expectations are also pushing up salaries at every level of management. Average starting salaries have been increasing by 10 to 15 per cent every year. This year it was between Rs 3,000 and Rs 3,500, according to Aiyar The lowest was about Rs 2,500 while the highest offer was made by Citibank—Rs 5000 per month plus accomodation anywhere in the country, which in a city like Bombay would work out to a staggering gross remuneration of almost Rs 1 lakh a year. A three-week training stint abroad is an added perquisite. A British bank, which offered a slightly lower starting salary, promised to increase it to between Rs 7,000 and Rs 8,000 at the end of the first year.

This year, an Indian industrial house, whose name has become synonymous with soaps and almirahs, offered Rs 5,000 per month and a Maruti (terms not known), according to reliable sources.

Almost every IIM graduate this year was looking for at least Rs 3,000 as a management trainee. This is just the beginning. Padmanabhan expects a salary of about Rs 6,000 per month plus the "usual perks" five years from now. "I am using it as a kind of benchmark If I haven't reached that level by then I'll have to think about what I've been doing with myself " A large majority of this year's graduates place their estimated annual salary in five year's time at over Rs 1 lakh

Tapodyuti Bose, an IIM(C) student, expects a salary of at least Rs 5,000 when he graduates, since he was already earning about Rs 3,500 before he decided to go in for an MBA. "Company accommodation is a must right from the first year From the second year, I expect to own a car," he says. It is a matter-of-fact statement of his requirements He is most unlikely to opt for any company which cannot meet them. This sense of confidence stems largely from the knowledge that the demand for IIM MBAs far outstrips their supply- -a situation which the tens of millions of our countrymen who are desperately looking for employment, would find very difficult to grasp.

Industry's scramble for IIM MBAs is best seen at the time of placement, when companies come to the campus to interview and recruit the students who are about to graduate.

The high-profile companies vie with each other to be invited by the institute authorities on the first day of placement They are normally ranked on the basis of past trends and students' preferences,but quite often they try getting round the system if it does not suit them Besides the prestige attached to being a 'first day company ,"it gives the recruiters a chance to get the first look-in.

This year, Hindustan Lever (HLL), Citibank, Asian Paints, Food Specialities Limited (FSL) and ITC led the rest of the pack into IIM(C) Not happy with the

arrangement, a company belonging to a top industrial house, violated placement rules by surreptitiously calling a few IIM(C) students for interviews at a five-star hotel in the city just before the beginning of the placement season, according to informed sources. The IIM(C) authorities were not pleased.

At times, even the first day companies wage raging battles among themselves. Remembering the proverb about the early bird catching the worm, representatives of a foreign bank last year landed up at the IIM(C) campus at 9 am, only to find, much to their annoyance, that a paints company had beaten them to it by a good hour-and-a-half!

Small wonder that the students have developed a "trigger-happy attitude" as Padmanabhan puts it. They shoot off applications and appear for interviews left, right and centre, and then keep recruiting companies on tenterhooks until the last moment in order to give themselves adequate elbow-room to bargain for the best deals. They try to extract under-the-table concessions such as getting their training periods shortened or completely waived. In short, they dictate terms to the companies they choose to join. It also gives some of them a tremendous ego-boost to be able to brag that they have four or five offers in hand.

Aware that in the long-run such cavalier treatment might discourage some companies from coming to the campus, the IIM(C) authorities have evolved certain placement rules. A student who has applied for a job cannot withdraw from the interview unless he has already got two offers. Of these two, if he has not already accepted the first offer, he has take to take the second and then withdraw from the placement race.

These rules have given rise to certain peculiar problems. To illustrate: suppose student X has applied for companies A,B,C and D. Of them, A is invited to the campus first. After interviewing X, it offers him a job. X keeps the offer in hand. Now according to the schedule drawn up by the Institute authorities, it is B's turn to interview X next. X is in a quandary. If B offers him a job, he has to accept it but he does not want to join B. He is really interested in C, whose interview has been fixed for next week.

So what does he do? First he asks B not to consider him. If that does not work, he tries to "demarket" himself so that B does not offer him the job. Says Padmanabhan, "The standard ploys are to act dumb, make yourself undesirable or ask for exorbitant salaries." These are stories of interviewees even "forgetting" their own names and of companies still offering the job out of sheer cussedness!

But by and large, the rules are acceptable to both. Lest it seem that students take the placement process lightly, let it be said that most of them spend sleepless nights trying to figure out their priorities. Says Shovon Chowdhury, who is just out of IIM(C) and into Lintas India: "The stakes are high. There's lots of hysteria, not because they are scared they won't get a job. It's just that the loaves and fishes are divided and no one wants to lose out. The herd effect is also at work. A lot of people think that foreign banks and certain other companies are good because that's the general perception."

Foreign banks are, in fact, among the most sought after largely because they offer the best salaries and a lot of glamour. Also, they are generally considered low-pressure jobs, though most bank executives try to cultivate exactly the opposite image.

Remembering the proverb about the early bird catching the worm, representatives of a foreign bank last year landed up at the IIM(C) campus at 9 am, only to find to their annoyance that a paints company had beaten them to it by a good hour-and-a-half

Salary-wise, the next in line are the multinational affiliates, followed by computer manufacturers and advertising agencies. Overseas software companies also recruit in India with offers ranging up to $45,000 per annum.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are companies which MBAs would prefer not to touch with a barge pole. The "Lala corporate culture" is a no-no with IIM MBAs, to use their lingo. They feel these companies offer very little mobility. Besides, their management styles are viewed as too conservative, centralised and therefore stifling for the independent-minded MBAs. This year, an IIM(C) graduate [illegible] joining a south-based organisation when he heard the managing director's son had been given a senior position.

The distrust is often reciprocated by the so-called "Lala" companies. The Birlas do not exactly go wild over IIM MBAs. A senior executive in one of the Birla companies finds MBAs "somewhat irrelevant" in the Indian context. Hindustan Motors, a leading company in this region, is conspicuous by its absence during placement season.

Some of the traditionally-run Indian companies which did go in for pretty large-scale recruitment of MBAs at one time, such as DCM and National Tobacco, made no effort to retain them, say IIM(C) alumni. In one case, the MBAs found the owners too overbearing, and in the other, the accounting system too unconventional for their liking. Two very senior IIM-educated executives, of NTC even had to suffer the ignominy of having show-cause notices slapped on them by the Central excise authorities. It was one of the less memorable moments in the 26-year-history of the IIMs and their graduates.

But by and large, it has been a fairly happy experience. If the growing number of companies which flock the IIM campuses during recruitment season is any indication, the honeymoon is far from over. The mad rush among college students for getting into the IIMs does not show signs of abating either.

Many even pass up excellent offers to join American universities in favour of an IIM degree. This trend is most noticeable among engineering graduates. Among the various reasons they give for wanting to do so, the most important appear to be job security, greater flexibility and better salary.

All this is a far cry from 1964, when 46 boys and one brave girl decided to cover a hitherto untested terrain by joining IIM(C), the first of its kind in the country. Swarup Chaudhuri, director, Debson Private Limited, was one of them. Says he: "None of us knew what we were letting ourselves in for. I didn't even know what subjects would be taught. One of the students, who is now a top company executive, swaggered in the first day and shouted, 'Where's the bar, man?'"

When the first batch graduated in 1966, the only big companies which came to the campus to recruit were ICI, Indian Aluminium, and DCM. The IIM(C) director, K.T. Chandy, was particularly disappointed because not a single public sector organisation turned up. The government had earlier said it was spending a lot of money on the IIMs because the public sector needed professional managers.

Indal recruited three IIM graduates at a starting salary of Rs 400 per [illegible] same as the IAS then paid. ICI took two boys at Rs 650. Says Chaudhuri, "The rest of us had to fend for ourselves. I would put on my suit, look up the name of a company in the telephone directory to find out the name of the person in charge of personnel,

and would then land up and send in a note."

It was not till the third or fourth batch that IIM MBAs began to be accepted by industry. But even that did not help Chaudhuri much. Says he of his experience after joining the family business: "Whenever I made a suggestion, my father and my brother would say 'Swarup is too bookish. All that works in Japan, not here.' My father refused to read any book on management."

Till today, IIM graduates face almost the same problem. Paradoxically, their biggest strength often works to their detriment. The multidisciplinary approach of IIM education makes it easier for them to take an integrated view of business. They can see the interlinkages among production, marketing, finance and the human element, but the moment they start thinking on a broader canvas, they are asked by others in the organisation: "Are you the managing director of the company?" They have problems communicating with their bosses who often take a narrower view and consider their IIM-educated subordinates to be upstarts. In fact, some non-MBA bosses are always out to "kill" MBAs, complains an IIM(C) alumnus.

Often, there is also an underlying resentment against MBAs because of their higher salaries and better promotional prospects. Though no standard salary differential exists between MBAs and non-MBAs—it all depends on the overall pay structure—IIM graduates can generally expect at least Rs 1,000 more than what the others get. According to Deepak Marwah, it is a justifiable expectation. "I think a two to three years' headstart is warranted because the IIM graduate has spent about that amount of time at the institute."

"If there are two guys gunning for the same post and the difference between them is 19-20, then the MBA is likely to get preference even if he's 19," says Marwah, but adds that after the initial period of conscious discrimination, the competition is normally on equal terms with merit being the only criterion.

Gradually, more and more non-MBAs are learning to take a practical view of the situation. What, however, does alienate them is the arrogant attitude of some MBAs who make the mistake of believing themselves to be God's gift to Indian industry as Chaudhuri puts it. They tend to forget that some of the organisations have been efficiently run for many years well before they arrived on the scene.



Mr Sam Pitroda gives away prizes to the best outgoing students at the IIM(C) in April this year

From day one, MBAs expect to be given responsibility for segmenting markets, positioning products, and defining market objectives. This feel their education is over, and from now on their way in the only way. This kind of behaviour gives the rest of the IIM community a bad name.

Industry and the IIM authorities must also share part of the blame for this boorish attitude—the former for "pampering the IIM chaps with ridiculously high salaries," according to Chaudhuri, and the latter for encouraging them to believe they are destined to take over as leaders of industry in 10 years time, says Padmanabhan.

Nowhere is the burning ambition to earn better and rise faster more evident than in the constant job-hopping for which the MBAs have become famous. Says an IIM(C) alumnus: "MBAs are constantly on the lookout for advancement. They find it difficult to dedicate themselves to a single company."

At this year's campus interviews, some of the graduating students openly admitted they did not know if they would remain in the same organisation for five years or more. While most companies accepted their point of view, a few took it as a rebuff, according to Chowdhury.

Says Padmanabhan: "I personally feel job-hopping is not a very healthy phenomenon. I wouldn't like to do it, but more often than not, it's the companies and not the individuals who are to blame."

In Japan, company hopping is actively discouraged. A job is considered a lifetime commitment and an employee becomes part of a corporate family. This is one of the reasons attributed to the tremendous success of Japanese business. Marwah points out that even in India, quite a few MBAs have reached the top without taking recourse to job-hopping.

Generally speaking, though, MBAs seem to believe they should not only always be on the move, they should also appear to be on the move. If it is anything an MBA is really paranoid about, it is stagnation. Says Marwah, "It can be taken as a rule that MBAs don't like being failures."

Money, though, is not always the most powerful motivating factor. Job satisfaction is just as crucial. A lot of IIM-educated foreign bank executives often wish they could throw up their gilt-edged jobs and join an organisation like ICICI. Some have already left out of sheer frustration. According to one of them: "The job content is not very good. Most of the IIM guys don't know what to do and end up as glorified clerks sifting vouchers." Adds Shovon Chowdhury: "Prestige, power, a solid training, a challenge and a chance to reach the top are all factors which can compensate for monetary loss.'

Is success then the ultimate god at whose altar an MBA would gladly sacrifice his values and his morals? Says an IIM(C) graduate: "I might have high moral standards, but what do I do in a situation where unless I pay kickbacks to bag a government order, I fall short of my sales target? There is a point at which almost everybody compromises. What is that point? I think it's a function of the corporate culture in which one works as well as one's individual value system."

Whatever the reasons, that "point of compromise" appears to be seeking ever lower levels with the passage of time. A recent IIM case study is a telling example: Some time ago, the west-coast based unit of a private sector fertiliser company was found discharging highly toxic effluents into the surrounding land and affecting the ground water in that area. Crop yields

were falling, and fish were dying. Public pressure was mounting.

Asked what he would have done to extricate the company from this tight situation, an IIM student suggested bribing. He then went a step further and even calculated the bribes that would have been needed to keep everyone happy. Unfortunately, the professor's reaction is not known! While some may condemn this student's attitude, others would say he was only being practical. According to one IIM(C) alumnus: "What is wrong is the entire value system in this country. Why pick on the IIMs?"

Yet, by coincidence or otherwise, some of the companies which attract a lot of IIM talent, also happen to be highly reputed for their ethics. Apparently one of them—a paints company—fails to get government contracts because of its refusal to grease any palms.

In the ultimate analysis, the IIMs will be judged by their countribution to industry and their impact on society. The introduction of fancy jargon like the KITA (kick in the arse) principle, USP (unique selling proposition), "multidimensional scaling" and "anal retentiveness" must surely rank as one of their most noticeable though dubious contributions.

But by and large, MBAs consider their IIM education useful. Marwah speaks for a large majority when he says: "One probably does not directly apply the theories picked up at IIM, but they give you a base. Two years at IIM builds a certain maturity and understanding." Says Chowdhuri: "The pitfall lies in blindly following foreign techniques and experiences, but the underlying psychology is often quite similar."

Thanks to Phillip Cotler and his *Marketing Management*, which has been a long running favourite with IIM(C) despite its totally American free market scenario, one occasionally comes across the odd IIM MBA whose "aspirational group" is as exclusively American as the New York Yankees. He is probably the kind of IIM product Tisco chief Russi Mody had in mind when he said some time ago that MBAs have to be first "de-educated" and then re-educated when they join industry. The things they are taught at IIM are best forgotten, according to him.

However, even the most vociferous detractors of the IIM system rarely question the inherent intelligence of the average MBA. Sam Pitroda, the high-profile advisor to the Prime Minister on technology missions, says: "These people are some of the smartest we have in the system, partly because of the filtering process they have been put through."

Aiyar disagrees with those who argue that MBAs are good, not because of the IIMs but in spite of them. While admitting that the students who come in are very bright, he says: "IIMs provide them with an environment where they can develop their skills. We convert them into value-added products." According to a senior company executive: "MBAs are not only better at looking at business in its totality, they are also more objective in their approach to problem solving."

Indeed, when it comes to analysis, visualising and presentation, MBAs are king. What about implementation? While Aiyar maintains they are good at that too, companywallahs feel this is an area where MBAs do not score highly, at least initially. Says Jayram Ramesh: "There's only breadth, there's no depth."

Most MBAs acknowledge that the ability to implement can be developed only through on-the-job experience. It is the know-it-all MBAs who come in for a rude shock when, instead of being allowed to formulate marketing strategies immediately, they are asked to go into the field and meet dealers.

'An IIM mafia is taking over. They have an alien value system. Their culture and ethics are different. It's like working for a foreign enclave within the country'

All things considered, the general view is that MBAs have succeeded in introducing a certain degree of professionalism in industry, though there might be some difficulty in measuring their contribution in quantitative terms. But as Ramesh says, they have made a difference in only a narrow spectrum of economic activity. Most of them avoid the public sector and not many become entrepreneurs. Says Pitroda: "I want them to create jobs. I don't want them to join foreign banks or multinationals. If these people don't create jobs, who will? For what are we building, our people? Our focus has turned 180 degrees. What is the use of a chap from IIT and IIM doing a trivial job like peddling soap? It's a shame and a waste that such a thing should happen. Why can't we create 50 people who can create 5000 jobs? What is missing in the training?"

Swarup Chaudhuri feels that not enough importance is given at the IIMs to the development of entrepreneurship. Nevertheless, over the last few years a perceptible change has been taking place. More and more IIM-educated companies executives are setting up their own business after picking up a few years' experience and building up contacts. Few, though, are going into manufacturing, preferring instead to set up compact service-oriented companies in areas such as advertising and software. The reasons for this include lower capital requirements and quicker returns. Besides, there is no need to go into backward areas or to employ blue-collar workers.

Barring a handful of companies, the public sector remains as unattractive as ever. Says an IMM(C) student, "The money isn't so bad. It's just that the public sector in general is not ready for MBAs. Most of the companies are run by old fogies who are forever passing the buck. They don't want anything but seniority based promotions. An MBA who comes full of vigour, gets bogged down. It can be very frustrating."

On the hand, the private sector is readier than ever before to accept MBAs. The 1980s have seen the laid-back, *koi-hai* days gradually give way to a more competitive future.

But the fundamental question remains: How relevant are the MBAs and what has been their contribution?

"An IIM mafia is taking over. They have an alien value system," says Ramesh. "Their culture and ethics are different. It's like working for a foreign enclave within the country. It is the Anglo-Saxon tradition which is still at work. In Japan, no one bothers about MBAs. That's why they have succeeded."

MBAs are almost unanimous in their disagreement. One of them feels: "An overwhelming majority of us come from middle-class backgrounds. Some of that culture is rooted in us. People tell us we are the créme de la créme. It's a good feeling but the moment you get too snooty about it, the system's going to kick you out. As far as values are concerned, I think we are as similar or different as the rest. It really depends on the individual."

"Yes, there is a certain brotherhood among us, but we have certainly not formed a mafia. Having been through all those competitive examinations, we appreciate merit more than anything else. We do believe in the pursuit of excellence."

In short, a new "meritocracy" is what the average MBA would like to usher in. He accepts the fact that every brilliant student cannot make a brilliant manager. A few will fall by the wayside. It is for the others to push ahead. Most MBAs believe it will take at least a generation of their fellows at the top to leave a mark on their organisations and on industry in general. A few are there, and many more are on the way. ■

NANDALAL BOSE (1883-1966)



The most brilliant student of Abanindranath Tagore and a name to reckon with in the world of Indian paintings, Nandalal Bose was born on February 3, 1883, at Munghyr where his father, Purnachandra, worked. His ancestral place was near Tarkeshwar. He had his early education at Darbhanga but was soon transferred to Central Collegiate School, Calcutta. He passed the Entrance Examinations at the age of 20, but did not proceed further. He could never conform to traditional education. Instead, he tried his hand at some original paintings and some copying work of a few masterpieces and soon caught Abanindranath's attention.

Nandalal joined Calcutta Art School, obtained a scholarship and studied there for five years. Some of his paintings of this period like *Sokarta Siddhartha, Sati, Shiva-Sati, Jagai-Madhai, Karna, Garur Stambhataley Sri Chaitanya, Natarajer Tandav* and *Bhishmer Pratigga,* later became famous. He then pursued his art at Abanindranath's house at Jorasanko for three years. In 1914, he joined the Kala Bhavan at Santiniketan and after a short stint at Abanindranath's Bharatiya Prachya Kalamanadali, he returned to Kala Bhavan in 1923 to settle there permanently. In the meantime, he decorated the Bose Institute at the behest of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose. At Mahatma Gandhi's invitation, he organised the exhibitions held at the Lucknow, Faizpur and Haripura Congress sessions.

Nandalal accompanied Rabindranath Tagore during his voyages to China, Japan, Ceylon and Indian islands. Besides numerous awards, he was conferred the honorary D Litt by Kashi Vishwavidyalaya in 1950, Deshikottama by Visva Bharati in 1953 and the Padma Vibhusan in 1954. He wrote a number of books among which *Silpacharcha* and *Rupabali* are wellknown. He drew sketches for many books by Rabindranath and Abanindranath. The walls of China Bhavan, Santiniketan library and Sriniketan are adorned with his paintings. Some of his priceless creations are *Umar Byatha, Umar Tapasya, Panchapandaber Mahaprasthan* and *Pratyabartan.*

The sketch above shows his north Calcutta residence at 2/A Raja Bagan Street, where he stayed for some time.

OF FATE AND FAITH

Astrology may or may not be an exact science. It is certainly debatable whether those celestial beauties deign to influence our life and times—even condescendingly -- but the belief that they do, generates such a fanaticism among the non-heretics that this mystical aspect of social belief cannot be bypassed with a mere flick of the finger.

My quarrel is certainly not with the individual freedom of belief, but with the rather startling manifestations of the belief that warrant gaping attention that may lead to your being completly brainwashed by the single message dictated to the grey cells "Every step you take, every mistake you make, every cock-eyed mannerism of yours is fate, fate and nothing else but fate."

Let me cite a true incident that 'befell' a relative of mine This lady was pillion-riding on a motorbike at the helm of which was her husband They were returning from the usual

Nancy Reagan is not the only one who believes that it's all in the stars

fortnightly (or was it weekly?) sojourn to their family *guru* or astrologer who had, like all benevolent *gurus*, reassured them about a troubletree, smooth-sailing future. Their tension-filled hearts now set at ease, the couple was smoothly floating on cloud nine when an 'evil-eye' cast a spell on their motorbike and they barged head-first into a stationary truck that injured the gentleman and gave the lady a nasty concussion.

Believe it or not, once back from her blissful oblivion, the lady looked at the solid emblems of reality about her and burst out, "It (the accident) just cannot have happened. He (the omniscient *guru*) did not tell us about it!" In other words, even what had actually happened could not have happened, for the simple reason that those divine interpreters of God's will had not predicted it!

I think it requires special talents, an unusual capacity, to be able to retain a faith with such tenacity They still have unshakeable faith in astrology and the *guru* I am quite sure the *guru* has successfully managed to shirk all responsibility by squarely passing the buck to a hitherto concealed evil eye of one of the more diabolical, bo-peeping planets Now that calls for another precious stone to ward off its effects and, of course, the "stone" is going to be provided by the *guru* himself—hasn't he got to do the special *puja* to touch it with his own hallowed aura? The *guru dakshina*? Oh, no! With the right amount of diffidence, he refuses to talk of it, leaving it to your superior discretion The gushing, eternally grateful disciple is now ready to prostrate herself before the 'all seeing' with her quota of tokens (*dakshina*). Once again, a 'job' has been done!

A sibling of mine makes it a point to worry about her exams only after they are over! Her sneering contempt at examination phobia and nervous breakdowns suddenly vanishes, and whenever you get to see her, she is either jumpily cracking her knuckles or telephoning the family astrologer for repeated reassurances which, of course, he lavishly bestows. After a recently concluded examination as usual she rushed to our 'future reader' and the verdict received was—if the results came out in the first half of the particular year, she was sure to gain a first class (notwithstanding whatever rubble her answer paper contained); if the results postponed their appearance to the second half of the year, she would get a second division (presumably examiners would be guided by planets hostile to the native's horoscope), and, hold your breath, if the results emerged the following year, this brilliant sibling of mine was 'destined' to fail! Our previously mentioned dear God, incidentally, decided to play hand-in-glove with our *guru*, and magically (how else do you describe it?) made the results emerge in the second half of the year, and what more, bestowed a second division on my sister

Her faith now trebled, she proceeded to the astrologer's and made him a lavish gift of a Kashmiri shawl which was accepted with a benign smile as proof of his 'indifference' to worldly essentials I may, with diffidence and not a little shame, admit that my sibling had never in her life gone above or below a second division, a steady, stable, dependable personality

Even if I cannot claim total disbelief, I am quite proud to declare myself a bewildered agnostic, seeing the magnitude of this consuming onslaught from all around! One thing that I cannot comprehend is how some material, inanimate spheres several million light years away can hold arbitrary sway over every action and thought of mine, that too, superceding my will! A broad framework of destiny is as far as my dense mind permits me to believe This, of course, makes me a heretic and even a sinner, with the sin of vanity. So, like a typical coward, I scuttle into the background to observe fascinated, the religious fervour of these devout believers in the potencies of black crows and cats, of the cursing abilities of broken mirrors and the lethal or divine abilities of stones that lie strewn innocently, quite unpretentiously, on *terra firma* till pounced upon by divine seers and attributed powers which baffles them as much as me, but with which, nevertheless, they are 'destined' to live for the rest of their 'lives'! My heart bleeds to know that even death cannot release them (stones) from the bully, astrologic.

Roma Dutta



THEY ALSO SERVE

Findings of a recently conducted survey on English loonies and their contribution to mainstream activities in Britain may have raised a question or two in the minds of interested readers at home as to the performances of our own loonies in various fields To conduct such an extensive survey may appear to be a Herculean task, but a peep into the government offices located in and around a city may provide some answer to the curious We restrain ourselves from entering into controversy with those who are of the opinion that eccentricity is a necessary qualification for public service or debate with the friends and relatives of the eccentrics who claim that the distinction was earned by the persons only *after* joining the services

At the entrance of a public establishment one invariably bumps into an employee looking heavenwards with hands folded in a perfect *mudra* of *namashkaram* You soon realise that the greeting is not directed towards you but is one of the innumerable extra-terrestrial communications that are transmitted during the working hours—before reaching the desk, before and after entering the boss's chamber and even before sipping tea or going to the toilet

The wall opposite the desk is studded with pictures of gods and goddesses of all sorts and an even number is affixed underneath the glass-top The smell of *agarbati* and the stench of government files provide a unique blend Occasional arrivals of files, by mistake, are dealt with "Jai Guru" and "Hari Om" scribbles in the note sheets to ensure immunity against such earthly intrusions that interrupt the transcendental meditation

Seated not too far from the epitome of piety is the angry young man who belongs to the tribe of employees who continuously voice their grouses against the service conditions and injustice meted out to them and tender their resignation every alternate day They scare their superiors and colleagues alike with their expressions both facial and verbal Usually bearded, they use their bloodshot eyes and gnashing teeth more menacingly than the most redoubtable *rakshasa* of the *Ramayan* TV serial

> So what if they work in government offices?

After filing their 'resignation' they disappear for days together and the worried boss keeps on sending emissaries to their residence to coax them back to the office and withdraw the 'resignation' The game continues throughout the tenure and finally with a few years of service left they reverse the strategy and demand re-employment or extension of service with equal gusto

In every government establishment some routine casualties occur whenever a young and attractive female joins her duties The resident romantic of the office never loses time to make a beeline for her Long letters and poetic outbursts are hurled and the head clerk has a trying time to maintain peace There is a temporary lay off after the lady weds her prince charming, an outsider, and the romantic languishes in the corner chewing his pen, waiting for a fresh Juliet to arrive

Eccentrics rendering their services in various capacities in government offices can be broadly classified into three categories. Category I includes those who earn the attribute immediately after joining. They refuse work on flimsy or no pretexts and keep the files piling up till the authorities finally give up all attempts to clear them. Their stay at the office is brief and the duration decreases progressively with the passage of time They do not communicate with their colleagues, smoke profusely, never offer a smoke to others, consume a substantial quantity of snacks during the break, keep their eyes focused at infinity and the face expressionless, only occasionally breaking the monotony by winking at the out-of-order wall clock a must in government offices

Their days of absence outnumber those when they were present, till the authorities write them off in the leave accounts Out of fear of incurring the wrath of rival employees unions, the chicken-hearted officers do not take recourse to pay cuts Instead, a feeler is sent through the head clerk and an accord is reached The incumbent willy nilly agrees to make himself available to sign the attendance register everyday against the assurance that no files will reach his table Obviously that burden will be shared by the underprivileged, saner faction

Every government officer, at the time of taking over charge of a fresh posting, is tipped beforehand by the head clerk of a name or two, depending on the dimension of the office 'He has a bit of a problem at home and his health, as you will see, is not quite okay," says the head clerk in an undertone Soon, a moronic face appears through the swing door, complete with a two-day-old stubble and a Mona Lisa smile If you are a seasoned campaigner you at once recognise the species Before you have finished uttering, 'Okay," to the head clerk, the face vanishes in a flash, never to show up for the rest of your tenure

The second category of eccentrics surfaces only on receipt of transfer orders to distant places outside the city, usually with relatively more difficult duties to perform in unfamiliar settings They develop an illness on receipt of the transfer orders and undergo elaborate psychiatric treatment The sanity of some of them is restored the moment the transfer orders are revoked and they continue merrily hereafter with their assignments, bearing the stamp of a privileged class of employees in 'metropolitan services who are never to be transferred outside lest the ailment should recur The other faction, category III, continues its newly formed habit of consuming tranquilisers which the psychiatrists are never shy to prescribe The hangover continues during the office hours and the happily obsessed person takes 'complete bed rest' on the desk, using the files as a pillow

Nearly 100 per cent of the dotties mentioned in the preceding paragraphs are known to behave just like any other normal human beings once outside the confines of the place of work On the domestic front and wider social circles they behave, and are accepted like any other normal person It is only in their respective fields of activity that they adopt a very singular and effective means to earn their daily bread year after year after year

A unique case deserves mention here concerning an employee of category I who found it increasingly difficult during the later years to attend office daily even at the hours of his own choice He would start from his residence (close by) in the morning at the right time and yet come back late in the afternoon having failed to make it to the office This started happening on all days of the month except pay day

The paymaster was in a real fix The incumbent finally felt pity for his old boss and announced his decision to retire voluntarily on medical grounds having already completed 30 years of qualifying service to the government Perhaps he is the right kind of government servant suited for our service' ruefully observed the colleague

Soumitra Sinha



Quiz Niall O'Brien

CBS

***11th Question*: What is a "Yahoo salutation"? (Debasish Basu, 29/3-13, Ranapratap Road, Durgapur 4)**
***Ans*: It is an Acharya Rajneesh advocated salutation to avoid AIDS. In his words, "When you come across a friend, raise your hands to the sky and scream 'Yahoo' instead of employing the universal handshake."**

"What is the origin of the word 'Asia'?" asks Rakesh R Sahay, BIT Sindri

Assuva, or Assuwa, from which the name Asia seems to originate, made its recorded appearance at what is, for the Aegean area, a very early date About 1235 BC, Tudhaliyas IV, king of Hittites, reported a victory over the 'land of Assuva ' His enemies were apparently a league or alliance, and the report specifies 22 countries or tribes as its members The geography is not clear, but theories indicate that Assuva comprised much of northwestern Asia Minor, bordering the Aegean

The meaning, as might be expected, is uncertain The term *assu* meant "good" in Hittite and Assuva may actually have suggested some thing like "good land " But, there is no reason to assume that the name was Hittite at all.The Assuvans (if we may use such a term) were enemies of the Hittites, and presumably spoke some other language

The very high likelihood, then, must be that the term is not primarily geographical, but tribal. On the basis of its 22 component peoples, one must even consider the possibility that the term means something like "allies" or "friends '

In any case, by the year 1000 BC both the Hittites and Myceneans had suffered catastrophes, and no more documents are available Most probably the next record of Asia is that which appears as an adjectival form in the *Iliad* (II, 461), where the poet mentions, in a simile, the many geese, cranes, and swans that haunt "the Asian meadow, by the river Cayster "

However, a single mention in an epic poem cannot be rigorously interpreted in a geographical sense There is the uncomfortable possibility that "Asian" is a substitution, or an adjective derived from *asis*, meaning "silt" or "mud," being a natural idea to associate with the habitat of waterfowl

As it happens, however, two Trojan warriors were called Asius, and in addition some fragments of early Greek poetry contain the name, reinforcing the usage in the *Iliad*

Searching for an entity, we may ask, "What was Asia? There is no suggestion, at this time, that it was a kingdom or a city Although a tribe of Lydians was known as Asian, that name is very likely secondary, and the usage of the Greek poets does not seem primarily to indicate a tribal name Instead we have the suggestions of a vague area extensive enough to be known for its sheep-pastures, with a sentimental connotation that apealed to poets We may possibly compare Albion as standing for England, or the common and continuing usage in France of a politically obsolete term like Normandy

A vague term has its advantages Possessing no fixed boundaries, it is subject to expansion

So, it must have been with Asia, when the Ionian philosophers of the sixth century began to sense a new geographical entity Immediately around them, politically, they knew a score or more of Greek city-states and various non-Hellenic kingdoms and tribes But, considering the question geographically, the whole westward-facing coast was one—an entity Moreover, it could usefully have a name Available was the old term Asia

The question of its extension is of interest Traditionally the name seems to cling to the northern and central region, where the River Cayster flowed out past the city of Ephesus The first step might have been to stretch the name to the southern coast as well

Of one part of our ancient situation we can be comfortably sure—Asia was a term limited to the eastern side of the Aegean

At the same time, having no set inland limits, it could expand in that direction, under the influence of the vigorous seafaring of the Ionians, interpreted by the philosophers Gradually, a vast land-mass began to take shape—northward, bounded by the Euxine, southward, by the sea to the east of Rhodes Eastward still,the land stretched on to Syria and Assyria, to Babylonia and Media Then, from somewhere far to the east, erupted the conquering Persians Anyone studying geography—or even living actively— needed some organising principle more than a hodgepodge of kingdoms, city-states, and tribal territories The name "Asia" helped supply this need

Postcript: The summer Invitation Quiz, 1988, will be held at the Dalhousie Institute on June 3, 4 and 5 At 5 pm on the first two days and at 6 pm on the final day Quiz master Francis Groser.

QUESTIONS

1. What does the term Vostok mean? (Sanjeev Kr Singh, Godda 33)
2. Recently, a famous dacoit, who made his entry into the *Guiness Book of World Records* through his "six and quarter feet" long moustache, was murdered Who was he? (Manoj Agarwal, Rourkela 1)
3. What is common to Ram Rekha Ghat, Sabarmati Ashram, Red Fort, Shalimar Gardens and Teen Murti House? (D P. Roy Chowdhury, Bhojudih 45)
4. Who is known as the "Mad Max" of Indian cricket? (Koustav Dasgupta, Calcutta 14)
5. Which Indian plant is known as "mother"? (Swapan Molla, Nadia 2)
6. In Russian, what is "Kaspiskoye More"? (Manoj Kr. Singh, BIT Sindhri)
7. On whose life is the film *The Leopard and the Fox* being made? (Rakesh R Sahay, BIT Sindri)
8. Who in the "Napoli" Football Club are called MAGICA? (Brijesh Kr Singh, BIT Sindri)
9. What is common to Goju, Wadoi, Chito, Shotoken and Shorin? (Tapan Kumar Sen, Calcutta 71)
10. What is common to Utpal Dutta and Rajiv Gandhi? (Anika Roy, Calcutta 9)

ANSWERS

1. East.
2. Karma Bhil of Jalsalmer, who was murdered on January 2 this year
3. Sound and light shows are shown in all these places
4. Krishnamachari Srikkant.
5. Tulsi Lord Krishna married her in the form of "Shalgramsila."
6. Caspian Sea.
7. On the rise and fall of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the subsequent rise of Zia-ul Haq. Roshan Seth acts as Bhutto and Shabana Azmi as Benazir. It will be shot in Cyprus and directed by Tarig Ali.
8. Maradona, Giordano and Careca The word is formed by taking two initial letters of their names
9. They are all different styles of karate.
10. Their names Both "Rajiv" and "Utpal" mean lotus

THE BUSINESS OF NATIONALISM

An appraisal of the 100-year-old Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Bengal Renaissance gained momentum during the latter part of the 19th century and with it was born the spirit of nationalism in the local business community. The British policy of discrimination and perfidity cast its shadow on a whole generation of indigenous entrepreneurs. The commercial climate compared closely to the political. At around the same time, groundwork for the formation of a national chamber started with the birth of the Indian National Congress in December 1885

Local business then was confined to trading in jute and rice and export and import. The immediate reason for the formation of the chamber was the British move to shift the export base for rice and jute to the Chittagong port.

The local traders gathered at the inaugural meeting on February 2, 1887, at the residence of Babu Chaturbhuj Narain and Babu Gobinda Narain in Hatkhola, and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) was formally inaugurated. The immediate focus was Bengal, but a national perspective was also discernible. The object of establishing the chamber was "to aid and stimulate the development of commercial enterprises in Bengal and to protect commercial interest of all persons trading therein; to promote unanimity of practice among the members of commercial community; to represent their views and requirements to the authorities; to arbitrate when the occasion occurs between parties willing to submit their differences and generally to do such things as may be conducive to the commercial classes of Bengal."

The formation of the chamber evoked mixed reactions. The *Bengalee* hailed its birth as "unequivocal testimony to the awakening of national life" and said the chamber "was more comprehensive than the European chambers as it included traders and shroffs." It suggested that the chamber should have the "right to nominate representatives to the Port Commission which was about to be recognised."



The *Bengal Hurkaru* and the *India Gazette* of February 4, 1887, however, sounded notes of caution. They questioned the need for more than one national chamber and felt that members of BNCCI were mainly petty and local traders.

The chamber started to make its presence felt. Within a month the BNCCI managed to get one of its nominees, R.D. Mehta, appointed commissioner of the Calcutta Port, breaking the domain of the Europeans. Other efforts included resisting attempts to impose a toll of 14 annas per 100 maunds of rice carried by country boats for maintenance of the eastern canal.

By 1890 the chamber gained recognition and the government sought its opinion on all major issues of public importance pertaining to revenue, judiciary, industry and commerce. The chamber also participated in the framing of the Revenue Sale Law, Record of Rights, Small Causes Court, Companies Act, Partnership Act and Factories Act

During the 1896 famine the chamber opposed the import of rice from Burma and offered to procure rice from the hinterland provided the government was willing to buy it after adding the transport charged. It asserted that there was no shortage of rice in the country and only some people were profiteering in a crisis situation. Its views prevailed.

During the Swadeshi movement, the chamber played an important role in propagating the need for industrialising Bengal and the eastern region by native entrepreneurs. The leading members of the chamber, Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy, Sitanath Roy, R N Mookerjee, Krishna Chandra Dey and Upendra Nath Sen, set up the first Indian-owned Bangaluxmi Cotton Mills in 1906 with a capital of Rs 12 lakhs. Then came Mohini Mills, which had Rabindranath Tagore on the board of directors. These competed with those in Manchester and reduced import, thus helping the emergence of the handloom and hosiery sectors by using yarns produced by these mills.

Over time, members of the chamber set up manufacturing units for drugs, chemicals, pottery, glass, ceramics, paints, tannery, footwear and consumer products like cigarettes, biscuits and ice factories. As the movement grew, iron and steel, foundry and engineering units also came to be established by the locals.

The chamber at its inaugural meeting itself decided to establish a technical college. The Bengal National College and School and the Bengal Technical Institute financed by its members were founded in 1906.

Even during the latter part of the British rule in the country it emphasised the need for planned economy, rural banking, the role of agriculture and cottage and small scale industries.

After Independence, the chamber continued to voice the views of the general businessmen, but its focus shifted to the development of West Bengal and the eastern region. The BNCCI participated in almost all forums and submitted its memorandum to governmental committees on economic issues. Almost all leading personalities addressed the members of the chamber from time to time and, as a member of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, its representatives substantially contributed in venting the views of the business community of the state.

The BNCCI continues its efforts to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship and it organises regular entrepreneurship development programmes in the districts. It recently set up a separate secretariat for this purpose. As part of its centenary celebration last year, the chamber organised a meeting of the eastern regional chamber of commerce where it resolved that the Centre should strive to do away with the regional imbalance and invest more in this part of the country

Amit Chakraborty

COMPUTER AND

India has decided to buy a US supercomputer amidst much fanfare. **Pathik Guha** explains what it is capable of and how useful it can be to this country

The C-shaped Cray-2, believed to be the fastest computer in operation today



What do global weather and terrorist attacks in western Europe have in common? Nothing, except that both the phenomena are now accurately predicted by the latest computers Most advanced as far as computing capability is concerned, these machines promise to revolutionise fields as diverse as filmmaking and designing, and drugs and killer weapons They are supercomputers, the outcome of scientists' zeal to make the chip increasingly efficient.

The department of science and technology (DST) of the government of India has recently signed a contract with the US firm, Cray Research Inc , to buy one such machine, named Cray XMP-14. The deal, which was clinched after two years of negotiations with the US government, is interesting for it takes India, or at least promises to take her, to the threshold of 21st century technology.

The machine worth $8.1 million is expected to arrive in India by the end of this year. The department of science and technology will spend an additional Rs 3.2 crores on electricals required for installation of the supercomputer

What makes the supercomputers so attractive? Why has India been so desirous of getting one from the USA? To understand that, we must realise that supercomputers are not merely fast machines, but something more than that Besides, they might soon rival the human brain. Tomorrow's supercomputers aim at achieving many of the feats that distinguish humans from other animals.

At the heart of the mechanism that runs these gigantic number-crunchers is the reasoning and decision-making power that is characteristic of a human brain. That is why the functioning style has been called 'artificial intelligence.' As it is, intelligence is a word very difficult to define. Human beings—or, for that matter, any other animal—exhibit its possession in almost all

SUPERCOMPUTER



Courtesy USIS

activities. It involves perception, reasoning and decision-making and all the three functions are supervised by that fascinating corporal part the brain The ultimate goal of the race in the field is to faithfully mimic the functioning of that marvel The computer scientists are aiming at building the thinking machines of tomorrow

For the last four decades, computer research has advanced in two different directions, namely, to make machines more and more efficient and to explore and copy, although at basic levels, the human intelligence. These two seemingly different goals—getting millions and billions of



Courtesy Cray Research Times

Seymour Cray

operations done in a second, and teaching a machine to perceive, reason and decide—are sure to help computers stand up to our wild expectations.

If an ordinary computer is a commoner among us, the supercomputer is the superman, both speedy and powerful While desktop or personal computers can perform operations only in thousands per second at the most, supercomputers have already achieved a million. Advanced ones like the Cray YMP in use in the USA complete billions of operations a second. The ones the scientists are aiming at will perform in trillions. Each one of them will be able to replace 10 million personal computers!

Not even a decade old, the making and marketing of supercomputers have become an enticing enough enterprise, and none of the big names in the computer industry seems to be left out of the race. Not to speak of Cray Research Inc of Minneapolis, the frontrunner in the field from which India is buying its supercomputer, the International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation, Hitachi, Fujitsu and Nippon Electronics Corporation (NEC) are all in the business, too, competing with one another for a bigger slice of the pie However, of the nearly 300 supercomputers now operating all over the globe, 178 are of Cray Research

The operations in this business are no less interesting than those going on in the intricate processors of the supercomputers So are the characters involved in the game Altogether, they present the trappings of a novel

At the centrestage is Seymour Cray, 62, the publicity-shy scientist from Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin, who has always been the first to come up with the best machine that his competitors could only envy. His has been a record unrivalled by his contemporaries. He designed the CDC-1604 (1960), CDC-6600 (1964), CDC-7600 (1969), Cray-1 (1976) and Cray-2 (1985) No wonder he is compared to Edison and Bell, past masters of electronic gadgetry and inventors of the electric bulb and telephone.

The innovator par excellence is now busy in upgrading the Cray-2 and building the Cray-3 by next year, only to take up work for the next-in-line Cray-4 Innovations have always been his forte For the Cray-3, he is making commercial use of chips made of gallium arsenide instead of the usual silicon What he has in mind is to enhance tenfold the speed of the electric current passing the minute circuits The improved design is sure to make the supercomputer far more expensive than its present cousins, but the inventor is least bothered

The sought-after personality in the supercomputer business, though slightly less glamorous than the legendary Cray, is the Chinese-born Steve Chen, the 44-year-old former colleague of Cray's Chen's leaving Cray Research—an outcome that has been described as a personality clash with the supercomputer *guru*—has been IBM gain. When Chen abruptly quit Cray Research last September as vice-president he was tense about the manufacturer's reluctance to let him go ahead with m



Steve Chen: Cray Research's loss which turned into IBM's gain

ambitious plans of upgrading some supercomputers. The phenomenal expertise of this doctorate in electronic engineering from the University of Illinois took everyone by surprise as he went on renovating one Cray machine after another after he joined the company in 1979. The Cray XMP (the category India will be buying) is his brainchild and actually a modification of the Cray-1. It has become the all-time bestseller among supercomputers with already more than 120 installed all over the world. Maybe, it is this success that made the management of the company encourage this prodigy to always go for the latest.

When Chen submitted plans to channel funds for the next-in-line Cray YMP he got the green signal from the bosses But his ego suffered a serious jolt as costs escalated and Cray Research, fearing an expenditure of $100 million, cancelled the project. Humiliated, Chen left Cray Research and signed a contract with the IBM. The machine that he and his colleagues are now building will be 100 times faster than any supercomputer in the market now

The researchers in various fields of science are fully cashing in on the expertise of the latest supercomputers and right now there is hardly any discipline where this machine is not helpful for advanced studies. Astrophysics is a case in point. It is no longer merely a subject of observation and annotation. Today's astrophysicists, hungry as they are for knowledge of minute cosmic event, are forced to seek help from the supercomputers for their search. To answer such primeaval queries as how galaxies were born, how exploding supernovas spewed forth the materials for future stars and planets and how matter was formed from its primary constituents in billionths of a second after the Big Bang, they are forced to go in for supercomputers, for some of these events are either very long- or very short-time affairs.

Take, for example, the process of star formation. It took billions of years and took place as many years ago. To know the details of that we have to mimic the conditions that prevailed long long ago and take into account exceptionally large numbers of parameters that the human mind mind cannot cope with. The supercomputer is ideally suited for the job, ready to calculate and find answers to millions of problems at a time Services of supercomputers are also hired for arcane studies like this one because no astrophysicist can remain alive for billions of years to study the phenomenon in detail Likewise, supercomputers help scientists visualise activities of specific drugs, efficacy of a particular kind of bullet in warfare, wind deformities when aeroplanes whizz past them at supersonic speeds: all are phenomena that cannot be observed by the naked eye. Nuclear power engineers in the USA have already consulted supercomputers in assessing the possible losses in a Chernobyl-type disaster in atomic power plants there. Obviously, it is not possible to make the assessment without simulation studies. We can hardly expect a real life disaster to do the job!

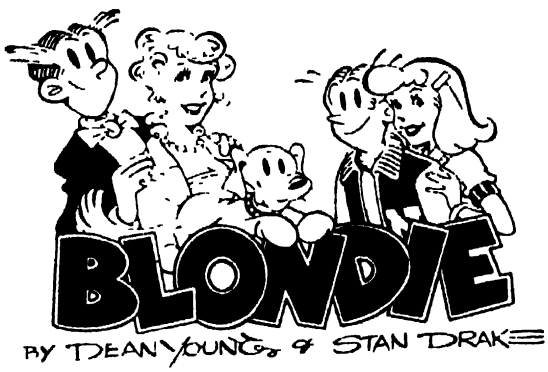
As has been the case in the two World Wars, research and development in this field seems to get impressive patronage from defence planners including those of the Pentagon. Cray computers have been late seventies, in the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico where nuclear bombs are designed. No wonder the USA is too afraid of technology pilferage to sell advanced supercomputers to any member of the Soviet bloc or a country that does not have bad relations with the USSR! This is the only country in the entire communist world to have supercomputers of its own. The Coordinating Committee of Export Controls (COCOM)—the international organisation having supervisory powers over technology transfer—has been influenced by the Pentagon to become sensitive on the issue.

The US sale of supercomputers to India has been delayed mainly on two issues. the Indian insistence on buying the better version Cray XMP-24 and the US suspicion that she might make covert use of the machine for defence purposes. The Indian authorities have apparently convinced their US counterparts that they will use the Cray XMP-14 solely for their officially stated purpose.

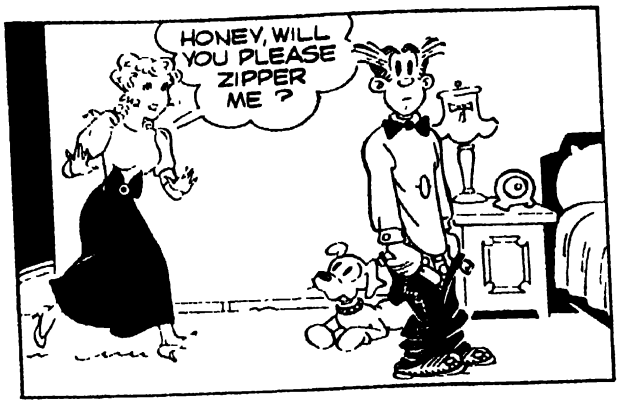
The supercomputer will help prepare medium-range weather forecast, three to 10 days in advance The information will be passed on to agriculturists based in the Agrometeorological Field Units (AMFU) to be established all over the country. The AMFU will cover three or four districts corresponding to a nearly homogeneous agro-climatic zone The units will also prepare and issue contingency crop practices for farmers in the event of droughts and flood, besides developing, preparing and disseminating agro-meteorological operational advice on a day-to-day basis.

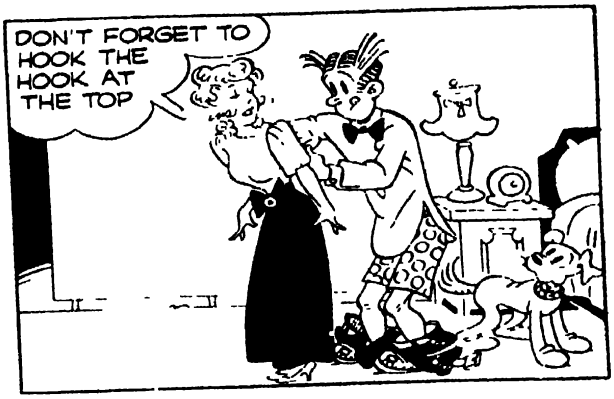
In India, where agricultural practices are heavily dependent on weather patterns, one can hardly deny the importance of accurate weather predictions. It is also true that a supercomputer can beautifully perform millions of computations involving data on wind circulation, pressure, humidity and temperature in a second. Supercomputers are reportedly very efficient on this count, providing 90 per cent accurate predictions on weather in the USA.

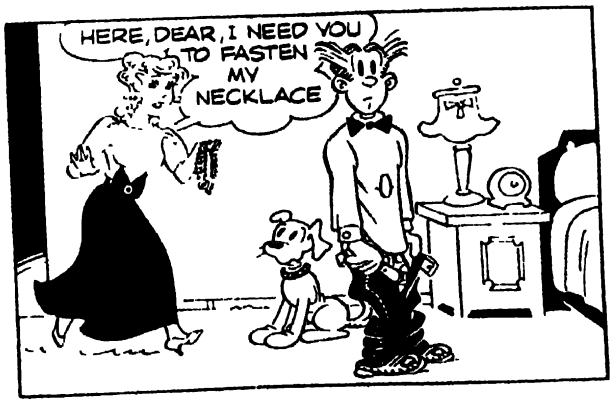
But the nagging question that remains to be answered here is: Can we afford such a huge expenditure for just one purpose? If we are not allowed to make use of the machine for any purpose other than weather forecasting will it not turn out to be just an expensive toy? Advocates of the machine argue that our scientists will gain expertise on the mechanism of the supercomputer. But, then, we are not going to make a similar machine nor will we be allowed to do so. Maybe, by purchasing the Cray XMP-14 we will earn the distinction of being the only Third World country to boast of possessing such an advanced machine.■



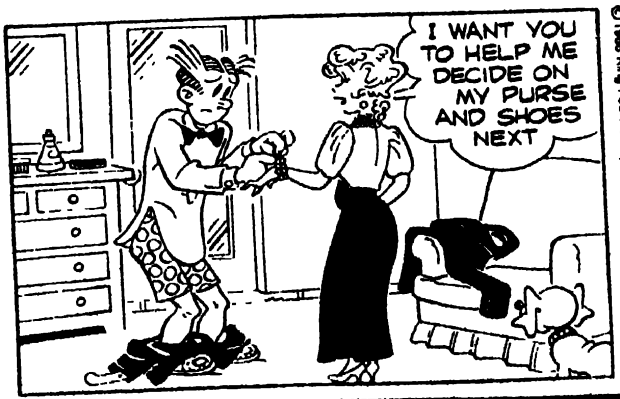




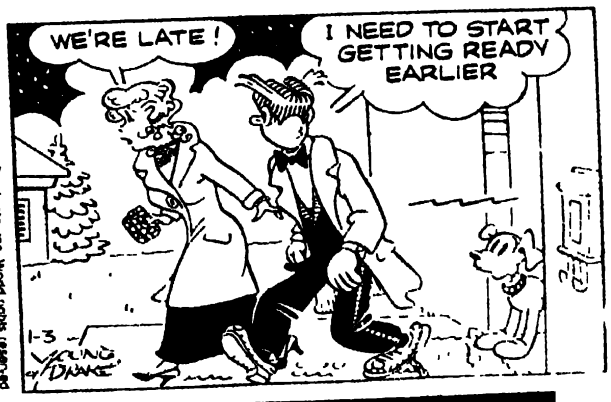








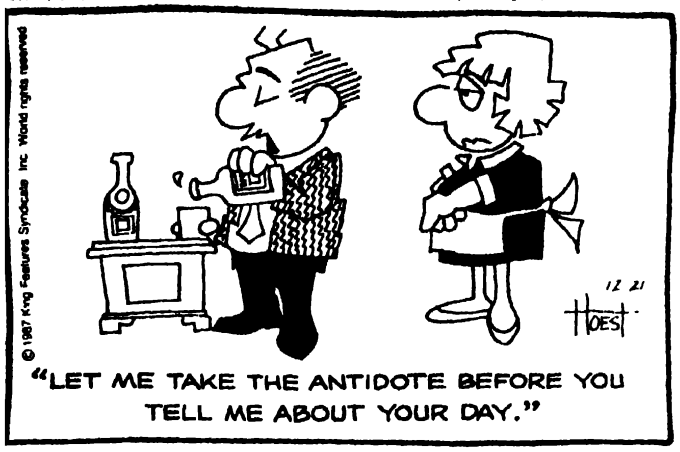
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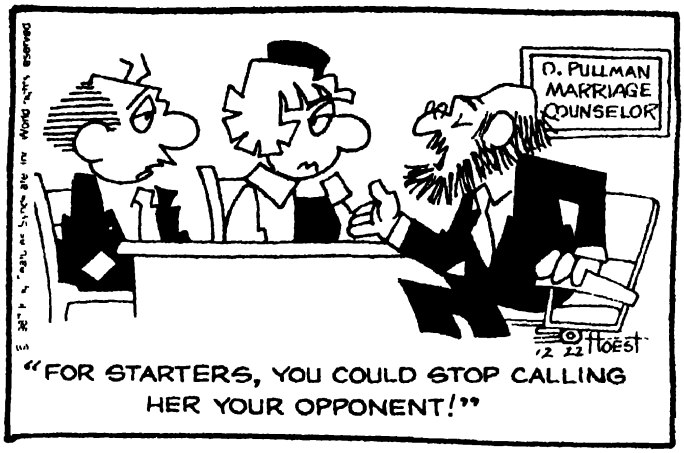
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



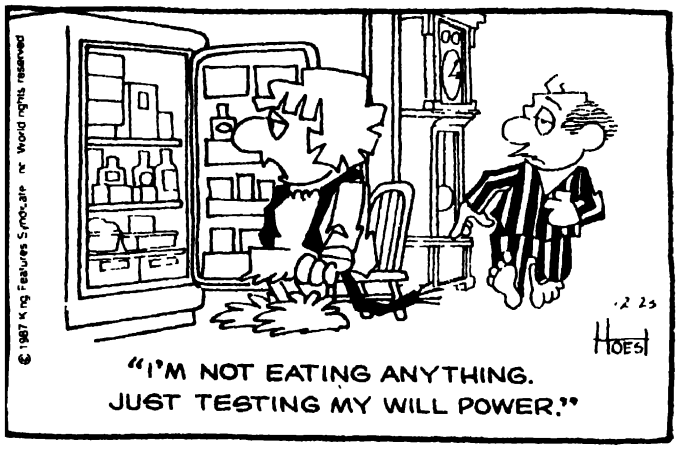
THE LOCKHORNS



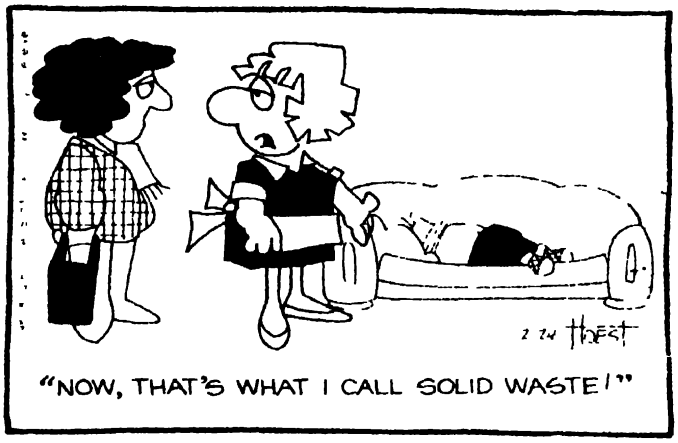
"LET ME TAKE THE ANTIDOTE BEFORE YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY."



"FOR STARTERS, YOU COULD STOP CALLING HER YOUR OPPONENT!"

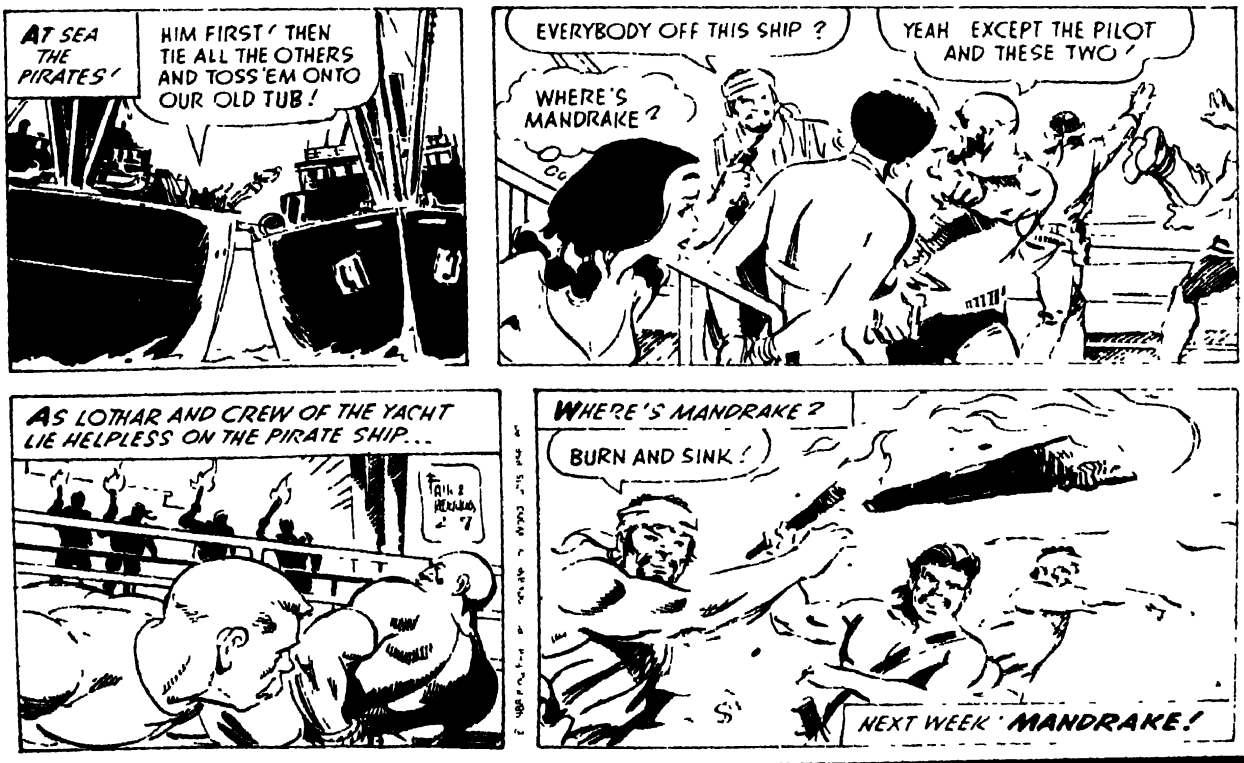


"I'M NOT EATING ANYTHING. JUST TESTING MY WILL POWER."



"NOW, THAT'S WHAT I CALL SOLID WASTE!"

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


HEY, JUG, WATCH IT!
SLAM


REAL OAK DOORS DON T GROW ON TREES, YOU KNOW!


WHERE'S ARCHIE?
IN THE YARD, CHOPPING DOWN THAT DEAD TREE!

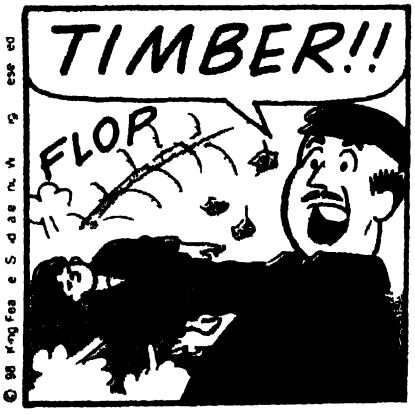

THE MIGHTY LUMBERJACK IS READY TO FELL A TREE!


PUFF! PUFF! THIS REALLY SAPS YOUR S-STRENGTH!
CHO


PHEW! I CAN T DO ANYMORE! I'M BUSHED! I CAN HARDLY MOVE!
11-22


I FEEL ROOTED TO THIS SPOT.
WHAT'S UP, PAUL BUNYON?
WHACK


HUH? OH-OH!


TIMBER!!
FLOP

NOW THAT SUMMER IS HERE...





...one reaches out for the simple hand-fan, made of palm leaves, a little cord, and some paint. Whether in rural India or power-affected metropolitan cities, its utility is unquestioned even in the age of the microchip

Photographs Chitrajit Ghosh

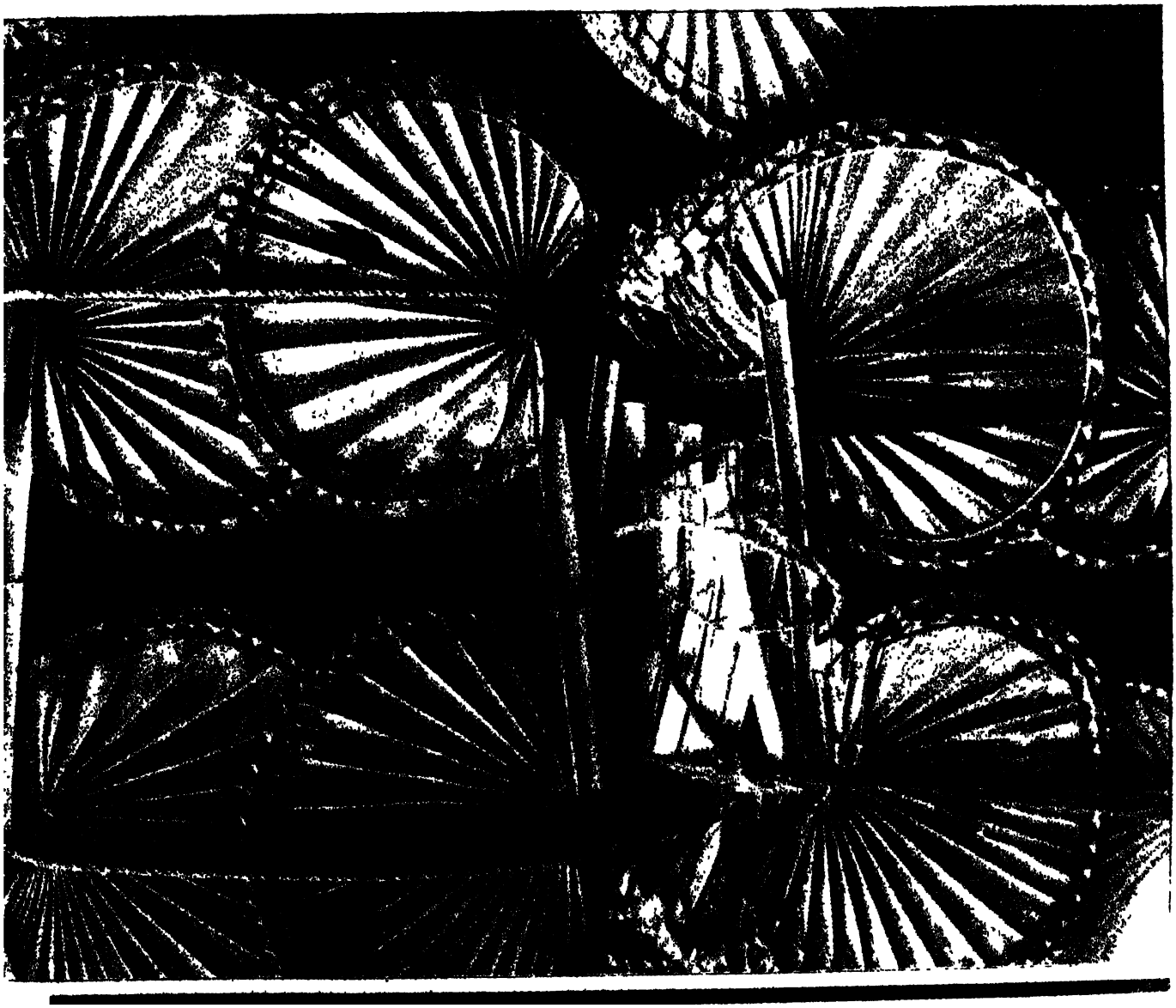












REALISING A DREAM

Rita Mary Giles' homely face glowed with pure happiness as she surveyed the motley company tucking into a simple wedding lunch—her wedding lunch. By her side sat Sebastian Mondol, her husband of just over two hours. Both Rita and Sebastian looked like the unlettered, underprivileged people they are. People who have never dared to dream except this once

For 26 years, since she was born, Rita stayed at the St Joseph's Convent at Chandannagore. She was reared by the affectionate sisters of the order who have brought up and married off several such girls. Rita was given a basic eduction but the sisters, soon realising she had no fondness for books, sent her for training in needlework. Rita, however, had no aptitude for the needle either.

The sisters, astonishingly naive even in this age, then realised that Rita had a secret desire—to get married. They set about looking for a groom with the zeal of the most protective parents. Once Sebastian was found, and declared suitable, a sister was dispatched to his village to check out his antecedents.



Saibal Das

The couple signs the register

Earlier this month, the sisters of St Joseph's Convent, Chandannagore, married off one of their wards, an orphan brought up by them. A look at this labour of love



Rita and Sebastian with the sisters of St Joseph's Convent



Rita Mary Giles gets an affectionate send-off

She came back satisfied. Sebastian's widowed mother was found to be affectionate and suitably eager to see her eldest son married off, and the family's property [illegible] thoroughly inspected. Preparations were then initiated. Rita was sent to Marina's house, a servant at the convent, to learn cooking, cleaning, washing and basic stitching so she would not find herself unprepared for her new role.

Sebastian, a farmer with property, had looked after his younger brothers and mother after his father's death. A slight man with intense eyes, he was waiting for just such a simple, caring girl as Rita The sisters threw themselves into the wedding preparations with their usual enthusiasm. Sarees were bought. The resident teachers of the school presented Rita with the utensils she would need in her new life. Sister Marietta, Sister Superior, bought a gold chain, two pairs of gold earrings, a ring and her wedding saree of ochre and zari stripes. Rita was also given a white veil and new maroon slippers.

Talking of the bride, Sister Rosalie, who has been at the convent for 33 years and almost handreared Rita, says she is an affectionate girl of no great aspirations. "She is a simple girl and very good with children. We hope she will be very happy "

Sister Brigette, whose recent fall and resultant painful leg, did not slow her down at all, says the last such wedding took place 20 years ago. "We pay these girls a salary Since they live and eat with us we save it up for just such an occasion," she says. Rita is being given Rs 2,000 besides all her presents, to help start her new life. She has earned the amount by her work at the convent.

On their wedding day (May 9), both Rita and Sebastian had that faintly disbelieving look on their faces of people who cannot quite believe that dreams come true. In a blue safari suit, supplied on demand by the bride's side, Sebastian, and in her gold and ochre saree, Rita, took their vows in low voices in Chandannagore's beautiful church on the banks of the Ganga. There was, however, no faltering or hesitation on either side. The marriage service was conducted in Bengali by Father Henry.

The sisters, more than usually happy, kissed Rita on both cheeks and assured her that she was always welcome home. The wedding, the lunch, the leavetaking, did in no way suggest that the bride stood alone in the world. All due to a handful of women in white who have taken it upon themselves to stand by the lonely.

Shoma Bhowmick

THE ROMANCE OF THE RAILWAY

The old Trans-Siberian Railway rolled through for days on end, but it was the stuff that romance is made of. A new line parallel to the old was commissioned four years ago and Som Benegal writes about the advantages of this track

Siberia. The word conjures up many images. For those who recall hearing Borodin's brooding, *On the Steppes of Central Asia*, it is redolent of camel bells and endless flat territory dotted here and there by caravans wending their slow-gaited way across its trackless waste

Others may be reminded of the famous Japanese director Akira Kurosawa's classic film, *Dersu Uzala*, with its haunting images of vast expanses and long distances, the primeval forests called taiga, and the boundless scrub, desolate and directionless in which a man could wander and wander and never find his destination. And yet others may conjure up an earlier picture of the Mongol leader Chengiz Khan thundering down its steppes on his unstoppable conquering mission which carried him to the gates of Europe.

Siberia. It was here to which the great Lenin was sent into exile by the Russian Czar to one of its remote villages, Shushenskoye, which is now a large town and has a museum dedicated to his memory. Siberia has also seen others, writers, scientists and intellectuals braving in exile the deep frozen winter and hard living conditions.

And yet the celebrated Norwegian Arctic explorer, Fridtjot Nansen, wrote in 1913 about Siberia: "Here there are endless expanses, with great possibilities only waiting to be turned to account.....I have come to love it, this boundless land, mighty as the ocean itself, with its infinite plains and its mountains—its frozen Arctic Coast—its free and desolate tundra—its deep, mysterious taiga, from the Urals to the Pacific—its grass-grown rolling steppes—its purple-wooded hills and its scattered patches of human life "

And it is this land that Czar Alexander III surveyed on his map in 1891 and saw that it bestrode his Russian fatherland stretching over thousands of kilometres from the waters of the Atlantic in the west at the Baltic Sea to the Pacific in the east at the Sea of Japan off Vladivostok And he dreamed the dream of his predecessors from the great Peter to link the two sides by gathering them together in a communication system The dream by 1891 could be realised by the new technological advance then available—the railways Czar Alexander boldly drew a line from the Urals to the Sea of Japan on his map and said, "Let a railway be laid across Russia " His engineers took up the challenge and so 13 years later was born the great Trans-Siberian Railway. It ran an almost unswerving route along plains and hills, and mountains and forests and steppes and rivers and lakes--the most famous of the lakes being the sickle-shaped Lake Baikal, the world's deepest,being 1620 metres in depth. It is also unique in being a fresh water lake. From Moscow the old railway ran down to Irkutsk at the south of Lake Baikal and on to Khabarovsk and Vladivostok.

This old Great Trans-Siberian Railway was made by courageous Russian pioneers who built settlements and strongholds braving the wilderness. For many years, night and day round the year, through the brief summer and the long, seemingly endless, winter of Siberia goods trains in long convoys carried machinery, wood, iron ore, oil and other commodities from the west to Irkutsk and beyond to the east upto Vladivostok. Ninety-six stations dotted this old line. It was a romantic experience to travel by this train, but it could also be frightfully boring rolling for days and days through the interminable plain and forest Today, the jet plane from Moscow to Irkutsk cuts the journey to a few hours and another few hours to Vladisvostok.

The romance of the railway today is the exciting new project of the second Trans-Siberian Railway adventure Commissioned just four years ago, this new railway has a track of over 3,000 kms but built north of the old track reducing the overall length of the journey to the far east. This railway runs parallel to the old line, but instead of heading south of Lake Baikal goes along the northern end and cuts to the Amur River and to the Pacific Ocean. It is called BAM- the Baikal-Amur Mainline.

Why this new line? Because it cuts deep into Siberia And what has prompted this urge to open up Siberia? Because in all these years the desolate communities who

Electric energy generated by the Zeya Hydro-electric station serves the needs of BAM builders



have inhabited its inhospitable regions along the old railway track have hardly scratched the surface of the rich prosperity that lies beneath. The opening up of Siberia means the unlocking of a literal and metaphorical gold mine. It is the road to undreamed of economic progress and prosperity. Gold, iron ore, precious metals, timber (millions of cubic feet to be cut without impairing the ecology), coal, oil and gas. And an incredible 50,000 rivers that could energise turbines to produce electricity. Nansen's vision unfolding today.

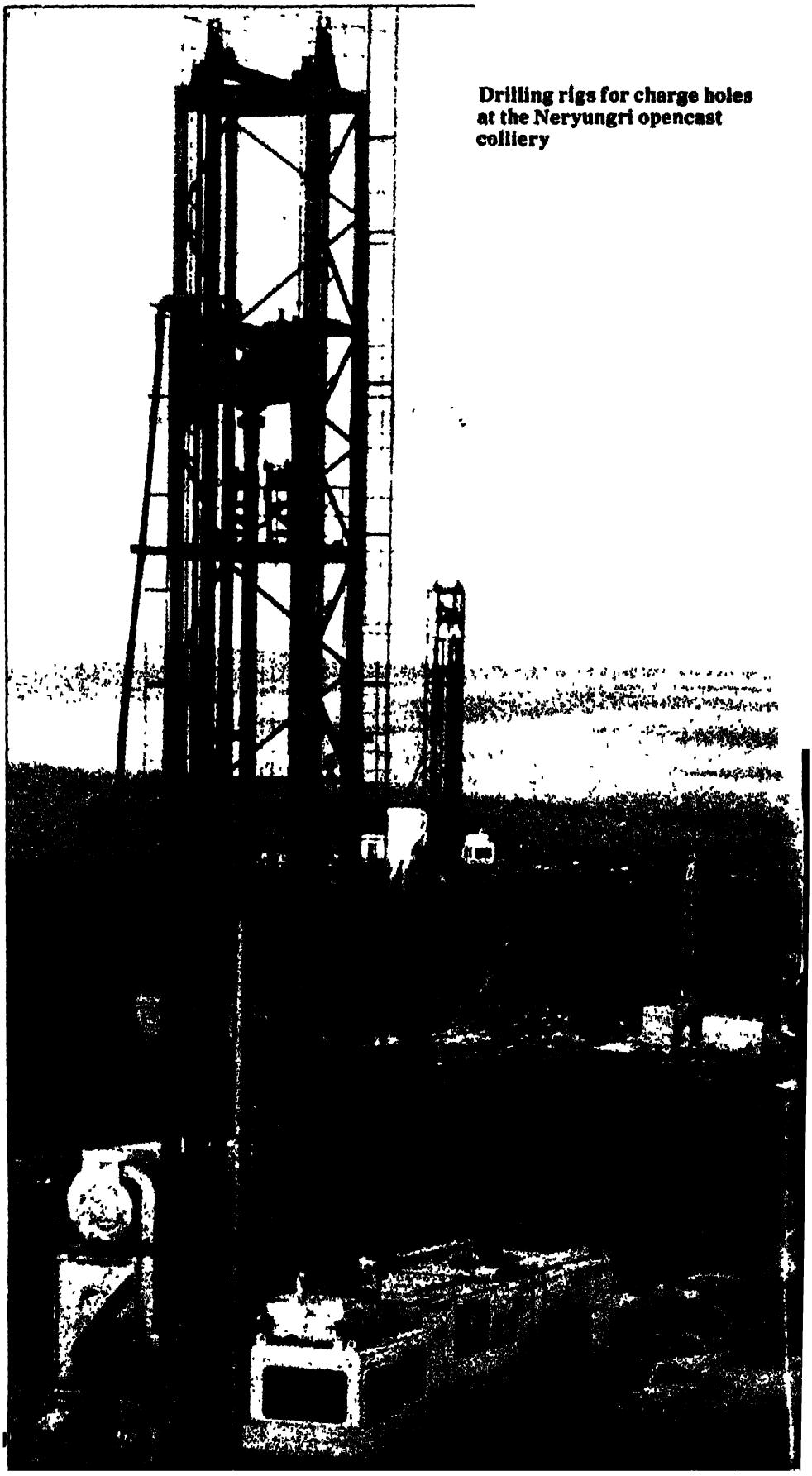
And so the Soviet Planning Committee decided that Siberia would be the fourth largest heavy industry complex in the USSR. Huge construction sites, high-capacity hydro-power systems and modern cities with high-rise apartments would transform the Siberian landscape.

As Valentin Koptyug, vice chairman of the Soviet Academy of Sciences who also chairs its Siberian section, said. "Over the last two decades Siberia has become the USSR's biggest fuel and energy supply base. In addition, territorial-production complexes have been established there of great importance for the national economy The standard of living and the working conditions of the people in Siberia have improved considerably."

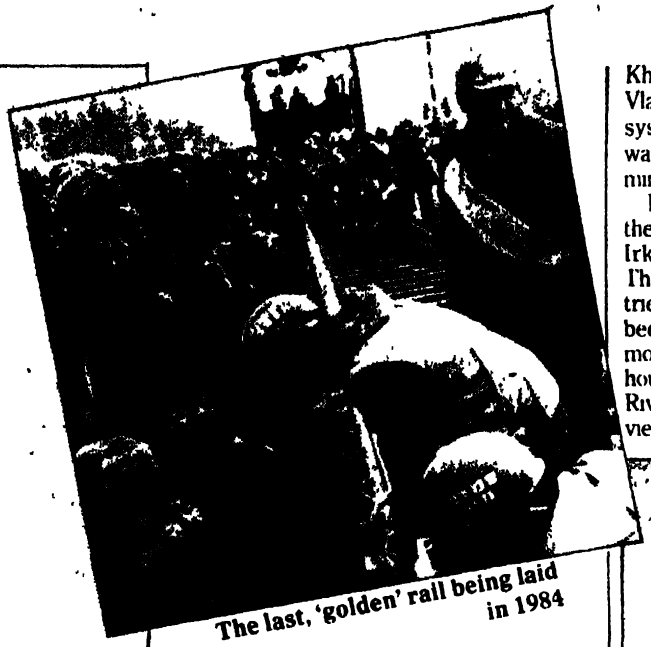
The region's share in the country's economic potential is expanding rapidly. In 1984 Siberia, which accounts for eight per cent of the USSR's population, provided 62 per cent of the oil, 54 per cent of the gas and 33 per cent of the coal produced in the country. Siberia further more accounted for 25 per cent of the metals, 12 per cent of the chemical fibre, 26 per cent of the commercial and sawn timber, 12 per cent of the grain and 9 per cent of the meat and milk.

But the task of opening up Siberia was not an easy one. Nor the task of building BAM, the second Trans-Siberian Railway. The bare statistics are staggering. To lay over 3,000 kms of track required digging out nearly 350 million cu m of earth, cutting 30 kms of tunnels, and throwing across more than 2,000 bridges to span the hundreds of streams and rivers, that criss-cross this immense area. It meant practically one bridge for every 1,500 m! Seven mountain ranges had to be crossed and also sandy deserts found on the ground but not on any map. Sixty railway stations with accompanying infrastructure had to be built

Siberia offered no warm welcome to the pioneers. The climate over the greater part is rigorous and sharply continental. In summertime, it is 5° Celsius in the Arctic north to 23°C in the steppes. The soil over two-thirds of Siberia, or six million sq km is permanently frozen, ranging in depth



Drilling rigs for charge holes at the Neryungri opencast colliery



The last, 'golden' rail being laid in 1984

from 200 to 500 m– a phenomenon called permafrost The winter brings in intense cold. Construction teams have to work at minus 40°C, and in one place Oimyakon the temperature dips down to minus 71°C! Apart from the chilling climate the terrain is often highly seismic which means there are earthquakes and when the snows melt the rivers become torrents, avalanches and landslides are common

Against this formidable opposition of nature at its severest and most challenging, several hundreds of thousands of recruits slogged away at opening up Siberia and the BAM was laid over 3,200 kms. Teams of track construction workers, mechanised teams, bridge and tunnel squads, equipped with all kinds of gear, set up production facilities and got down to their main job They were helped with heavy duty trucks from the Kremenchug motorworks, excavators from Voronezh and Donetsk and bulldozers from Chelyabinsk. Timbering and wood-working plants helped to supply comfortable and warm pre-fab houses

As a traveller reported, "Today, through the train window you can see railwaymen's neat settlements, new industrial plants, collieries, tall stacks of thermal power stations, a meshwork of high-voltage lines, timbering and petrochemical works, livestock farms, and resorts along the picturesque shores of Lake Baikal and around mineral springs "

Many of these are new, but many founded long ago have now flowered in the Soviet years into large research, industrial and cultural centres. The railway has changed the lifestyle of the innumerable ethnic communities like the Yakuts, Buryats, Chuckchis, Khanty, Mansi, Khakha, Tuva, Udeghe to name but a few. Patches of human life have become towns, and towns have become cities, Tyumen, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, Chita, Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-on-Amur, and Vladivostok hum with giant hydro-electric systems, airports, seaports and riverways, factories, mills, gold and diamond mines,' state and collective farms

Roughly halfway between the Urals in the west and Vladivostok in the far East is Irkutsk, the star tourist attraction Thousands of travellers from far-off countries, including teams from India, have been to this fascinating town which has modern hotels, restored churches and houses from older times. The Angara River and Lake Baikal offer beautiful views, hydrofoils for a spin on the lake in summer and skiing around the lake in winter There is also limited bear hunting, but extensive bird watching It is interesting to note that cranes from Irkutsk fly thousands of kilometres each year to Bharatpur in India to nest there in winter No one knows what directional aid brings these flights of birds so accurately to their destination and back



The largest Soviet coal dressing mill in the township of Neryungri

Irkutsk is only just one place along a vast track being transformed by the new wave of reconstruction or "perestroika" now sweeping the Soviet Union As perestroika gains ground, more and more places will feel the impact of economic and human development.

Modern transport and especially the jet liners have made the railways obsolete and redundant in many developed countries The romance seems to have gone out of them. The great railroads across Canada and the United States which also were sagas of human endeavour have become ghosts. The railways in India have been constantly improved and expanded and they still offer the most powerful and widespread transportation system to the people. But the romance of the Trans-Siberian Railway remains undiminished a stirring epic story of the indomitable spirit of man and his determination to tame nature rather than be tamed by it ■

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aaj Ke Angaarey:** Elite (S N. Banerjee Road; 241383), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue, 390762)—4 shows; Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)—all noon show.

The film is directed by Vinod K Verma and the music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)—4 shows.

Directed by K Bapaiah, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra, Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T Prakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kabzaa:** Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382).

A film by Mahesh Bhatt, starring Raj Babbar, Sanjay Dutt, Dimple Kapadia and Amrita Singh. The music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Mohabbat Ke Dushman (A):** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932), Park Show House (Park Street, 441971), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street; 354450), Jaya (Lake Town, 573936), Madhuban (Regent Park).

A Prakash Mehra film, starring Raaj Kumar, Hema Malini, Farha, Sanjay Dutt and Pran. The music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Basusree (S.P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows.

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film. The music is by Anand Milind

• **Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S N. Banerjee Road, 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440).



Sridevi in *Ram Avtar*

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor.

• **Sherni:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473)—4 shows.

Directed by Harmesh Malhotra and with music by Kalyanji Anandji, the cast includes Shatrughan Sinha, Sridevi, Kader Khan and Amrish Puri.

• **Veerana:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road; 474403), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522)—4 shows.

Hemant Birje and Sahila Chadha are the lead pair in this film, directed by Tulsi Ramsay and Shyam Ramsay. Others in the cast are Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Satish Shah, Vijayendra and Gulshan Grover The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Waaris:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—11 45, 2.45, 5 45, 8.45

Directed by Ravinder Peepat, the film stars Smita Patil, Raj Babbar, Amrita Singh, Raj Kiran, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Sushma Seth and Amrish Puri. The music is by Uttam Jagdish

• **Zalzala:** Opera (Lenin Sarani), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road: 350680), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437)—4 shows, Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)—3 shows

Dharmendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Rajeev Kapoor, Anita Raaj and Danny comprise the cast of this Harish Shah film The music is by R D Burman

Bengali Films

• **Agoon:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S P. Mukherjee Road, 473462)—3, 5 45, 8 30, Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—2 30, 5.15, 8

A film by Victor Banerjee, who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Tanuja, Divya Rana, Utpal Dutt, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra, Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury The music is by R D Burman

• **Ora Chaarjan:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080)—2 30, 5 30, 8 30.

Samit Bhanja's first directorial venture, starring Dilip Roy, Swarup Dutta, Chinmoy Roy, Abhisek Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Shakuntala Barua, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit The music is by Arun Rabin

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayasree T. and Sukhen Das. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

Special Events

29 May-4 June

Samaresh Bandopadhyay will hold his exhibition of paintings in the West Gallery

30 May onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by students of Shilpayan in the New Gallery.

31 May onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Rebanto Goswami in the New South Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205).

29 May: 5.30 pm; 30 May: 6 pm

The last two days of Kerala Cultural Festival, organised by Calcutta Malayalee Samajam in collaboration with the government of Kerala, features Bharata Natyam, Oppana, Tacholikali, folk dances and Kathakali on the 29th and group dance, Kalarippayat, Margamkali and Kathakali on the concluding evening.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani; 449086)

2 June: 6 pm

Uttar Kalikata Bandhu Samabesh's cultural evening features songs by Hemanta Mukherjee and Suchitra Mitra and recitation by Partha and Gouri Ghosh.

At Girish Mancha (Bagbazar).

4 June onwards: 6.30 pm

Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Indian Mime Theatre present a four-day pantomime show by the Moscow Ensemble of Plastic Drama as part of the Festival of the USSR in India.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road; 449937).

Kalarippayat

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (1): AI-103 at 2350

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1) AI-132A at 1805

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (2) AI-316 at 1910, Dep (2). AI-316 at 2020

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (3) AI-307 at 2015, Dep. (3) AI-307 at 2115

Delhi-Calcutta-Hong Kong: Arr (4) AI-324 at 1050, Dep (4) AI-324 at 1150

Hong Kong-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay: Arr (4). AI-325 at 2235, Dep (4) AI-325 at 2330

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Moscow: Arr (4) SU-537 at 1555 Dep. (4) SU-538 at 1855

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-411 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6, 7), IC-247 at 1510; Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC 218 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7): IC-444 at 1920 Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1115 Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG 694 at 1715 and IC 223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC 224 at 1540 Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG 313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5), GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC 402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC 444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945; Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC 478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC 477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr. (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC 542 at 0620, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily): IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6): IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7), IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7): IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1, 4 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6) IC-203 at 0625 Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily) PF-701 at 0930, Arr. (daily) PF 702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily). PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300, Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-707 at 0610, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Ranchi Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 1, 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF 710 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur.

BARTER BAZAAR

• **Stamps:** I offer 226 rare Indian and foreign stamps for posters of Bruce Springsteen, Samantha Fox and Sylvester Stallone and one cassette of either Paul McCartney's *Press to Play* or *Duran Duran*'s *Notorious* Contact Badsha Kundu, 432/4, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Calcutta 45

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's MBBS foundation course, a biology book by M.B.V Roberts and *Ordinary level Physics* by Abbot for a camera with flash Contact Vinod P. Rajendran, Flat no. 6, ground floor, 90/1/2, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 20.

• **Books:** I would like to exchange a new set of Britannica's junior encyclopedia for boys and girls for a BPL-Sanyo or National stereo cassette recorder. Contact Krittivas Mukherjee, c/o United News of India, Unit 3, Bhubaneswar 751001.

• **Moped:** I offer a Suvega Deluxe moped in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact Partho Bhattacharya, 55-H 6, Chenab Road, Sakchi, Jamshedpur 831001.

• **Study material:** I offer TMH model solutions to the IIT entrance examinations from 1982 to 1986 for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sumit Sangam, 17, Tata College, Chaibasa, Bihar 833202.

• **Ring:** I offer a new silver ring studded with precious gems for anything of corresponding value. Contact Thakurdas, India Gift House, Grand Hotel Arcade, 15/4, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 13.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat.	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep.—Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep.—Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

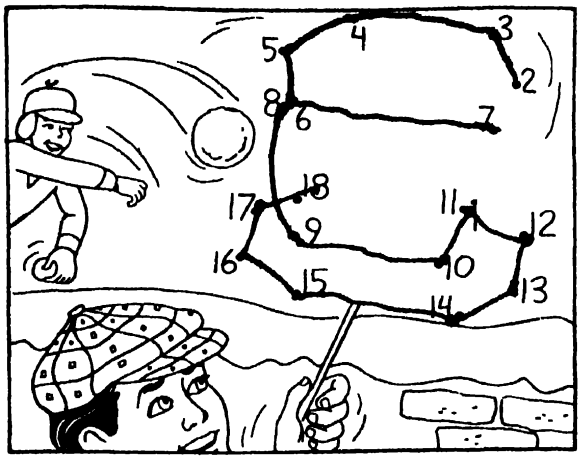
Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round-the-clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information.

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



ON TARGET! What can you draw to complete this old-time winter scene? To find out, add lines 1 to 2 to 3, etc

• **SUM POEM!** Five and one, five and one, and then five hundred, if this is not clear, then someone has blundered How is this explained?

Fi ve an aquiv ilents of numbers mentioned form word VIVID



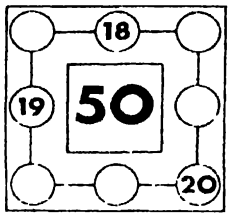
ZANY RIDDLES TO PONDER!
Our friend above is hard pressed to find answers to these curious riddles Can you help him with them?
1. What is it that has neither length, breadth or thickness, yet can be felt?
2. What is it that nobody has ever seen, but many have heard, tho' it never speaks unless spoken to?
3. What is it that we cannot touch, cannot feel, seldom use, but cannot do without?
4. What is it that no man ever yet did see, which never was, but is to be?

1 A kiss 2 An echo 3 A shadow 4 Tomorrow

• **FIVE-O HO! Challenge: Place consecutive numbers 13 through 20 in blanks of the square below so that numbers on each of the four sides total 50. Three of the numbers—18, 19 and 20—are already in place. How quickly can you add the remaining four?**

Remember, each of the sides is to total 50.

Top, across 15, 16, 17, middle 18, 13, Bottom 16, 14, 20



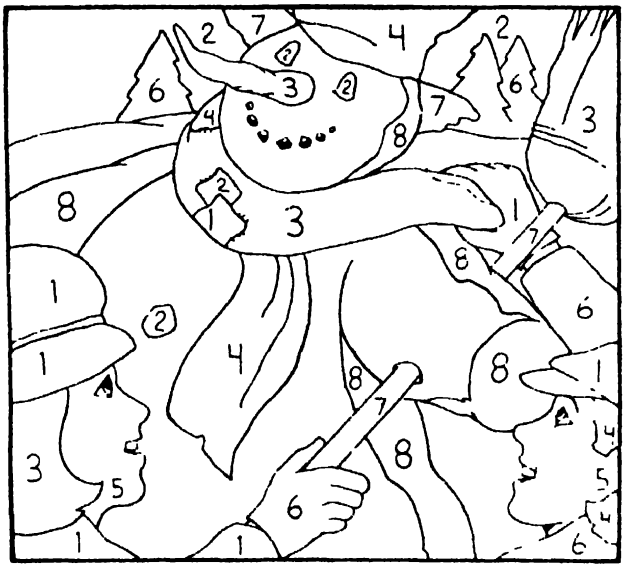
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Sign is missing 2 Leash is different 3 Dog's head is turned 4 Neckline is different 5 Bag top is different. 6 Dish is missing

FUNSPOT



COOL, MAN! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to the snowman scene above Colors 1—Red 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Dk Green. 7—Dk brown 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

INFORMAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Ho, hole anagram Lion Tam

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The full moon spurs you towards travel, collaborations, rites, rituals, investments and joint ventures This is the time to remember your ancestors The ill health of a loved one may worry you Your honour and prestige may increase by leaps and bounds Friends and loved ones will recognise your worth

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Financiers, producers, manufacturers, industrialists, bankers and brokers will make big kills now. Matters pertaining to loans, mortgages, shares, debentures, taxes, joint accounts, liabilities and balance sheets will keep you busy You may fall ill or meet with an accident, so take all precautions

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Despite minor irritants and obstacles, joint ventures and partnerships continue to be a source of pleasure and profit Strong attachments are indicated for the fancyfree and eligible Widowers may now remarry Friends and relatives will demand attention Matters pertaining to home, property and taxation may worry you An addition to the family is likely.

CANCER

June 21—July 20

Be prepared for some hard work in the week ahead However, do not shirk from any job that presents itself as the rewards will be ample. Moon trines sun and travel, with a possible stop over, is a strong possibility You may receive important news A contract or assigment may be given to you. Do not refuse an offer because immediate gains do not seem forthcoming

LEO

July 21—August 21

Matters pertaining to the heart gain prominence this week. An eventful time ahead for those interested in drama, writing, travel, tourism, theatre, show business, entertainment, sports and leisure. Do your best to be tolerant and good humoured. You will meet interesting people who will stimulate you mentally. Colleagues and bosses will recognise your worth.



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

You are likely to travel extensively now. Refurbishing, decoration, renovation, alteration, overhauling of goals and buying and selling are foretold. Parents and elders may show an unusual interest in your affairs However, do not let that bother you. The health of family members may cause concern as moon conjuncts Saturn

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

This will be an eventful and satisfying week in the sense that you will get whatever you are striving for Those in the media will be able to put across their point of view Matters pertaining to import-export, sales and distribution will gain prominence This is the time to launch a product or embark on a new venture. Romance is in the air.

BIRTHDAYS

May 29

Moon conjunction Pluto: Journeys, ceremonies, publicity and collaborations are highlighted. This is a year of added responsibilities, interviews and commitments Children and grand children will give joy. Money will pour in. You will meet interesting people.

May 30

Scorpio moon, no strong aspect: Those employed in the defence services will do well. Strong relationships are foretold. Invest in a lottery if you are so inclined. Travel is fated for some towards the year end. Shifts and transfers cannot be ruled out.

May 31

Full moon, Sagittarius: This is a year for dramatic changes in relationships. Legal issues may demand attention. There may be delay in plans, However, take it in your stride and do not get impatient. Try and make the best of things. Learn to be optimistic.

June 1

Moon opposition Mercury, Venus: Hard work and dogged determination should be your codewords now. Even if you have to part ways with a close friend or relative, do not let that embitter you and take it in your stride.

June 2

Moon sextile Mars: You will have the energy and drive to finalise plans, start new ventures and carry them out successfully. Money will pour in. Friends will stand by you. A minor shift or job change is on the cards. This will be beneficial to you in all respects.

June 3

Moon trine Jupiter: Opportunities to make it big will present themselves to you. Travel is strongly indicated, Loans and funds will be available to businessmen to start new ventures. A promotion is likely for the employed.

June 4

Moon trine sun, square Pluto: This is a year for wish fulfillment. Travel, tourism, ceremonies, sales, publicity and new assignments are highlighted. Learn new skills and take on research oriented courses.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Learn to take risks and go ahead with any project you have in mind no matter how impossible it may seem Nothing ventured is nothing gained Investments and monetary affairs will once again occupy your attention Entertainment, socialising and professional get-togethers are foretold Work will demand attention but make an effort not to neglect loved ones and friends

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

The full moon in your sign will influence your health and attitudes towards life Try not to take on too many important things at one time. Concentrate on a few things and deal with them systematically This is the time to introspect and meditate Spend time with friends and family. Learn to deal with the pressures at work patiently and firmly

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Expenses will rise The lure of foreign countries may prove irresistible However, do not neglect the home front It may be necessary for you to cut down on expenses Changes in your work schedule will be finalised by next month Meticulous planning and determination are essential to make changes successful. Do not give in to minor whims and fancies

AQUARIUS

Jan 20—Feb 18

Self confidence and the ability to take chances are qualities that will see you through Friends will come forward to lend all possible support There may be a few minor irritants in your path but do not let them worry you. Provided you are willing to do hard work, rewards will be forthcoming. Socialise and meet people.

PISCES

Feb 19—March 20

Work pressures will mount. You may feel short of time but do not let that affect your work. You will succeed in all ventures and projects Extra responsibilities will be thrust on you but your capability will emerge only with your success in dealing with the increased work pressure. An associate may fall ill. You will have to go to attend a relative's marriage soon

Summertime

Summer is not everyone's dream season. Even poets always don't feel lyrical about it, particularly of the Indian brand. And who can blame them? After all, there is very little inspiration in perspiration. Tagore, of course, had found the dry, searing heat of Santiniketan inspiration enough to compose verses and songs. His special affinity to this season had something to do with his birthday. Born in Baisakh, which is officially the beginning of summer, how could be ignore its special message?

The heat and dust, grime and sweat, relentless Sun and stifling humidity may not conjure a romantic vision, but most Bengalis love to identify their feelings and emotions with those of the poet. So, there is enough romance in the heat, if you only care to look for it The fiery Norwesters of Baisakh, the cool Southern breeze, and the fragrant jasmine days are all part of summer

For those who want a little more substance than romance, there are the luscious summer-fruits Water-melons and musk-melons keep the heat away and make cooling drinks But if you have a taste for the exotic, there are lichis and lots and lots of mangoes

This is the time of the year for those who are looking for more than creature comforts, who wish to experience nature at its worst and its best But even when the best seems elusive, there are enough ways to neutralize the worst today.

It it's just the Sun that you want to avoid while on the road, there's the age-old answer in umbrellas Just hold it high enough in the Sun's direction to give you a welcome circle of shadow The trick is to stay within that circle while walking. So keep your head lowered, stare hard and don't even let your toes peep out of the shadow. If in the process you bump into a passer-by or two, don't let that bother you. After all it's summer. And if you have bumped into a car, it's the driver's fault, of course. He should have honked the horn. So give him a piece of your mind and walk on

Unfortunately, those huge black cloth umbrellas are out of fashion People prefer to buy smaller and sleek nylon ones which, naturally, give a smaller circle of shadow. So you end up hurriedly chasing the elusive dark circle to avoid a sun-burn and people are bound to stare at your antics. To save face you can say you are planning to do a Charlie Chaplin movie, or practising the art of tap-dancing. But if there's a sudden gust of southerly wind, forget about the Sun and the heat-stroke, and quickly fold the contraption. Otherwise you will be left holding a steel rod, with a small patch of nylon circle on top, and the rest of what was once an umbrella folded the wrong way in the most ungainly manner. Um, a little foolish. . wouldn't you say?

The relentless Sun can be avoided by staying indoors, but even that is not enough to keep you cool The traditional punkhawallahs have disappeared with the high-ceilinged old bungalows Modern houses are low-roofed and heat absorbent, unless you are fortunate enough to live in an apartment high enough to get abundant breeze, yet low enough to have a few stories above it. Advertisements, therefore, extoll the virtue of ceiling fans, standard fans, mini fans, exhaust fans, more fans, and even more fans. They come in all shapes and sizes these days and promise to blow you away along with the cobwebs. But the best time to buy fans is during winter, when off-season discount make them that much cheaper.

Turkish Delight

The word 'sherbat comes from the Turkish 'serbat' and the Persian 'Ar sharbah' both of which mean a drink. Sherbat is basically a cooling drink made of diluted fruit juices, or iced, flavoured milk. It is one of the many exotic gourmet gifts of the Mughals, which has become a part of India's culture and tradition.

In those days sherbat was not just a refreshment, but also a symbol of hospitality. The more honoured the



guest, the richer the sherbat The labour involved was both painstaking and time consuming. Infact, sherbat making was regarded as an art. And the chefs of aristocratic Mughal kitchens jealously guarded their recipes, which were often handed down from father to son.

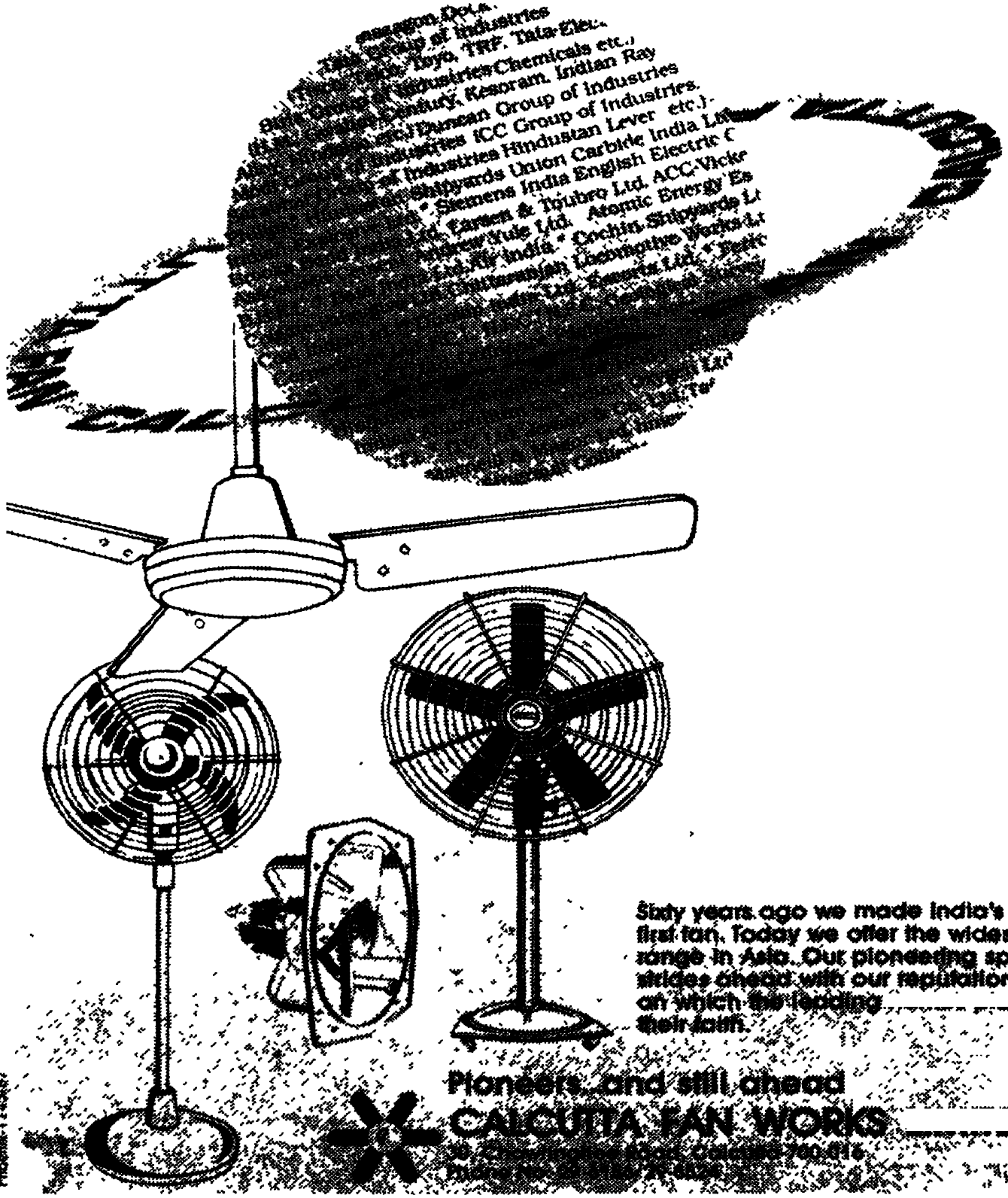
Sherbats however have bowed down to the faster and fizzier drinks that have invaded the consumer market of today. Quite possibly because of the steep price of badams and spices. But more because few people have the time and energy to make them at home. However, sherbats are still associated with royal hospitality. And people have not yet forgotten the enchantingly exotic traditional sherbats!

That is why it is heartening to know that one company has cleverly juxtaposed the modern with the traditional, by making real traditional sherbat available in a ready-to-use form. The name of this company is GANESH PRODUCTS PVT. LTD. And it has already brought out 8 traditional flavoured sherbats and 2 light flavoured sherbats. Viz., Badam, Thandai, Saffron, Rose, Khus, Kewra, Bela and Chandan, and Cocktail and Shikanji. Each bottle can yield upto 16 glasses of sherbats. What's more, they are not only deliciously refreshing, but also have nutritive value, because ingredients like almonds, pista, saffron etc. are used.

The sherbats are hygienically prepared and bottled in sterilised, machine dried bottles, at the Company's plant at Salkia, Howrah. Ganesh Products Pvt. Ltd. also has a Quality Control section which maintains a strict vigilance on every batch produced. And an R&D section where new ways are constantly sought to better the Company's present products, and also to introduce new products.

Ganesh sherbats have already made an entry into the Eastern region market But this is just the beginning of the realisation of the Company's dream - to bring back the taste of traditional sherbats, and to make available a host of other hygienically prepared and ready to consume food products.

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Pioneers...and still ahead

CALCUTTA FAN WORKS

Pioneers in airconditioning

The Calcutta headquartered American Refrigerator Co. Ltd. ARCO for short has been the pioneers in the airconditioning industry. The Company now has a highly diversified interests in fields such as heat transfer and air pollution control, air engineering hydraulics and specialised airconditioning products.

ARCO's airconditioners and water coolers which have traditionally been the main products of the company still constitutes about 50% of ARCO's turnover Both products carry the ISI mark and are on DGS & D rate contract

The growing pressure on margins due to rising material and production costs of airconditioners coupled with the not-too-adequate pricing structure under DGS & D rate contract have forced ARCO to seek more lucrative products Farcool-the split type airconditioners and the package airconditioners in higher capacities are two areas where ARCO is expecting to make significant gains

Recently, ARCO has come out with Multi split airconditioner. A 2 TR capacity split unit is used to cool two separate and unconnected rooms.

In a split unit the condenser part of the airconditioner is kept outside the room whereas the cooled air is carried through piping to the blower placed within the room. Useful for rooms that do not have window or out let space where conventional window airconditioner can be placed, the Farcool split airconditioners also offer further advantages like silent operation, economy and convenience.

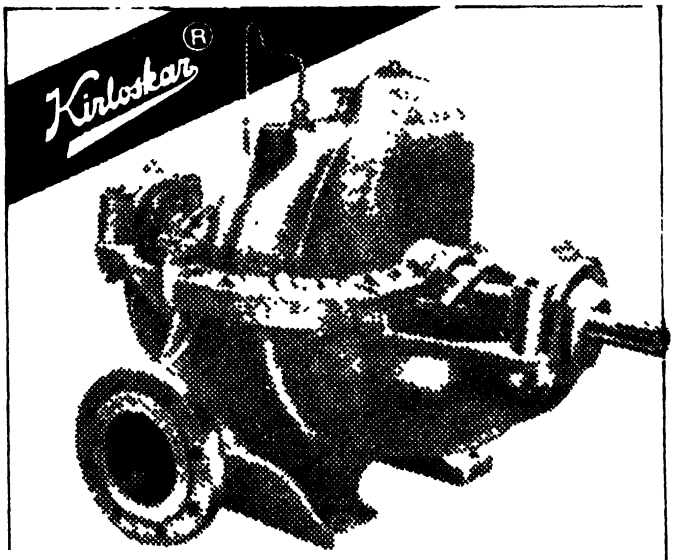
ARCO is presently taking up turnkey customised airconditioning works. The central airconditioning at Park Hotel in Calcutta has been completed by ARCO. The Company is presently doing a customised airconditioning job for the J K Group.

ARCO is also aiming to translate its considerable expertise in air engineering field into new products ideas for specialised customers such as Indian Railways. Recently, the Company R & D created a breakthrough developing and producing Core After Coolers an import substitution item used in diesel locomotives. Besides, ARCO produces several other products for Railways such as air-conditioning equipment and components for A.C. Coaches, blowers etc.

The Blower division at ARCO has shown good progress resulting in 29% rise in sales. It produces heavy and medium duty industrial fans and blowers chiefly used in air pollution control systems in various industries.

With a Rs. 1.5 crore modernisation/ diversification programme underway, ARCO has begun augmenting equipment strength of its already highly mechanised factories at Calcutta and Pune. The hydraulic division which has technical backing of Whitney Inc. of USA is planning to produce logic and programme controlled hydraulic machines in recent future.

In the first quarter of the current year production has shown a 56% improvement compared to last year.



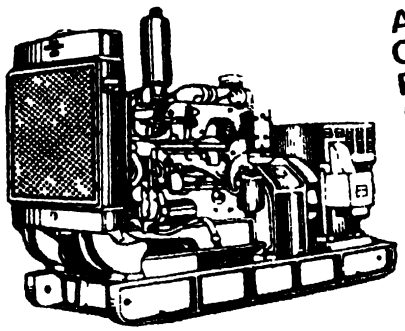
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Wholesaler Balaji Distributors (Electricals) Private Limited, Poddar Court, 18 Rabindra Sarani, Calcutta 700 001

Dealers' names. Kishan Kumar Khanna, 34, Ezra Street, Calcutta—1, (Phone : 26-8048), **Krishna Kanhiya,** 22, Rabindra Sarani, Calcutta-1 (Phone 27-8433 & 27-4360), **Continental Electric & Trading Co.,** 26/1, Pollock Street, Calcutta-1 (Phone 27-9927 & 26-7591); **Surendra & Co.,** 11, Pollock Street, Calcutta-1 (Phone . 26-3428, 26-0132 & 27-5021); **Ashok Trading Corporation,** 82/2E, Bidhan Sarani, Calcutta-4 (Phone · 54-3037 & 55-5999), Branch : 138/1, Bidhan Sarani, Sree Market, Calcutta-4, **Electro Sound,** 324, Netaji Subhas Road, Kali Babu Bazar, Howrah-711 101 (Phone : 67-3448); **Shome Brothers,** 6 & 7, Panchanantalla Road, Howrah-711 101, **Time-N-Tune,** Manton Super Market, Room No. 17, Diamond Harbour Road, Calcutta-34 (Phone 77-4574).

with no threat of the annual budget raising prices.

But for the lucky few, who can afford it, there are air-conditioners. If you can't buy a new one, avail of a second-hand one. And if neither is within your budget, take a job in an air-conditioned office.

'Quite right', said a friend, who had made an air-conditioned job his aim in life. 'But what does one do when there is load-shedding? I have had my share of fretting and fuming. It only makes me sweat more.' Er, what about asking your employers for a generator? 'Do you think we haven't tried that? But they are now on a cost-control spree. So there isn't even a new table-fan in the corporate horizon. As a result my efficiency has zoomed below the level of acceptability.'

That appears to be an unknottable problem. Unless, of course, the long-suffering (suffocating?) executive decides to take a cool break. That is, walk out of the office, step in to the nearby restaurant and order a cold drink. One can only hope it is of the non-alcoholic kind, otherwise he might nod off in the middle of the next meeting, or act disgustingly fresh with an unwilling colleague of the opposite sex.

In this heat, nothing can match the boom in soft aereated drinks. When drinking water is threatened to be jaundiced, one naturally reachs out for a bottle of fizz



DUA Air-conditioner can - and it has !

Built with best quality components available in the country and keeping overheads effectively low, Dua Air-Con has come forth as a weighty competitor to both quality brands and low priced ones.

Dua Air Con's energy efficient compressor is built by the most well known manufacturers of the country. Its motor has dual speed for both hot and cold air. The evaporator and condenser coils ensure maximum heat exchange. While the interior is fitted with technologically advanced components. Dua Air-Con's exterior is extremely sophisticated in looks. The front grille comes in designs that look elegant in any decor. That's not all. Once installed, Dua's Service personnel will keep strict vigilance on the Air-Con's working efficiency. Needless to say, Dua's strong service network knows how to look after both its machines and customers.

Thus its a perfectly balanced air-conditioner in more ways than one.

Dua Air-Con. Its a whiff of cool comfort in the melting heat of summers.

Available in 3 sizes : model ICY 1 ton, COSY 1.5 ton & COMFY 2 ton.

DUA
AIR-CON

Marketed by : **DUA REFRIGERATION COMPANY,** 1 Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, Calcutta - 700 020. Ph. 47 0318/8570 44 9309

Hilkon
AIR CONDITIONERS

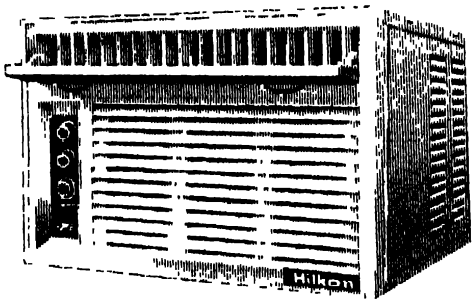
The Company we keep

Our Patrons

APE Belliss India Limited
Bata India Limited
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British Airways
Hindustan Lever Ltd.
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Jokai India Ltd
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All of them famous. And all have chosen Hilkon Repeatedly. Because we combine quality and economy.

Economic
Costs Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 7,000 less compared to other leading brands



If you are interested, please contact us at the following address or over phone .

17C Indian Mirror Street
Calcutta—700 013
Phone : 24-1070, 24-7611, 24-7612, 24-7613.

We are proud of every machine we make

Towards a garden city

The above small ad in a local daily created flutters among Calcutta's flower lovers and raised quite a few eyebrows. This led to numerous calls: What's this all about? Is it possible? Who will do it and How?

Well here's the answer to all the sensations and curiosity aroused. "FLORENTYNA" an associate of COAST group of companies have recently launched a venture which delivers Flower Bouquets/Baskets to major cities in India.

Though this system is operated on a worldwide basis by Interflora, a foreign company which is quite popular with Americans but has failed to reach out to masses in India. But since "FLORENTYNA" announced launching the awareness is growing among Indians to greet friends and relations with Flowers on different occasions.

Now this traditional city can be proud of being the origin of a new concept in Floral world introduced by 'FLORENTYNA' (associate of a Calcutta based company.) which will help the average citizens to send flowers to greet their near & dear ones within city and to other cities also at affordable prices.

Generally the idea of flowers doesn't catch upon the average persons as they are considered to be very costly and beyond one's reach. In fact the few Florist shops centred around Theatre Road are very expensive (Minimum arrangement costing between Rs 75/- and Rs 125/-). The only other option is New Market where people flock from all parts of the city to order for flower bouquets.

Now we can look forward to a more beautiful Calcutta as "FLORENTYNA" offers exclusive services as Florists. They deliver flowers within the city and to other major metropolitan cities in India. (Soon the services are to be extended to cover 30 cities). Just a phone call and the courier is at your door-step collecting your orders after showing lovely photographs of bouquets and arrangements. (8 Varieties to choose from for prices starting from Rs 75/- which includes cost of the bouquet and delivery charges to other cities). This enables average persons to utilise the Inter-city services at the same price of arrangements sold at selected Florist shops in Calcutta.

Basically these groups headed by an enterprising young entrepreneur Sarvesh Mehta offer their services as couriers and Cargo consolidators and have shown tremendous growth pattern with an excellent track record. Now they are diversifying to open a chain of Florist shops which will sell bouquets, arrangements as well as effect Intercity deliveries which are within the reach of the average persons which will create more awareness of flowers among the people of Calcutta

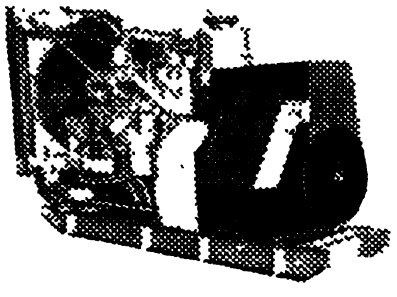
Inter-city delivery of Flower Bouquets will help persons who are unable to attend outstation weddings, Birthdays and still want to say more than just greeting cards and make their presence felt by sending flowers through Florentyna. This will also help save their time spent on selecting gifts or making STD calls to greet someone special on above occasions.

Going for a Generator?

GO FOR.....

YOU ARE BUYING A WORLD CLASS PRODUCT

Electra



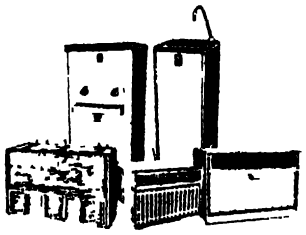
Manufacturers & Exporters

Dassani Electra (Pvt) Ltd

16, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Calcutta-700013

Phone: 27-0302/0396 **Gram:** GENSETS **Telex:** 021-5243

In a market where quality means exorbitance and economy means cheap, ARCO has adhered to its traditional policy of offering the best value to its customers.



ARCO is one of the pioneer manufacturing units in India for air conditioning equipment. Over the years its activities have grown to cover climate applications in diverse areas industries railways defence shipping power projects telecommunications etc.

Excellence and Value

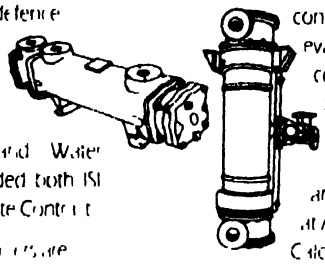
ARCO Airconditioners and Water Coolers have been awarded both ISI certificate and DGS & D Rate Contract.

ARCO Window Airconditioners are available in 1 1.5 and 2 TR capacities.

The Exclusive model has 12% more cooling power compared to similar capacity machines. ARCO's Aircon dtioner range also includes Farcool the split type Airconditioner and Package Airconditioners in 5 7.5 10 and 15 TR capacities. Water Coolers are available in different capacities upto 30 its.

Air handling equipment

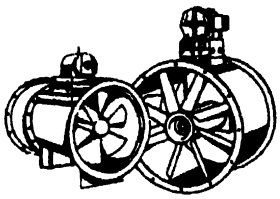
Industrial fans and blowers condenser and evaporating units cooling coils plate fin and shell and tube heat exchangers are manufactured at ARCO's sprawling Calcutta factory.



The clientele includes the railways nuclear power plant fertiliser and chemical complexes etc.

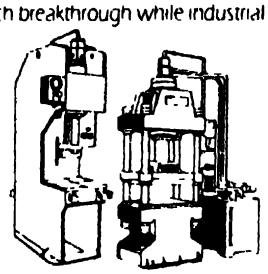
Hydraulics : new thrust area

ARCO's Hydraulic division at Pune with technical know how from Whitney Inc USA manufactures wide ranging hydraulic equipment such as hydraulic press shear pump cylinder, jack power pack etc.



Besides seeking hi-technology from Japan Korea and the US to improve the technology and performance of its products ARCO is upgrading its own R & D activities to cater to the growing need for import substitution in national interest.

The indigenously manufactured After-Cooler for Indian Railways is one such breakthrough while industrial



pump is a new area in which ARCO soon expected to make a mark.

The Company has also stepped up its export effort in recent times and has met with encouraging initial success.

ARCO seeking foreign tech for update, diversification

By a Staff Reporter

-- ECONOMIC TIMES 22 NOV 87

AMERICAN REFRIGERATOR COMPANY LIMITED

13C Russel Street Calcutta 700071
Phone 29-9923/24/32 29 1125
20A Shivaji Marg New Delhi-110015
Phone 50 4292 50 4392 50-4492
Ahad Mansion 740 Anna Salai
Madras-600002 Phone 86592 3
Sadhana Rayon House D N Road
Bombay-400001 Phone 26 5671 4

THE LAST WORD ON VALUE.

But on the roadside one still finds carts full of multi-coloured bottled syrups which, mixed with chunks of ice from unmentionable sources, make delicious cold drinks The chance of cholera is always there, but who cares! Lots of people do, actually So they go for a fruitful of fresh coconut water.

When not drinking any of the above, or the tetrapak fruit juices, customers throng to the juice shops opposite New Empire Cinema It may be a little more expensive, but there is nothing like fresh fruit juice Nearby shops are also renowned for their rose-milk or rose-lassi.

Thirst quenching and mouth-watering they might be, but how many people have the time or the energy to walk out of office for a cold drink? The best alternative arrangement is to bring a flask full of absolutely indigenous, home-made and chilled *nimbu-pani* There is no shortage of falsks in the market— the array of sizes, shapes, colours and makes is quite mind-boggling If *desi nimbu-pani* doesn't appeal, then cold-water can replace it

But where does one get the cold-water from? From the fridge, of course, the modern housewife would say Taking this trend into account the makers of refrigerators keep on appealing to housewively sentiments before and after television soap operas And one cannot deny their utility in preserving food, vegetables and fruits But when it comes to coldwater, nothing can beat the earthenware *surahis*. They keep the water cool and refreshing but not chilled enough to cause sore-throats You get them almost dime-a-dozen at village fairs, and there is enough scope to be poetic when you see village belles walking gracefully with several *surahis* balanced on their head It is a sight more common to Rajasthan than Bengal But, never mind, there are enough Surahis to be found in Calcutta markets at a slightly higher price

When keeping cool is the main problem one's will always finds a way The pave

Summer excitement

The instant coffee market is in the grip of an exciting new campaign that promises a summer full of fun.
Food Specialities Limited, the Nestlé affiliate in India, invites consumers to participate in the 'Nescafe Shake Take a Cool Break Contest'.
The contest is a set of simple multi-choice questions and a tie-breker: a 'catchy' word to describe cold coffee satisfaction. Over 20,000 prizes await consumers.

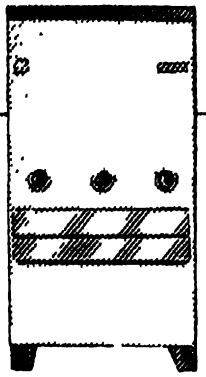
As the name implies, the prizes are linked with summer travel. The grand prize is a 'Round the world trip for two', worth rupees one lakh. The two second prizes are two KLM tickets to Frankfurt and back, and a trip around Europe on Eurail passes. The four third prizes are a trip for two to Kathmandu and Pokhara, and the eight fourth prizes are a package tour for two to kashmir.
The other prizes include refrigerators, unique 'Keep Kool Kits' comprising summer accessories; and stylish souvenir mugs.
The contest is supported by extensive mass media coverage and high-impact in-shop merchandising.
Entry forms are available in press ads and from dealer outlets selling Nescafe.
In keeping with the extraordinary success of FSL's 'Nescheque Contest' in 1983, this campaign seems set to establish new records in consumer promotions.

Lajawab **Ganesh** Sherbat !
In 10 delicious flavours

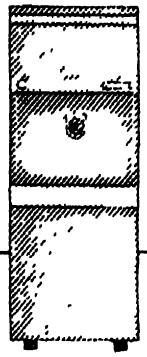


Lajawab Sherbat !
Ganesh Products Pvt. Ltd.
2 Digamber Jain Temple Road, Calcutta 700 007 Ph 39 9 12
Main Dealer Ganesh Ghee Depot 5 Burtolla Street
Calcutta 700 007 Ph 38 2229

Before you decide which water cooler to buy consider this:



VOLTAS *for reliability*



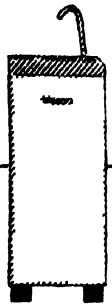
VOLTAS *for good looks*

VOLTAS *for after-sales service*



VOLTAS *for easier maintenance*

VOLTAS *value for money*



Voltas, of course
When it comes to water coolers, it makes sense to buy Tushar Water Coolers from Voltas – the acknowledged leaders in air conditioning systems. You'll find they win hands down – on every score!

VOLTAS TUSHAR
WATER COOLERS

Cooling know-how you just can't challenge.

CLARION/BV 117 254

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Appliances Business Group
Gillander House
Netaji Subhas Road
Calcutta 700 001. Phone. 204246

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Also available on DGS & D rate contract.

GIFT FOR A LIFETIME!



LEONARD Refrigerator

New! Hi-Q compressor to withstand a wide range of voltage fluctuation (160V 260V)

Interior designed to give optimum utilization of space

Truly world class in cooling, design & performance Own-it with pride

A combination of excellent quality and Blue Star's unmatched customer-care service

BLUE STAR

The only guarantee you'll ever need.

Florentyna Coast

(INTER-CITY DELIVERY OF FLOWERS)

7-B, RANI RASHMONI RD.
CALCUTTA - 13

GREET YOUR OUTSTATION NEAR & DEAR ONES BY SENDING BEAUTIFUL FLOWER BOUQUETS FOR

- **BIRTHDAYS**
- **MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY**
- **LOVE GREETINGS**
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CALL : 247791-0061-9163
AGENTS : **SAB'S,**
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SONA NOVELTY DAKSHINAPAN,
CIT COMPLEX DHAKURIA
FLORIST SHOP
197, SARAT BOSE ROAD
CALCUTTA-29,Phone: 428188
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24 HOURS SERVICE : 449897

ment-dwellers are by far the most enterprising in this matter. Let there be a tubewell or a burst-pipe on the roadside, and you will find several bodies glistening in mud and water. The scene is a photographer's delight, but slightly embarrassing for those in administration as this is supposed to depict our country's underdeveloped state—but only when shown on television networks abroad

For the more sophisticated, a roadside ablution is not quite the thing to do. So they fix showers in their bathrooms at home, or even invest in a bathtub for a nightly soak. But the smartest thing to do is to join a club and avail of its swimming pool. It's a keep fit cum cooling experience. Garments manufacturers, of course, jump at this opportunity and flood the up-market with exciting-looking swimwear.

Talking of garments, summer is the ideal time for cotton-wear. Perhaps our ancient weavers had just this in mind when they wove gossamer-like muslin. That craft has disappeared, but the revival in handloom industry has once again brought in the cotton boom.

Colour is also important. The warm, bright shades of winter are too hot for summer. Sparkling white and pastel shades are in, whether they are shirts, saris or dresses.

In toiletries, too, there are keep-fresh products. Prickly-heat powders, soaps, colognes and fragrant, moistened tissues—you name it, they have got it.

But, products aside, summer is also the time for special festivities. After *Poila Baisakh* there is *Rabindra Jayanti*. Then comes that a special-day all sons-in-law look forward to *Jamai-Shasthi*. While the mercury tries to break last year's record heat, fish-sellers and sweetmeat shop-owners go all out to gallop over last year's prices. The *Jamai*, of course, couldn't be bothered. He dons his best dhoti and Kurta, or jeans and sports-shirt if he is of the countemporary generation, and waits eagerly for his lobster-curry.



But before the month of *Jaistha* begins, several homes in Calcutta decide to part with their daughters This is the wedding season As the first strains of the shehnai herald the marriage-season, eager young couples take the plunge in all their wedding finery Thousands throng to the *bie-baris*, cursing the oppressive heat But very often the bride has the final say- she rejects a winter-wedding in favour of summer, because the scent of fresh jasmines is something no amount of fair-weather can buy

The caterers and ice-cream manufacturers, therefore, have a gala time And while the guests grumble about the weather and continue to tuck in, the newly-wed couple plan a get away honeymoon in the hills. But what they don't realise is that there are many more couples nurturing similar plans.

In fact, summer is also holiday-time for school and college kids. So fond parents take leave from office and housework to retreat to hill stations. 'Take a hillyaday' suggests a tourism advertisement. And people of all ages take advantages of it The resultant rush might make the hill-people escape in panic, but that doesn't deter the determined holiday-makers. The more affluent take advantage of the special tours to Europe and the States. Summer in Europe is, after all, comparable to winter here.

So summer's not such an unwanted season, after all. There is so much to look forward to, that the discomfort seems bearable—in retrospect, of course. Because, by that time, the mucky days of monsoon have already arrived

Bisakha Ghose

The Cooling Systems

With the planned research & development of practical applications, the refrigeration industry contributed a lot to the living standard of the people. This 'Man Made' cold process not only helped proper preservation of food articles, medicines etc and maintainance of desired conditions for Industrial process, it has significantly reduced the wastage of precious products like foodstuffs & medicines etc.
The common uses of this above process are experienced by refrigerators (in domestic use), water coolers (industrial & institutional use), air conditioning (either domestic or industrial commercial use), cold storages (in commercial use), chilling & freezing plant (for industrial or commercial use) etc.
A few year ago the refrigerator was considered a luxury gadget and the utilisation of the same was restricted to the upper class of people. But when its performance proved the economical benefit to its owner, the demand for this equipment steadily increased. Today the financial constraints are not that acute as the same used to be a few years back. Apart from Hire Purchase schemes offered by various dealers, the Banks also came forward to assist the individuals for purchases of durable consumer goods. This year the refrigerator price has reached an all time high i.e., 165 ltrs. capacity at Rs. 6200/-. But realising the benefit and services offered by this equipment to its owner, the demand has also scaled greater heights.
The manufacturers introduced refrigerators of various capacities from 65 ltrs tio 300 ltrs and they are available in various colours also. Today all the manufacturers together are producing about 7.5 lacs of refrigerators per year and nearly the total production is consumed by the market.

The Word

In the beginning was the word
and the word was with him.
So he started with speech
but speech was formless
like darkness and despair.
Speech had no figure of speech,
no simile, no abstraction, no hyperbole.
So he turned to the word unspoken,
the future unborn, the past living
in symbols amplified and myths retold,
the common legacy of poets and prophets.
In the end was the poem
and the poet was with God.
Abhijit Dutta

The Leaf

Born in spring,
Young in rain,
Golden in autumn,
Forgotten in winter—
Trampled under a shoe
K. Geetha Menon

Imprisoned Man

He will come,
Slowly, silently, tiptoeing up the mountain road
On the uncaring road, someone else will strew flowers,
unclothing the submissive trees, 'The stones might hurt his feet.'
If his caressing footsteps will bury the flowers in the soil,
the soil will nourish the barren trees and spring will reign again.

He came.
He came in a sleek car—remote, faraway.
The expensive tyres murdered the souls of the flowers.
If he would have looked out of the window, just once,
He would have seen the breeze weeping in the lap of the Nilgiris.
In the lingering fragrance of the dead flowers,
he would have understood,
somebody was crying,
not for him—for someone else—for imprisoned man.
Adyasha Roy

A Moving Mural

At midnight
The window opens
It's the seashore, sand dunes,
The whistling sound.
The door opens.
It's the jackboots, barbed wires
Black vans
Now, at this unearthly hour
Through my door and window
Both death and life peeps through.
In the shadows
Thousands faces wait—
Wait for the coming morning.
Time moves.
Satyabrata Kar

The Sky and the Scientist

Like an ascetic's mind
unmoved by temptation
the sky remained blue,
ignoring the cloud's hug ..

The cloud then remembered
the parched, hungry earth,
and poured an abundance
of nourishing rain-pearls.

The earth willingly suffered
the pangs that gave birth
to greenly foliage,
while the ascetic sky

looked on nonchalantly,
remembering dead planets...
Did the nuclear scientists
feel uncomfortable?
K.S. Venkataramu

Amul Das Gupta





They were tears of joy that spilled forth from those dreamy brown eyes—no glycerine, no retakes. The star of our eyes, **Poonam Dhillon,** wed film producer Ashok Thakeria at the beginning of this month. Fans and producers went about muttering, 'May Day, May Day, ' but the doll-faced *dulhan* has promised to remain in films for another three years. Only after that will she sing, *Main to bhool chali babul ka desh, piya ka ghar pyara lage...*

Photograph by JAYANT DAS



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BRITANNIA®

Malt Bisk™



The milk 'n' malt nourisher that keeps you going!



LINTAS BIN MBK P 0.2

Cheap in India?

In your article on the toy industry ('Growing Up', April 17), one of the pictures was captioned, "Toys are nowhere as cheap as in India." But we know that the better variety of toys in the country are beyond the reach of the majority of Indian children. This is clearly shown by the price list of Leo Toys you have also published.

Ruchira Ghosh,
Calcutta

Candid Camera

Your new features like Candid Camera deserve special praise, but you seem to be ignoring music personalities like Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Hemant Kumar and so on. It is also nice to see better quality paper being used.

Samirendra Sanyal,
Siliguri

■ The superstar cricketer, Imran Khan, and your photographer, Nikhil Bhattacharya, both should be congratulated for the Candid Camera shot (May 15).

Rajiv Mithaulia,
Calcutta

The Little Devil's Questions

Being a father of a three-year-old devil, I understand the agony of finding answers to his mind-boggling questions (Viewpoint, May 15). They invariably begin with, "Tell me why, mama ..." or "Papa, why is...."

I give the little devil full freedom to exploit his new-found power which makes my wife angry about "spoiling" him and my parents ecstatic about his voice "which sounds like the flute of Krishna."

Rajen Jani,
Calcutta

The Lone Crusader

(With reference to the cover story, 'A Sign of our Times', February 28)

In the world of journalism, he stands alone,
Fighting others' battles and making them his own
Those whom he protects call him—Free, Frank and Fearless,
While he's christened by the envious as "Russy the Ruthless."

Blitz is hailed as scandalous, controversial...
'Cause both the paper and its editor are special.
It's no wonder, this firebrand has been given the Best Editor Award
Truly deserved by one who claims,"God is my Bodyguard."

He is a born troublemaker and there's tremendous friction,
Between him and the power wielding Goliaths of corruption.
What wouldn't they do to ever get rid
Of this master-writer, havoc-creating David?

To keep the flame of democracy alight,
We need people like Karanjia to keep up the fight,
For he is the ideal of the present generation,
Truly, he is an asset to our beloved nation.

Saira M. Menezes, Bombay

The Telegraph

5 JUNE 1988



12 Chittaranjan Park in New Delhi is the Little Bengal where the people from this state live. Is it an oasis for them in the capital or does it isolate them from the mainstream?

6 Courier services are becoming good business, fast and dependable. A report.

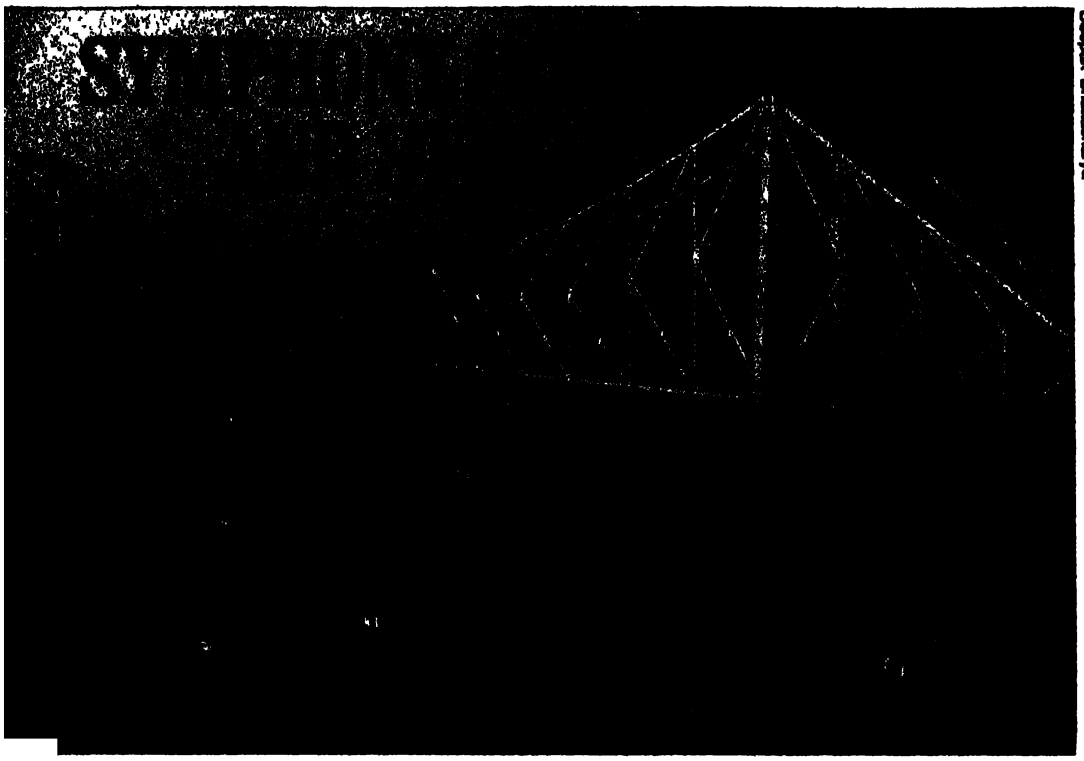
16 A reassessment of Project Tiger on the occasion of World Environment Day.



SECTIONS

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5 Talking Shop
8 Viewpoint
10 Quiz
11 Heritage
20 7 Days
23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Images

Cover Rajesh Ku



Deepak Bhattacharya

Calcutta is not, like Paris, a city of bridges; nor does it have anything as romantic as the Bridge of Sighs in Venice. But it can boast of its one bridge—a marvel of engineering skill—that spans the Hooghly majestically and has become an integral part of the cityscape. In just about 45 years that the New Howrah Bridge has been in existence, it has made its way into the hearts of Calcuttans who have a very strong attachment to this umbilical cord with Howrah. So instinctive is this link that few would stop to think what the city would be without its bridge.

It used to be a treat when, as a child, one gazed from the terrace to look at the bridge that stretched across like a silver net that God seemed to hold out to the wind. One could never get tired of watching the evening fade and the glow of red lights on the bridge's towers come up to shine with the steadiness of beacons as the inky night wrapped the bridge in its folds.

However exhausting it might be crossing the bridge, or even reaching it, for its traffic jams are no less tiresome than the tangles at nearby Posta, the breeze that floats up from the sluggish Hooghly below never fails to refresh. For holiday-makers, rushing to be on time at the station, the bridge and the breeze hold the promise of things to come—open fields and fresh air. And when the holiday ends and the heart yearns for home, Howrah Bridge is the first thing one looks out for, as the train chugs its way into the station. There the bridge stands in constant and comforting welcome.

When a lorry fell off the Howrah Bridge recently, it was the first such accident in its 45-year-old history. Always looming large before the proud Calcuttan's eyes, the bridge is a marvel of engineering skill

It was to cope with the rush of train passengers once the Howrah-Delhi link was laid in 1866 that the British government was prodded into considering building a bridge. Till then persistent pleas, that started way back in 1838, fell on deaf ears. Even handsome offers of donation by Dwarkanath Tagore and Joykrishna Mukherjee for a suspension bridge could not move the government to action.

In 1871, Sir Bradford Leslie, the then chief engineer of East India, was commissioned to construct a temporary bridge, which was no more than pieces of timber floating on pontoons or ferryboats. The bridge was finished in three years and built to last 25.

Considerable traffic flowed over the bridge. Everyday scenes of bullock carts, horse-drawn carriages, porters, cars that are vintage now, and pedestrians jostling with one another were not very different from the rush on the Howrah Bridge today. Curses would fly thick and fast just as they do now. Confusion would be worse during high tide when hinged shore spans on both ends of the Pontoon Bridge would steepen, making climb or descent difficult and slow.

Sir Bradford's bridge, despite its makeshift nature, displayed a stamina that surprised even its maker. It was, however, constantly under repair, with the timber beams carrying the floorway giving way now and then to the load it was not built to withstand. By 1935 the upkeep exceeded viable limits and the government started feeling that a new bridge to replace the picturesque but inconvenient old bridge had become an absolute necessity.

This was the genesis of the cantilever bridge we see now, still the third longest of its kind in the world. It spans 1,500 ft and its towers soar 280 ft from the sidewalk.

The inauguration of the New Howrah Bridge went unsung. The event did not even merit a mention in the local press, nor was there any entry marking the event in the otherwise meticulously maintained log book of the Calcutta Port Trust But the symphony in iron and steel needed no words to impress those who saw and used the bridge It struck wonder in young hearts not only by its massive sweep and elegance, but also by the almost incredible fact that ships could now pass beneath it.

The epithet, "new," lovingly bestowed on this tremendous engineering feat has a touch of pathos about it as it is already aging beyond repair. It groans under the ever-increasing volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Experts fear that with continued vibration, if just one of the vital pins that hold the intricate steelwork taut comes loose, it would crumple and fall.

But, to the man on the street, the collapse of so strong and imposing a structure, built with 23,500 tonnes of steel, and at a cost of approximately Rs 2.12 crores, is an impossibility. To him the ceaseless flow beneath and above only heightens the strength, endurance and fixity of the bridge itself.

Monisha Das Gupta

THE TRAGEDY OF NOT UNDERSTANDING

Are parents sometimes too strict? Are studies really that important? A true-life experience to judge from

Academic jealousy was said to have been the prime motive in the recent Sumit Chatterjee murder case of Behala (Calcutta). Sumit, it may be recalled, had been brutally murdered by a classmate earlier this year.

In Mala's case, I had planned her career much against her will. English was her preference but I imposed history. I wanted her to be an executive. History would help her tremendously in competitive examinations, and I cited my brother's case as an example She could hardly disagree with her parents, yet she could never take a liking to the subject I engaged a private tutor out of a sense of duty, yet this was of little help.

On Sunday mornings, Mala would anxiously watch from our second floor balcony till her *kaku's* (uncle's) car arrived They used to have long lively sessions of ludo and carrom and my brother indulgently bore her adolescent frivolities But I grudged such wastage of time, grumbling that it would not facilitate career-building in our competitive society Television serials, social calls, *adda* and the like were gradually and systematically rationed I tried to reason with her that till she attained the age of 20 or 21, she would have to be very serious if she wished to enjoy the rest of her life

I do not remember appreciating her good points publicly. She shadowed her mother everywhere Her suggestions on interior decoration, I find in retrospect, had a touch of adult expertise When she completed the language courses at the Institute of Culture with comparative ease and rapidity, I dismissed it as nothing extraordinary. My sole concern remained Mala's formal training and how she was faring in her examinations. When I rang up from Birmingham and north Yorkshire, I enquired of her studies first and not of her health.

Being a dutiful father, I wasted little time in making arrangements for the removal of a benign breast tumour she had developed. On the day she returned home from the nursing home, Mala expected that I would take leave from office and spend the day with her Even if I did have to go, I would at least give her a ring Unfortunately, she was proved wrong. As a conscientitous officer, I was with my boss till late afternoon.

On the fateful evening, I found both mother and daughter glum when I returned home The atmosphere was tense. I sensed that a storm had already swept the house. Mala had not done well in her third paper. She had also been complaining of pain in the operated area since midday My wife was not prepared to listen to her complaints They were nothing new. She insisted on her completing the remaining papers. I did not intervene I felt this was perhaps necessary. She was, after all, executing my perspective plan

Mala ate very little and went to bed meekly. We were aroused by a shrill cry in the early hours By then, she had almost left us for good. We spared no efforts to execute the formality of taking her to the hospital, but she had no desire to stay in this world with her dutiful yet selfish father who did not understand her.

Mala and Santanu (Sumit Chatterjee's erring classmate) are victims of the same social system where academic success of children is the *sine qua non* of their parents' social status We may not be like friends to our adolescent sons and daughters and we may not frankly and freely discuss everything with them, but can't we at least be more understanding so that they are not driven in uncomprehending despair to suicide and murder?

Debaki Nandan Mandal



THE NEW CARRIER PIGEONS

If you have an urgent document to send, you no longer need to depend on the postal service, report
Aditya Mata
and
Robin Chatterjee

When Amardeep Singh and Hemant Capoor, both second-year B Com students decided to begin their own business, playing courier seemed the best proposition. With an investment of Rs 15,000 and a tiny one-room office in Shakespeare Sarani, the duo set out in earnest to deliver anything and everything, anywhere. The results were better than expected. Barely three months later, New Transworld Courier Service recorded a net profit of Rs 14,000.

The success story of New Transworld is not unparalleled. Within three years, scores of private couriers have mushroomed all over the city. In Shakespeare Sarani itself, there are at least eight courier firms and the seedy bylanes of Burrabazar house at least four more, all in an area of 500 sq yards.

What has led to this spurt in courier services all over the country? "The primary reason for the growth of private couriers is the complete failure by government machinery to deliver documents and parcels in time," says R Ramakrishnan, branch manager of Overnite Express which handles an outflow of about 200 documents daily. He continues, "The government had experimented with the pincode system, QMS and now Speedpost, but all these have failed to live upto expectations." R Swamy, zonal manager of DHL adds, "Vayudot has also proved to be a damp squib and has not fulfilled its claim of being ultra fast couriers."

Another factor which has led to this unprecedented growth, according to Ramakrishnan, has been the realisation of the value of time. "People now believe in having their documents delivered in the minimum possible time even if it means paying a little extra."

Ramakrishnan, however, feels the overnight mushrooming of courier services is a passing phase. "The smaller couriers have joined the bandwagon without any experience and background. It is they who will feel the depression a few years from now," he says.

Who normally goes in for private courier services? Ramakrishnan says, "The list is unending and includes lawyers, multinational firms and small traders -their common goal being saving time."

T Chatterjee, zonal manager of Blue Dart feels courier services have helped in bridging vital gaps in the communication system. "Private couriers have helped to improve the links between various regions and also offer personalised service unlike the post and telegraph department."

Chatterjee is of the opinion that the courier trade should be recognised as an industry with the government offering concessions to private couriers. The liberalisation of the import policy, he feels, has been a step in the right direction as this has provided the impetus for growth in the international courier traffic. "Earlier there was some talk of abolishing private couriers which was later officially denied. But an end to private operators is not only impractical but will also hamper the rate of growth of industry in the country," he remarks.

On the modus operandi of private couriers, Chatterjee explains, "Every courier has a trade license and a moral responsibility to deliver the documents entrusted to him. Most firms operate with the concept of hubs where the entire load is sent to a major office and then sorted for further distribution. If, for example, one has to send a document from Calcutta to Agra, the normal process would be to transfer the document to the Delhi office, where after sorting, he document is forwarded to the required person or firm in Agra." Many private couriers, however, do not operate with the system of hubs which tends to work out to be both time-consuming and expensive, he adds.

Blue Dart today charges a staggering Rs 50 for the first 500 grams of documents or part thereof, its price being second only to Skypak. In spite of this, Blue Dart achieved a total turnover of Rs 18 crores last year. It has a projected turnover of Rs 1 5 crores from its Calcutta office alone for the year '88-89. Inspite of its exhorbitant rates, people still flock to Blue Dart, because Chatterjee says, "We believe in air couriering with a flair. With every document to be delivered, an on board courier (OBC) is assigned the task of personalised delivery. This sets us apart, from the newcomers."

Amardeep Singh of New Transworld, however, has a different style of operation. "Our agency does not want in personalised service, but we do lack on board couriers." New Transworld has an "understanding" with other couriers who deliver the goods personally to the assigned destination. Of Capoor and Singh's 18-member staff, 10 handle operations including pick-up and delivery while the rest promote business, explains Capoor.

Most of Singh's employees are undergraduates and college dropouts with a take home of about Rs 600 per month. On the other hand, 70 per cent of the 80 Blue Dart employees who handle operations are graduates whereas the administrative personnel are MBAs. An operations executive here earns Rs 1,400 to Rs 2,000, "depending on his background and experience," says Chatterjee.

AK Maitra, regional manager of Courier Point, a subsidiary of Sahara India, feels courier service firms are similar to employment exchanges. "With 23 people in its Calcutta office handling on an average 20 documents daily, Courier Point is yet another firm to have joined the delivery bandwagon.

Maitra point out that the credit facilities offered by private couriers has tempted people to opt for the private delivery system. "There are two kinds of couriers- the traditional ones, *angarias*, and the licenced couriers, the ethicals," says Maitra. The *angarias* have been in the trade for generations and have remained indifferent to the sudden growth in the market according to Maitra.

R Swamy, of DHL, the courier service division of Airfreight Limited which handles 250 kg of documents from its Calcutta division daily echoes Maitra's views. He attributes the growth of the private couriers to a liberalised import policy which has "helped in the transit of documents worldwide." Swamy, however, feels the smaller and newest private couriers have made a wrong assessment of the market.

"In the last three years DHL has recorded an annual growth of about 20 per cent. But this will not last and within the next five years there is going to be a slump. The courier smaller services will be more prone to this crunch than the bigger established names," he remarks. He attributes this to the limited infrastructure of the smaller concerns. Ramakrishnan of Overnite too feels that the 'saturation point is round the corner and the depression is just about to begin."

Swami discounts rumour that the courier services existing today will be nationalised. "It is the government itself

which will lose credibility and responsibility," he says adding that their list of clients includes the public sector

A.K. Pathak, assistant manager (marketing) at Vayudoot dismisses the claim that his airline has not lived up to expectations. "We promise a 48-hour delivery in the major metros and in remote areas a document is delivered within 72 hours," he says. Having recorded a 200 percent growth since the launching of the courier division in September 1987, Vayudoot today has agents in 93 stations across the country handling documents and parcels.

"Our patrons are mainly public sector enterprises including SAIL, ONGC and Coal India," says Pathak, adding that "Private couriers also send documents through our courier division thus saving time and money." He dismisses the claim that a depression in courier traffic is in the offing. "The courier trade in our country is relatively recent and has yet to come to terms with the market. Once this is done, the market will never cease to grow," he feels

Depression or no depression, work continues in full swing in the bylanes of Burrabazar. Prahlad Kabra, proprietor of Em Bee Couriers, begins his day at 8 in the morning and works till the late hours of the day, sometimes even till 11 pm. With a staff of 10, Em Bee specialises in deliveries to Bihar. Delivery is guaranteed within 18 hours and proof of delivery (POD) of the document is sent to the sender within 36 hours.

Em Bee charges nominal rates for its services. For a document weighing 250 grams or a part thereof, it charges Rs 10 with the POD and Rs 5 without. For parcels, Em Bee's rates are Rs 20 and Rs 10 with and without the POD respectively.

"We have branches all over Bihar and our service is the best," claims Kabra with pride. His clients consist of numerous blue-chip companies like Voltas, ITC and even public sector undertakings like Balmer Lawrie, UCO Bank and Canara Bank.

Does Em Bee accept responsibility for documents lost in transit? Kabra says "Lost documents are paid for within a week. The extent of liability is limited to Rs 100 and in the case of insured documents, we assist the sender in recovering the amount from the insurance agencies." Kabra says his staff travels by rail or road depending on the time available.

Another courier company, J.T. Couriers, has a similar mode of operation but its area of specialisation includes Assam, Orissa and West Bengal besides Bihar. Established two-and-a-half years ago, J.T. Couriers currently handles a load of 40 kg daily. The firm assumes no responsibility for documents lost in transit but otherwise assures a 24-hour delivery.



Subir Kumar Dutta

Reaching out: Blue Dart Courier Service employees at work

J T. Couriers charge Rs 10 per document upto 250 grams for delivery to the states they specialise in but accept delivery orders for documents to be sent outside the zone and later forward them to other agencies on a reciprocal basis. For deliveries to major metros, they charge Rs 20 and only Rs 3 for a personal letter.

Bigger courier services, however, remain disdainful about the smaller organisations. "In spite of the nominal charges by these couriers our business is unaffected," says P R Ray, regional manager of Skypak in Calcutta. "Our service is faster and more reliable," he claims. Ray, insists that Skypak is the only "courier with the largest area network in the country."

Formed in April 1983, Skypak today has 110 offices countrywide with plans for many more. Their price, Ray admits, "is the highest in the courier trade," with Rs 55 for documents weighing upto 500 grams. Skypak's service which includes "professional handling," also boasts an exclusive "diplomat service" which ensure urgent delivery of extraordinary documents much faster for an additional charge.

Courier service agencies today are threatened by the introduction of Fax machines through which the copy of a document can, within seconds, be transmitted to the receiver in any part of the world.

Ramakrishnan of Overnite agrees that the gradual acceptance and the introduction of Fax machines poses a threat to the courier trade and adds that he intends to introduce a similar service for those "who have the money but not the machine at their disposal."

Ray, at Skypak, however disagrees. "Not many people are inclined toward these machines as they can only transfer a facsimile of the document and not the original. When the original is needed private couriers become indispensable," he insists.

All said and done, couriers are here to stay. As Capoor says, "Courier business has come of age." And Chatterjee adds, "There's never a dull moment in the courier trade, that's why I enjoy it."

FROM AVERSION TO AFFECTION

Jawaharlal Nehru's younger sister the late Krishna Hutheesing somehow developed a dislike for me which I heartily reciprocated Perhaps it was a case of "hatred at first sight We exchanged some unpleasant correspondence too I still remember writing With no regrets Yours sincerely P D Tandon while concluding my letter to her With No Regrets is the name of one of her books I am sure I must have annoyed her by my nasty note

After my release from Naini Central Prison in November 1943 I had no place to stay in Allahabad The house that I had occupied before my arrest had to be vacated because I was a detenu and there was no knowing when I would be released I was in no position to pay the rent and retain it indefinitely Swaraj Bhawan which was the headquarters of the All India Congress Committee those days was under the charge of Acharya J B Kripalani who was general secretary of the Congress He was always very kind to me When he heard that I had been released from prison and had no place to stay he sent word from the Ahmadnagar Fort that I could stay in Swaraj Bhawan Allahabad

I occupied a room but it had no electricity Some other rooms in the building did because they were occupied by the Congress Hospital which was run by the trustees of the Kamala Nehru Memorial Trust I tried to get an electric connection in my room too but the man in charge of the hospital turned down my request He feared that the local administration might not like it and that he could get into trouble The AICC office was already in the custody of the police Consequently I worked at night in the light of a kerosene lantern and an earthern lamp which gallantly fought the huge darkness of the Motilal Nehru room One day Mrs Hutheesing visited Swaraj Bhawan and all present greeted her respectfully falling to her with due courtesy I kept sitting in my room and continued my work I had no urge either to see her or talk to her I did not think it even necessary to meet her because I was living there due to the kindness of Acharya Kripalani

My behaviour enraged Mrs Hutheesing She knew that I had written a book on Nehru and was waiting for a foreward from Mahatma Gandhi which he had agreed to send at the suggestion of Acharya Kripalani Mrs Hutheesing wrote to Gandhiji instigating him against me and dissuading him from writing the foreword I got no reply to my letter I was intrigued I did not know then that Gandhiji was unwilling to keep his word at the instance of Nehru's sister After Acharya Kriplani's release from prison I told him the entire incident He met Gandhiji and pleaded my case Gandhiji wrote back

Brother Tandon
Poona
30 9 45

I am sorry that I could not send anything for your book earlier One reason was that I was short of time and the other was unwillingness to write anything But how was it possible for me to refuse to write on brother Jawaharlal? Now I only hope that my foreword will not reach you too late

Yours
M K Gandhi

However Mrs Hutheesing's dislike for me did not abate In fact it increased After Jawaharlal Nehru's release from Ahmadnagar Fort she wrote a letter to him complaining against me Curiously enough I saw this letter before Jawaharlal Nehru got it One Chaturvedi was my class fellow at Allahabad University and later he became a CID inspector He used to come to me every now and then and would discuss politics and university affairs with me I did not like his visiting me but I could not ask him to refrain from coming Those days the mail of the Congress leaders and their staunch followers was censored and all the letters were read by the CID men before being delivered to people One day Chaturvedi came to my house rather excited and said You feel that Nehruji is pleased with you but now you will have trouble I told him that he always talked nonsense and I was sure that Panditji was not annoyed with me He insisted Now you will get it in the neck

I felt that he had something up his sleeve and my curiousity was roused I said Have you ever spoken the truth? You always spread gossip You know nothing about Nehru and you always pose as if you are the custodian of all the Anand Bhawan news This provoked him and he indignantly proclaimed Tomorrow I will prove whether I know anything or not I tell you that you will soon be in trouble



Krishna Hutheesing (right) at a reception in New York with Indira Gandhi, Richard J Walsh of the Indian League, Pandit Nehru, Pearl S Buck, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and Loy Henderson, US ambassador to India

The nation remembered Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary last week. Here, **P.D. Tandon** narrates a touching incident involving his lesser-known sister, Krishna Hutheesing

Now I was convinced that he had something important to tell me and I wanted to make sure that he came to the house the next day. I told him "Chaturvedi, today your bluff has been called and I am sure you would not come to me again." He replied, "Wait, wait Tandon! Tomorrow you will know whether I am a bluffer or not," and left the place looking quite hurt

He kept his word The next day he came to me and placed in my hand Mrs Hutheesing's letter to Nehru in which she claimed that I had told her that "I had a dagger into Feroze's and would play him up " I did not know what she actually meant by it I had never discussed Feroze with her and I was very upset My main difficulty was that I would never be able to explain my position to Nehru if he did not ask me anything about Mrs Hutheesing's complaint I could not tell him that a CID officer had told me that she had written a letter to him making false allegation about me Those days any association with the police or the CID, however innocent, was enough to make one a suspect in the eyes of Congressmen I could not have taken that risk

I was in a terrible dilemma I was itching to tell Nehru that Mrs Hutheesing had done me a grave wrong in writing that letter to him But I could not I felt puzzled A few days later, as I was sitting in the verandah of Anand Bhawan, Feroze Gandhi came up to me and thundered, "Tandon, what did you say to Mrs Huteesing about me? Panditji has got a letter from her "

I felt relieved because now I could tell Nehru what I wanted to I told Feroze that I might be foolish, perhaps, very foolish but not so foolish as to say anything against him to her He seemed to be angry with Mrs Hutheesing and said, "Yes, yes, she has a habit of dragging others into her own quarrels," and walked away. Feroze behaved very sportingly that day and i felt relieved

I came to my room and wrote a letter to Nehru explaining my position I remember having written something to this effect "I understand that Mrs Hutheesing has sent a letter to you against me I may be permitted to say that she has indulged in terrible untruths. I know how you hate petty, personal quarrels of individuals and yet I am writing to you about this matter If you are interested in hearing the other side, you may send for me "

He did not call for me He never referred to that letter He treated me as kindly as ever before and I was convinced that Mrs Hutheesing had failed to prejudice him against me Later Feroze told me that Panditji had asked him why he and I were not on good terms and he had said that sometime back there had been some misunderstanding between us, but now we were friends

Years passed and Mrs Hutheesing and I hardly ever exchanged a word In 1964, she came to Allahabad when Mrs Vijay Lakshmi Pandit contested the election from the Phulpur constituency for the seat in Parliament that had been left vacant following Nehru's death One day, when I was sitting in the Anand Bhawan drawing room, waiting to accompany Mrs Pandit to her constituency, Mrs Hutheesing came in, sat by my side and sweetly said, "Tandon, don't go without taking food It is ready "

I tried to excuse myself as I had had a heavy breakfast, and was not at all hungry, but I could not refuse her request She attended to me affectionately at the dining table and I was overwhelmed by her kindness Since then we talked freely, frequently and in a very friendly manner while she was in Allahabad After a few years when I read in newspapers that she was dead,I was distressed I wrote a letter of condolence to her niece, Indira Gandhi, and she in her reply said, 'My aunt was a very warm-hearted person " And that she really was! How meaningless and transitory are human likes and dislikes, I realised that day ■

BARTER BANK

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• **Book:** I offer a book on New Height courses for a double or single screen video game or anything of corresponding value Contact Kaushik Roy, E/538, Sonari east lay out A-block, Jamshedpur 831011

• **Magazines:** I offer 50 issues of *India Today* for a triple screen video game or anything of corresponding value Contact Rohit Sarawgi, Dharmasala Road, Guwahati 781001

• **Camera, slide projector** and **automatic record changer:** I offer a 35 mm Konica camera, Minolta slide projector and Garrad automatic record chager for a stereo system or anything of corresponding value Contact Sunil K Sarawgi, Vandana, Main Road, PO and dist Purlia

• **Magazines:** I offer 10 issues of *Olympic Panorama* published in the USSR for *Bankim Rachnabali—Sahitya Samagra* Contact Asim Dasmalakar, NRS Medical College Students' Hostel, Room no 8, Calcutta 14

• **Speakers, amplifier** and **record player cum-amplifier:** I offer a pair of Sonodyne SX-909 three-way speakers, a Sonodyne Uranus SA 520 amplifier (240 watts) and Philips 832 stereo record player-cum-amplifier with matching speakers for anything of corresponding value Contact M Gupta, HM Colony, TH 130, PO Hind Motor, Hooghly

• **Guitar, stamps** and **novel:** I offer a Hawaian guitar, 150 Indian stamps and Harold Robbin's *Evie* for a Spanish guitar and novels by Sidney Sheldon and Harold Robbins Contact Ajay Tantia, 297, G T Road, Salkia (north), Howrah 711106

• **Study material** and **badminton racket:** I offer YG's File for the IIT entrance, Brilliant's test papers for IIT-JEE and a badminton racket in good condition for a Walkman or anything of corresponding value Contact Amitava Roy, R K Hall, D–205, IIT Kharagpur, Pin 721302

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• **Video game:** I offer a doublescreen video game, *Oil Panic*, for a Walkman in good condition Write to Manak Sarkar, 43-1, Babu Ram Ghosh Lane, Calcutta 5

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• **Coins:** I offfer 60 foreign coins for a Walkman or anything of corresponding value Contact Satish Mukundan, Otto India, 9, Camac Street, Calcutta

• **Camera** and **Walkman:** I offer a Hot Shot 110 camera and a Sanyo Walkman for a two-in-one in good condition or anything of corresponding value Contact A Islam, R 222, PG hostel for house staff Calcutta 20

• **Books:** I offer books and manuals on computer programming, D Base 2 3 and 3 plus, wordstar word processing, home accounting, microprocessors, Norton utilities and other topics for anything of corresponding value Contact Sandip Mehta D 9 Sangam 2, Wood Street, Calcutta 16

QUIZ ◻ Neil O'Brien

Deepak Verma reports "The open quizzing season began with the Dalhousie Institute s Invitation Quiz for the Errol Cowper Trophy Around 90 teams took part in this three day fiesta at Calcutta s most popular rendezvous for quizzards—the Dalhousie Institute

"The opening day saw some neck and neck battles In the first round it was not till the very last question that the issue was settled in favour of Lake Youth Club and newcomers Beamish Boys who made it to the finals The second round saw Soup come away to win quite comfortably while Octave pushed its way through right at the end to just manage to grab the runner up spot

"The second day saw a new look DI A team (virtually the B team) romp home while late entrants TNT Tears took second place In the final round a triangular fight between Magnum Octette and Tetrads saw the first framed two eventually being the lucky ones

"The finals began with rank outsiders TNT Tears stretching out to a seven point lead over their nearest rivals and by half time although the lead had been cut down to four and a half it looked a difficult task for the others However,two teams DI A and Octave were soon in hot pursuit as the second half began and the quiz broke up into tiers—both hotly contested TNT Tears DI A and Octave were in the top tier and Magnum Soup and Octette in the other To add to the interest the hosts decided to offer two more prizes for the third and fourth place

"The lead changed hands among the three leaders and going into the last round DI muffed their direct after scoring a bonus With two questions to go and TNT Tears needing their direct to win Magnum missed an easy question which TNT Tears gleefully snapped up It made no difference as they still needed to answer their direct or lose to DI by half a-point They did answer it and it was good to see a new team emerge as winner of this quiz after years of domination by the big teams DI was beaten but not disgraced Octave had a good run Magnum eventually came fourth

"Neil O Brien as quiz master produced his usual mixture of trivia fun and facts His wrath came down on one unfortunate soul who shouted out to Magnum to let their question go through to TNT Tears It was a silly thing to have done and was rightly chided because it put Magnum in a most unfortunate position—if they missed they might be accused of ducking the question—and it made no difference as TNT Tears had to get their last question right anyway "

A M Siddiqui reviews

The second inter school quiz contest was organised by our club that is Rotaract Club of Kamarhati at R N C Vidhyalaya Ariadaha

Altogether 14 teams participated From the very beginning a close tussle began between Baranagore Narendranath Vidyapith (BNV) and Belghoria High School (BHS) But in the second half BHS forged ahead and remained in the lead till the penultimate round In the last round BNV did some quick scoring and emerged victorious

The quiz was conducted by the popular local quiz master Mr Biswanath Bhattacharya The musical round was conducted by junior quiz master Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

Ms P Eaton writes

The first ever Secretaries quiz was organised by the National Institute of Personal Secretaries (NIPS) West Bengal Chapter at the Saturday Club on Secretaries Day Mr S M Devadason was quiz master for the four teams from IEL Limited Shaw Wallace Dunlops and Tata Tea Chloride the fifth question of every round going to the audience IEL emerged winners with 30 points All the other teams earned 25 points each The audience prize went to Ms Kalpana Bhattacharjee of Webel Jenson Nicholson The questions ranged from what is a Secretary bird a shift key typewriter and a Secretaire to what was the fastest recorded shorthand in the world

CBS

11th Question **In advertising jargon, who are "virgins"?(Niresh D Pande, 3D, Kanchanjunga Apartment, 5 B, Robinson Street, Calcutta 700 017)**
Ans **Celebrities who refuse to endorse products in advertisements**

QUESTIONS

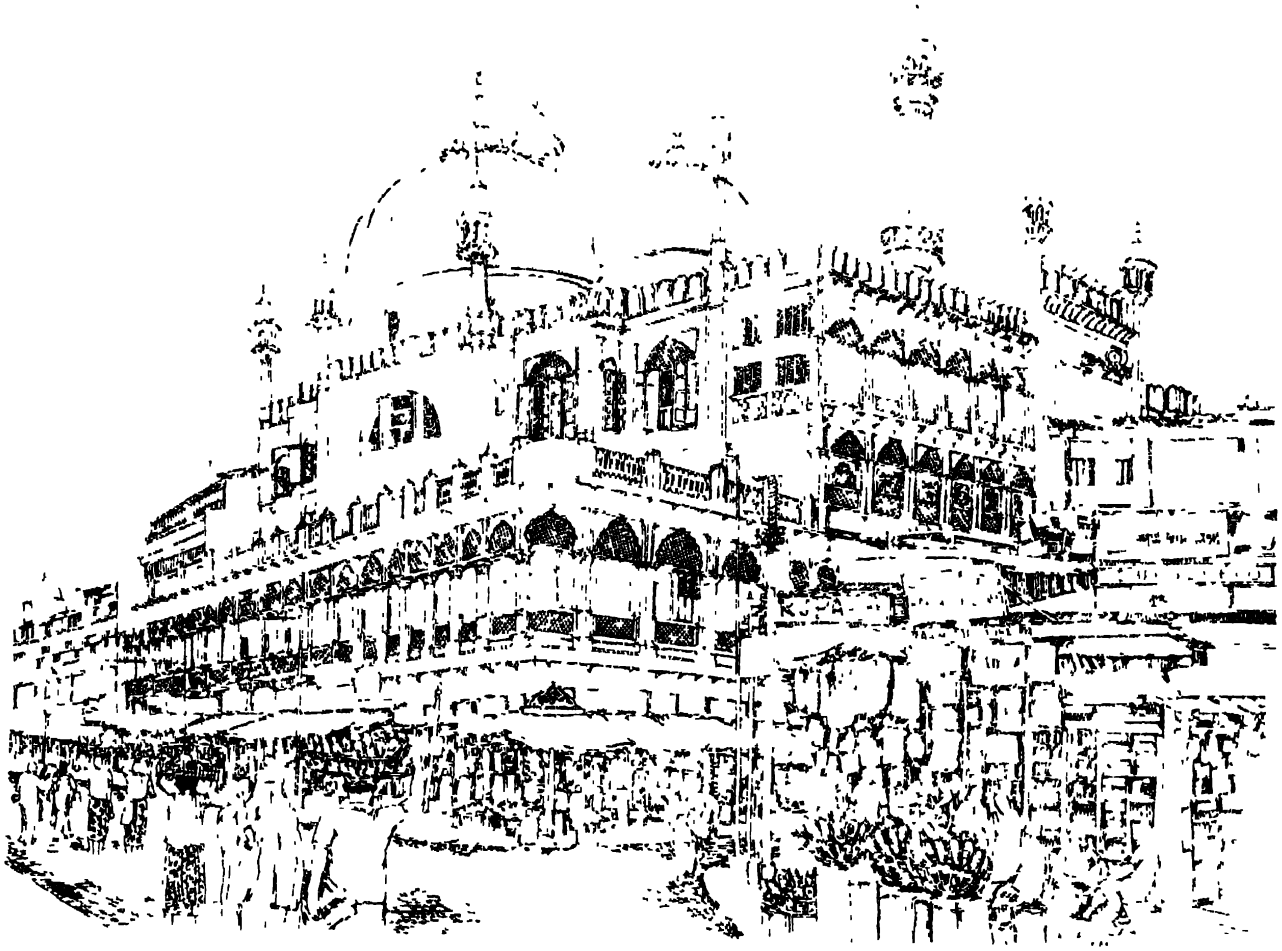
1 What was Mrs Sonia Gandhi s name before her marriage? (Kambupani Khamari Bargarh 28)
2 Which city was earlier known as 'Fort Dearborn ?(Sutanu Mukherjee New Delhi 66)
3 Off whose bowling did Gavaskar score his 10 000th run? (Amit Mathur Sindri 22)
4 Who said about whom My death will not separate us His death will bring us together ? (Ashish Kumar Das BIT Sindri)
5 What is a reflux condenser? (Manjeet Singh, BIT Sindri)
6 What is common to Vilayat Khan Dr Givani Mikhailov Igor Frolov S R Srinivasa Iyer and Bhimsen Joshi? (Sriparna Roy Chowdhury Calcutta 37)
7. Other than the famous book by Jawaharlal Nehru what is Discovery of India ? (Rakesh R Sahay BIT Sindri)
8 In which room of the White House was the INF Treaty signed? (Sandeep K Singh BIT, Sindri)
9. What is the difference between mysophobia and rhypophobia? (Anjanava Dutt, Calcutta 31)
10. What role did Bumper Harris play in the history of London s underground railway? (Sriram Parthasarathy Calcutta 29)

ANSWERS

1. Sonia Maino
2. Chicago
3. Ijaz Faikh (Pakistan)
4. Simone De Beauvoir about her lover Jean Paul Sartre who refused the Nobel Prize for literature calling it a ' sack of potatoes '
5 A condenser in which the vapour over a boiling liquid is condensed to a liquid which flows back into the vessel thus preventing its contents from boiling dry
6 They are all winners of the Hafiz Ali Khan award for excellence in music
7 These are the names of trains which will start running from November 14 88 from Delhi Bombay Calcutta and Madras covering all the major destinations in India
8 East Room at 1 45 pm
9 There is no difference between the two Both mean the fear of dirt
10 He was the man with a wooden leg employed to ride up and down the first escalators in stalled in 1911 in Earl s Court The aim was to give the public confidence in the escalators

HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

NAKHODA MOSQUE



Situated at 1, Zakaria Street in Chitpore, the Nakhoda Mosque is a prayer-house of distinctive Oriental character and design. This sacred edifice, solemn and dignified in its construction, is modelled on Akbar's tomb at Sikandra near Agra. The notable feature of its erection is that it is the gift of a single, small community, the Cutchi Memon Jama'at, a Mohammedan sect in Calcutta, who resolved to present their co-religionists with a mosque that would rank among the greatest places of prayer in the world.

The foundation stone was laid on September 11, 1926, and it was built at a cost of Rs 15,00,000. The mosque comprises a large prayer hall that can accommodate 10,000 worshippers, the majestic dome, two lofty minarets each 151 feet high,and 25 smaller ones surmounted by cupolas whose height ranges from 100 to 117 feet. The entrance is through the lofty arches of two imposing gateways of red sandstone of Dholpur, designed after the famous Buland Gate of Fatehpur-Sikri. Rich ornamental marble with designs similar to those of the Taj Mahal and other celebrated Muslim edifices in the East, has been lavishly used in the interior.

During the Ramazan month, beacons visible from a great distance, shine from minarets to indicate to the faithful the proper time to fast. The mosque is administered by a board of trustees appointed exclusively from the members of the Cutchi Memon Jama'at.

DELHI'S

Chittaranjan Park in the capital is where the Bengalis find an oasis. There is everything there that Calcutta has but Delhi doesn't. But does it also lead to some kind of isolation from the mainstream? **Manini Chatterjee** talked to the residents of the colony to find an answer

Photographs: Rajesh Kumar

To the undiscerning eye, Chittaranjan Park is just another posh south Delhi colony. The wide tree-lined lanes crisscrossing through the houses are almost deserted during the day, the odd vendor sits under the shade of gulmohur trees, the residents remain unseen behind the walls and hedges that surround most homes and the children are away in public schools many miles away. The passing visitor might easily miss the smell of fish and turmeric that emanates from every home or the sound of rounded vowels in the streets or the sight of saris upon saris from places as distant as Dhanakhal and Tangail.

And then dusk falls and 'Bengal' comes into her own. As the low voltage bulbs that overhang the marketplace light up, north India recedes amid a profusion of fish, sweets and unheard of vegetables. "Pabda, Tangra, Pabda, Tangra," cries the fishseller, trying to shout down his mate selling the more conventional Ilish and Rui, while another enterprising fellow enjoys his monopoly over a tray of jumping live eels that splatter the lovely white sari of a haggling housewife. The vegetable sellers eschew the routine north Indian fare of bhindi and tinda and stock their stalls with mocha (banana flower), thor (banana stem) and patal, instead. The sweets are a little depleted because of the capital's rule that milk-based sweets cannot be sold during the summer, but if you know the right code (as all Chittaranjan Park residents do), you can take your pick of khir kadamba, lengcha or whatever suits your tooth.

Then there are the Bengali magazine stalls, the sari shops and the ramshackle apology of a restaurant selling—what else—Mughlai paratha and fish cutlets and rolls. There are 2,070 plots in Chittaranjan Park, totalling over 15,000 residents, and almost all of them shop in the four markets in the colony, strictly following the motto, 'Be Bengali, buy Bengali.' The markets provide a variety no other Bengali store or fish market does. Despite the constant efforts to make the colony a haven of Bengali culture and an imitation of Calcutta, it is in the marketplace that Chittaranjan Park—the largest congregation of *Probashi* (or non-resident) Bengalis anywhere in the world—really comes alive.

It is nearly two decades since the first resident of Chittaranjan Park moved in and, over the years, many attempts—some successful, some abortive—have been made to recreate a certain ethos of a forsaken homeland, revitalise nostalgia and keep it alive. It is a sociological phenomenon that throws up many questions, perhaps because it is the only one of its kind barring the Chinatowns around the world. But, to understand it, one must go back to the beginnings. To the days in 1954 when government servants in Delhi first thought of a home away from home in the capital.



The Kali Mandir under construction

Mr Asutosh Datta recalls the first formal meeting of over 100 Bengali expatriates at the meteorological office at Lodhi Road in Delhi. The met office had a large proportion of Bengali employees many of whom had been working in Delhi since long before Partition. "We used to sit in the lawns during tiffin time and discuss our future. We were refugees without refugee status—we could not get land in West Bengal because we had not been directly uprooted from East Bengal and yet we had no homes to go to after retirement because Partition had taken place." It was really the massive rehabilitation measures taken for the West Punjab refugees in Delhi which triggered off their desire for some land of their own. After many "tiffin time meetings," they formed an association called the East Pakistan Displaced Persons (EPDP) Association and decided to appeal to the government for land. They were lucky in securing the help of Ms Ila Pal Choudhury, a Congress MP from the erstwhile Nadia zamindar family and a close associate of Jawaharlal Nehru. They presented their memorandum to her at her South Avenue residence and she immediately walked across to Teen Murti Bhawan and spoke to Nehru himself. Nehru agreed to the concept at once and asked the minister of rehabilitation, Mr Meher Chand Khanna, to look into the proposal and allot suitable land.

Khanna earmarked the Kalkaji area for the purpose, a land strewn with rocks and jungles, miles away from the centre of town. If getting the sanction was easy, the actual process of transferring it from paper to land took many long years in which we "faced a lot of struggle, a lot of humiliation," according to Mr B. B. Chakravarty, the former president of the EPDP Association. The then home minister, Mr Gulzari Lal Nanda's Bharat Sevak Samaj was first asked to develop the land, but they dragged their feet over it allegedly because of the anti-Bengali feeling among the Punjabis at large. Later, the influential Mr Sen Verma, then election commissioner, who became the president of the association, approached the deputy minister for rehabilitation, Mr N. R. Laskar, who asked the CPWD to develop the land.

A circular calling for applications from homeless East Bengalis living in Delhi was sent out in 1964 and by April 4, 1970, the first resident, Mr P. K. Basu, entered his



Permanent gates built after the terrorist attack last year

BENGAL

freshly built home Mr Asutosh Datta, who moved in later that year, remembers the time when this thickly populated colony had only half a dozen houses like tiny ships scattered in an ocean "We would ask our family to keep all the lights on to guide us back home and you could see for miles beyond and hear the jackals crying at night" Dr Subir Datta Ray, a wellknown psychiatrist and one of the first residents there, added, "For a box of matches, one had to trudge for miles We spent long hours at the electricity office and the water department to get these basic facilities" Most old-time residents continue to harbour a certain bitterness against the authorities and other north Indians "who were jealous that Bengalis had managed to get such a good deal and were making a beautiful place out of the rocks"

Gradually, the colony started filling up and Bengali vendors turned permanent shopkeepers, setting up unauthorised stalls and providing that staple of Bengali existence– food And once the stomach is satisfied, can the mind remain long untouched? So came the pursuit of ethnicity beyond the basics of *maachh bhaat* and a profusion of cultural organisations were founded by the older residents of the colony The first such organisation was the Bangiya Samaj but as one of its founders, Dr Datta Ray, put it, "The Bengali character must assert itself and soon there were splinter groups" Several associations to promote Bengali theatre, literature and the arts have begun and floundered and today the most important remain the Kali Bari Society, the Bangiya Samaj, Chittaranjan Memorial and the Purbasree Mahila

P.K. Basu's house, the first one built in the colony, and his son-in-law



Samiti The Bengali love for politics works in all of these and other bodies but some good work continues to be done The Kali Bari Society has managed to get funds to expand the Shiv Mandir and make it the largest Kali Bari in Delhi It also runs a guest house where outstation Bengalis many of them from Calcutta can stay at reasonable rates in an otherwise increasingly expensive city The Kali Bari also runs discourses on the Gita and other socio religious events and is the favourite *adda* for retired old men

The Bangiya Samaj runs a reading room and library and brings out an occasional journal, but it is the Purbasree Mahila Samiti which engages itself in more active social work It runs a polytechnic, a nursery school and shorthand and typing classes for women It also runs a marriage bureau whose success rate remains a closely guarded secret Its president Ms Bani Dasgupta, has been an active social worker for long and insists that "we cater to everybody not Bengalis alone" More than 300 women are members of the Samiti beside many non members who also try and do some voluntary work to keep themselves busy Ms Dasgupta insists that discussions on "who has cooked what fish in what way" is not rampant in this colony but most people think otherwise

These associations are all trying hard to preserve a cultural identity by organising Poush Melas where Bengali books are sold and other religious and cultural events such as Bengali New Year Tagore's birthday and the various Pujas are organised Durga Puja remains the biggest cultural event and from the solitary Puja which began in 1971 the colony now boasts of five Pujas, each vying with the other to provide a cultural feast for Bengalis of the city Residents insist that the proliferation of Pujas is not yet another facet of the infighting endemic to the community, but a practical necessity Said Mr Jayanta Mukherjee, a young executive "You simply cannot accommodate 15 000 people under one pandal How will they all offer *anjali* at the same time?

But for all the efforts in making Chittaranjan Park a mini Bengal, the young generation cannot remain immune to the world outside Some of the younger people with a yen for Bengali theatre attempted to Calcuttafy' the area by bringing in touring jatra troupes and little magazines and even a rather desperate attempt at a Bengali medium school But as Mr Mukherjee said, "Except the market, nothing is authentic Bengali We are all Delhiites with a Bengali dialect The children prefer to speak in Hindi or English rather than their mother tongue" Bani Dasgupta also tried to set up a school for children even a little bitter when he says "It really depends on the parents But I

there want to send their children to public convent schools." Others feel it is impractical to cling on to nostalgia for its own sake. Mr Mihir Sengupta, a public hing executive in his thirties, sarcastically noted: "While the sentiment is laudable, common sense must prevail. It's a hare-brained idea to have people study in Bengali when the rest of the city functions in Hindi and English. It is not fair to make it a mini Bengal. Of course, such a large concentration of Bengalis gives it a Bengali flavour, but it has not been lifted out of Bengal. This is Delhi."

Nevertheless, the residents have succeeded in setting up a branch of the Rai Sinha Bengali School. It is still a primary school using Bengali as the medium. While other efforts at experimental schools have failed, the very fact that Bengali is widely spoken in the colony ensures that the children at least speak the language fluently, and many even read and write it.

There are other aspects of Delhi which the older residents are trying hard to fight against, and, though still on top, are gradually losing the battle. The Delhite, or rather, the predominant Punjabi, is seen by all other communities as the archetypal go-getter. Punjabi, in fact, has become a metaphorical term for people who are competitive, acquisitive and out to make money. Though things are changing, it is true that Chittaranjan Park has fewer *nouveau riche* yuppies than most other Delhi colonies. A majority of the houses are one storeyed with a fair bit of garden in front. In other areas, houseowners build two more storeys and rent out every bit of available space to make as much money as possible. The Bengali's innate love for greenery is also manifest with every house growing some flowers and a papaya or banana tree to boot. It is a love for nature which harks back to the riverine pastures of East Bengal and not the cultivated ethnic *chic* of potted plants in the drawing room.

But things are changing, thanks to the skyrocketting land prices in the colony. When the government first allotted the land at Rs 30 per square yard, nobody imagined that the hapless refugees would one day sit on a gold mine. But, as south Delhi began to gain premier status in this class-conscious city and, moreover, after the Nehru Place complex (the south Delhi alternative to Connaught Place) came up, suddenly Chittaranjan Park became a coveted place to stay. Today, the official land price is Rs 6,000 per square yard and much more is offered under the table. Under the pressure of circumstances, several houses have been sold to non-Bengalis much to the chagrin of the older residents. Mr B.B. Chakravarti bemoaned, "The most unfortunate aspect today is that the houses are being sold to outsiders. Even if a Bengali wants to buy a house, the authorities make it very difficult. Besides, most Bengalis do not have the money." Some of the sales are inevitable—elderly parents with children settled abroad, a man with no heirs or the people who would prefer to return to Calcutta and take advantage of the fantastic prices offered. Since north Indians have the money, they have already bought up around five per cent of the houses. Even while regretting this dilution of identity, residents proudly point out that "we are a preferred colony—there are no loafers on the streets, there is a sense of community and there is peace. Other communities like to live here."

In an age where everyone is for himself, the sense of community seems anachro-



When Bengalis are there, can fish be far behind?

nistic. It was most visible after the terrorist attack in the colony on Kali Puja last year in which 11 residents were killed. The entire colony grieved together like one family and all the arrangements for funerals, etc were arranged by the young boys of the *para*. The women took turns to stay with a young bereaved widow and later, the residents got together and put up gates for security and pressurised the government to set up a fullfledged police station in the vicinity. Though the sense of Bengali identity burst forth at the time, it did not stretch to become an anti-Sikh or anti-Punjabi feeling. Dr Datta Ray said, "The Bengali nature does not harbour grudges and no Sikhs here have ever felt insecure."

Some of the younger people, brought up in a much more cosmopolitan atmosphere, find the good neighbourliness "annoying." A journalist who has been living here off and on insisted that "it is too cloying, they are always so curious, wanting to know why you can't speak Bengali properly. They want to thrust Bengali culture down your throat." But even she admitted that in times of crisis, the people around are "kindness itself." When she suddenly lost her father, then her mother, the neighbours, "arranged for everything, I could not have received such genuine kindness anywhere else." The Dasguptas, another working couple, felt the people are curious, but not unduly interfering. "Cultural activities are going on all the time, but nobody forces you to participate if you don't want to."

One of the more interesting sociological aspects of this colony is the manner in which the strong cultural identity, be it natural or artifically nurtured, subsumes the class identity. The residents come from widely deviant class backgrounds since the original allottees were mainly government clerks and were later joined by some of the top professionals in government and outside. But within the precincts of the Kali Bari or the Bangiya Samaj library or in the market, they all

Vegetables for the Bengali palate



become Bengali *bhadralok* trying to draw a distinction between themselves and north Indians rather than among each other

However, since nothing can ultimately obliterate class distinctions, there continue to be individual cases of horseowners looking down on their less well off tenants and the larger plot owners treating the rest with a certain disdain Even here, a kind of class mobility has taken place with the erstwhile lower middle class persons having become rich because of the rents available and from sons who are better placed in life A return to a quasi-joint family system is also taking place, with married sons and daughters preferring to stay with their parents rather than setting out alone The reason is again economic since it is becoming increasingly difficult for even double-income couples to afford south Delhi rents

Another place which retains the Bengali way of life is the marketplace, not just in terms of the wares sold, but the general attitude towards business Mr Probir Dasgupta pointed out how the shopkeepers would rather have their afternoon siesta than wait on customers "If you have a ten-rupee note and want to buy a packet of cigarettes, the shopkeeper will shrug his shoulders and say 'no change' In any other market in Delhi, they will do anything to get more custom' If the majority of residents love the market for providing everything Calcutta does, and more, the young professionals dislike it for that very reason "You can't get the most basic things here like wrapping paper a canned pineapple or any of the new drinks that have flooded the rest of Delhi' The shopkeepers are happy in their ram backle little hideouts with no great desire to expand their steady clientele The unauthorised markets have become a cause for controversy with many insisting that because of "Bengali patronage', they are allowed to squat here without DDA (Delhi Development Authority) permission But Dr Datta Ray points to their enterprise "When we first moved in, the fishseller Kalipada, was a servant in one of the houses He then decided to sell fish door to door Later, he went back to his home in Kakdweep and brought back fishermen from his village and now they run one of the best fish markets in Delhi Then, there are Shankar and Lapan young educated boys who have established themselves the best known caterers in this part of the world I think, it is a remarkable social event that educated boys through sheer hard work have achieved so much It explodes the myth of the lazy Bengali

As the younger generation take over a generation that has never been based at Mymensingh or Comilla and is seeing less and less of even Calcutta, what future does such an island have? Can the residents remain immune to the cultural barrenness of Delhi where money is the only thing that counts?

Can they cling to an almost artificial notion of culture without interacting with the rest of the metropolis? Will it remain just another comfortable, peaceful colony and lose its identity, altogether? Caught up in their own pursuits, different voices give different answers Said Jayanta Mukherjee, 'The fiercely competitive atmosphere of Delhi is definitely percolating down to us " And Partho Majumdar "It is culturally no better than the older Bengali congregations in Delhi such as Kashmere Gate or New Delhi Kali Bari Chittaranjan Park is not in a leadership role where Bengali culture is concerned ' And the college going Dhira Bose "We are exposed to Bengali theatre, literature films If I had stayed in any other colony in Delhi I would have felt less a Bengali ' Dr Asutosh Datta "It's the best place for a Bengali after retirement We have everything we want without the problems of living in Calcutta " And Mihir Sengupta "I like the place because I don't have to meet the people It's crazy to be paranoid about outsiders entering the colony It's silly to create an island—these are all Punjabi Bengalis with a pretence to Calcutta culture " And Rita Mukherjee "It's a nice place to live in- quiet and green and safe in the streets '

Perhaps, Dr Datta Ray summed it up best when he said, "The national image is the primary image all communities have today But since the Bengali has a superciliious air about himself, the dilution of the Bengali identity will take so much longer You know the saying that for a Bengali, *"Baro mashe, tero parbon"* (13 festive occasions in 12 months), and so there is always some occasion to 'promote our culture. The process of melting will be much slower "

While the debate on the Delhite versus Bengali identity will haunt the numerous *addas* of Chittaranjan Park, for the time being the residents enjoy the best of both worlds—the comfort of Delhi and the best of Bengal. If culture stripped to the bones is really only food and language Chittaranjan Park provides both in good measure and for that alone it shall remain for long Delhi's Little Bengal ■



BORN FREE?

The struggle to protect the tiger and conserve its habitat is far from over. Seema Paul reports on the occasion of World Environment Day

A nightjar announced twilight with a monotonous tonc tonc late one sultry evening in the Dudhwa National Park on the Indo Nepal border Idrees, our mahout slowly guided his elephant Ganga Kali to turn back It was time we left the park Suddenly, a lone langur sitting in the branches of a sal tree sounded an alarm We were all eyes now A tiger was very close In the fading light we strained to catch a glimpse Behind the green grass, we noticed something moving Yes, it was a striped animal a tiger which we had been thirsting to see these last four days The magnificent animal remained oblivious to our presence as we stood behind him

Unperturbed, he emerged from the grass, muscles rippling, claws sheathed, moving with a precision that made his fore and hind claws seem one Before crossing into another patch of grass, it turned its proud head, first to the left and then to the right Noticing us, it uttered a low growl of irritation and then disappeared from sight

My happiness suddenly vanished Yes, the growl had scared me But what had depressed me was that the tiger's canines, used by it to tear at its prey, were missing It looked so pathetic and weak without them, their absence belying its latent strength

Billy Arjan Singh, a wellknown tiger expert who was conferred the gold medal by the World Wildlife Fund, and honorary warden at Dudhwa said the tiger lost its teeth after some villagers placed a bomb in its kill He disagreed with the forest officials claim that it was an old tiger who had lost its canines naturally "I saw him the other day sitting on a fresh deer kill," said Arjan Singh, "looking helpless as it could not tear off the animal's skin to help itself to a meal " He has warned the forest department that the tiger could easily turn into a maneater to find easy food but officials have turned a deaf ear to his advice to capture the tiger and send it to the zoo "Let it die," said a park official, "for that is the law of the jungle."

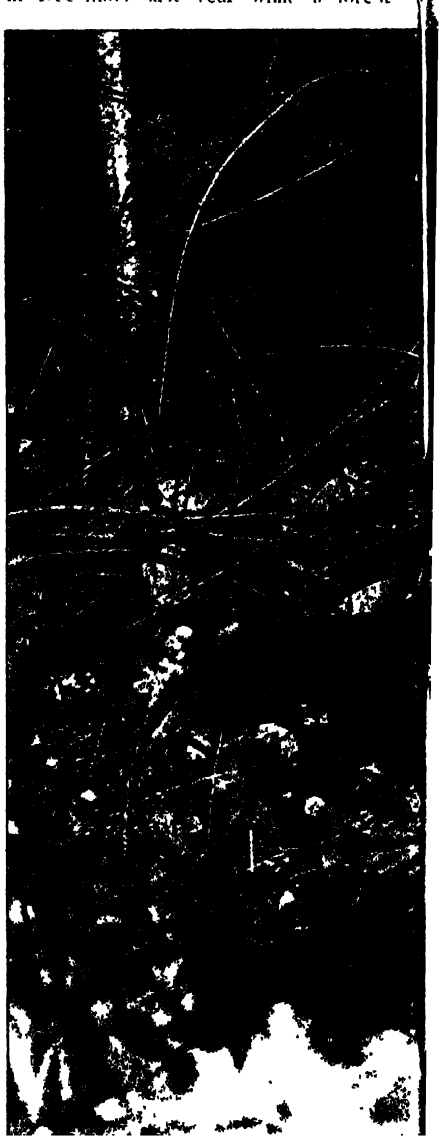
"The apathy of the forest department to the toothless tiger reflects their insincerity to the job that has been assigned to them," said a wildlife enthusiast in New Delhi who is familiar with this case A regular visitor to the Dudhwa Park, he feels Dudhwa is doomed even though it has now been brought under the cover of Project Tiger

About 70 tigers have been poisoned in and around the Dudhwa Park by the neighbouring population according to claims by forest department officials but official sources said the number is higher. Four fresh tiger skins were seized by the Customs 50 kms from the park boundary in December last year while a forest



Brijendra Singh

The leopard, Sunder, named after General Sunderji, at Corbett National Park



The injured mother of Taimur and Tavi



Ambika Singh

Brijendra Singh

en and (inset) Taimur

employee mentioned the gun traps to have found in the park. "These were obviously meant to trap the tigers," he said, adding that "he had brought the matter to his senior's notice."

One forest official declined that Project Tiger itself was in grave danger. Echoing his opinion is Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, a well-known conservationist who was recently, in India. He said after a visit to the Ranthambore National Park, "I will not be surprised if the tiger disappears from Indian jungles in the coming years." Billy Arjan Singh expressed similar fears. "The tiger," he said, is being overwhelmed by the demographic march of progress. I feel we must now pose the question *quo vadis Panthera tigris?* Unless wildlife is delinked from commercial forestry, the days of the magnificent predator are numbered."

Project Tiger was introduced in April 1973 at the initiative of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was a keen wildlife enthusiast. Nine tiger reserves in as many states, located in different habitats, were brought under the project which aimed at protecting the tiger by conserving his habitat. Tigers are at the apex of a complex food chain in most forest ecosystems and understandably, its status symbolises the health and the functioning of the whole ecosystem.

The project strategy sought to protect the tiger by identifying the limiting factors of the habitat and mitigating them by reasonable habitat management and compensatory development. In more simple terms, the strategy implied arresting of regressive trends by operations like intensive anti-poaching, fire protection, elimination of cattle grazing, eradication of weeds, soil conservation measures, relocation of human habitation and inducing water development, according to Mr. V.B. Sahani, a wildlife expert and author of *Wildlife in India*.

Fifteen years later, Tiger Project covers 16 national parks and is considered one of the biggest conservation successes stories of the world," said Mr. R.I. Singh, director of Project Tiger, who coordinates the working of the various parks. "It is undoubtedly the most successful conservation project launched in post-Independent India. We have succeeded in raising the figure of this endangered species from a mere 400 at the time the project was initiated to over 4,000."

Irrefutable though is the claim about the success of the project in terms of increasing tiger population, there are no obvious indications that prove that the battle for the survival of tigers is for "forever". There are clear signs of lackadaisical effort on the part of the official machinery of Project Tiger and the environment



Akhil Chandra

The new generation tigers at Ranthambhore do not shy away from jeeps

The once little-knownRanthambhore National Park which attracted as few as 1,200 visitors during 1982-83, has become a tourist attraction ever since the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, chose it for his first holiday after assuming office

Tourist figures which swelled to 2,800 in 1984-85, reached 4,400 the following year Wellknown US environmentalist, Dr S Dillon Ripley, who visited the park earlier this year, remarked, "The whole place was taken over by tourists who were crowding around the poor animals from all sides, clicking pictures and annoying them in every possible way Unlike humans, tigers are very shy animals and I would not be surprised if they decide to retaliate one day "

Until the mid seventies, the RanthambhoreNational Park faced a severe problem in the form of villages that existed inside its core area but these were shifted and relocated outside the periphery of the park despite stiff resistance from the villagers who has been living in these forests for 200 years The director, who was severely injured in the incident, was awarded the IUCN award for bravery, but, says Akhil Chandra, editor of *Environment Today*, "It seems the park authorities removed villagers, only to replace them with tourists The problem is getting very serious indeed I have seen a tiger surrounded by four to five jeeps in the park and I would not have been surprised if the animal felt cornered and decided to atttack

As if this problem is not serious enough, the government has created another one by sanctioning a fertiliser plant 25 kms from the park at Chauthksa Barwala village Despite the environment ministry's reluctance to grant a clearance to the project, work has already begun on the Rs 1500 project

Another park facing the dual threat of human interference and environmental degradation is the Buxa tiger reserve in north Bengal Sheltering 10,000 people apart from 50,000 heads of cattle and about 25 tigers, it also has four large dolomite mines catering to major steel plants in the east. It is the only tiger reserve in the country which has more cattle and industrial activity in its core area than in the buffer areas. As the park faces continuous pollution, poaching and destruction of trees by the dolomite miners, it will not be long before the tigers will fall back on the cattle inside the sanctuary

And this will trigger off a chain reaction Dudhwa may repeat itself here The field director of Buxa, who has been waging a lone battle against the mines which have the backing of the state government and the undeclared cooperation of the forest department, now faces charges of contempt of court after he tried to stop mining by the Buxa Dolomite Mines which had obtained stay orders in a case in which the forest department was not even a respondent.

Surprisingly, the forest department was not even consulted by the state industries ministry before the latter renewed the mining lease even though the Forest Conservation Act declares that the use of forest for any non forest activity cannot be undertaken without consulation with the concerned department and permission from the Centre The environment secretary, Mr T.Seshan,hasrepeatedly written to the West Bengal chief secretary to take immediate steps to get stay orders from court but no reaction appears forthcoming

ministry under whose overall charge the project functions Admits Brijendra Singh, member of the steering committee of Project tiger and honorary warden of Corbett National Park, "I cannot deny that the project has lost some of its zip in recent years and things are not as bright as they used to be in the times of Indira Gandhi "

The threat to the tiger emanates from the failure of the project staff in removing human interference in forests The tiger, though powerful and fearless, is shy of humans and avoids their company But burgeoning human population and increasing interference in forests is forcing the animal to lose its shyness and attack man under further provocation In Dudhwa this worrisome process has already started

The first case of maneating was reported from Dudhwa after a lapse of 18 years in 1978 when the forest corporation launched a massive operation to collect wind blown timber over a period of six months The forest officials claim the maneater was none other than Tara, Billy Arjan Singh's pet, whom he introduced in the forest She started to kill humans because she had lived in close contact with them and had no fear of man, they claim But Billy disagrees

Even if the forest officials are right, Tara alone cannot explain the trend of maneating in Dudhwa It would be difficult to believe that the maneaters that followed Tara were all her progeny As Billy says, the problem was caused by manmade factors First, the poachers killed tiger prey including deer and wild boars, forcing carnivores to come out of the forest in search of prey This naturally led to cattle lifting. Having lured him out of the forest, people in the area made no efforts to discourage him from continuing to live there. Infact, they encouraged him by continuing to grow cane in their fields which tigers mistook for the tall elephant grass of the forest. Life seemed easier to the tigers in canefields as they found good cover in the long cane and enough food in the form of cattle The increased contact



The tusker, Lord Jim, at the Jim Corbett National Park

with humans male tigers lose their shyness of man. Tigress e started giving birth to cubs in the cane fields and several subsequent villages were by protective mothers

Initially, the locals forced the park authorities to aid in capture tigers that had turned into maneaters. Of late, however, they have taken the law into their own hands. Aware that shooting tigers would invite severe punishment, they have found a clever way of retaliating. they are poisoning their kill, the latest of the 20 odd victims in the last two years being a tigress who was found dead by the road in Mohammedi Range of south Kheri division in March this year.

The problem of human interference exists even in the better managed parks in the country. Corbett National Park, undoubtedly one of the best managed parks in the country, also faces this problem in the form of tourists. With 525 sq kms of core forests surrounded by a large buffer zone there was no reason for tigers to turn maneaters here. Yet, four of them were declared maneaters and have been destroyed or captured since 1979 here.

The last victim was Dhitto who was blamed for killing a wellknown ornithologist, David Hunt. Hunt had actually got off his elephant on seeing a rare owl and was walking on foot in the forest against the rules of the park when he accidentally disturbed Dhitto on his kill. Sometime later, Dhitto killed a forest staff and was captured and sent to the zoo.

The forest staff, however, admits they themselves were to blame. Dhitto was exposed to humans more than any other tiger. From childhood he became familiar with and fond of a forest employee who used to pass through his territory every evening. He even started responding to his cycle bell, a weakness the employee exploited. He used to call Dhitto from his hiding to exhibit him before tourists. Dhitto, thus lost his shyness of man and became a maneater.

Another Dhitto seems to be in the making in the Khunnanah area of the Corbett Park which has a very high prey base and, consequently, supports more tigers. A family consisting of a tigress and her two cubs, a female, Tavleen and male, Tanmar have made it their home, for the last three years. When the cubs were a year-and-a-half old, some injuries were noticed on the right ear and body of the mother making it difficult for her to make a kill. She became totally dependent on her cubs for food. Even the male cub was lazy and she had to share her mother and brother's kill on Tavleen, who had not even been taught by the mother to make a kill.

As more tourists came to the area, the tigress started straying away, the region of concentration in the Khunnanah area. Those who spotted the lonely wretched creature at first hand could inform others about the exact location of the family. The tigers naturally did not like this attention and after enduring it for some months started to make their displeasure apparent. More than twice Tanmar and Tavleen were reported to have growled and attacked cars from their resting place to avoid the glare of tourists' eyes. When people refused to take the hint, Tavleen one day decided to put a check to an elephant. She evaded behind and the panicking elephant tripped and fell down. Luckily for the forest attendant on it, Tavleen turned back and the elephant which got up, returned to Khunnanah. Subsequently, Khunnanah was declared out of bounds for tourists.

Plans are about to move the PWD tourists complex which exists in the core of the forest, out of the park. The park director Mr Ashok Singh wants the new building to be built at the Dhangarhi gate, the entrance to the park, so that the area is restored to the animals. The directors at other national parks are equally keen to close tourist complexes in the core zones of forests which are meant to be sacrosanct and free of human interference. Only if this is done will the tiger survive. And if the tiger survives, so will the forest and man. ■

Dhitto's pug marks



Ashok Chandra

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aaj Ke Angaarey.** Lite (S N Banerjee Road, 241380) Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue 890762) 4 shows, Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552754), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417) all noon show

The film is directed by Vinod K Verma and the music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh.** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132) - 4 shows

Directed by K Bapaiah, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra, Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)- 4 shows

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T Prakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kabzaa:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141) Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273) Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue 553046), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133)—4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382) 3 shows

A film by Mahesh Bhatt, starring Raj Babbar, Sunjay Dutt, Dimple Kapadia and Amrita Singh The music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road 891090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) Indira (Indira Roy Road, 471757), Malancha (Regent Park)

Directed by T Rama Rao, the film stars Dharmendra Sunjay Dutt, Chunky Pandav, Neelam Mehra, Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amrapurkar

• **Mohabbat Ke Dushman (A):** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266) 4 shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932), Park Show House (Park Street, 441971), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street, 354450), Jaya (Lake Town, 573936), Madhuban (Regent Park) -3 shows

A Prakash Mehra film, starring Raaj Kumar Hema Malini, Farha, Sunjay Dutt and Pran The music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033) 4 shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956)—noon

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464110) - 4 shows

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor

• **Sherni:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473) 4 shows

Directed by Harmesh Malhotra and with music by Kalyanji Anandji, the cast includes Shatrughan Sinha, Sridevi, Ranjeet, Kader Khan and Pran

• **Veerana:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147) 4 shows

Hemant Birje and Sahila Chadha are the lead pair in this film, directed by Tulsi Ramsay and Shyam Ramsay. Others in the cast are Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Satish Shah, Vijayendra and Gulshan Grover The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Waaris:** Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—4 shows

Directed by Ravinder Peepat, the film stars Smita Patil, Raj Babbar, Amrita Singh, Raj Kiran, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Sushma Seth and Amrish Puri The music is by Uttam Jagdish

• **Zalzala:** Opera (Lenin Sarani), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Ujala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Krishna (T.C Dutta Street, 250437)—4 shows, Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)—3 shows.

Dharmendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Rajeev Kapoor, Anita Raaj, Vijayeta, Kimi Katkar and Danny comprise the cast of this Harish Shah film. The music is by R D. Burman.



Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Mandakini in *Pyar Mohabat*



A scene from *Parashmoni*

Bengali Films

• **Agoon:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)—3, 5 45, 8 30, Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—2 30, 5 15, 8

A film by Victor Banerjee, who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Tanuja, Divya Rana, Utpal Dutt, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra, Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury The music is by R D. Burman

• **Ora Chaarjan:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080)— 2 30, 5 30, 8 30

Samit Bhanja's first directorial venture, starring Dilip Roy, Swarup Dutta, Chinmoy Roy, Abhisek Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Shakuntala Barua, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit The music is by Arun Rabin

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayasree T and Sukhen Das The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

Foreign Films

• **Adam and Eve (A):** Tiger (Chowringhee Road, 285977)—4 shows.

• **The Witches of Eastwick (A):** New Empire (Humayun Place; 291051)—4 shows

• **Trading Places:** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715)—4 shows

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• **Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Kahka (Sadananda Road; 478141), Madhuban (Regent Park)

Govinda, Neelam and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film, directed by Kirti Kumar. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Pyar Mohabat:** Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 254037), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street; 354450).

Directed by Ajay Kashyap and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the cast includes Govinda, Mandakini, Raakhee, Shakti Kapoor, Bindu and Kader Khan

• **Shoorveer:** Elite (S N Banerjee Road; 241383), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Ujala (Russa Road, 478666),

A film by Sham Ralhan, starring Rajan Sippy, Mandakini, Danny and Kader Khan. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

Special Events

5-7 June: 6.30 pm

Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Indian Mime Theatre present a pantomime show by the Moscow Ensemble of Plastic Drama as part of the Festival of the USSR in India

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937).

11 June onwards: 4 pm to 8 pm

A week-long photographic exhibition by German photographer Thomas Luettge in the Central Gallery The event is sponsored by Max Mueller Bhavan

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

11 June: 7 pm

Rangakarmee presents the play, *Lok katha,* directed by Usha Ganguli.

At Kala Mandir (B) (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2)· AI 103 at 0035

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1)· AI-132A at 1905

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5). AI-306 at 1830, Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6)· AI-315 at 1855, Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt)· Arr. (6): AI-455A at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York): Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145.

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr (2): SU-542 at 1700 amd Dep. (2). SU-542 at 1810; Arr (4): SU-537 at 1555, Dep (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-492 at 0955; Dep (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325; Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0020

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7). RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4): IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC 248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-441 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka· Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340 Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720, Arr. (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG 693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG 313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily). IC 175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC 477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5)· IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair· Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1)· IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-410 at 1110, Arr. (daily) IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)· IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC 203 at 0625, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 249 at 1810, Arr (daily). IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530 Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650, Arr (1, 3, 5). IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5). IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr (daily) PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily): PF-705 at 1050; Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7)· PF-707 at 0610; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi. Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep

(2, 4, 6)· PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600, Arr (1, 3, 5)· PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight). Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-730A at 0850

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7)· PF-727 at 0940, Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7)· PF-728 at 1610

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5). PF-731 at 0555; Arr (1, 3, 5)· PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-738 at 1235

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-721/722 at 0630, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723/724 at 1915

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily): PF-709 at 1800, Arr (daily). PF-710 at 1935.

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily). PF-701 at 0700, Ar (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-736 at 1620

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri Wkly Dep —Tues Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10 40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

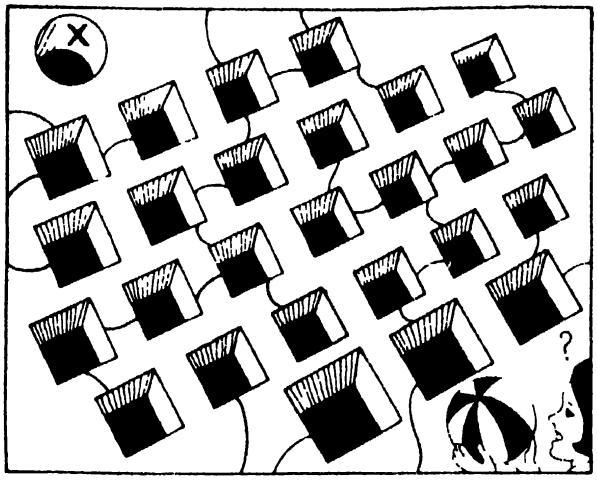
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6 15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	12 50	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10 25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4 30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5 55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7 45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

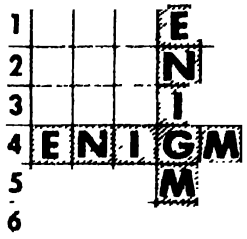
ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203646-54 for in-coming trains; 203635-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



IN THE HOLE! Roll ball to X without dropping it into a square hole or crossing a line

• MAGIC KNOT! Pick up a two-foot piece of string, one end in each hand Form a knot in string without releasing ends How's it done?



WORLD SQUARE CHALLENGE!
Six six letter words, one of them already in place, form a word square above Definitions are provided below How quickly can you fill the blanks?

1 **Naval forces**
2 **Sparrow's :ousin**
3 **The whole shebang, in a word**
4 **A perplexity (already in place)**
5 **Given a name for designation**
6 **"Slow and— wins the race"**

Remember, a word square is made up of words that read the same across and down

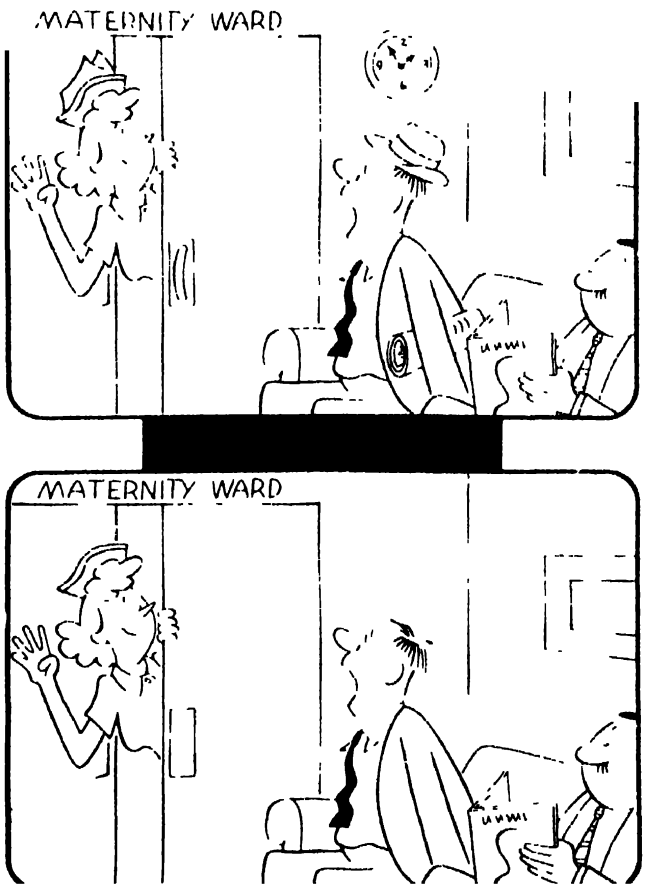
1 Fleets 2 Unnel 3 Entire 4 Enigm
Termed 6 Steady

• **SUM FUN! Select a two-digit number. Multiply it by 101. Alakazam, the same two-digit number appears twice in the resulting product. For example. Multiply 26 by 101 and the result is 2626. Multiply 99 by 101 and the result is 9999.**

What do you think will happen if you multiply by 10101? Give it a try



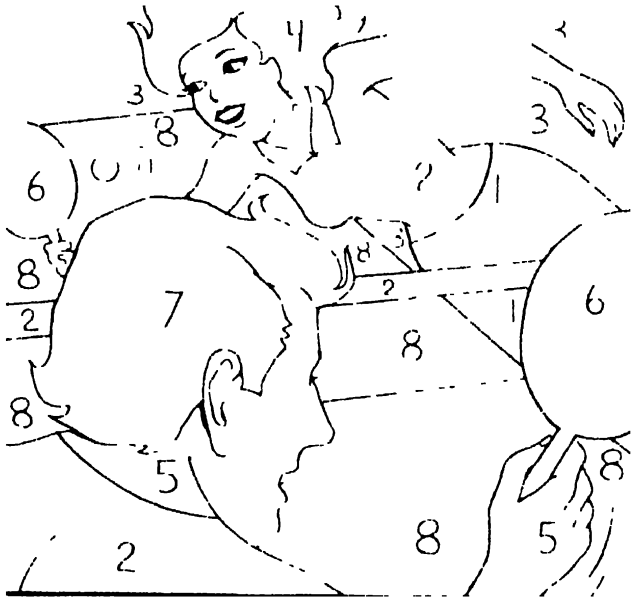
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Cap is different 2 Handle is missing 3 Clock is missing 4 Hat is missing 5 Newspaper is missing 6 Picture frame is smaller

FUNSPOT



NET WORK! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments above Colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5- Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Lt purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ENGRAVER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

[illegible]

From June 5 to June 11

INNER EYE ◻ Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The moon's last quarter suggests trips, collaborations, secret alliances, visits to hospitals, taxation and matters pertaining to friends and loved ones. Those involved with import and export are in for a lucky time Give due attention to incoming news, correspondence and take the advice of elders before embarking on an important venture

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Money, family affairs, loved ones and recognition are highlighted this week Buying, selling, investment and mortgages are foretold Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible Family members will contribute to your happiness Professionals gain recognition Traders will make it big now

GEMINI

May 21 June 20

The Mercury Venus conjunction will bring you love, luck and happiness Money will pour in from unexpected sources Expect relatives and friends to come for prolonged visits Children will demand attention Creative pursuits and hobbies will occupy much of your time Go ahead with any venture you have in mind for Lady Luck will smile on you

CANCER

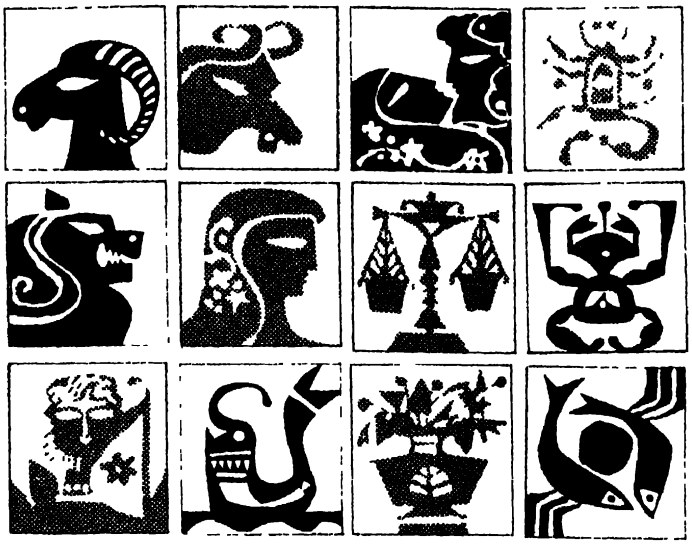
June 21—July 20

This is the time to be adventurous and tread on forbidden territory Be prepared to loan out money to the poor and needy Sun conjuncts Mercury and this formation highlights travel, publicity, tourism and buying and selling Take advantage of all opportunities that come your way and forge ahead

LEO

July 21—August 21

Be prepared to face opposition to most of your plans Take heart for challenges will bring out the best in you Those in sales, teaching, editing, reporting, show business, telecommunication, farming, tourism, management and sales will do remarkably well Your importance will increase by leaps and bounds You will gain fame and recognition in any project you undertake.



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

Do not lose heart for there is much to be done The moon's last quarter suggests minor quarrels and even legal hassles but these will be resolved by July A change in your work schedule is foretold This is the time to take an added interest in your career Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

You will be in your element Travel, communication, sales, publishing, acting, singing, directing and public relations will be highlighted Mars trines Pluto and this formation will help you to triumph over your rivals Your health may be suspect so go in for regular checkups Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible

BIRTHDAYS

June 5

Moon trine Mercury-Venus· An excellent year for traders, editors, tourists, brokers, travel agents, entrepreneurs and those in electronics and telecommunications Prestige, romance and publicity make a triumvirate. This is the time to catch up with skills, research and new markets

June 6

Mars sextile Neptune Matters pertaining to gifts, taxes, and legacies will be happily resolved. Your health will improve and you will be able to devote time to your loved ones and work A lucky year lies ahead.

June 7

Moon's last quarter Pisces: The right mix of caution and aggression is necessary to be successful. This could be the beginning of new ventures. Monetary transactions will need your time and talent. Publishers, import-export dealers, hoteliers and real estate agents will do well.

June 8

Moon square Saturn-Uranus. Changes are foretold The going might get difficult but given grit and imagination, you will come out with flying colours Keep your faith in God

June 9

Mercury conjunction Venus Take chances in July, August and October. Friends and well-wishers will pitch in for you. This is the time to build new ties and alliances, and renew old contacts. Fuse fun and finance.

June 10

Moon trine Saturn-Uranus: The trine will bring opportunities your way. Advancement and progress are foretold. Secret deals are fated. Travel is emphasised. Deals and collaborations will go through. Children will give joy.

June 11

Moon conjunction Jupiter: New openings for you in your job, business, and profession are foretold. Money will pour in. You will succeed in controlling your eccentricities to some extent. Health irritants are probable.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Money will pour in from unexpected sources Your love for the theatre will find expression Business transactions are highlighted and you will have to keep all your wits about you. Romance is on the cards A trip is fated. Despite a hectic schedule find time for children, hobbies, sports and creative pursuits Friends and relatives will drop in for a prolonged visit

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

Home, house, property, renovation, decoration, refurbishing and buying and selling are highlighted Mercury conjuncts Venus and trips, ties and alliances will demand time You will have to plan ahead and concentrate on the work at hand to get results Do not take people at face value and learn to look below appearances

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 19

Learn to use your time more fruitfully because you may get bogged down by the work at hand and pending correspondence News, views, opinions, surveys and interviews will keep you busy Deeds and documents will have to be signed If you are an employer, hiring and firing of staff is foretold Go ahead with any venture you have in mind as Lady Luck smiles on you

AQUARIUS

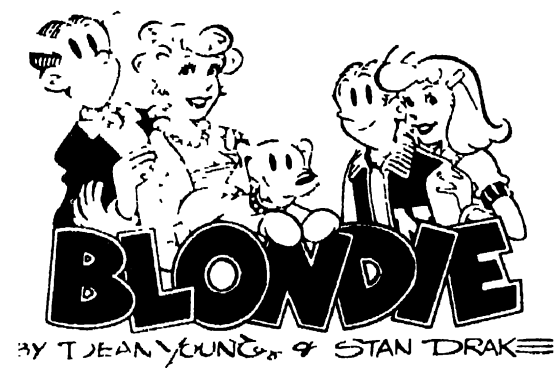
Jan 20 Feb 18

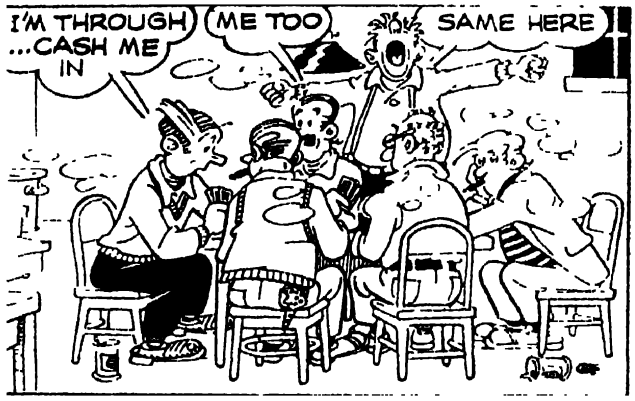
There is much for you to accomplish in the coming weeks Romance, glamour, children, grandchildren, entertainment and socialising are highlighted Ideas, theories, mystic experiences and cultural exchanges are in the offing Rely on your intuition in all matters pertaining to domestic affairs and collaborations

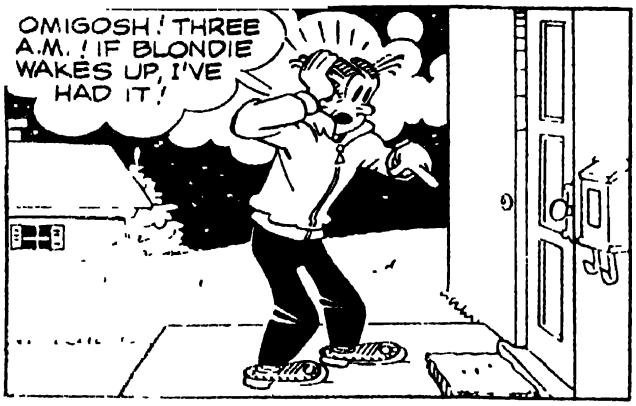
PISCES

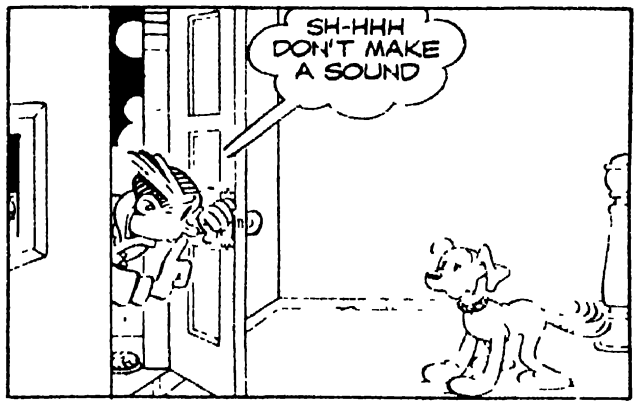
Feb 19—March 20

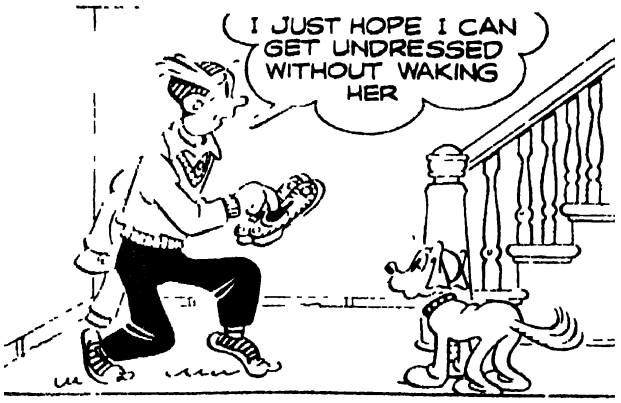
The moon's last quarter in your sign will help you to resolve problems that have irked you for a long time. Good news will reach you. Travel to foreign countries is on the cards. Health may cause concern and you will be prone to fever, cuts, bruises, asthma attacks and minor pains However, this is simply a temporary phase.

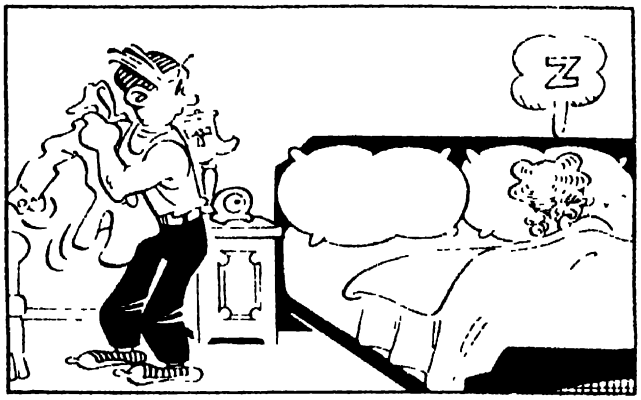

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

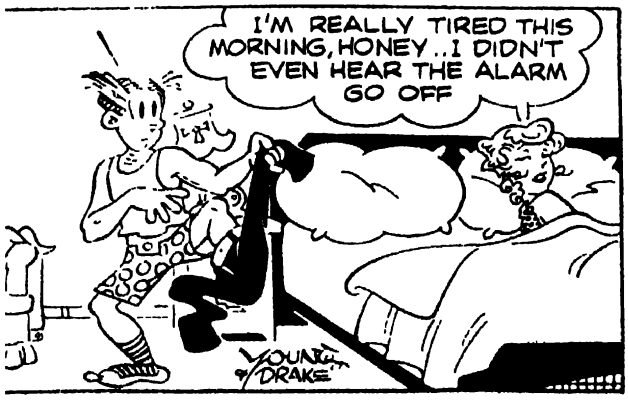

I'M THROUGH ...CASH ME IN
ME TOO
SAME HERE

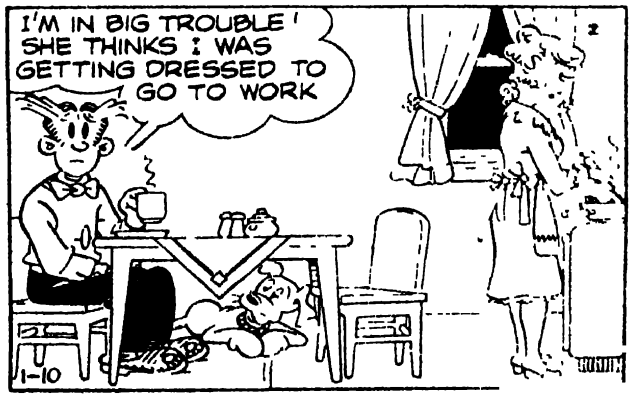

OMIGOSH! THREE A.M.! IF BLONDIE WAKES UP, I'VE HAD IT!


SH-HHH DON'T MAKE A SOUND


I JUST HOPE I CAN GET UNDRESSED WITHOUT WAKING HER


Z


I'M REALLY TIRED THIS MORNING, HONEY.. I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR THE ALARM GO OFF
YOUNG & DRAKE


I'M IN BIG TROUBLE! SHE THINKS I WAS GETTING DRESSED TO GO TO WORK
1-10

HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

HORDAK, UNABLE TO DESTROY HE-MAN, FLEES FOR RE-INFORCEMENTS

2/3

DON'T RUN VERY FAR, REBELS! YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO KEEP... WITH DEATH!

WE CAN'T POSSIBLY TAKE ON A FULLY ARMED CRUISER!

I DON'T THINK HORDAK'S GIVING US A CHOICE!

HOLD ON, YOU TWO! FIRST WE'VE GOT TO MOP UP THIS HORDE WRECKING CREW!

AT THE BARRICADE

SOUND THE RETREAT

IF HORDAK'S LEAVING, SO AM I. HE-MAN WANTS TO FIGHT. WE'LL FACE HIM ON OUR TERMS!

SHOULD WE JUST LET THEM GO

2/1

WE'RE NOT I'M GETTING SOME HELP

IF I CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH THAT BIONOTOP THEY'RE GOING TO NEED IT!

STEADY BIG FELLA I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU

G FORTON C WEBER

2/4

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME HURT HORDAK'S PLANS!

HE-MAN MANAGES TO SOOTHE THE SAVAGE BIONOTOPS BUT AS THE REBEL FORCES ADVANCE

WHO ARE YOU, STRANGER? ANOTHER "TRAVELLER" LIKE ADAM?

I DON'T HAVE REFERENCES HANDY RIGHT NOW BUT I DO HAVE A PLAN TO DEFEAT HORDAK

JUST WHAT I NEED -- ANOTHER HERO MARTIN, ADAM AND NOW THIS ONE! DO OTHER WOMEN HAVE THIS PROBLEM?

2/5

MEANWHILE AT THE HORDE ENCAMPMENT

MOVE THE TIME-WARP DRIVE TO THE SHIP! I DON'T WANT IT DAMAGED WHEN I DESTROY HE-MAN!

G FORTON C WEBER

THE REBEL ASSAULT BEGINS AS HE-MAN LEADS THE SLAVES IN A LAST, DESPERATE BID FOR FREEDOM

FOR THE HONOR OF GRAYSKULL!

INSIDE THE HORDE CRUISER

'HORDAK, DO SOMETHING! THE TIME DRIVE HASN'T BEEN LOADED AND WE'RE UNDER FIRE!

CALM YOURSELF, MOSQUITOR. THOSE PITIFUL SLAVES CAN'T HARM US WITH THEIR FREEZE GUNS...

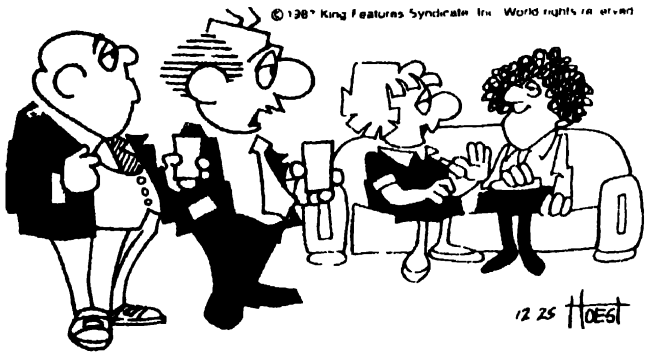
NOT WHEN WE HAVE OUR ION ACCELERATOR!

2/6

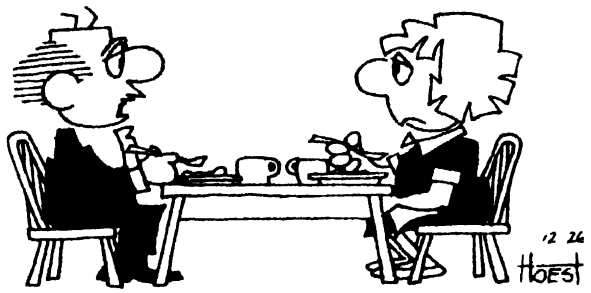
1/8

THE LOCKHORNS

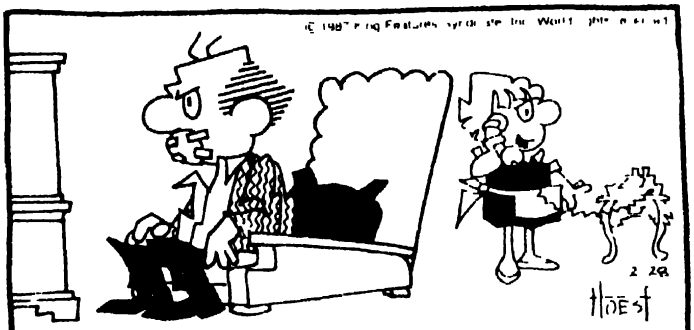
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"LORETTA CAN'T REALLY EXPRESS HER THOUGHTS···IT INTERFERES WITH HER TALKING."



"I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST FRANKS AND BEANS, LORETTA. IN FACT, I LIKE FRANKS AND BEANS ····BUT AT BREAKFAST?"



"WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY! LEROY CUT HIS LIP SHAVING AND I HAD TO PUT A BANDAGE ON IT."

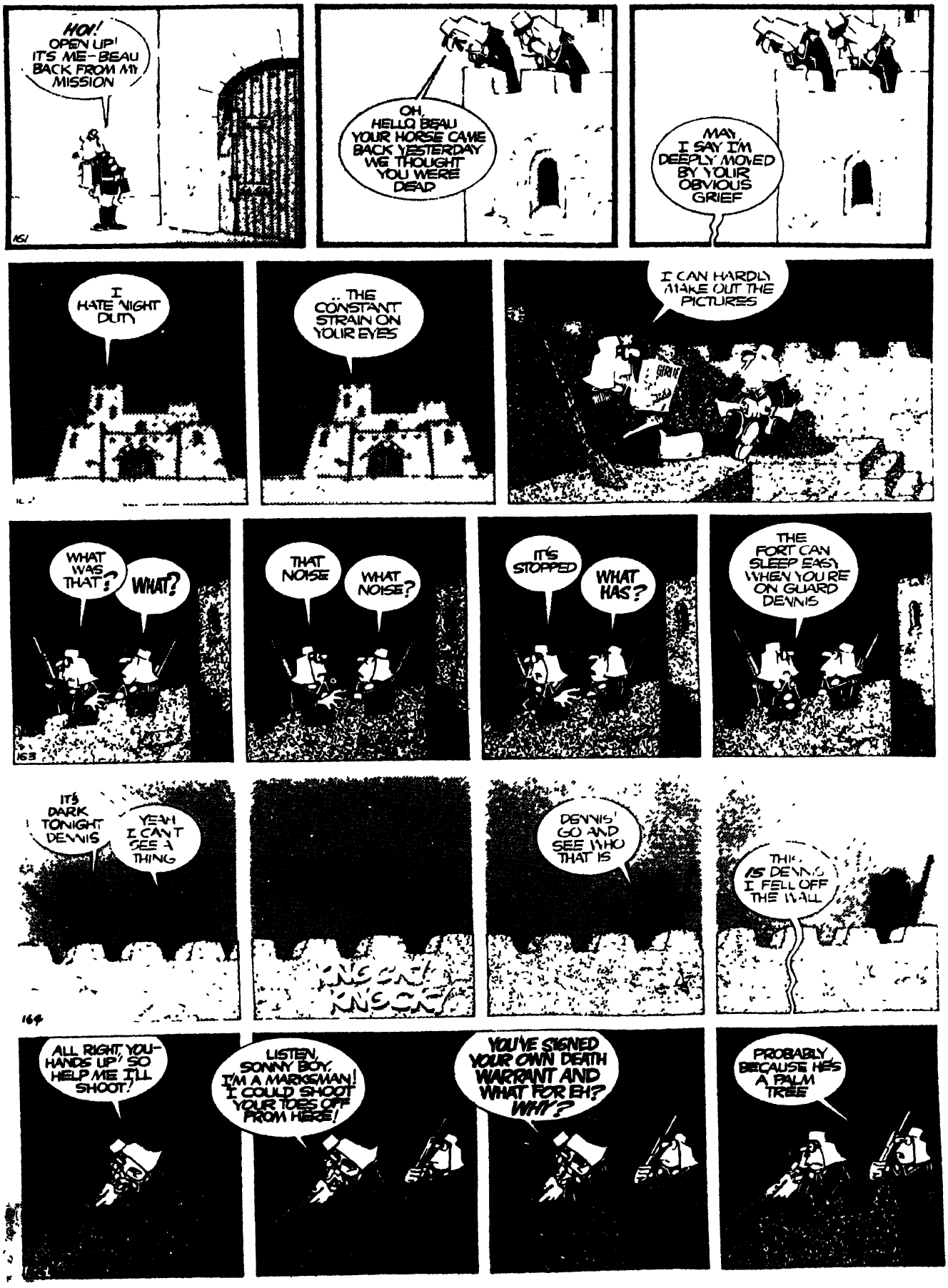


"I'M GOING DOWN TO ARTHUR'S BAR FOR SOME QUALITY TIME!"

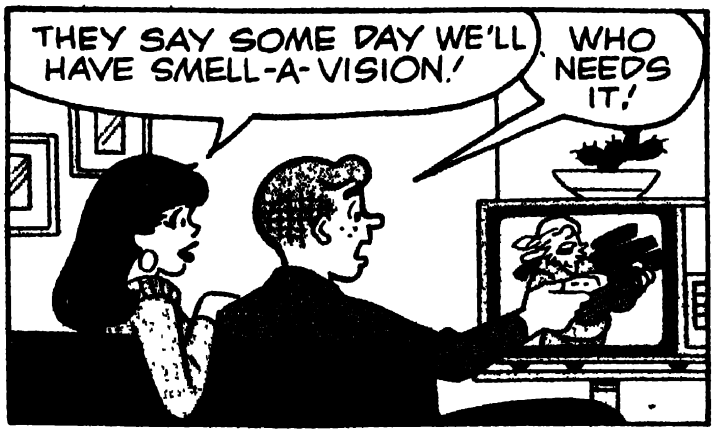
MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

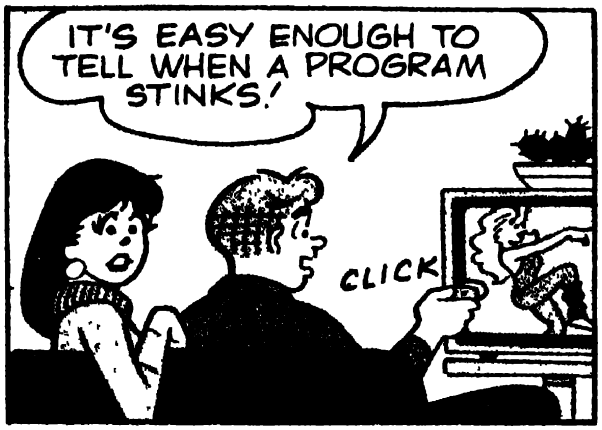


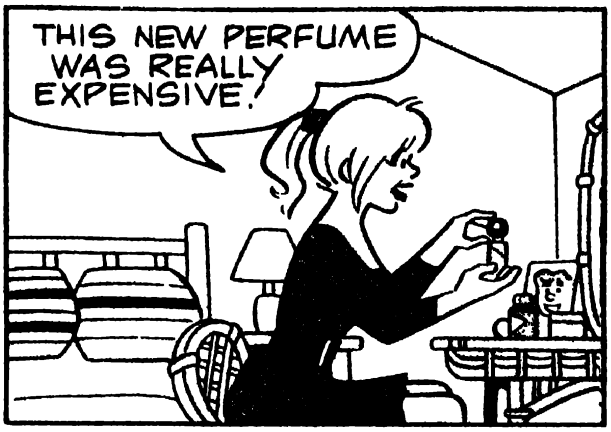
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



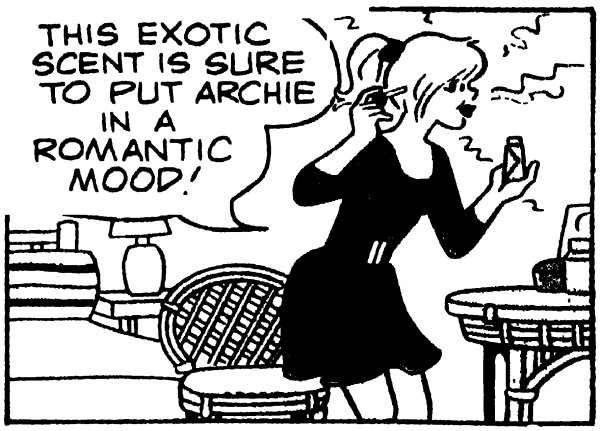
ARCHIE

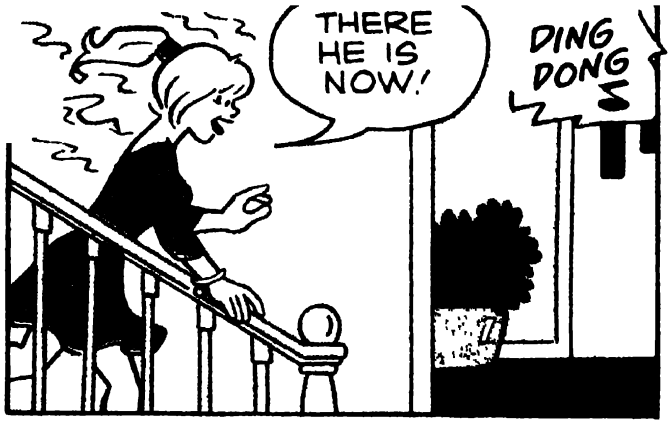


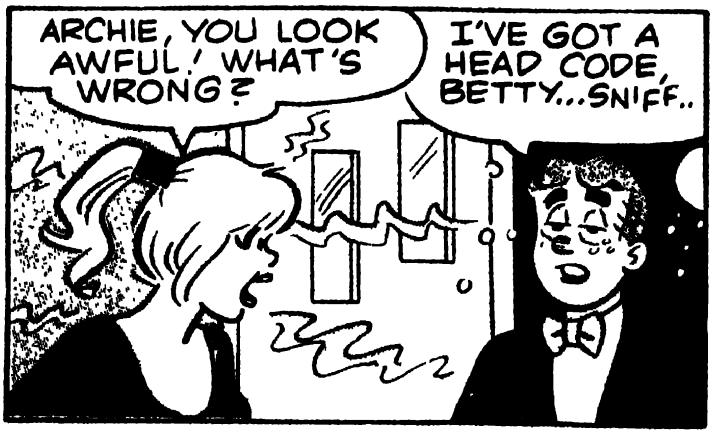


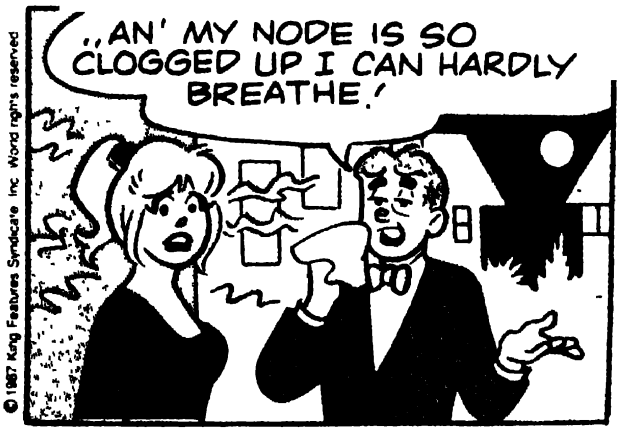




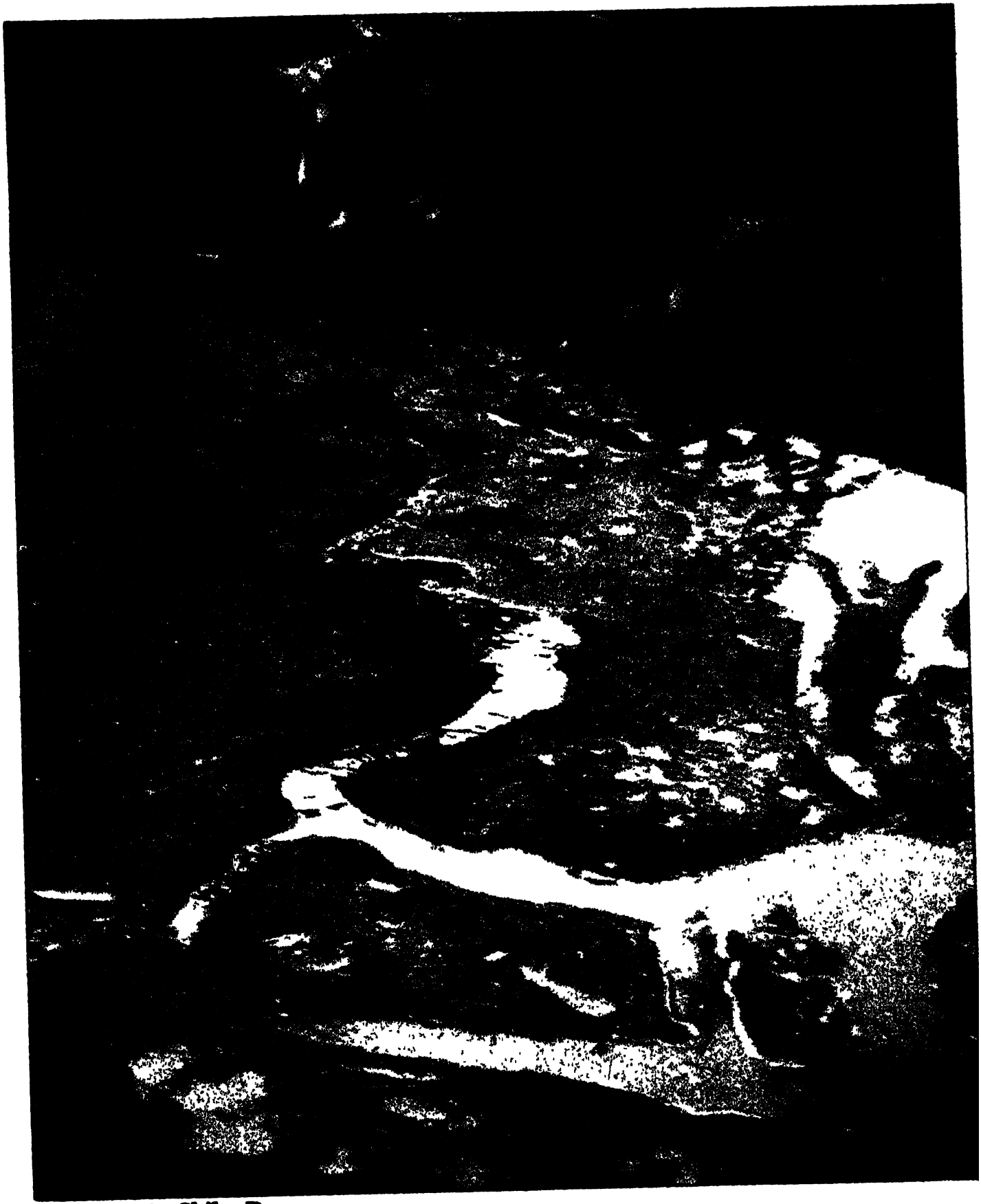




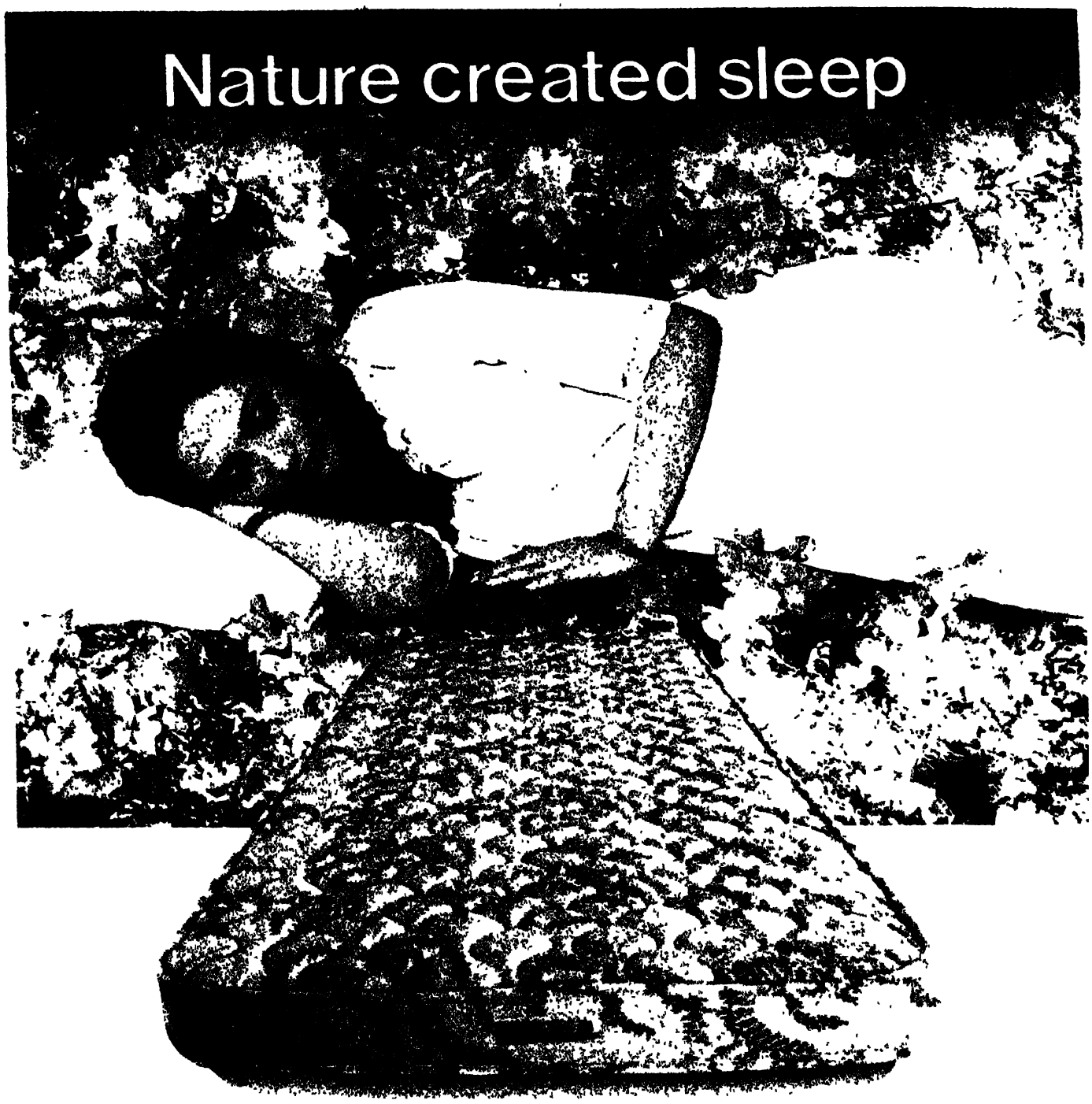




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Photograph: **Shibu Dan**



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makes the DIFFERENCE...

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POST MORTEM

Misleading

The photograph used with the article on the toys industry (April 17) was not that of a Barbie doll. It was very misleading and will affect the customer's mind because of its visual effect. Such things damage th very strong image of



Barbie doll

prestigious product like the Barbie doll, which is the world's largest selling doll.

S.K. Chowdhury,
Area manager, Toys; Blow Plast Ltd, Calcutta

Love Me, Love My Cigarette

In the cover story, 'Love Me, Love My Soap' (May 8) it is mentioned that "cigarette campaigns have never used celebrites till now."

I would like to mention that ITC used celebrity advertising (i.e. filmstar endorsement) for Berkeley quite successfully for a number of years during the late sixties. However, when an attempt was made to regionalise the celebrities with Hindi filmstars in the west and south Indian filmstars in the south, it was found that the smokers in the south were not willing to fantasise about their filmstars who were more public figures than their counterparts in the west. Smokers in the west appeared to be quite willing to believe that the filmstars smoked Berkeley.

To my knowledge, the subsequent Berkeley campaigns were quite unique as simultaneously two entirely different campaigns were run in the west and the south. In the west, the filmstar campaign continued and in the south the cigarette was promoted on the basis of its mildness. This, in fact, introduces another aspect to the subject of celebrity campaign—can the acceptability of the celebrities be uniform across a heterogeneous country like India? Incidentally, ITC also used filmstar endorsement campaign to launch another brand named Superstar.

Sushen B. Saha,
Media director, HTA, Calcutta

Plight of the People

Thank you for touching upon the plight of the people who need medical help ('How Reliable is Your Doctor', May 1) Four years ago, my mother was admitted to a reputed private hospital in Calcutta following a serious cardiac problem. After 14 days, when she was discharged, I had to pay Rs 2,800 as fees to the doctor (bed charges were separate) who visited her every morning and evening only to ask, "How are you?"

In another case, two years ago, an MBBS doctor diagnosed my six-year-old son as suffering from acidity though he had actually received a severe internal head injury.

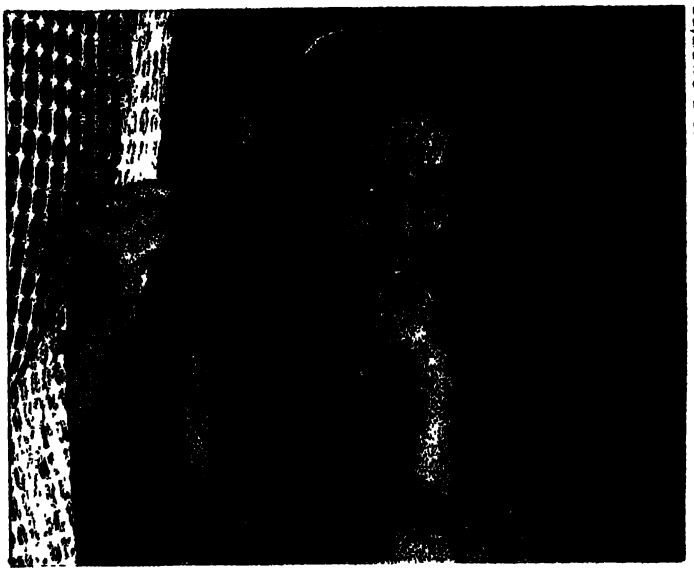
Syamal Karak,
Asansol

The picture accompanying the article, 'The Business of Nationalism,' (May 29) was of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and not of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The error is regretted.—Editor

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

12 JUNE 1988



Dayaram Chawda

Sophia Khan

13 Times are really changing. Advertising and modelling have come of age. And now some top models are willing to bare for a price. But how much, and for how much?

4 A translation of one of the better known poems of Shakti Chattopadhyay who has filed a libel suit against the Sahitya Akademi recently



Anjan Ghosh

6 A look at computer education in Calcutta.

10 How did tea become part of our culture? We trace the history of the cup that cheers.

SECTIONS

8 Viewpoint
9 Heritage
12 Quiz
18 Memories
19 Rainbow
20 7 Days
23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Candid Camera

Model Sheri Meher Homji, photograph by Malavika Tiwari

We publish here one of the more popular poems of **Shakti Chattopadhyay,** who has recently filed a libel suit against the Sahitya Akademi



KRISHNENDU CHAKI

Epitaph

After a period of good times he died a general death
this man, who was a poet,
and quite a beggar to boot
On his demise the publishers mounted a festival
for, with him gone, it was relief at last,
no more of him at evenings,
neatly dressed and calling for cash,
always with threats of rampage
or carnage of the archives
Come out with the cash
or this house meets fire and ash

Yet fire took toll of him—poet and beggar!

Translated from the Bengali by Sankarlal Bhattacharjee

THE MYSTICAL LAST THEOREM

What is so difficult about $a^n + b^n = c^n$? A renowned mathematician explains

Almost appealing irony of modern technology is that generations of intellectuals, schooled in the discipline of higher mathematics nonetheless, have been stumped in their efforts to solve a seemingly simple 357-year-old number puzzle.

The theorem, put forth by Pierre de Fermat, a 17th century French mathematician, has teased the brains of thousands of mathematicians.

Having eluded a "proof" for more than three centuries, Fermat's Last Theorem, as it has come to be known, has thus taken on a kind of mystical importance. Anyone who solves it would be instantly famous, as became clear from the attention given to a Japanese mathematician when he offered a "solution" earlier this year. Experts determined last month that it was flawed, however, so today the theorem continues to beckon.

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of this puzzle is that it is so easy to understand. Does the equation a to the nth power plus b to the nth power equals to the nth power have a solution in which a, b and c are positive whole numbers (1, 2, 3 etc.) and n is greater than 2? (When n equals 2, for instance, there are many solutions, including 3 to the 2nd power plus 4 to the 2nd power equals 5 to the 2nd power, or 9 plus 16 equals 25. Above the 2nd power, however, no whole numbers seem to work. Proving that this holds true for all other numbers is what has baffled the giants of mathematics.)

As if to further tantalize, Fermat scribbled in the margin of an arithmetic book a note in Latin saying he had a "remarkable proof" that there were no other numbers for which the equation would work, but the margin was too narrow to contain it.

Fermat never published his proof, probably because he soon discovered it was unsound. Yet this enigma continues to capture the imagination of mathematicians all over the world.

Even armed with computers, today's scholars have not been able to find a counterexample to prove the equation false. Tens of thousands of papers have been written about the problem. Frustration over the task has even invaded two works of fiction: *The Devil and Samuel Hugg*, a fantasy yarn by Arthur Porges, and *Murder by Mathematics*, a mystery novel by Hector Hawton.

Hundreds of erroneous proofs have been established, some by top mathematicians, and even today more amateurs exhaust their energies on the problem than on trisecting the angle. When David Hilbert, one of the world's great mathematicians, was asked why he never worked on Fermat's Last Theorem, he replied, "Before beginning I should put in three years of intensive study, and I haven't that much time to squander on a probable failure."

Although it is almost certain that no amateur will solve the theorem, there is always the nagging possibility that one might. I am only a mathematical journalist, but every year I receive many such proofs. I promptly return them unread, my conscience slightly twitching, especially when they come in handsome privately printed brochures.

The University of Chicago's mathematics department once had a form letter stating: "We very much doubt that any treatment as simple and short as yours is likely to provide a solution. Should you wish a careful analysis of your solution, we would be able to provide it only upon provision of a suitable fee."

The German mathematician Edund Landau had a form letter that read:

"Dear Sir Madam:

Your proof of Fermat's last theorem has been received. The first mistake is on page ----, line ----."

The blanks would be filled in by a graduate student.

I have also heard of a mathematician who closed his form letter with, "I have an elegant refutation of your attempted proof, but unfortunately this page is not large enough to contain it."

An American expert likes to return crank proofs with a note saying he is not competent to evaluate them, but so-and-so is. He then provides the name and address of another crank who thinks he has a proof.

Most mathematicians are convinced the theorem is true and eventually will be proved. A minority suspect it is false, but believe that the simplest counterexample involves values of a, b and c that have millions of digits. To establish the theorem it is only necessary to prove it for prime exponents (numbers that are divisible only by 1 and themselves), but it has been shown that the theorem is true for all exponents (whether them 125,000.

I belong to a small third group of people who believe and hope the theorem is undecidable. The mathematician Kurt Godel in a celebrated paper showed that arithmetic contains statements that cannot be proved true or false within the formal system of arithmetic. If Fermat's theorem is of this type there must be a counterexample, but of course its existence would make the theorem decidable. It follows that if the theorem is undecidable it must be true.

This leads to a perverse (though to me delightful) possibility. Mathematicians use their supercomputers all to forever struggle with the theorem, never finding a counterexample, never proving it true, for such a result is so unsatisfying giving up because [illegible] mountain [illegible].

Martin Gardner

(The author [illegible] numbers [illegible] and mathematics. He [illegible] the author [illegible] umn in Scientific American magazine. [illegible] (By arrangement with The New York Times.)

Pierre de Fermat, who discovered the theorem



A FUTURISTIC TRAINING

Shantanu Datta visits the computer training schools that have mushroomed in Calcutta over the last two years

Diskettes and floppies, bits and bytes have suddenly stormed the city's common parlance. And why not? Ever since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made public his views on computers and how they would lead us into the 21st century, India has not looked back — nor has Calcutta for that matter.

At present, there are several computer training centres in the city and by next week, at least two more would have cropped up, not to mention the three others in the offing.

However, such a vast intake of computer culture did not take place overnight. "There were only a handful of personal computers (PCs) among a select core of businessmen in the city when we started in 1980. It was really tough going then," says Bibek K. Roy, managing director, Sascons Pvt. Ltd., a computer consultancy/training centre.

Today's scenario is best reflected in the way the Lakhotia Computer Centre (LCC), has grown from what it was in 1985. To Suresh Lakhotia of LCC this upsurge in the demand for computer training is not surprising. He foresaw such academies in 120 locations throughout the country.

The formulation of courses in most computer centres is more or less similar. The whole programme is divided into a number of "modules" which incorporate a specified number of theoretical and practical lessons. After completing a particular module successfully, a trainee goes on to the next one. The duration of each module varies from course to course and from centre to centre. After a student successfully completes all the modules he is awarded a diploma.



I made profit and judging by the number of students I get and considering the fact that none of my classes go empty, I don't think I was wrong," says Mr Lakhotia with a smile.

Another computer centre that has been a phenomenal success is the Megabyte Computer Academy (MCA) which started as a single unit in 1982 with two ladies, Ms Aparna Mafatlal and Ms Jay Kunder at the helm of affairs. Yet in May last year they announced the opening of 126 training

The first module is all about computer fundamentals, its applications and operation with a historical background. This module is designed to give the student a basic idea about computers. It is usually for three to four weeks and the fee ranges from Rs 350 to Rs 450. Once a student is aware of the basic whys, whats and hows of computers, he takes up the next module depending on the career he chooses for himself. For instance, if a student wants to go in for commercial training he chooses the module dealing in accounting.

The Megabyte Computer Academy with three units at Salt Lake, Gariahat and Lake Road, offers two business modules titled "Office Administration Tools (OAT)" and "Commercial Systems (CS)."

The LCC with seven training centres in Calcutta, has one meant exclusively for girls at the S.N. Banerjee Road premises of the YWCA and offers a comprehensive six month course on accounting. Mr Lakhotia says, "To give a better opportunity to girls in the field of accountancy, we at the LCC decided to start this course which teaches manual as well as computer accounting with adequate practical training." He claims the LCC with 900 girls is the latest computer training centre for girls in India.

With a proper selection of the different course modules a student can obtain a diploma in 'Computer applications,' 'Computer Science' and other such courses.

The total fee for such diplomas is around Rs 3,000 to 4,000. The fee for different modules is usually fixed and a student is required to pay the amount before starting lessons.

Most of these organisations besides imparting computer training also act as consultants for different business organisations. Sascons Pvt. Ltd. which has offered software solutions to Chloride, Siemens and IOI among several companies, also trains the office personnel in their usage. One of their major assignments was to train the academic staff of St Xavier's College in computer operations, when the college started its own computer academy in 1985.

B.K. Roy of Sascons asserts that their training programme is different in that "we are not here to make money by teaching. Our consultancy services suffice." He goes on to say that their basic objective is to train a handful of good boys and girls to be well equipped to handle real-life computer situations." The Sascons' training is similar to the others and is based on programming languages, computer operations, systems and its applications, with overall stress given to on-the-job training. Their courses are usually of six-month duration and commence in July.

NIIT, a leading computer training institute of the city, could not furnish any details regarding their curriculum **because** of "procedural problems."

The Lakhotias also offer special courses for company executives, chairmen and other senior officials besides their regular consultancy service. "We have this unique one teacher, one student, one computer facility whereby company senior executives get the best possible training in the shortest time," says Mr Lakhotia.

Perhaps the two most debatable aspects of these training programmes are the amount of computer time available to students and the employment opportunities after one completes a course. Mr Roy categorically states, "Unlike most other training centres we never put advertisements in papers claiming guaranteed employment for our students after they complete the course. However this does not mean we do nothing for their employment. Since we are a consultancy firm our clients from time to time do need some people to operate their machines, and we recommend our good students for this purpose." But then, adds Mr Roy, "**There** is nothing definite."

As regards computer time, Mr Roy says their course is primarily based on practical and there is ample and adequate scope for that in our organisation. "Sascons also offers a six month special on the job training with a monthly stipend of about Rs 400 for students who secure an excellent grade in their final analysis."

One such student, Mr S Chatterji, who is now working full time in Sascons, says, "Prosunit played the most important role when I first came here. I soon discovered there were other greater advantages. Looking back, I think it was the tremendous exposure to real life computer problems that I got here that helped me most."

The advantage with these organisations is that they are always in touch with different user agencies and placing a good student from their own academy is not much of a problem if a vacancy exists. Vacancies being the determinant.

According to B K Roy, in spite of the stupendous growth in the computer industry there still exists a void in the availability of properly trained personnel. The reason for this he says is that the so-called "half baked computer men" as he calls them usually have no or very little commercial exposure to use fully apply their knowledge in a business organisation. "How can one work on the payroll of a company when he or she does not have any idea of provident fund rules," asks a visibly agitated Mr Roy. "One must know about the different sales taxes to work on the computerisation of a company's sales records. This is what is lacking in the thousands of computer diploma holders in the city today. As a result there remains this wide gap between demand and supply," he laments. Surprisingly he does not see any real computer boom because, frankly, I do not think there are as many jobs."

Moreover Mr Roy feels that a number of training centres are cashing in on the sudden computer awareness to make money and flood the market with inadequately trained computer men and women. It is these people who are aggravating an already critical situation.

However Abhijit Basu, advertising executive, Macgabyte, sees a great future in computer training. Some of the proposed locations where they have set up units will put a geography teacher to shame — Maheshtagarh, Kalhua, Dotie, you name it, they have a centre there. Macgabyte has also made inroads in Behrampur and Krishnanagar in West Bengal. He feels the prospect in these small towns immense. "Previously the people of these small towns did not have the opportunity to know anything about computers. Now that Macgabyte has arrived the interested person have somewhere to go," says a confident Mr Basu.

Yes, at present there seem to be so many computer centres that people always seem to have somewhere to go. The moot point, however, is whether a young aspirant ultimately benefits from the Rs 4,000 he doles out. It remains to be seen where the big boom will ultimately lead — to a grand air conditioned future or the never ending search for a job. ■

BARTER BANK

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PINK SALUTE, COMRADE

Politicians, almost without exception, consider public estimation an insidious blight They crave for it, but they know that like castles built in the air, it is ephemeral Today's hero often turns into a villain tomorrow Mrs Indira Gandhi, who was hailed as the liberator of Bangladesh following the 1971 war with Pakistan, went down in public estimation once she promulgated the Emergency in 1975 Because of that single miscalculation, she lost in the subsequent Lok Sabha elections Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, the crafty chief minister of Karnataka and undisputed leader of the Janata Party in that state, till the other day was fighting to retain his command over the party Mr Chandra Shekhar, once described as the future Prime Minister of India, has been so busy containing the squabbling chieftains of the Janata Party, that he is no better than a factional leader now Mr N T Rama Rao, who started his political career with a bang, appears to be ending with a whimper Mr Prafulla Mahanta, the embodiment of youth power in Assam, has already been reduced to the position of a nagging politician who only heads a council of ministers which is hopelessly divided Public estimation has eroded their larger than life images

But, then, there are exceptions to the general rule, and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, at 75, has become the topmost communist leader in the subcontinent He has already been in office for a record breaking 11 years, and his youthful gait, sharp reflexes and incisive mind have enhanced his stature all over the country The dichotomy of the situation becomes puzzling when one takes into account the fact that during his uninterrupted tenure, unemployment has increased and the number of people living below the poverty line has gone up Since Promode Dasgupta's death in late 1982, he has become the undisputed leader of his party as well as the government No single decision either in the government or in the CPI(M) is taken without his approval He has attained such a stature that even cynical newsmen do not dare to question him at press conferences about the unsavoury business deals of his son or relatives One wonders what makes the man tick

One man has dominated West Bengal for over a decade: Jyoti Basu. What makes him tick, wonders a veteran reporter

The main explanation is that Mr Basu is an unabashed pragmatist A Marxist, he has reserved the choicest invectives only for the monopoly houses and multinationals But once in power, he did not hesitate to invite multinational houses to set up industries in the state He took extra initiative to provide infrastructural facilities to Hindustan Lever, Chloride India and such other multinationals to set up factories in the state Similarly, without batting an eyelid, he cleared the handing over of a unit of the ailing Metal Box to the Tatas The proposed joint sector Haldia petrochemical complex in collaboration with the Goenkas is his brainchild When confronted with the dichotomy, Mr Basu nonchalantly says, "I cannot allow West Bengal to turn into a desert Employment for the masses is my first priority." But, then, even after an investment of Rs 1,500 crores, the Haldia petrochemical complex which will be a totally automated unit, will not provide employment to more than 1,500 people

The pragmatist that he is, Mr Basu has shifted a lot of ground in the past 10 years It was he who, as deputy chief minister and home minister of the second United Front government in 1969, had adopted the policy of not sending policemen to break up "legitimate democratic movement of the working class," which had resulted in a spate of gheraos and subsequent flight of capital from the state in the late sixties and early seventies But once ensconced in the seat of the chief minister in 1977, Mr Basu has never hesitated to break up violent demonstrations by workers with the help of the police

As of now, he is perhaps the chief minister most respected by the captains of industry Top-flight businessmen often make it a point to look up Mr Basu whenever they are in the city It is to his credit that almost singlehandedly he has proved that a Marxist government in a state can survive in a federal bourgeoise polity The peaceful co-existence of Marxists and monopolists can definitely be considered an improvisation on classical Marxism, and Mr Basu should be given due credit for that

A manageable law and order situation and communal harmony are the two major achievements of Mr Basu's rule Austere in his lifestyle and an agnostic, Mr Basu has never questioned the religious beliefs of his immediate family or the people His motto in life appears to be 'live and let live' A moderate by nature, he rarely allows emotions to get an upper hand in his public speeches But that does not prevent him from making political capital out of the acts of omission and commission of the Congress(I) Already, he has derived great mileage out of the Centre's dithering over the clearance of the Haldia petrochemical complex and the Bakreswar thermal plant. Even GNLF depradations in Darjeeling, which have done great harm to the hill subdivisions, have been skilfully used by him to consolidate the Bengali-speaking vote bank, and the performance of his party in the Assembly and panchayat polls bears testimony to that

The old adage, a banyan tree prevents any growth under it, appears to be true in the case of Mr Basu also With him at the helm, no second string of leaders has come up as yet Mr Biman Bose and Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya are being groomed to take over the responsibility of the party and government, but so far, they have not been able to distinguish themselves in their appointed fields For all party and government decisions, the buck stops at Mr Basu's table Moreover, since Mr Basu is there, they are yet to be tested

Perhaps, the last representative of the *bhadralok* class, Mr Basu, despite his sophisticated Western veneer is the quintessential Bengali*bhadralok* who knows what is best for his class and people He has ruled the state according to his own understanding and for that he has never hesitated to deviate from Marxist precepts Though he never participated in the freedom movement and was born and brought up with all the upper class advantages, his head and heart are in the right place And that is why he appeals to both the sophisticated urbanite and the sharecropper in the villages This chemistry has helped the party in capturing votes all over the state

But, then, what is in store for his party and the state, after he stops dominating the scene? It is difficult to answer such a hypothetical question He has dominated the political scene in the state for such a long time that his presence is taken for granted It is for the party and the people to ponder over his successors, and he, like Louis XIV, can say, "After me, deluge"

Tarun Ganguly



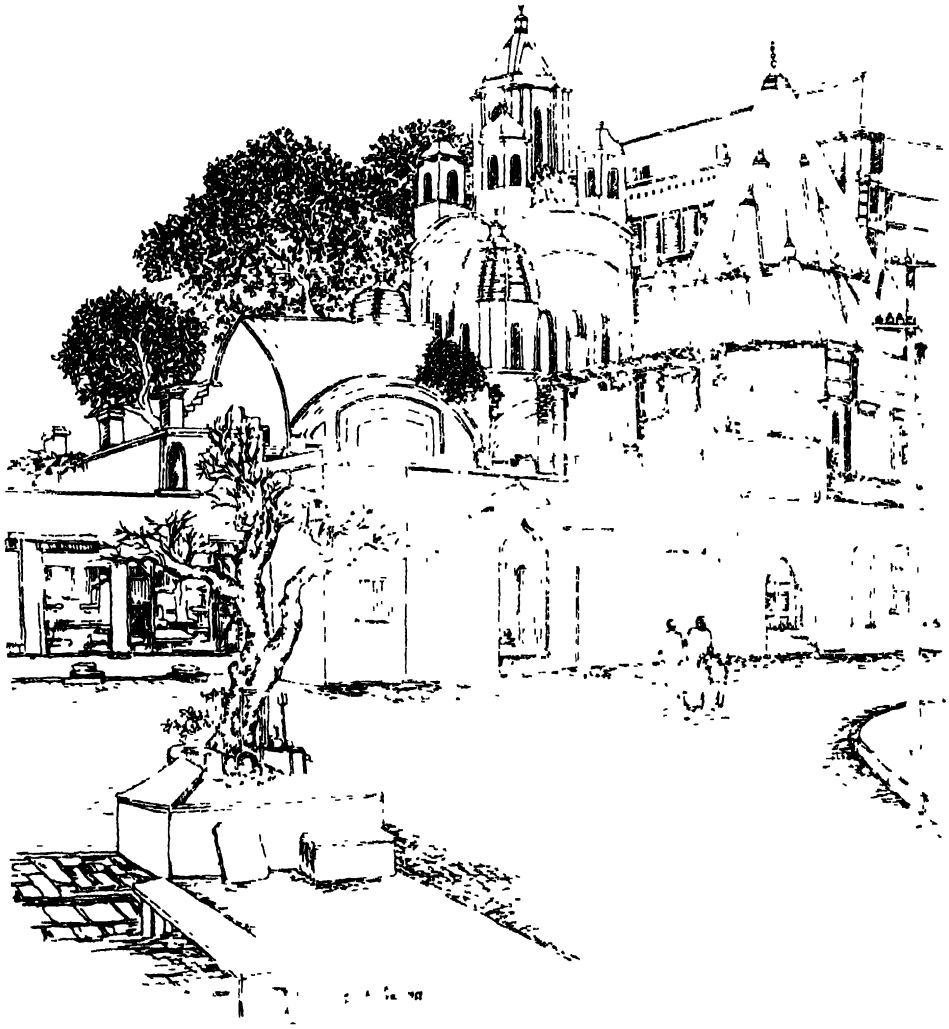
NABARATNA TEMPLE

A descendant of Kumartuli's Mitra dynasty, Gobindaram Mitra's ancestral home was at Chandanpukur (or Chandanpur) near Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas. In 1730 he built the Nabaratna Temple (sketched right) on Chitpore Road. On September 10 (some believe it to be September 11) 1737, a severe storm and earthquake completely demolished the temple. The same calamity also claimed St Anne's Church, the first English church in Calcutta. The temple of Gobindaram's temple (16 feet) was higher than that of the Ochterlony Monument which measured between 152 feet and 158 feet. Some believe that Gobindaram's great grandson, Abhoy Charan Mitra, built a Siddheswari Kali temple opposite the old temple site. Others are of the opinion that Banamali Sarkar had built the Kali temple.

In 1750, Gobindaram Mitra was appointed the first deputy zamindar of Calcutta on a monthly salary of Rs 30 which was later increased to Rs 50. He was an able administrator and remained this post for 30 years. He was one of the 13 chief civic commissioners appointed to disburse the grant of Rs 1·76 crores provided by Mir Jafar to the East India Company for relief of those affected by Nawab Siraj-ud Daulah's Calcutta invasion.

Gobindaram owned a palatial garden house on the eastern side of Upper Circular Road. To the south was situated Umichand's garden house, though smaller in size. The path of the Maratha Ditch (dug in 1742) had to be diverted because of the two garden houses. It is said that Nawab Siraj-ud Daulah spent some time in the garden house when he invaded Calcutta for the second time.

Kashiswar Mitra was the most well-known among Gobindaram's descendants. He was the principal sadar amin and a judge of the small court.



A DRINK FOR ALL TIME

Rani Sircar delves into the history and romance that make up the flavour of the cup that cheers

What a world of history and romance, of associations and phrases, of occupations and professions, of adjuncts, artefacts and variations, the word "tea" conjures up! And now there is this continuing furore about India's export of tea in bulk which brings in just a pittance of a profit instead of the vast fortune which would be ours if only we exported tea in packets

At present, the tea-bag is vying with the teapot and they assure us that tea does not cause cancer or other such diseases Tea—first thing in the morning, the last thing at night and all through the day—can be instant, frozen, a concentrate, fruit flavoured or even rum-flavoured. And whether we drink it hot or iced, from a cup or glass, it is precious time off to sip and recall .

Remember Alice at the mad-hatter's tea-party? And though anytime is tea-time, tea for two is surely a delight in The Tea House of the August Moon, where tea and sympathy flow in equal measures What they'd have thought of the Boston Tea Party at a Japanese tea ceremony, is anybody's guess But, around two leaves and a bud revolve the labourers, planters, tea-tasters, blenders, brokers and exporters; while alongside the cup that cheers stand the fat teapot or tea-urn or samovar; and the fragrant brew lends itself to afternoon tea, high tea, Russian tea, Kashmiri tea and Tibetan tea The last is not my cup of tea, and there would be more than a storm in a tea cup if you tried to give it to me. But, why don't the fortune-tellers predict the price of tea and the result of exporting packaged tea from the tea leaves in their cups instead of meeting dark strangers and undertaking journeys to western countries where tea sells for such fancy prices?

Discovered long before the birth of Christ, the mountain forests in north-east India are probably the native home of the tea plant. Around 5,000 years ago, Chinese travellers in this region delighted with the taste of tea, brought it to public notice in their own country. Tea has since been enjoyed by the Chinese and it is often mentioned in their scriptures. Surely, more could be made of this tea connection between India and China? Anyway, the Han emperor, Chan-Knang, wrote a book on the medicinal value of tea, and for centuries tea was used only as a medicine. An early Chinese manuscript, now in the British Museum, mentions the virtues of tea including its properties of improving vision, preventing dropsy, purifying the blood, as a remedy to bladder and kidney ailments, sharpening the memory and driving away fears It was considered a panacea for ills—spiritual, mental and physical Even Confucious is said to have referred to the tea-plant, and Kupo, a Chinese writing in 350 BC, also extolled the medicinal virtues of tea

Around 400 AD, there was some Chinese writing on the cultivation, processing and making of tea, and towards the end of the sixth century, tea began to be drunk in China as a beverage for refreshment and pleasure Between 618 AD and 908 AD, tea drinking became a part of the Chinese life, at the end of meals, between meals and while entertaining guests In 780 AD, philosopher Lu-Yu wrote the *Cha-Ching* or tea classic which was translated into English as *All About Tea* In 1127, the withering of the tea leaf became a popular step in the processing of tea, and in 1279 a Chinesebook mentioned the use of tea branches and flowers in decorative arrangements

A near relation of the camellia, the shrub would grow 30 feet high if allowed to The leaves are leathery and tapering with saw-like edges, and have varied sizes even on the same twig The flowers ranging from pure white to deep rose, with yellow stamens, look like wild roses The plant is not particular about soil, but grows best in new loamy forest land

Nurtured from seeds in special seed beds, the small tea plants are set out in well-irrigated rows in nurseries which are carefully protected from the sun Transplanted when three feet high in the tea gardens, the bushes are pruned at regular intervals to induce new shoots. Bearing of flowers is discouraged Plucking begins after three years, and as the plants grow older, there may be as many as four pluckings annually

After plucking, the tea leaves are spread out in large shallow trays to wither Next they are rolled and then fermented or oxidised. Finally they are fired or dried In green tea, the rolled leaf is fired, without being fermented, oolong tea is partially fermented. Sorted into various grades, the tea is now packed in tea chests To get tea of particular flavour, various grades are mixed, and sometimes as many as 20 different grades are used to provide one blend Expert tea-tasters are employed to decide on the grades of tea from different tea gardens which are to be used in each blend

Called *t'e* in the Amoy dialect and *ch'a* in the Mandarin, some of the types of tea also bear Chinese names *Pekoe* is Chinese for "white hair " The three tender leaves at the top of the shoots, used for the finest teas are called *pekoe*, because of the down on them *Souchong*, once greatly appreciated by drinkers of Chinese tea in England, means 'small sort," and is made



from the leaves below the *pekoe*. Another Chinese tea once very popular in England was *congou*, which means "labour." *Congou* was made from leaves of the third plucking which was supposed to require a great deal of labour in processing, hence the name. *Bohea*, a tea very popular in England during Queen Anne's reign, was named after a mountain range in China where an inferior black tea was grown.

Portuguese merchants introduced tea to Europe in 1500. Soon the Dutch, buying from the Portuguese in Macao and other China Sea islands, became the leading tea merchants in Europe. Around the same time, tea crossed from China into Russia and soon became popular there.

In England, tea was originally considered a novelty drink by ladies at Court. They offered it to each other when they went visiting, serving it in small bowls as was the custom in China. A 100 pounds of Chinese tea was imported in 1680 for a reception given for the Duchess of Bedford; but by 1770, England was importing a million pounds of tea and tea-stalls were displacing coffee-stalls all over the country. English clippers, their sails unfurled, the famous *Cutty Sark* among them, raced each other from Chinese ports to England, for the first to arrive secured the highest price for its cargo. And, as everyone knows, the Boston Tea Party in 1773 started the war of American Independence, and England lost her American colonies because of the tea-tax she insisted on levying.

After the trade agreement between England and China was terminated in 1833, the search for an alternative source began. In fact, tea forests had been discovered 10 years earlier in Assam by the Bruce brothers. India, in the early 19th century, was more-or-less under the suzerainty of the East India Company, and Robert Bruce, an adventurer-trader, was near Sibsagar in 1823 when he heard about the tea forests from a local chief. About the same time, his brother Charles Alexander, who was in charge of a gunboat flotilla at Sadiya, saw the same forests. The brothers sent samples to the commissioner of Assam, David Scott, but when the latter sent them to Calcutta for identification, they were not officially recognised as tea.

Subsequently, in 1834 Lord William Bentinck, governor-general of India, sent C J. Gordon of McIntosh and Co, Calcutta, to China to secure tea plants. The Chinese seeds and seedlings were distributed in various parts of India, mainly north east Assam and Darjeeling. However, the same year, when Captain Jenkins sent samples of indigenous Assam seeds to Calcutta, Dr N. Wallich superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, confirmed them to be tea.

Gradually, the Chinese variety of tea faded in Assam in favour of the indigenous. Alexander Bruce was appointed superintendent for establishing government tea forests. From 1838, organised tea gardens were planted in both upper and lower Assam, most of which continue to exist. By 1862, there were 160 gardens, and in 1872, there were 80 gardens in the Surma valley, that is, Cachar and Tripura.

Meanwhile, in Darjeeling district in the lower Himalayas, an experimental tea nursery set up by Major Crommelin at Lebong with the Chinese variety, augured so well, that here too tea gardens were planted. By 1866 there were 39 tea estates covering about 405 hectares, and planting was extended to the Dooars and the Terai in the foothills. Today, gardens in the Darjeeling area cover 18,000 hectares.

Twelve experienced Chinese tea-makers were brought to Darjeeling by Robert Fortune with Lord Bentinck's permission. Until then, rolling was done by hand, and firing in huge frying pans over charcoal fires. But, an engineer, W.O. Brien Ansell, revolutionised the manufacture of tea with his invention of the power-driven tea roller and tea-sorter in 1872. The Chinese, interestingly, when their teaching job was over, decided that they did not want to return to China, and settled down in Darjeeling.

Though the Assam Company was registered in England in 1839 and there were by 1862, 62 tea companies owning 160 gardens, it was only between 1870 and 1890 that the pattern of the Darjeeling tea garden management changed. Owned at first by an individual or individuals, some gardens were now sold to well-organised limited companies and others handed over the running of their affairs to managing agencies. About this time, tea-estates were established in south India where flavoursome tea continues to be grown on the slopes of the Nilgiri mountains.

Tea-drinking gradually spread from Assam and Bengal to the rest of India. Considered at first to be a new-fangled, foreign drink to be taken only by the *bhadra-lok* (gentle-folk) in Bengal, the man on the street soon acquired the tea habit and forgot that he had ever been without it.

India maintained her place as the largest producer of tea in the world for more than a century. But, her position is being threatened today by China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi, as well as Brazil and Argentina. Tea auctions which started in Mincing Lane, London, in 1839, and in Calcutta in 1883, are now held at seven places in India as well as in Chittagong, Djakarta, Mombasa and Limbe.

But that is commerce. The tea-cup that fragrant steaming brew has ■

Tea-pickers in the Dooars on their way to work on a rainy day



-Dilip Banerjee.



QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

Yuba Sansad, Howrah, not only sent us details of a quiz they were going to host but also directions so that readers could get there Unfortunately, their postcard arrived too late for us to publish To make amends, here is a report on their quiz from Biswajit Roy

"An 'All-Bengal Quiz Contest sponsored by the Yuba Sansad was held at their club ground Quiz master Sukumar Banerjee conducted what turned out to be a keen contest with Intel A , Learners B Obsonal, SBI and MMB all trying for the championship But in the anti clockwise rounds Intel 'A , surpassed all the teams to finish first The winning team comprised Tarak Nath Roy Chowdhury and Anindya Paul Chowdhury They were followed by Obsonal and Learners B "

Bhabesh Chakraborty, Calcutta 23, wants to know about the Eichmann Trial

On April 11, 1961, Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Israel for crimes committed during World War II Eichmann's odyssey from the post of Nazi deportation and emigration czar under Hitler to an American POW camp to a job in the Mercedes-Benz plant in Argentina ended in the dock in Jerusalem's Community Center only after Israeli Nazi hunters kidnapped him near his Buenos Aires home, drugged him, and spirited him out of the country. After this bit of do-it-yourself extradition, however, his legal rights were scrupulously upheld Israel paid the fees of an attorney of his choice. All prosecution documents were made available to the defense, and Eichmann was protected during the trial by a bullet-proof glass cage and two armed guards

The defendant pleaded not guilty to all 15 counts of the indictment, which accused him of exterminating and sterilising Jews, pressing them into forced labour, confiscating their property, depriving them of their livelihood, inducing abortions in pregnant Jews, and stripping Jewish corpses of gold teeth, artificial limbs, clothing, and hair. In the face of eyewitness testimony and captured Nazi documents bearing his name, Eichmann summed up his defense during direct examination on the stand "I have regret and condemnation for the extermination of the Jewish people which was ordered by the German rulers, but I myself could not have done anything to prevent it I was a tool in the hands of the strong and the powerful and in the hands of fate itself " It swayed few Found guilty on December 15, 1961, he became the first person to die under the Israeli death penalty five months later

'Who built the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable?' asks Shyamal Laha Calcutta 43

The first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable was completed on August 12 1858, but within 27 days the line went dead Cyrus W Field a retired American paper merchant had dedicated his life and fortune to this project In 1856 he raised $1 million and laid a cable from New York to Newfoundland, he then raised $2 million in England for the cable from Ireland to Canada During 1857 and the first half of 1858, he met with constant failure, until August when the cable was finally completed and his company's stock rocketed from $300 to $1,000 a share

A week after completion Queen Victoria sent the first telegraph message across the Atlantic ' The Queen desires to congratulate the President upon the successful completion of the great nternational work, in which the Queen has taken the greatest interest ' But the telegraph operators knew something was wrong when it took two hours of repetition to transmit the queen s single sentence The citizens of New York City on the other hand were in a joyous mood

The transmission worsened until the line became completely silent It was later discovered that the insulator had rotted away because careless workmen had left the coils of cable in the sun during its manufacture The undefeatable Cyrus Field raised yet more money and eight years later achieved his goal

11th Question: **In Belfast, and almost the whole of Northern Ireland, how could one generally determine whether a person is a Catholic or a Protestant by his speech? (Tomal K. Datta-Roy, 100, New Agri Hostel, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005).**
Ans: **By the pronunciation of the letter 'H.' Catholics usually pronounce it as 'Haich' whereas Protestants call it 'Aich.'**

QUESTIONS

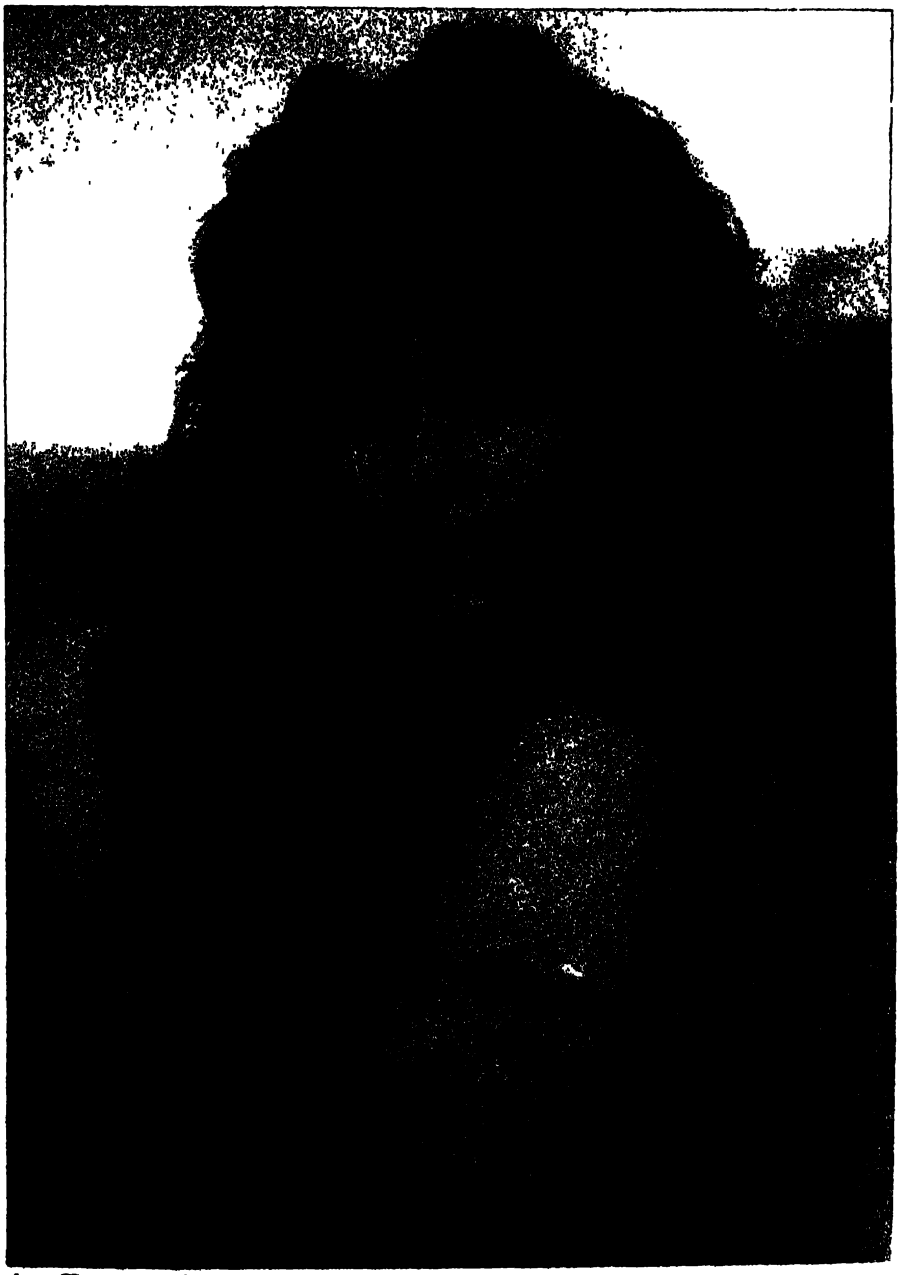
1. Who is a sea dog? (Manoj Kr Singh, BIT, Sindri)
2 Upon whom is the title Hafiz conferred? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)
3 When soapy water enters our eyes while bathing, our eyes feel scorched Why? (Gaurab Bhattacharjee, IIT,Kharagpur)
4. Which important ministry did Dr Rajendra Prasad hold in the first Cabinet of the Indian Dominion? (Anit K Giri, Calcutta 73)
5. What is femiphobia? (Sailesh Kr Singh, BIT, Sindri)
6. In World War II, what was the "Hump"? (Sunil' Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)
7. Aldous Huxley called them "the Aryan sons of Delilah." Who are they? (Aahan Garg, Calcutta 89)
8. What is osphresiophobia? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
9. What is the EPR paradox? (Ravi Pratap, BIT, Sindri)
10. What is Max Q? (Subrata Sen, Varanasi 221005)

ANSWERS

1. An old sailor
2. It is conferred upon any Muslim who has committed the whole of the *Koran* to memory
3. The cornea of our eye is covered by a three-layered fluid medium Soap removes this layer and exposes the cornea to the atmosphere This produces the peculiar feeling
4. Food and agriculture
5. Fear of becoming a woman. (Hemingway had this phobia)
6. The air route over the Himalayas from India to China
7. The priests or pundits who preside over the "mundan" or pate shaving ceremonies of Hindu children.
8. The fear of body odours.
9. Two subatomic particles, having interacted once, can respond to each other's subsequent motion thousands of years ; later and light years apart This phenomenon is called the EPR paradox, named after Albert Einstein and his collaborators, Boris Podolsky and Nathan Rosen, who first noted it in 1935
10. It is the period of greatest aerodynamic pressure. It is associated with space exploration.

SUMMER MORALITY

The liberal age has opened up attitudes in the world of glamour, too. Models are now willing to show a leg, and more. Provided, of course, there is a handsome purse going with it. Lekha Dhar spoke to some leading faces to find out how much they are willing to bare



Anu Kottoor: 'Tube tops, that's as far as I go'

Nude pictures? What is the big deal about nude pictures? Give me one lakh and I will let them be published. I don't know why people make such a fuss about the body. The body is no big deal. I have no hang-ups about having shown my body.
—Urmilla Deshpande in *Society*, April 1988

In a world where the spotlights come with surf and suntan, where promises are packaged in 'pretty-face parcels,' are there any limits? When sun-splashed beaches and an assortment of glamour girls in swimwear sell cold drinks, when soap suds slide down slender necks, it looks like the limits are few.

The conservative, who views this world of glitter and hardsell, has already made up his mind: Models are a bad lot, just like filmstars. There are no lines drawn, no limits. Lingerie advertisements are confused with liquor ones, the beachwear model is as bad as the topless one. And all models from the most inhibited to those who "do not mind" are drawn into the



Pankaj Shah

Urmilla Deshpande: The body is no big deal

vortex of summer morality, for the conservatives.

These social strictures have contributed to the views most of the models hold, to the limits they have consciously or unconsciously imposed on themselves. How much are they willing to bare? How far will they go? "There are some models who are game for anything, even pin-up photography. Urmilla Deshpande doesn't mind posing in bikinis, while some top models



Sonali Mehta, the girl who replaced Karen Lunel in the Liril soap advertisement

won't even show their legs This is entirely a personal matter They draw their own lines," says one of Bombay's leading model co-ordinators, Ms Rasna Behl.

And the limits could change with time. "Shyamolie Verma who once bared her back for Lakme and didn't mind showing her legs, later refused to do ads in shorts. Monica Dutta may bare her back, but no more. Some have no qualms, but others mind and tighten their rules,"according to Ms Behl.

She classifies models into categories, saying that the top rung will not go for more than a limited degree of baring. "You will find the second-class category of models, young people who are desperate to get into the profession, settling for pin-ups and nude modelling. But, by and large, most of the models come from classier backgrounds, they are from affluent families and do not want to really compromise; or rather, they do not have to," she says.

The models, whether they are scaling the glamour rungs or have already reached the top, "do not mind" what others wear or don't wear, but for themselves, the

code is slightly different. "I have no objections if someone decides that baring is okay, but I personally would not go beyond a certain limit," says model-cum photographer Malavika Tiwari. "Everyone around is fairly conservative and would look askance at too much skin. I modelled in a towel for the Nivea and Lakme ads. My parents didn't like it one bit, so when the Mysore Talc offer came, also to model in a towel, I rejected it. A swimsuit is okay provided you feel comfortable, but I feel a bikini is very avoidable. People tend to feel it can prejudice even the client depending on his or her attitude."

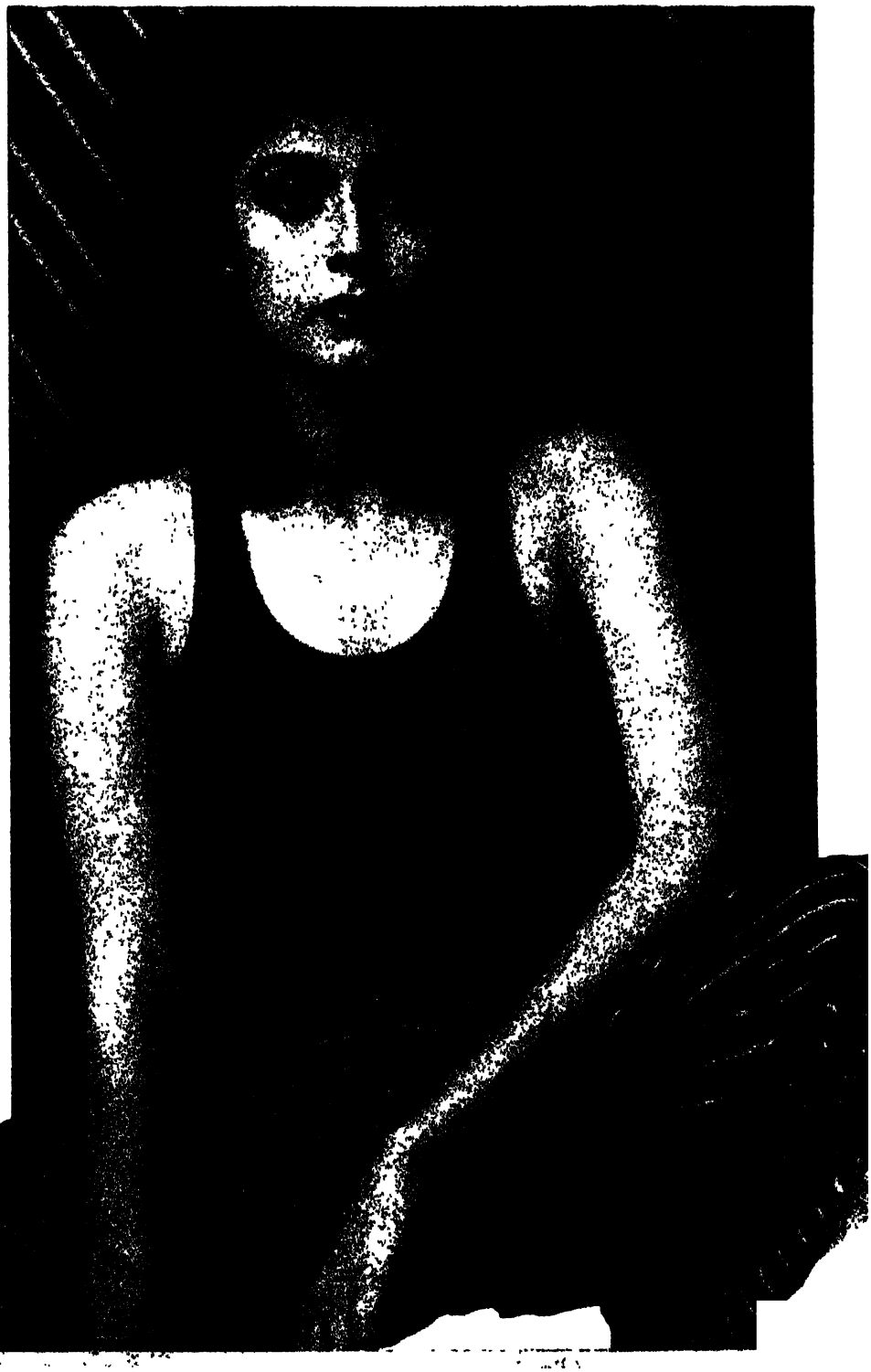
If the hemline raised too high is going to raise the eyebrows of those around, some models feel it pointless. "If people are going to strip me naked with their eyes, it is not worth it. And besides, if it's going to hurt the people I care for I wouldn't do it," says Ms Tiwari.

But there are others who don't mind and, for a price, baring is okay for them. "Yes, she has said she is willing to bare, if the price is right. Why not? She has a damn good body," says photographer Pankaj Shah, commenting on leading model Urmilla Deshpande's recent statement that she was willing to bare if paid a lakh. Of the models at the top of Bombay's hardsell advertising world, Urmilla Deshpande is perhaps the only one who dares to bare so much. The model whom Pankaj Shah discovered when he was doing an assignment for *Anandabazar Patrika* nearly 10 years ago, has done a range of ads from modelling in a bikini for the London Pilsner calendar to selling a variety of products which have required more baring than what the other top models will take on.

"Mr Morarji Desai had announced in Parliament that Jayaprakash Narayan was dead. I was asked to cover his funeral and I went to Jaslok Hospital to find the announcement was wrong. There was a huge crowd outside the hospital and among the people, a stunner." It was probably two years before she acceded to the photographers's request to be clicked. Pankaj Shah recalls the time when he finally photographed Urmilla Deshpande: "I knew she was a bomb. I asked her mother and father, who were divorced, for permission for her to model—and got it. She was then just 16 or 17. The rest is history"—and a lot of ads, which go one step further than the others will.

Judging from what a cross-section of models who have reached the top, moved on, or are climbing up, think, there are definite reservations. Kitu Gidwani, Malavika Tiwari, Rachel Ruben and Anu Kottoor may hold differing views in certain areas, but on one point they concur: There is no price at which they will bare.

"Topless modelling, posing in a bikini, showing your cleavage—these are not accepted in India yet. It is still taboo. Such things would still be accompanied by giggling and immaturity here, while abroad it would be treated casually," says Kitu Gidwani, who also points out that conventional ads don't expect you to bare much, and those that would, are the 'indirect,' liquor ones. "I wouldn't model for *Playboy, Penthouse* or something like that. Whatever extent of baring I do depends on the intelligence of the ad. For instance, if they are concentrating on the facial expression and not exploiting the body, it would not be so bad. I don't agree with the exploitation of women's bodies," says Ms Gidwani, illustrating the demarcation with the



Shantanu Sheorey

Malavika Tiwari: 'I would not go beyond a certain limit'

instance of an ad she had done with a degree of exposure—wearing a swimming costume, and looking into the sunset.

"Each ad you do, projects an image. The client is often narrow-minded on this score," says Ms Gidwani, fearing that labels are easy to come by. This is not so abroad where the general view is more liberal.

Voicing a similar opinion on the West and what modelling for her would have been like if abroad, Malavika Tiwari says, "Were we all living in the West, things would have been different, a bikini ad would have been all right. In fact, if I was doing an ad going for a foreign market, I would be less hesitant about a swimsuit or something like that. Here, after I rejected

Vanessa Vaz: Only shoulders?



a swimsuit ad, I heard the rates had really shot up, as others had also reacted similarly."

The girl with the gorgeous body, Rachel Ruben—how much would she bare? Seven years in modelling for the 23-year-old school teacher have relaxed her attitudes. "Initially, when I started, I was extremely inhibited. I would turn down shorts or a swimsuit. Three years later, I found that I was being extremely stupid and naive, these ads were not in bad taste. The cold drink ads in swimsuits were quite good in fact, and I had just been turning them down, losing half the work."

Swimsuits are all right with Ms Ruben, but she would still say "No" to a bikini. And a step further is a definite "No, no" she laughs, as she says, "I don't think there is any price that would make me drop clothes." Ms Ruben, who is currently doing ads for the Hot Shot posters, Vimal saris, Austron Videos and Verano T-shirts,



Shantanu Sheorey



Poonam Gidwani, one of the high-profile models

points out that there is a general misconception that the liquor ads which "show a lot more bosom," or that ads which expect more exposure, pay more, because a lot of top models refuse them.

"The more exposure you get here, the more it sets you back. This is not so abroad, where the more you are used, the more you are in demand," says Anu Kottoor, elaborating that this has made her choose campaigns and ads more carefully, rejecting more than she accepts. About the 'other' kind of exposure, she has definite lines, clearly drawn: "Tube tops, that's as far as I go. No shorts."

Has the photographer-model relationship anything to do with relaxation of codes? Model co-ordinator Rasna Behl feels it does make a difference, probably alluding to the Pankaj Shah-Urmilla Deshpande team. "Some models feel more comfortable, more at ease with certain photographers. A few take up assignments only with photographers of their choice."

Differing with this view is Anu Kottoor's statement: "I can work with anyone, it doesn't matter. Of course, with an amateur, I would be hesitant. With different photographers, there is always a first time. If you establish a good working relationship with the photographer, it is all that matters."

Rachel Ruben has her preferences though. "I wouldn't like to do an assignment with some photographers. They make you feel like meat. But even my prejudices don't stop me from taking up an assignment. My views are personal."

Looking at the galaxy of advertising campaigns that storm the eye in a variety of colours and wide-based appeal, it is often felt that a more liberal age has dawned. Complementing this view is Kitu Gidwani's, that the people in the line—photographers, clients and agencies have all become more casual, waving away many of the taboos.

Expressing a contrary viewpoint, Malavika Tiwari feels that today's model is not a far cry from yesterday's. There were models even 15 years ago who were willing to show their bodies to an extent that may have shocked, and went ahead to do so. Karen Lunel wore a bikini for the Liril soap ad years ago, but many of today's models refuse to do that. "You will always find models, 10 years back, or now, or ten years later—some willing, some not. The difference is that there might be a few more today who are willing. But, then, it has always been and will always be what the client wants. After all, it is his money," she adds.

A permissive profession, so the average person sees it, equating modelling with the film industry, replete with tales of exploitation and coercion. Putting the lid on this view, one-time leading model Kitu Gidwani says, "There is no coercion. The last word exists with you."

So they see, they pick, choose and reject. If the contraceptive ad in a beautiful setting is negative for one and lingerie ads are a definite 'no, no' to most, it does the rounds and finds takers. Swimsuits and bikinis are now breaking the conservative norms and cutting the class barriers in the world of modelling.

But baring and pin ups, despite unlimited price tags attached, are still exceptions as in the case of Urmilla Deshpande. For some others, it's a question of trying to 'make it'. While they feel exposure would help enhance their portfolio, others clearly prefer to tread to the top a little more dressed ■

FROM VIOLENCE TO NON-VIOLENCE

The first time Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka appeared in court was as an accused in the famous Rhoda Arms Case, way back in 1914. Nearly three-quarters of a century later, this renowned Marwari solicitor still remembers the details of the case, unperturbed by the fact that he will be celebrating his 100th birthday on August 16.

Old, wizened and almost permanently bent over legal papers in his office at 6, Old Post Office Street, PDH, as he is fondly known to his friends, is a die-hard Gandhian who first got involved in the freedom struggle through the "political terrorists" who held centrestage at that time. In the post-Bengal Partition era, it was the Bengalis who led the struggle against the British Raj and for them, freedom through violence seemed the only way out. It was such a scenario that PDH stepped into.

Before this, PDH had already passed his BA from Scottish Church College in 1911. His main subjects were history, philosophy, English and Bengali. He knew how to read and write in Bengali, but could not do the same in Hindi with as much felicity, a fact which often puzzled his teachers. Thereafter, he completed his BL, the then law degree, from Calcutta University in 1914. However, his interest was not confined to the technicalities of law alone. The burning questions of political and social justice fired his enthusiasm and he turned to reading terrorist and other subversive literature that proliferated in the country then.

He soon became a disciple of Bipin Behari Ganguly, the revolutionary of Bengal, who used to teach *lathi*-play and had attracted several young men to his fold. The seeds of the Rhoda arms snatch were sown, the story of which Mr Himatsingka himself relates.

At that time, Rhoda and Company ordered 50 Mauser pistols and other ammunition from Germany. With the help



Kalyan Chakravarty

Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka has always been a disciplined soldier. No wonder his 100 years sit lightly on him

of an employee of the company, who was in league with them, Bipin Behari and his men coolly heisted the pistols as well as 46,000 cartridges from the company's godown. The weapons were taken to a house in Burrabazar, which had been rented by Mr Himatsingka, and were distributed to various political terrorists.

But the long arm of the British law soon caught up with them and the entire gang was brought to book. Prabhu Dayal had to cool his heels for about a week in the Lalbazar lockup before his case was dismissed by the court for want of evidence. His comrades were not so lucky. They were all found guilty and convicted. But, PDH did not get away scot-free. The authorities, knowing his affiliations, served an order on him to be externed from Bengal within 24 hours, and for three years.

Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka returned to his birthplace in Dumka, Bihar. There, too, the Bihar government served a notice on him, confining him to his house and putting various restrictions on his movements. Rather than be cowed down completely, he sought and received permission from the Patna high court to practise in the district court of Dumka. And there he remained, having to report to the local police station every day till 1920, the year Gandhiji arrived in India.

On Gandhiji's arrival, he plunged into the Satyagraha movement, pledging to follow Mahatma and his teachings to his dying days, a pledge he has never broken. He totally renounced terrorism and all form of violence and cut of all connections with his former comrades. He was now poised to take his next big leap into the maelstrom of the freedom struggle.

The Satyagrahis were taking to the streets and marching in an hitherto unprecedented show of solidarity, such as the British had never seen before. To keep the movement rolling, it needed to be lubricated by hard cash and this was where PDH stepped in. With his extensive connections and good offices, he was a natural choice for the all-important task of collecting funds for the Satyagraha movement.

Getting Prabhu Dayal to speak of G.D. Birla, the scion of the Birla empire, is no problem. They both started their respective careers almost simultaneously and found a common meeting ground in the struggle for social uplift especially that of women. In fact, it was through a social organisation that the two met each other in 1912. At that time, G D. Birla was just another gunny broker, working for a concern run by his brother-in-law, G.M. Birla.

Among the many social reforms that G.D. Birla, P D. Himatsingka and their associates tried to bring about, child marriage, widow re-marriage and education of women were uppermost. In a society that was not always ready to accept their progressive ideas, they resorted to mingling with people at various social gatherings, whereupon they would speak their minds on several social issues. Thanks to this ruse, their ideas had a greater impact. GDB and Prabhu Dayal would also go from house to house, persuading parents to send their daughters to school.

Sitting in his office, which he attends punctiliously everyday, he describes himself as "a grandfather of a grandfather" and has lost track of the number of members of his family. He is more robust than a man half his age; he attributes this to his diet, consisting of mainly fresh fruits and vegetables. He has not drunk aerated water nor chewed paan since 1919. What's more, allopathic medicines are anathema to him and he relies on naturopathy; what he calls, "12-tissue remedies." He never misses out on his morning walks, either to the lakes or the Victoria Memorial. Longevity, he claims, is because of disciplined living.

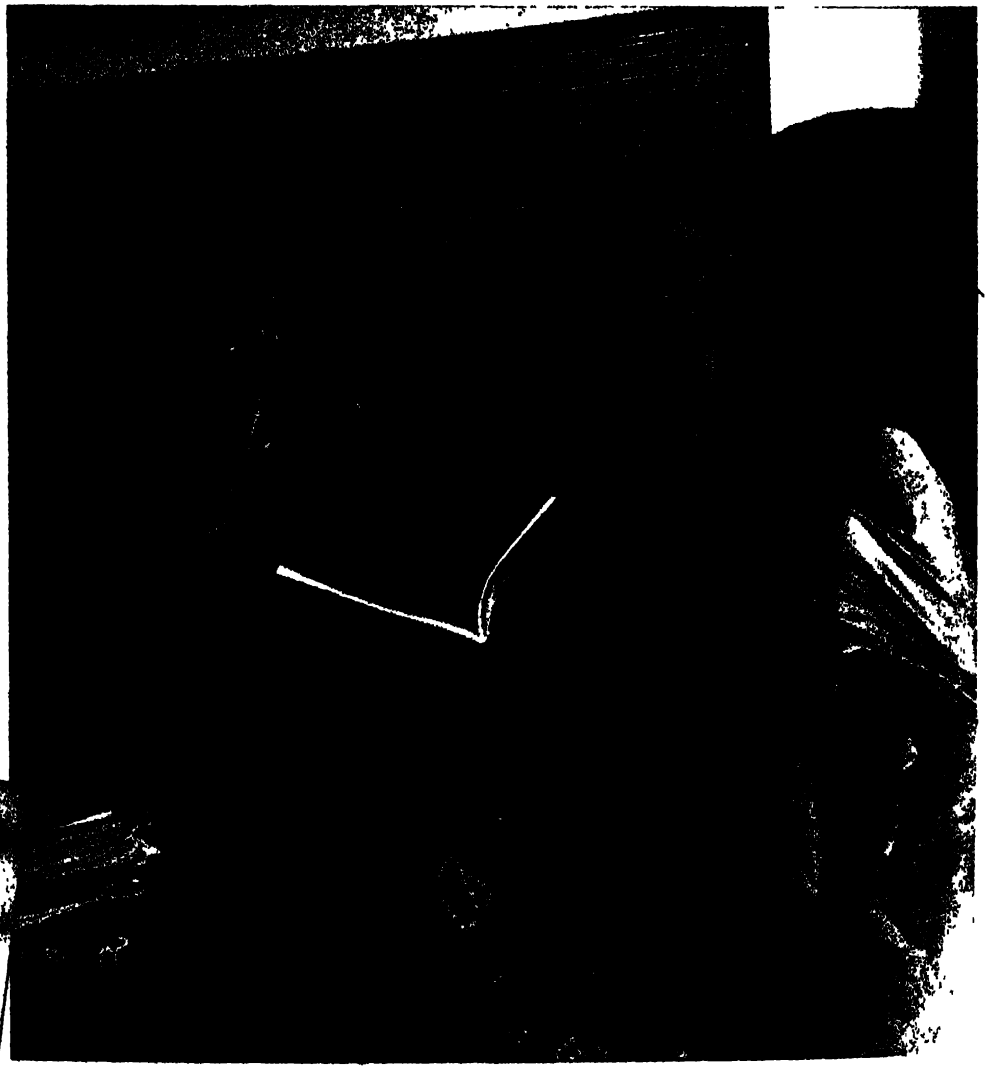
Christopher J. Singh

FRAMING THE ARTIST





As an artist of many parts, **Paritosh Sen** has been documenting life and changing realities. Director Shyamal Sengupta has documented a day in the artist's life for producer Raja Dasgupta and Calcutta Doordarshan. PRABUDDHA BHATTACHARYA focuses here on some aspects of the film





All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)—4 shows.

Directed by K. Bapaiah, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra, Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141), Madhuban (Regent Park), Jaya (Lake Town, 573936)

Govinda, Neelam and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film, directed by Kirti Kumar. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowinghee Place; 284138) - 4 shows.

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this T. Prakash Rao film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Kabzaa:** Kabzaa. Metro (Chowinghee Road, 280141)—4 shows; Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417)—3 shows.

A film by Mahesh Bhatt, starring Raj Babbar, Sunjay Dutt, Dimple Kapadia and Amrita Singh. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.

•**Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—4 shows; Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Malancha (Regent Park)—3 shows.

Directed by T. Rama Rao, the film stars Dharmendra, Sunjay Dutt, Chunkey Pandey, Neelam Mehra, Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amarapurkar. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Mohabbat Ke Dushman (A):** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266)—4 shows; Moonlight (T C Dutta Street; 254956), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932), Park Show House (Park Street; 441971)—3 shows.

A Prakash Mehra film, starring Raaj Kumar, Hema Malini, Farha, Sunjay Dutt and Pran. The music is by Kalyanji Anandji.

• **Pyar Mohabat:** Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Krishna (T C. Dutta Street; 250437), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street, 354450)

Directed by Ajay Kashyap and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the cast includes Govinda, Mandakini, Raakhee, Shakti Kapoor, Bindu and Kader Khan.

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Basusree (S.P Mukherjee Road; 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows; Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street, 254956)—noon.

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film. The music is by Anand Milind.

• **Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664)—4 shows.

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor

• **Sherni:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473)—4 shows

Directed by Harmesh Malhotra and with music by Kalyanji Anandji, the cast includes Shatrughan Sinha, Sridevi, Ranjeet, Kader Khan and Pran.

• **Shoorveer:** Elite (S.N Banerjee Road; 241383), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road; 355059).

A film by Sham Rathan, starring Rajan Sippy, Mandakini, Danny and Kader Khan. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.



Mandakini and Govinda in *Pyar Mohabat*



Scene from *The Witches of Eastwick*

Bengali Films

• **Agoon:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road; 473462)—3, 5 45, 8.30; Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—2 30, 5.15, 8).

A film by Victor Banerjee who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Tanuja, Divya Rana, Utpal Dutt, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra, Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury. The music is by R D Burman.

• **Ora Chaarjan:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080)—3 shows

Samit Bhanja's first directorial venture, starring Dilip Roy, Swarup Dutta, Chinmoy Roy, Abhisek Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Shakuntala Barua, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit. The music is by Arun Rabin.

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayasree T, and Sukhen Das. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

• **Tumi Kato Sundar:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282)— 3 shows.

Directed by Manoj Ghosh and with music by Mrinal Banerjee, the cast includes Tapas Paul, Moon Moon Sen, Nirmal Kumar, Satya Banerjee, Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Anup Kumar and Sabitri Chatterjee.

7 DAYS



Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen in *Saptapadi*

• **Saptapadi**: Purna (S P Mukherjee Road 174567), Darpana (Bidhan Sarani 280800) 2.30 5.30 8.30

A re-release of the Asit Sen hit starring the legendary pair Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

Foreign Films

• **Adam and Eve (A)**: Tiger (Chowringhee Road, 285977)—4 shows

• **Bedroom Eyes (A)**: Society (Corporation Place 410079) 4 shows

• **Castaway (A)**: Globe (Indira Street 290660) 4 shows

• **The Witches of Eastwick (A)**: New Empire (Humayun Place, 291051)- 4 shows

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• **Aakhri Adaalat**: Elite (S N Banerjee Road 241389) Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 244822) Krishna (J C Dutta Street 250430) Moneka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410410) Park Show House (Park Street 441971) Madhuban (Regent Park)

Directed by Rajiv Mehra and with music by Annu Malik the film stars Vinod Khanna Dimple Kapadia, Jackie Shroff, Sonam and Gulshan Grover.

•**Mera Naam Joker**: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 35,932)

A re-release of this Raj Kapoor film, starring Dharmendra, Rajendra Kumar, Padmini Simi Mangi Kumar Rishi Kapoor and Raj Kapoor. The music is by Shanker Jaikishan.

• **Rukhsat**: Opera (Lenin Sarani 281849), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 247616), Tripala (Russa Road 478666), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 478167), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 300680), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 551382), Laswa Mahal (Gas Street 351450)

A film by Sunil Garewal who also stars along with Mithun Chakraborty Anuradha Patel and Amrish Puri. The music is by Kalyanji Anandji.

TRAVEL

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2)• AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1). AI-132A at 1905.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5). AI-306 at 1830, Dep. (5). AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1855; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt): Arr. (6): AI-455A at 2335

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York): Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145.

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1700 amd Dep. (2)• SU-542 at 1810; Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555, Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1)• JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ 116 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ 116 at 1045 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4)• IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC-248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka• Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC 223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6), GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily)• IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1545, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily). IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7)• IC-477 at 1905

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (2, 4, 6)• IC-295 at 1640; Arr (2, 4, 6)• IC-296 at 2105.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6)• IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1) IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1). IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr. (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr. (1, 2)• IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7). IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep. (1, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305; Arr. (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). IC-203 at 0625, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr. (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530, Arr (daily). IC-256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily). IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily): IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650 Arr. (1, 3, 5). IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (7)• IC-219 at 0625 Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily) PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily) PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

• **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300, Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi-Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6). PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600, Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7)· PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-730A at 0850

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6)· PF-737 at 0630, Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr (daily): PF-710 at 1935

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily)· PF-701 at 0700. Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

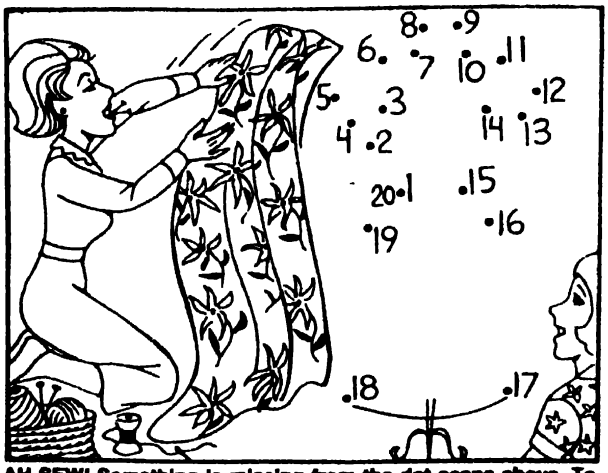
SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10 00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



AH SEW! Something is missing from the dot scene above To complete the picture, add lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc.

• **SEE LIGHTS! In a formation of ultra-light planes there was a plane before two planes, a plane behind two planes, and a plane between two planes. How many planes in all?** Three planes in all



VERSE-RIDDLE WITS TESTER!

A certain word with various meanings is the subject of this classic verse-riddle See how quickly you can puzzle it out

Though they catch me with a hook,
I'm more applied to bird than beast
In form more like a snake I look,
Though having 16 feet at least
What am I?

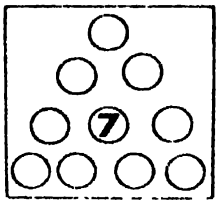
P S 'Having 16 feet at least" alludes to a term for a U S linear unit of measurement that is the equivalent of a rod

I am a perch- fish (coral measurement, etc.

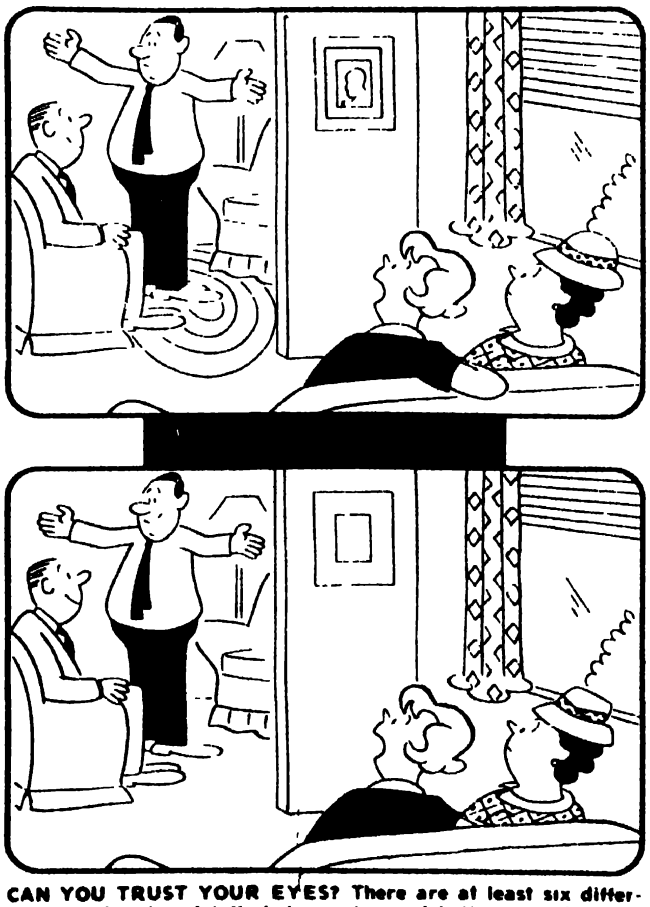
SEVEN OUT! Let's say you have 10 balls numbered from 0 through 9 and you wish to use all but the 7 in the diagram below to total 16 on each of the triangle's sides. How can you place the balls in the nine circles to have them comply?

Remember, you wish to use all balls 0-9 with the exception of ball no 7.

One way top—1 then clockwise 9 ^ 6 5 2 3 4 8



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference 1 Arm is lowered 2 Rug is missing 3 Picture is different 4 Elbow is concealed 5 Blind is shorter 6 Hair is different

FUNSPOT



HIT OR MISS! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments above: 1—Red. 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green 7—Dk. brown 8—Lt purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

MODALITY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible answer: Try 'em

ARIES

March 21 April 20

The new moon in your third angle will give you a push in the right direction A trip is on the cards You may now bag a prestigious contract or assignment Collaborations are fated Home and property affairs may worry you Learn to fuse work with pleasure Children will contribute to your happiness

TAURUS

April 21 May

Grab any antique furniture that catches your fancy Do not ponder over bargains as you might end up being a loser You will get the upperhand in an important contract Despite initial obstacles, you will come out a winner in any dispute involving property or mortgages Functions and interviews will see you in your element

GEMINI

May 21- June 20

The sun Mercury conjunction assures success in all ventures You will gain considerable success in any enterprise that you embark on Health, however, may cause concern Friends and well-wishers will stand by you Love is in the air for the fancyfree and eligible Money will pour in Family members will contribute to your happiness

CANCER

June 21 July 20

A hectic and action-packed week lies ahead Trips, liaisons, affairs and secret deals are foretold You may have to resort to subterfuge to get what you want Traders, astrologers, writers, commission agents, public relation officers, politicians, diplomats, actors and students will do well this week

LEO

July 21—August 21

The sun Venus conjunction will unfold hidden aspects of your character Expect friends and relatives to drop in unexpectedly You will gain recognition and your popularity will now reach an all-time high Children, creative pursuits and hobbies are highlighted Your spouse will contribute to your marital bliss Foreigners may play an unusually important role in your life



VIRGO

August 22 Sept 22

The moon Mars conjunction will motivate you to give your best to the job at hand This a good sign for the competition is now going to be more fierce than ever before Expect some degree of criticism and opposition to your plans Even though you will finally overcome all such resentment it may have a detrimental effect on your health

BIRTHDAYS

June 12

Moon semi-sextile Mercury-Venus You will take giant strides forward in a secretive, subtle manner Those in wholesale and large organisations will do well. A job-hop is not ruled out.

June 13

Sun conjunction Mercury This is a lucky conjunction for artists, salesmen, executives, journalists, writers, musicians, broadcasters, copywriters, public relations officers, middlemen and agents. The time is right to reach out to people and places.

June 14

New Moon, Gemini; Even though the going might be difficult, with tough opposition from critics, it is certain that you will succeed, given grit and imagination. Consider all the pros and cons before embarking on a new venture. Do not blindly enter into an affair or undertaking.

June 15

Moon opposition. Neptune, trine

LIBRA

Sept 23

You will come into the limelight A lucky time ahead for those involved with publicity advertising teaching communication sales travel research, education editing directing, sports and decoration Friends and relatives will finally recognise your worth Loans and funds to start new ventures will be available Expenses are likely to soar now

Pluto You will either hit the big time or totally fail to make a dent Enjoy whatever you do but do not live in a world of make belief A transfer or job change is in the offing

June 16

Moon trine Mars-Jupiter This trine implies resounding success in all that you do It is also a money-making combination Your intuition and adroitness will lead you to glory Changes on the work front and at home will prove beneficial

June 17

Moon Cancer/Leo, Western astrology. Your work will be done. Perseverence will pay in the long run Money, journeys and family affairs will keep you busy. An expansion in business and headway in your profession, are foretold However, careful planning should be undertaken before embarking on new ventures.

June 18

Moon sextile Mercury-Venus Opportunities will knock at your door. Seize them without second thought or else you will have only yourself to blame.

SCORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 2.

This is the time to marshall your resources especially if you are a businessman Loans and funds will be available to you A shift or move cannot be ruled out Get your resources and finances in order so that you can start a new venture or enterprise at short notice Wedding bells or an official engagement is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

This is the time to sign contracts and collaborations as the sun Mercury triumvirate flits into your seventh angle Take heed of people's opinions Matters pertaining to land disputes may worry you Travel to foreign countries is likely, A wedding is a near certainty Health may cause concern so regular checkups are advisable

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

[illegible]ty and forge a middle path in all important issues A reshuffle of staff at your work place is likely Health precautions are vital Your work will take on added importance towards the weekend Learn to adopt a more relaxed attitude and derive pleasure from the simple things in life Hobbies and friends will demand attention

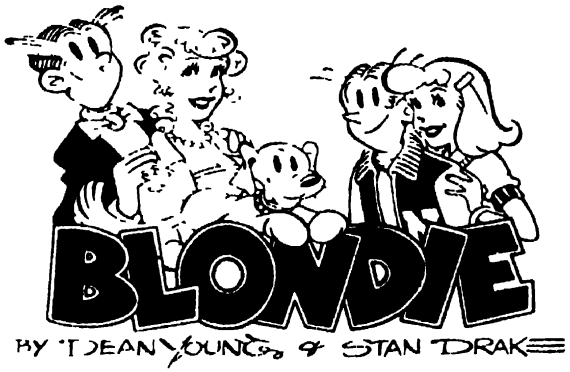
AQUARIUS

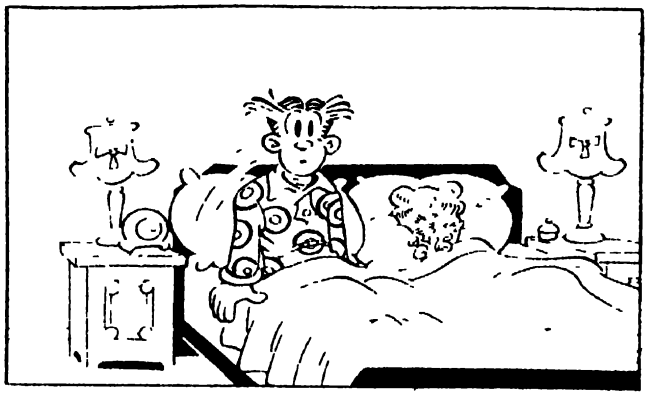
Moon sextiles Jupiter and Lady Luck will smile on you Success is assured in any ventures you may have in mind Children will give joy Romance and entertainment are highlighted Travel is a distinct possibility This is a week to embark on creative ventures However, do not get carried away and learn to look below appearances

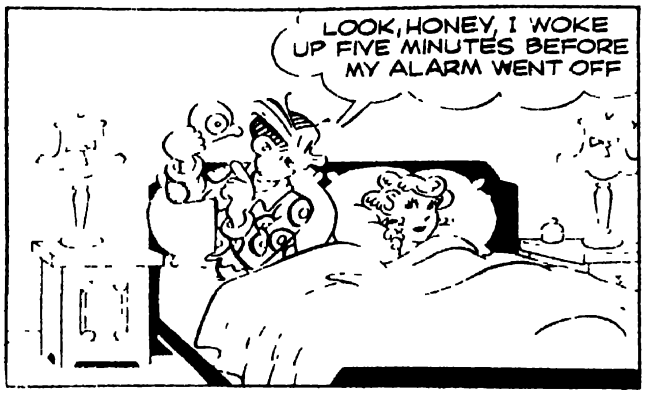
PISCES

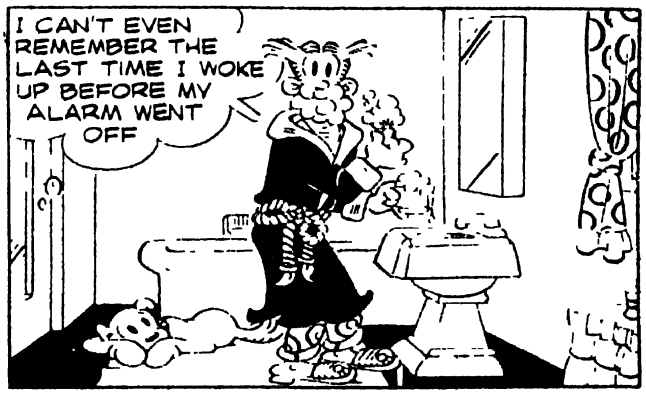
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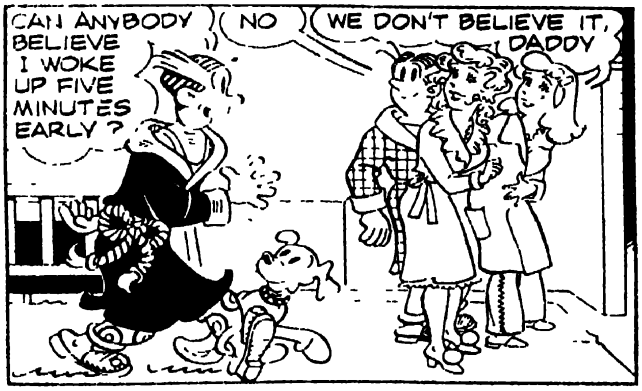
Home and property affairs will occupy much of your time this week Renovation decoration, alteration, installation of new machinery and gadgets buying, selling and investment are highlighted The health of parents and elders, however, may cause concern Travel is on the cards

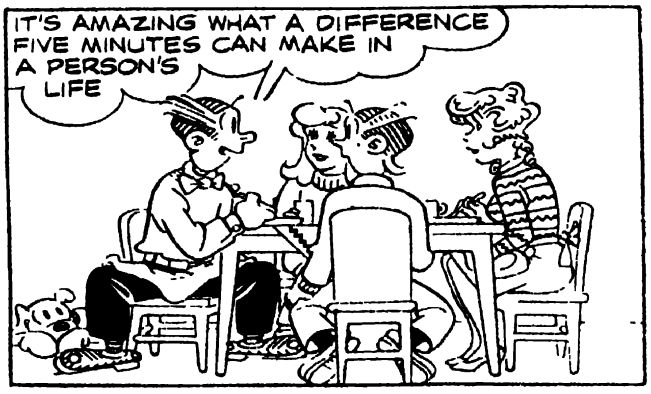

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

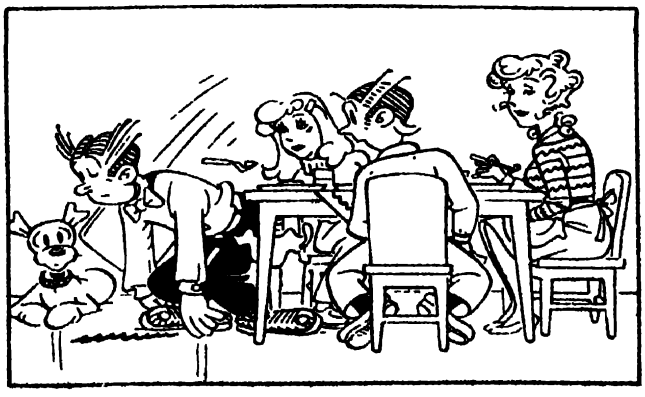


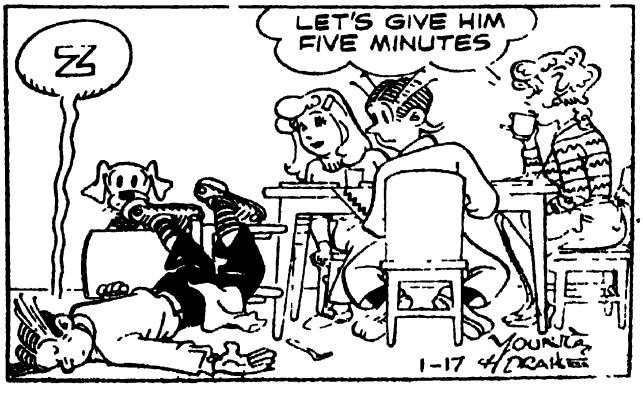

LOOK, HONEY, I WOKE UP FIVE MINUTES BEFORE MY ALARM WENT OFF


I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WOKE UP BEFORE MY ALARM WENT OFF

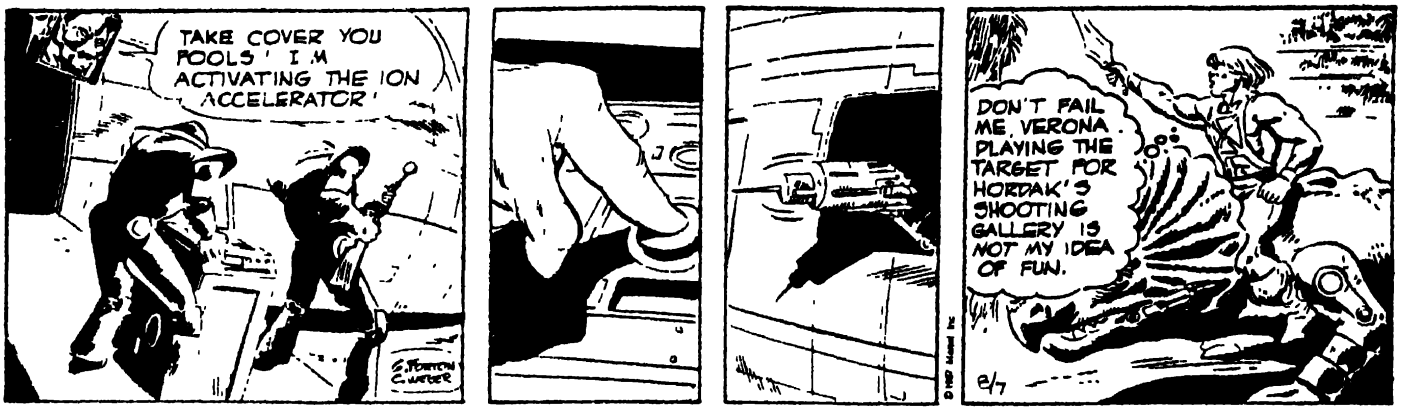

CAN ANYBODY BELIEVE I WOKE UP FIVE MINUTES EARLY?
NO
WE DON'T BELIEVE IT, DADDY

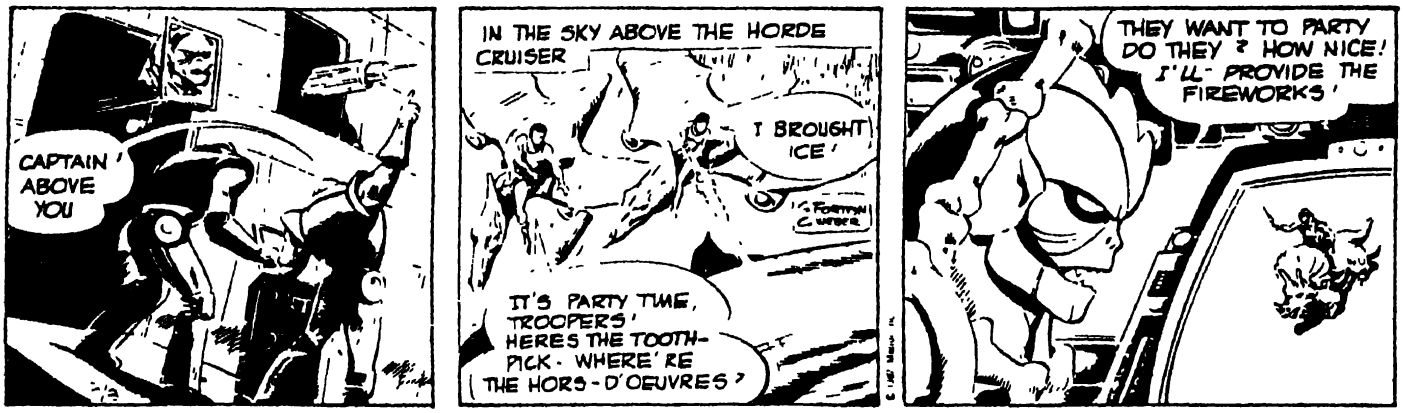

IT'S AMAZING WHAT A DIFFERENCE FIVE MINUTES CAN MAKE IN A PERSON'S LIFE

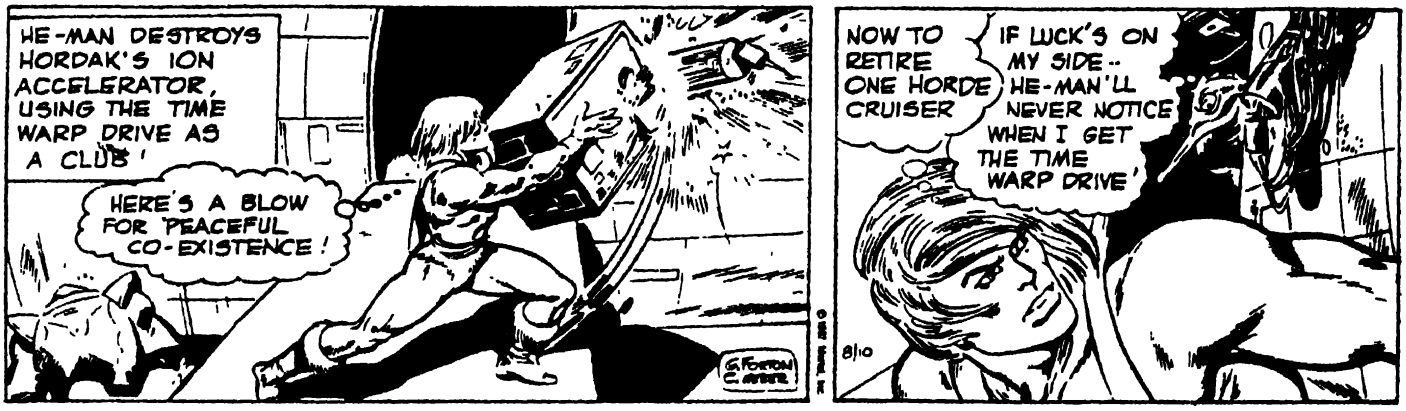

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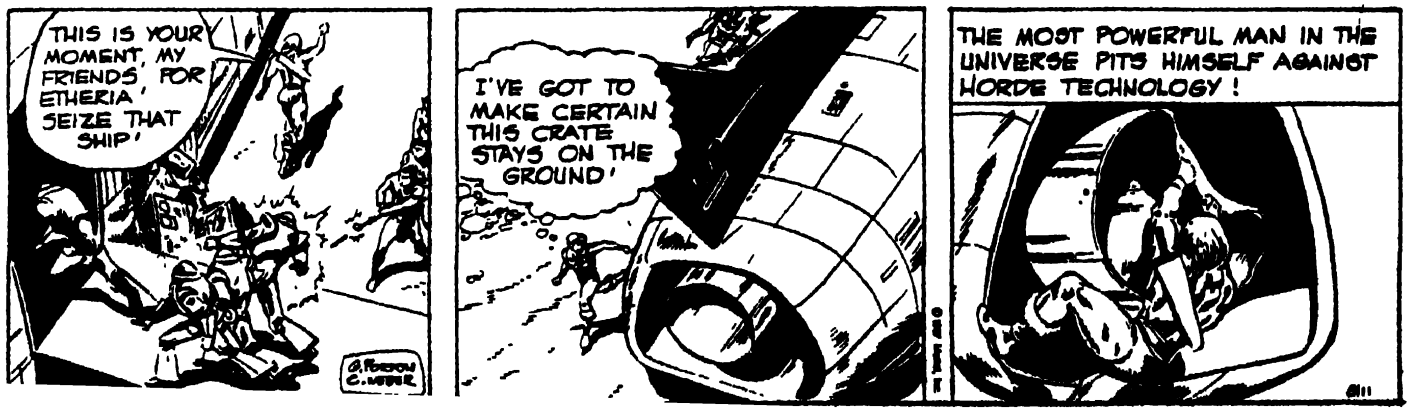

Z
LET'S GIVE HIM FIVE MINUTES
1-17
YOUNG & DRAKE

HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

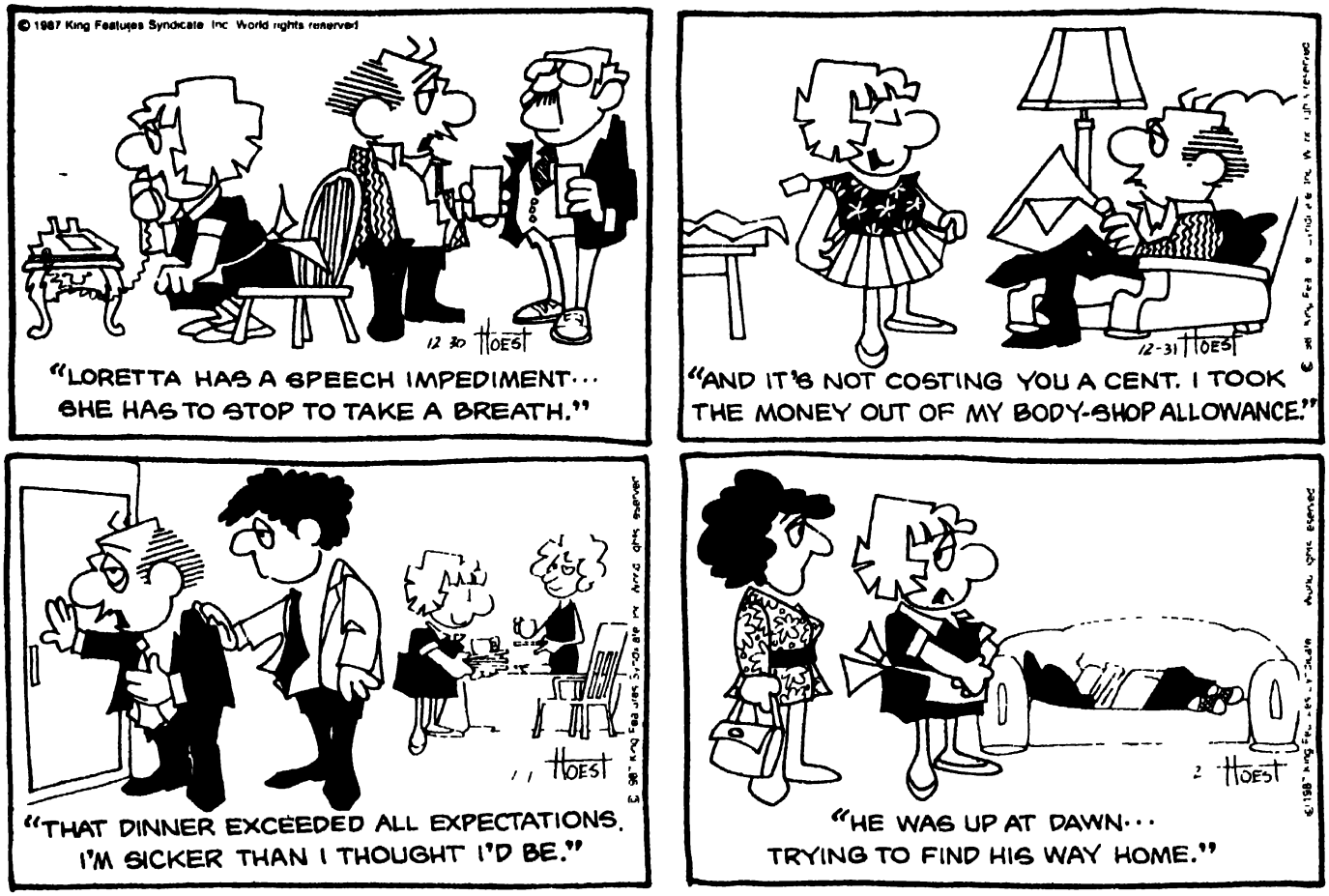








THE LOCKHORNS



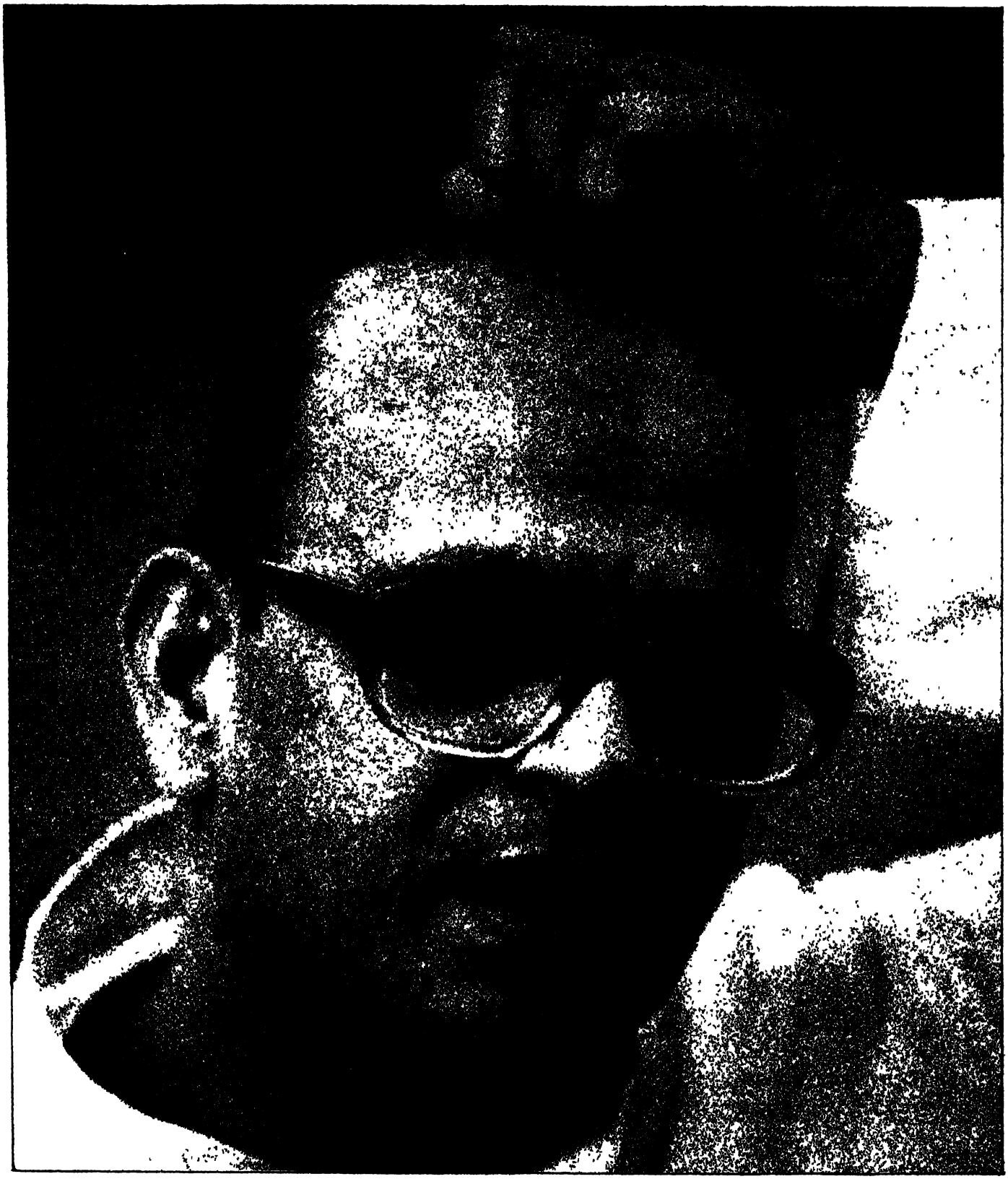
MANDRAKE By Lee Falk



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP




IF I MOVE THIS PLAYER HERE, MOOSE, DO YOU SEE WHAT THAT GIVES US?
YEAH, COACH!
TIC - TAC - TOE!
MEN, WE'LL GO OUT AND PLAY BASIC, PHYSICAL, HARD-NOSE FOOTBALL!
WE WON'T DO ANYTHING FANCY! WE'LL BLOCK 'EM HARD AND RUN RIGHT OVER 'EM!
YEAH!
RIGHT!
WE'LL RAM THE BALL DOWN THEIR THROATS AND OVERPOWER 'EM!
LET'S GO GET 'EM!
UH-OH! ON SECOND THOUGHT...
HOW MANY TRICK PLAYS DO WE HAVE IN THE PLAYBOOK?



To be or not to be? That is a question which has always foxed **V.P. Singh.** And that is the bald truth. Which way he will go after Allahabad, only he knows. Or does he? Photograph by RAJESH KUMAR

POST MORTEM

Unfair?

Our attention has been drawn to the article, 'How Reliable is Your Doctor?' (May 1). The authors have tried to impress upon the readers that the medical profession was once a noble one, but has today become a money-extracting business. The authors tried to quote a large number of imaginary sources to prove that doctors of this city are, in general, dishonest, corrupt, inefficient and even comparable to the profession of prostitutes.

Even if the authors feel that a section of the medical profession is engaged in unfair and corrupt practices, they should have produced concrete evidence in support of their ideas, but without any such evidence, blaming the whole medical profession in general is unfair, defamatory and uncalled for, and thus should be withdrawn forthwith in a similar form.

Our association strongly protests against this attempt to denigrate and malign the medical profession and demands that the editor and writers of the article apologise.

Lastly, I would request you to furnish us with the name and address of the neuro-surgeon of Park Circus who has been quoted as having said, "The nobility of a doctor's profession is a myth. A doctor is as much a professional as a prostitute," and his name and address should be published in your paper also.

Dr. [illegible]

[illegible] certainly not [illegible]. At the same time, we are not bound to disclose their identities. — Editor

■ You snatched the words from my (and I'm sure from thousands of other Calcuttans') mouth. Corruption, carelessness and negligence have now become more a rule than the exception in the medical profession.

A few months back, a very reputed doctor diagnosed the ailment of my uncle as an acute stage of tuberculosis and prescribed medicines accordingly. By the time it was realised that the diagnosis was wrong it was too late. Four months of strong antibiotics had damaged his kidneys completely. Today, he is bed ridden and living on dialysis.

R.K. Bhutoria,
Calcutta

■ You have established yourself as the best national daily by depicting the real picture of the medical profession. The story was both timely and pertinent. There is no denying the fact that doctors today are no longer the best friends of society and whatever services they render are only for their own pocket and prosperity.

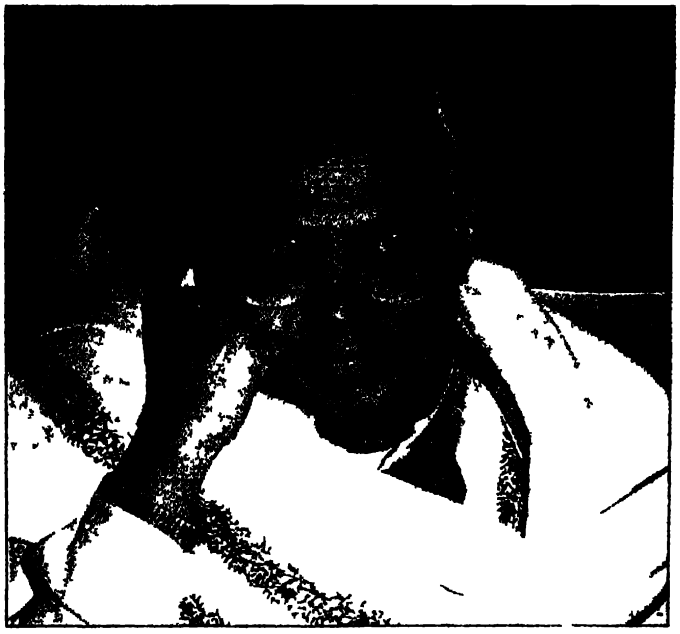
The picture is worse in hospitals run by public sector companies where the doctors are squandering the company's funds and are involved in rackets with private nursing homes and dispensaries, and in practices like illegal abortion. They play with the lives of employees despite having better pay along with good, non-practising allowance.

Subhas Sarkar,
Burdwan (W.B.)

■ Why should it be called a noble profession when there is hardly any nobility to be seen now?

Patrick Gogh,
Calcutta

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Ashok Diwali

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Cover: Krishna Murari Kishan

ROUGH BUT READY

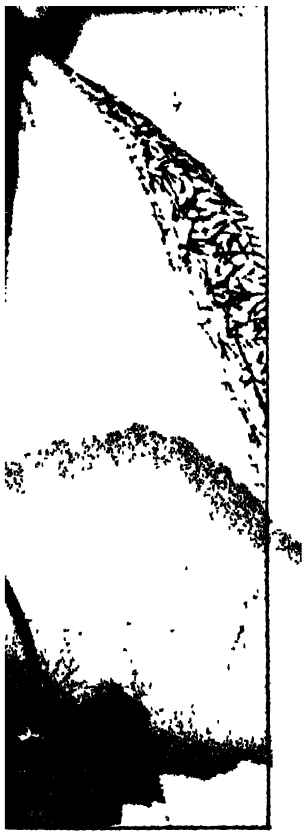
Bhagwat Jha Azad, the new chief minister of Bihar has, to the delight of the people, struck the fear of God in the state's apathetic bureaucracy. UTTAM SENGUPTA sums up the man and his methods

Photographs: Krishna Murari Kishan

In the wee hours of a cold February day, Bhagwat Jha Azad was "elected" leader of the Congress(I) legislature party in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. After spending a sleepless night, Azad was sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Bihar early in the morning. The midnight's child was offered to Bihar on a platter, a mysterious sentinel who caught political pundits napping. Few persons thought Bhagwat Jha Azad stood a chance, and speculation had centred on Bhishma Narayan Singh, the Assam governor, and Shiv Chandra Jha, the Bihar Speaker, among others, as possible successors to the scarred and much-maligned Bindeshwari Dubey.

Did Azad have any inkling of what was in the offing? After a meaningful pause he admits that he knew with certainty two days earlier about the responsibility he was going to be offered. Ever since he was dropped as the AICC(I) general secretary, he said, he knew that something was in the offing. He would not admit that he ever sought the chief ministership but added that he had often felt that he could run the state better than others. "Sane persons would like to be at the Centre," he had quipped in March, and had then added on a serious note, "For some time this idea was crossing my mind and I wanted to try my hand at it. After all, I have been in public life for 46 years ever since I first went to jail in 1942, and I thought it was now time to try and serve my people and my state."

In retrospect, Azad's reference to sane





Bhagwat Jha Azad being sworn in as chief minister

persons wanting to stay away from Bihar seems ironical because the most affectionate sobriquet he has earned during these three months is, *'Arre woh thoda pagla hai'* (The man is slightly mad). Who else but a "mad" person would rub legislators of his own party, influential power brokers and senior officials in public. Who else could declare that limbs of engineers concerned would be broken if embankments were again breached? Who else could say that he would stop the 'March loot' and get away with it? ('March loot' occurs routinely in Bihar when officials draw large sums of unspent money on the last day of the financial year without much accountability.)

The tall, sprightly 64-year old (the second Brahmin from Santhal Pargana to become the chief minister of Bihar, the first being Bandanand Jha from Deoghar) has the habit of clenching, indeed gnashing his teeth at the slightest provocation. He sports a somewhat wild look whenever annoyed and uses his jaws to good effect at such times, giving the impression of such suppressed fury that it usually succeeds in frightening people out of their wits. And that is probably why many in Bihar readily believe the rumour that at Munger, Azad punched a person who had thrown a garland at him. The incensed chief minister, so the story goes, demanded to know of the hapless gentleman if he thought he was throwing garlands at a corpse. It was credible enough to find its way into a Hindi weekly published from New Delhi. It is only one of innumerable such stories about the slightly unpredictable, angry old man.

For example, Azad is said to have once barged into the room of a senior IAS officer in the old secretariat building in Patna. Finding several visitors who had no business being there during the "first half" of the day, the chief minister reportedly threw them out. On another occasion he loudly asked a rather notorious Congress(I) legislator how many murders he had organised of late, much to the consternation of the people present. Inaugurating a hospital, the chief minister is said to have sarcastically commented that he was sure the medicines, equipment and personnel had been mobilised only for the inauguration and then declared that every single medical staff present could leave his post only at his own peril.

The imperious style of the chief minister has often rubbed officials the wrong way and many of them confess that they would prefer not to come face to face with him and keep as quiet as possible if they do. They recall the police officer posted in Ranchi who was summoned by the chief minister and asked, *"Iska kaam karoge* (Will you do her work)?" Apparently, an Adivasi lady had complained that the officer concerned was [illegible] over her petition. The officer replied that the job would soon be done, but he was unrelenting. *"Kab* when will you do it? Before the officer could *ko su* (On Wednesday

The rough [illegible] hides a sentimental [illegible] prone to having tender plainly finds it difficult [illegible] He loves as intensely clearly suffer from the insecurity that is the [illegible] ters in Bihar. But he has determination which he *"Mai woh Vikramaditya mai woh Vikramaditya matoonga nahin* [illegible] who was killed [illegible] killed). He evidently [illegible] the legendary hero of

The hyperbole [illegible] versation gives away with literature [illegible] and Bachchan are [illegible] and the chief minister is writing a *mahakavya*. [illegible] Why did he choose [illegible] for his magnum opus? [illegible] silence before recent [illegible] he had witnessed the [illegible] one. This had shaken [illegible]

had taken refuge in poetry. He has already written 10 chapters, and revealed, "This will be my first published work."

Azad's identity as a poet is dear to him and the chief minister seldom allows a chance to recite a poem slip. He also constantly reminds his listeners that he is basically a poet at heart. Once, an interviewer whom Azad had accused of being critical, asked the chief minister to cite specific cases of unfair writing. "You are a journalist, you can argue, I am a poet, I cannot," was Azad's dead-pan reply.

His hectic schedule barely leaves him enough time to complete his magnum opus, but there have been occasions when he has preferred the solitude of the VIP lounge in the Patna airport to indulge in his favourite pastime.

But poetry apart, the 'Azad style' has come to be both dreaded and revered. At one of his "Janata durbars," a maulvi greeted the chief minister and handed him a petition. As Azad began glancing through it, the maulvi pleaded that he expedite the government grant to the *madrasa*. The chief minister exploded at this, flung the petition to one of his aides, and walked away hissing under his breath that the maulvi perhaps thought the government had nothing better to do than disburse grants. On the same day, another person who tried to thrust some flowers into his hands was rudely rebuffed with, "I am also a Brahmin and know a thing or two, don't you dare try this gimmick of giving me *'phool* and *belpatta'*."

Deeply religious, Azad often invokes the names of gods and swears by the Almighty. The first day he attended office, he scribbled a fervent appeal to God, praying for strength to serve his people. Earlier, he had sought the blessings of the deities installed in various temples in Patna. When his attention is drawn to corruption charges against him, he is prone to say, as he did to this correspondent, that if anyone from Bhagalpur to New Delhi can prove that he had taken a penny from them, he will not mind if the good Lord above severed his head.

Azad is justifiably proud of his three sons. The eldest, Rajvardhan, has carved a niche for himself as a successful doctor in New Delhi while the second, Yashovardhan, is an IPS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre. The youngest, Kirti, is an officer with Bokaro Steel but is better known for his explosive brand of cricket which runs along the lines of his father's mercurial temperament. "All my sons are well settled in life and have established themselves in their respective fields, they earn well and their spouses belong to wealthy families. What more can I ask for?" asks the contented father.

Azad, in fact, is the stuff political legends are made of and his temper is so stark against the sycophantic culture of the Congress(I) that party colleagues talk in hushed tones about his "antics." An instance they all recall occurred in 1980 when Azad stomped out of Rashtrapati Bhavan after finding his chair placed in the row meant for ministers of state who were to be sworn in on that day. He expected Cabinet berth and nothing less was acceptable to him. The story goes that so incensed was he that he walked home from Rashtrapati Bhavan, refusing to use the government car that had been assigned to him. But, his detractors are quick to point out, in spite of his tantrum, Azad was not offered a Cabinet post at the Centre, a slot which ironically went to Bindeshwari Dubey whom he replaced as chief minister of Bihar. A few months later, Azad was forced to accept the chair of a Union minister of state.

Azad is a veteran politician, having been a member of the Lok Sabha from 1952 till early this year except for a brief interlude during the Janata period. He participated in the Quit India movement of 1942 and went to jail at 18. He got an MA in Econo-

'I AM SURE TO PROVOKE CONTROVERSY'

Imposing chief ministers on Bihar from New Delhi has not worked in the past. Do you think it is going to work in your case?

I object to the expression "imposition." The Congress, unlike the Opposition, has a unique character in as much as the leader takes the decision which is accepted by everybody within the party. And the leader takes this decision after consulting every shade of opinion. Even in my case, except me everybody else was consulted, including Bindeshwari Dubey and Dr Jagannath Mishra. So while an actual contest is averted and so is the consequent bitterness, the 'consensus' formula is really democratic.

There is a feeling in Bihar that the state has never had a strong enough lobby in New Delhi. Since you are a veteran member of Parliament, would you agree with the suggestion?

Well, now we have a strong lobby there with both Bindeshwari Dubey and Jagannath Mishra in Parliament.

But what about the past?

I would rather not comment on it.

But would you agree with the complaint that the Centre has given Bihar a raw deal?

The Centre does not exist for Bihar alone and it has just one kitty. It depends on our ability in persuading the Centre to loosen its purse-strings.

What is your view are the major tasks for your government?

I have already put my views before the National Development Council. The granary of Bihar is ravaged by floods every year and this conspiracy of nature must be countered. In south Bihar there should be development of ancillary units. We must get more royalty for our minerals and we must ensure that benefits of development schemes and anti-poverty programmes percolate to local people.



Three major attempts made by the previous government that ended in a fiasco were the ordinance for panchayat reforms which is bogged down in the Supreme Court, banning private practice by government doctors and giving massive co-operative loans to farmers. Will you support these measures?

Actions alway[illegible] controversy. I [illegible] controversy [illegible] give peop[illegible] into the [illegible]

Do you [illegible] going tougher than you imagin[illegible]

On the co[illegible] getting easier.

Do you have any [illegible]

These days it is confi[illegible] and writing poetry. I used to be a sportsman though and played badminton, volleyball and cricket.

mics from Patna University before being elected to the Lok Sabha at the relatively young age of 28. This in itself was a remarkable feat because in the first general election held after Independence, Azad had to fight for recognition from among the scores of seasoned and eminent freedom fighters in the Congress.

It is surprising that despite this early promise, Bhagwat Jha has seldom been entrusted with major responsibilities, his recent stints as Union minister and AICC(I) general secretary being quite brief. Perhaps it was due to his uncompromising nature or "tactlessness," both considered handicaps in Indian politics. In fact, critics feel he does not stand much of a chance as chief minister unless he learns to be more tactful and diplomatic.

The man from Bhagalpur himself firmly believes that he will remain the chief minister only till the next general election and that he has been sent as a caretaker to ensure the victory of the party at the hustings. On several occasions he has been overheard lamenting that if only he had five years, he could change the face of Bihar. "But in two years how much can one do?" he complains. In fact, he is fond of reminding officials that he had come with a suitcase and will go back with it shortly but will not tolerate any wrongdoing.

The outspoken chief minister, even more significantly, candidly says that he cannot improve things in the state "in the terminal years before the election." Obviously, he means that he cannot come down as heavily on power brokers and vested interests as he would have liked to. Azad is often candid to the point of indiscretion. Reminded by a newsman that one of his predecessors was subjected to far more scathing comments by the fourth estate than he has been so far, the chief minister replied, "That was because he was inefficient, I am not."

Azad's disarming frankness often projects him as a self-opinionated person and he makes little attempt to hide it. But, he is susceptible to child-like glee and once, when this correspondent complimented him for a reply of his, the beaming chief minister said that he was certain that no other leader "except Rajiv Gandhi" would have given as intelligent an answer.

This then, is the man who has driven the fear of god in the generally sluggish bureaucracy of Bihar. The chief minister's secretariat itself has undergone a sea-change with files no longer lying cluttered on the floor. His staff has been driven up the wall by his stern warning that all petitions received by him in the "Janata durbar" or elsewhere must be "cleared" within 10 days. Since the chief minister receives around 700 petitions every week, the task is Herculean. For once, the chief



Azad with Tariq Anwar participating in the 'Dandi March'



At the Janata Durbar hearing people's grievances

minister's secretariat has laid a deadline for departments dealing with different petitions, a move that has been met with considerable success. A computer will soon be installed to monitor petitions among other things.

Punctuality is another of Azad's traits cultivated to a fine art. A ruling party MLA recalls how he was given an appointment recently but reached 10 minutes earlier. On being told that the chief minister was alone in his chamber, he chose to barge in, only to be rebuked and sent out to cool his heels till the appointed time. A few minutes later when he was called in he was firmly told that he had only three minutes to put up his case which related to the transfer of an official. He duly submitted a memorandum to the chief minister but left feeling certain that the "transfer" would not materialise. To his surprise, he received a communication from the department concerned within the week acknowledging his petition, and the transfer itself was effected a fortnight later. If this style of operation continued, the legislator exclaimed in mock-fright, whoever will bother to approach legislators for putting in a word to the ministers?

It is difficult to say how far Bhagwat Jha Azad will be successful in improving conditions in Bihar. After all, his detractors point out hopefully, even Abdul Ghafoor, a former chief minister who was known for the tongue-lashings he administered to bureaucrats, failed to make a dent in the system. And Azad himself readily admits that he has a tough task ahead. "I was offered a free hand by the Prime Minister but I told him that I needed his full hand," he said before adding in a more serious vein that if the Centre could ensure a flood-free Bihar, he would deliver results.

Azad has achieved remarkable success in reducing the "March loot". This year, the chief minister ordered that no official should leave his station in March for the money which, he said, would be sent to the offices concerned. He also claims to have stopped the flourishing culture of "buff sheets" under which the chief minister and the ministers used to give orders, often contradictory, on representations made by legislators.

Bihar, however, has a habit of taming the most rebellious of spirits and Azad himself admits that three months as chief minister have brought some changes in him. "I no longer call an ass an ass," he is reported to have told a group of officials. "But nor will I call it a horse," he added in typical style "■

BARTER BANK

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• **Study material:** I offer Apex's correspondence course with Think Tank for the MBBS entrance exmaination, 1986, and MBD medical guide for a Sony or Sanyo Walkman or Canon 35 mm autofocus camera or anything of corresponding value. Contact Ranv Kumar, 3/127, Boy's Hostel, Rajendra Medical College, Ranchi 834009.

PRAMATHES CHANDRA BARUA (1903-51)



Born to Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua and Rani Satobala at Gauripur in the Goalpara district of Assam, the renowned film personality, Pramathes Chandra Barua imbibed the sophisticated and cultured atmosphere of the household In his early life, he showed a natural flair for the arts, including acting and dancing, and was also fond of riding, rowing and hunting He passed the Matriculation Examinations of Calcutta University from Guwahati in 1918, and obtained BSc honours in physics from Presidency College, Calcutta, in 1924. He was married to Madhuri Devi in 1921 and in 1926 was nominated as a member of the Assam Legislative Council However, within three years he quit politics

His first association with cinema was in 1929 when he became a director of the British Dominion Films Ltd In 1930 he went to Paris for training in film making He returned to India the following year and set up his own film producing concern It made three films before it went out of business In the first *Apradhi*, he introduced filming under artificial lighting

The years 1931-33 were notable and turbulent in his life During these years the film industry underwent a major change with the introduction of sound and talking pictures On one hand he was deeply involved in film making while on the other his personal life was buffeted by a passionate love affair with Kshiti Devi whom he later married despite strong opposition from his family and friends Soon he was overcome with dire financial constraints

Pramathes joined New Theatres Ltd in 1933, the first film he directed and acted for there was *Rupalekha*. *Devdas* in 1935 brought him unprecedented popularity and in 1937 *Mukti* was also a phenomenal success He later made Hindi versions of *Devdas* and *Mukti* He left New Theatres Ltd in 1939 and the following year started work with M P Productions and made several films in quick succession *Uttarayan* was one of them that starred Jamuna Devi whom he later married

By then his association with Gauripur had become very dim His health failed and he suffered from financial and mental distress He could not complete *Maya Kanan* and the irresistible Prince Charming died leaving behind his widow and six children

The house sketched above shows his Calcutta residence at 17, Ballygunge Circular Road, later renamed after him

QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

Amarnath Rudra, Calcutta-12, writes, "Thank you for the description of the sinking of the Bismarck. Please write something on the Battle of Jutland."

Since the beginning of World War I, the German High Seas Fleet had not ventured out to challenge the numerically superior British Grand Fleet, which maintained a stranglehold blockade on Germany. In 1916, command of the German fleet was given to Admiral Reinhard Scheer, an aggressive officer who wanted to end the stalemate by battling the British and destroying the blockade.

On May 31, German Admiral Franz von Hipper led a squadron north from Germany along the Danish Jutland Peninsula, while Scheer followed 50 miles behind with the main German fleet. The German force consisted of 99 ships, including 22 battleships. British intelligence, having broken the German naval code, informed Admiral Sir John Jellicoe of the German foray.

Realising that the Germans could not be allowed freedom in the North Sea, Jellicoe put to sea the same morning. From Scotland, he steamed eastward with the main fleet, while a smaller squadron under Admiral Sir David Beatty paralleled his course 70 miles to the south. The British fleet consisted of 148 ships, including 28 battleships.

At 3.30 pm, the squadrons of Beatty and Hipper made contact. Hipper turned south, luring Beatty toward the main German fleet. When Beatty saw the main enemy fleet dead ahead, he turned and ran for Jellicoe's aid. The combined German fleets pursued. At 5.30 pm, the Germans sighted Jellicoe's battleships on the horizon. Both navies plunged forward and cleared for action. The British battle wagons fired first and set Hipper's flagship, the *Lutzow*, aflame. The Germans returned fire, and the British *Invincible* sank in three minutes.

At dusk, Jellicoe crossed the German rear, thereby blocking the German route home. Afraid of "losing the war in an afternoon," Jellicoe ordered his ships to avoid further combat. But at midnight, Scheer attacked the British rear, and after four hours of confused night battle, the Germans broke through and escaped to Germany. With the Germans back in harbour, the British steamed homeward, picking up survivors along the way.

Both sides had lost six major ships, however, the British had lost twice as much tonnage. Casualties were 6,748 British and 3,058 German sailors. Although scoring a technical victory, the German fleet never again came forth to fight a major battle. The British navy's pride was hurt, but it still dominated the North Sea and continued the blockade for the rest of the war.

CBS

11th Question: **What was the origin of the US slogan "O Grab Me"? (Tathagata Chatterjee, BC-118, Salt Lake City, Calcutta 700 064).**

Ans: **From the word "embargo," spelled backwards. The term was concocted by opponents of the Embargo Act of 1807, which sought to deal with the impressment of US sailors on the high seas during the Napoleonic wars by forbidding virtually all exports to "any foreign port or place."**

'What is mothballing of a nuclear power plant?' asks Neepam Mehta, Durgapur who also provides this answer.

When a nuclear power plant is to be shut down, all material that could contribute to increased radioactivity is removed, packaged and stored in a building some distance away. Fuel elements are lifted from the reactor core and placed in special lead lined steel containers. Turbines and electric engines are removed and sold to any conventional power plant. But the reactive core would be still 'hot' enough to cause radiation sickness in anyone directly exposed to rays for more than 10 or 15 minutes at a stretch.

In short, a mothballed nuclear power plant is one which has been put out of use and dismantled but the reactive core remains 'hot'. An example of a mothballed nuclear power plant is the plant at Niederaichbach, West Germany, which was shut down in July 1974.

QUESTIONS

1. What is called a cannon in billiards in the US? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)
2. What is the meaning of the word "nederland" from which Netherlands is derived? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
3. In the last series against England, Rameez Raza (Pakistan) became the first batsman to be out "obstructing the field" in one day cricket, at Karachi. Who is the only batsman in Test cricket given out "obstructing the field"? (Sailesh Kr. Singh, BIT, Sindri)
4. What is the origin of the word "hygiene"? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)
5. Where was the Roman general, Pompey, defeated by Julius Caesar in 48 BC? (Tajdaar Bakht, Calcutta 17)
6. Which state of the US gets its name from the green mountains that run through it? (Ajit Jacob Thomas, Rourkela 5)
7. George Bush, Vice-President of the US, claimed he had found "Big Mo" in Iowa. What is "Big Mo"? (Natarajan Anand, Howrah 1)
8. What is a spinthariscope? (Abhijit Chakraborty, ISM, Dhanbad)
9. In which film did Sean Connery acting as James Bond get a fee of £ 1 million which he donated to charity? (Rakesh Ranjan Sahay, BIT, Sindri)
10. Who said: "What is happening to our young people? They disrespect their elders, disobey their parents. They ignore the laws. They riot in the streets, inflamed with wild notions. Their morals are decaying, what is to become of them?" (Kaustav Dasgupta, Calcutta 14)

ANSWERS

1. Carom.
2. "Low land"—and since ... is level, it ... third of the ...
3. ... Ken Hutton of England in ... (a very) ... at the Oval, 1951.
4. The English word for ... hygiene, [hygiene, com-] ... from the ... [Hygieia (hygieia)], goddess of health and the daughter of Aesculpius (Roman Aesculapius), the god of healing.
5. At Pharsalus in Greece.
6. Vermont. French, "Mont-Vere" or green mountains.
7. A "Big Momentum" in the presidential race.
8. It is an instrument which shows the perpetual sparks emitted by radium.
9. *Diamonds are Forever.*
10. Plato, about 2,500 years ago.

AN INDEX OF OUR TIMES

When I was a young boy, I was greatly intrigued by an incident associated with our life. A thick-set youngster barely out of his teens supplied to the family a scented hair-oil much fancied by the ladies. You buy the hair-oil and have a Bengali novel gratis. These sale-boosters, to use the recent term, were as a rule neatly bound, with a wet-from-the press look and were not necessarily Grub Street productions either.

Some had catchy titles such as *Bandhur Biye* (A Friend's Marriage) while quite a number needed no introduction for they were by already established writers. I still remember a copy of *Parinita* by Saratchandra Chatterjee, bound in parrot green silk,well padded into the bargain. It looked so dreamily soft that at first sight I feared to touch it lest it should shed its bloom at the touch. Naturally, the household ladies were enamoured of these free gifts and the arrivals of the boy was eagerly awaited.

But even in the good old days, such a bounty was too good to endure forever. The boy got married and became a man and our paradise was lost. One day he came with the oil, but no book to go with it. "You see aunt," he mumbled, "my wife..."(here he blushed) "well, she is a great reader of books. She insists on having the whole lot left with her!" What could the ladies say? A newly-wed's pleasure must come first.

Now that I come to think of it, I know where the books came from. They must have been from the publisher's unsolds that must be disposed of somehow. They found their way into the hair-oil dealer's storage based on some understanding between the two. It is a wellknown fact that all the books that are printed are not sold. Some lie dumped in the publisher's backroom, perhaps against probable demand in future but are mostly moth-eaten, while the others are put into circulation through the old booksellers' kiosks or footpath vendors, where they are displayed, spread not very neatly over sheets, to be picked up by the people going to and fro with intentions other than purchase of books. If, they go out of their way to purchase one, it is because they are, or rather used to be, so cheap and presented such a wide assortment.

> You have heard of soaps as free gifts with consumer goods. And tea-sets as gifts to newly-weds. But books?

This whisks me back by about half a century when, bitten by the bug of book-love, I strutted in and out of the well-stocked bookshops in Connaught Place like a restless spectre, and had to content myself with a mere touch of books I fain would purchase. If once, on the spur of the moment, I went in for one I could ill afford, I was reminded of the tragic hero of a famous story by George Gissing whose excessive love for books led to the death of his dearly-loved wife for lack of proper treatment. This went on till, one day, I chanced upon a wayside bookshop in Karol Bagh and after a cursory glimpse running over the treasures, my heart leapt with joy. I felt literally like one of the "high-hearted buccaneers, who an El Dorado in the grass have found."

These unconventional stores are still there, but they have completely changed their character. During the early forties, with the second world war still going on, and continuing through the sixties, one would be thrilled to discover there some exceptional titles being offered for a song. It was there that I chanced upon the Pengum edition of Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man* in hardcover complete with the jacket. Then, there was Euripides' *Trojan Women* in English translation. Some of my later finds, were *Somerset and the Other Maughams* by Robinson Maugham, the nephew of the great writer, and *Papa Hemingway* (I have forgotten the name of the author), both very excellent readings.

In most of them the front covers and even the title pages were removed, but that did not matter so long as one book's back cover was not pasted onto another. This could happen as once I found to my disappointment. The price ranged from four annas to a rupee. Now they mostly sell textbooks, technical treatises and mystery books, and some glossy inanities with near-porn bias. Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, too, was there to be had for Rs 10. Apparently, a pirated edition, for it was currently priced at Rs 45.



But though the practice of something free (a cake of soap, for example) thrown in with a pack of detergent or what you will is still there, books are no longer used as baits in angling for customers. And no wonder. Books, though displayed in glossy paperbacks, have lost their shine. Most of the presentday smarts would not touch a book with a bargepole, as if they were afraid of contamination. Not very long ago, they were appreciated as wedding gifts from friends and wellwishers. But now? Whoever would think of putting them beside the eye-catching glitterati lying on a wedding gift table? They would indeed look miserably out of place like the proverbial ducks among swans.

This reminds me of the frequent lamentations heard from book-lovers as well as publishers about people becoming less and less book-minded. Can't the old custom of offering unsold books free with consumer goods be revived? This may give books some additional advertisement seeing that even when admen backing consumer goods have a field day owing to the multiplicity of channels, books are so poorly advertised.

Yet, I am not sure that it would work. Perhaps, the very idea of such revival in consumerism-ridden society is no more than a pious hope. In an age when very few people have any time to stand and stare, books mean either decoration pieces neatly stored away in the bookcases of the rich or textbooks towering threateningly above the unhappy students who cower beneath them like sacrificial goats. If only the wayside bookstalls were restored to their one-time dignity, the few attic-dwelling book lovers that may still be around, would certainly feel grateful.

Jiban Mukherjee

SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

Drought and aridity continue to afflict India and other developing countries. Carol Osman Brown reports on research being conducted in the US which could lead to wastelands being productively utilised

Heat shimmers up from the desert floor, but the wiry man in the gray floppy hat doesn't seem to mind. He is absorbed in gathering samples of drought-tolerant plants from an experimental minifarm at the Desert Botanical Garden, a naturalist's sanctuary amidst the bustling city of Phoenix, Arizona.

Hopping over a sparse row of plants with an agility that belies his 83 years, Howard Scott Gentry strips some leaves off a desert shrub. A grin brightens his weathered face as he crushes the leaves and shoves them under the visitor's nose. "Smells like oregano doesn't it?" he asks, eyes twinkling.

"Well, it's actually a native Sonoran desert plant, *Lippia palmeri*, that grows wild in Mexico. We're looking at the possibilities of domesticating it for commercial use," says Gentry, one of America's leading economic botanists.

"Science has neglected potentially useful plants that can be produced in arid lands. There's real interest in this Mexican oregano now, because oregano is the top herb imported into the US. The world's supply was diminished when the main source, fields in Greece and Italy, suffered radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl nuclear accident," he explains.

Can other wild or little-known desert plants be cultivated as sources of foods, spices, medicines, weed killers and beauty products? "I'm convinced they can. That's why we have about 10,000 plants under experimental cultivation here," says Gentry, research director for the Desert Botanical Garden.

His research now focuses on low-water crops and a diversity of edible and economic desert plants which may provide an alternative to water-guzzling commercial crops such as cotton and alfalfa. Joining Gentry in these efforts is Gray P. Nabhan, a noted ethnobotanist who is assistant director for research and collections at Phoenix's Desert Botanical Garden.

In his book, "Gathering the Desert," Nabhan discusses some of Sonoran Desert's more than 425 edible wild plants. He stresses, "It's a myth that the desert is a wasteland. It is actually a valuable genetic resource. Due to land conversion and degradation, we're losing a lot of wild species that haven't been studied for potential food and economic value."

Concerned about groundwater depletion in arid zones, Nabhan reports, "Conventional farming has relied on irrigation. But as pumping costs rise and water tables fall, it's more cost effective to encourage low water plants that fit the environment than to create a new environment through expensive irrigation projects."

An energetic researcher and prolific writer, Nabhan currently is involved in a three-year cooperative programme with Mexico geared to improve the management and conservation of plant resources that provide income for desert dwellers in Mexico. The Desert Botanical Garden is coordinating six projects in four Mexican states. "(Soon) 15 Latin Americans will come here to study the water and nitrogen use by desert plants. Aside from water, nitrogen is the most limiting factor for plant growth in arid lands," he explains.

In 1985, Nabhan was programme chairman of a major international arid-lands conference, hosted by the University of Arizona and its Office of Arid Lands Studies (OALS) in Tucson. Attracting more than 400 scientists from 40 countries, this was the first such event held since the United Nations conference on desertification, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1977. Many US scientists, laboratory and computer research experts in speciality fields of agriculture and water resources shared insight into their particular piece of this worldwide puzzle. A collection of scientific papers from the conference will soon be published by OALS.

One participant, Jeffrey A. Gritzner, a senior programme officer at the National Reserch Council, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, works with developing countries. He comments, "At this conference there seemed to be a lessening of emphasis on high tech glitter and a more sensitive approach to indigenous knowledge systems, coping strategies and keying progress to dry land environmental systems.

"I think the key is to unravel environmental history in relation to past ecosystem functions and work at restoring those systems. People tend to look at the present landscape and then try to manipulate vegetation. We need to look back and have a sense of which wild plants once grew in the area and sustained its population 200 years ago. If we can apply Western ecological knowledge to indigenous crop systems, a lot can be accomplished to help many developing nations."

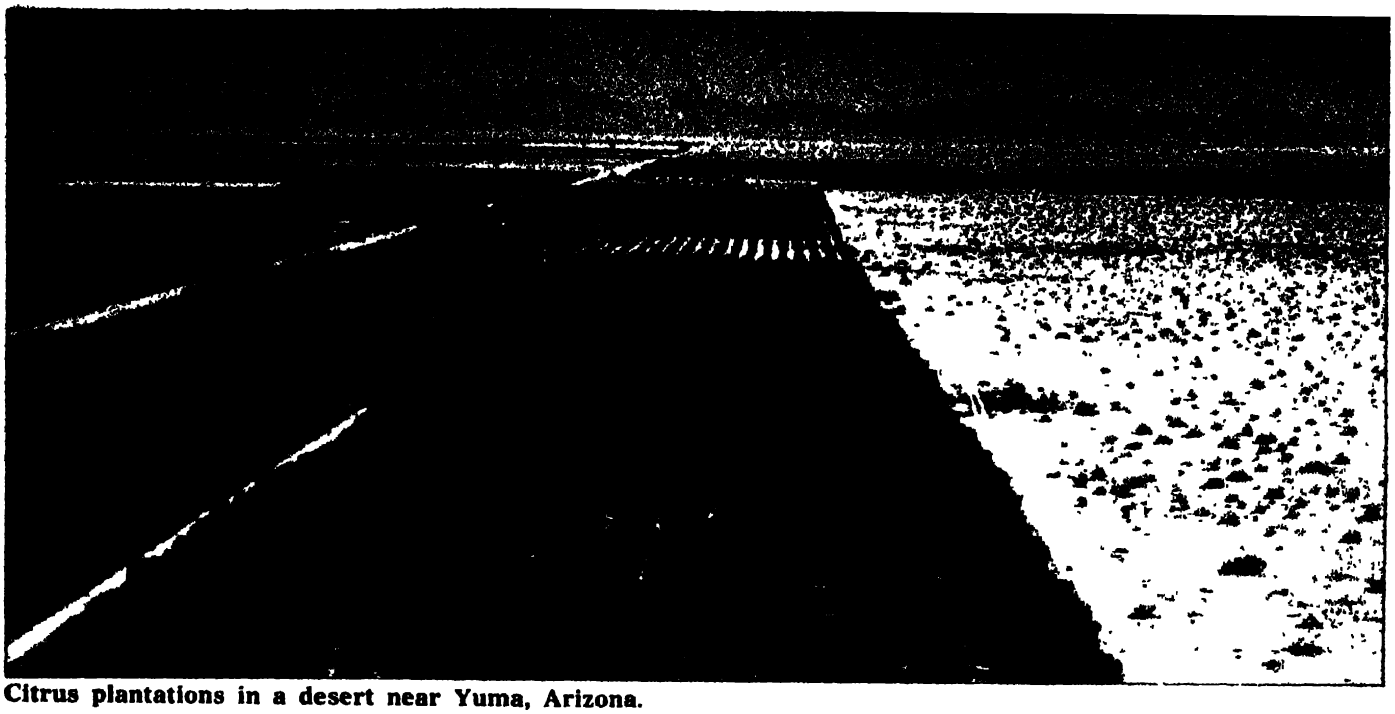
Another significant University of Arizona research effort is focused on the Avra Valley Water Harvesting project of Dr Martin Karpiscak, R. Leslie Rawles and Dr Kenneth E. Foster, director of OALS. Operated in co-operation with the city of Tucson, it's an unusual water harvesting agrisystem developed in an effort to rescue farmland retired from groundwater irrigated agriculture.

The professors explain that 16 sodium chloride treatment catchments in a two-hectare area are used to concentrate rainfall runoff around crops in untreated planting areas at the base of the catchments. Excessive runoff goes into a collecting channel and a gravity-fed sump. A small pump is used to concentrate water for longterm storage in a 2.4-meter reservoir. Both the sump and the reservoir were treated with sodium chloride to decrease seepage. The reservoir is covered with 250,000 black plastic film cans to reduce loss from evaporation. Drought-tolerant crops such as wine grapes, jojoba, mondell pine, guayle, olives, peaches, apples and apricots are being grown here.

Salt River Project (SRP) is the oldest and most successful multipurpose reclamation project in the US. It serves 10,000 hectares in central Arizona with a low-cost dependable supply of water for agriculture, municipal and industrial uses. Approximately 65 per cent of SRP's average annual water supply comes from a multipurpose reservoir system. The remainder is supplied by 250 deep wells in metropolitan Phoenix. One of the five largest public power utilities in the US, SRP provides electric power for more than 450,000 customers.

Ed Kirdar, manager of SRP's Office of International Affairs, says, "We have attracted attention from many nations because SRP is a model of what can be achieved in arid lands with effective water management techniques. Last year we had 594 visitors from 58 countries."

He adds, "People also are interested in our unusual structure and management." SRP originated in 1903 as a federal water reclamation project operated by the US government. In 1917 its operation was turned over to an association of farmers. They had pledged their land as collateral for the government loan to finance con-



Citrus plantations in a desert near Yuma, Arizona.

struction of the dam, and later paid off the loan.

Enthusiastic about the growing international exchange of information, Kirdar says, "SRP is a tangible example of a concept that can be applied to other arid land countries who need to maximise the efficiency of limited water resources." Since PEEP started, Egypt has initiated a number of changes to modernise its irrigation system with the assistance of SRP engineers.

The largest US co-ordinated research effort to focus on arid land agricultural problems, Southwest Consort Plant Genetics and Water Resources, was founded in 1986 and was among the first to integrate water resources research with plant genetics.

John Kemp, chairman of the Consortium's steering committee, reveals, "This research will have worldwide impact. Each member institution has its own unique technical facilities and areas of expertise. By joining forces we are able to share-...desert land for experimental use as well as complex computer facilities and biotechnical laboratories for multi-disciplinary research projects."

He reports, "Through biotechnology we're adding new dimensions to crop improvement. We now have the ability to isolate useful genes that can protect plants against environmental and disease stress."

Joe Goodnin, a leading dry land agriculture expert from Texas Tech, is doing work with Atroplex, a bush that can grow in brackish, saline waters throughout the world. "We're looking at domestication of this wild plant for fuel wood in Third World countries.. where women must walk all day to collect firewood This plant could be grown locally and supply a renewable resource, while reducing land degradation problems," he explains

Complex projects also are under way at Los Almos National Laboratory in New Mexico, which houses one of the world's largest computer facilities In its life sciences division, Paul Jackson is studying the response of plants to toxic trace metals in groundwater. "We want to find out why some plants are more resistant than others and how toxic substances move through the food chain "

But are desert dwellers realising any benefits from all this research? "Definitely," agree Consortium experts. Research has moved into areas of direct application in many aspects of water management and crop improvement. A number of low water, native desert plants have been studied to determine economic feasibility as commercial crops. These include jojoba for oil, guayule for rubber, buffalo gourd for starch and edible oil, Russian thistle (also called tumbleweed) for biomass that can be compressed into fuel logs. While none has yet proved to be an instant source of great profits, jojoba is closest to being a commercial success, , with more than 16,000 hectares now in cultivation in California and Arizona and northern Mexico.

Both the University of California (UC) Riverside, and the University of Arizona have done extensive work to domesticate this Sonoran Desert native plant since the early seventies. Diane W. Freckman, associate director of the Drylands Research Institute at U. C Riverside, reports, "Some cotton growers now are looking at jojoba as an alternate crop It's seed has a liquid wax similar to that obtained from the endangered sperm whale and potential uses range from lubricants and cosmetics to medicinal products A U S firm, Wynn Oil Company, already has started using it as an additive to its products "

The sharing of scientific information has quickened the pace of such breakthroughs and other solutions to arid land problems OALS director Foster, emphasises, "There is increasing world interdependency for we all share the same planet When the environment suffers damage in one area, it eventually impacts all nations Sharing knowledge is necessary if we are to save arid lands from further damage "

Located in OALS at the University of Arizona, the Arid Lands Information Center provides worldwide information services including document collections and data bases for use by scientific researchers, the public, government agencies and international organisations

Charles F. Hutchinson, ARSC director, is involved in an OALS project to improve agricultural production in the Senegal River Basin in Mauritania, part of West Africa stricken by drought He says, "We've used remote sensing to gather vegetation data and monitor land use changes in response to water availability. Now we've developed small-scale 35 mm camera and video units for use in light aircraft so that. .people can learn and benefit from low-cost, large-scale aerial photography."■

A Market for All Seasons

Gariahat is where everything is available, everything happens, all the year round. **Anjana Basu** writes, straight from the *haat*

Fifty years ago, it was the daring place to move to. The place where good *ghoti* families from north Calcutta went to, shifting bag and baggage from the bustle of Mirzapur Street and Colootala, to hit the wide open spaces. Fifty years ago, the view from Gariahat stretched uninterrupted to the lakes and jackals howled in solitary serenades after dark And then, gradually, the houses and the roads came into being. Dhakuria, Gol Park, bit by bit enclosing a two road junction in concrete. The hawkers who, originally, came from their village in Orissa to set up shop for the Pujas, gradually became a fixture on the pavements and the area resumed its old *haat* identity .

The whole southern world moves past Gariahat, crossing the junction by sunlight, tubelight, moonlight and, occasionally, no light at all, when traffic and policemen disintegrate into chaos and disappear abruptly into darkness. Gariahat is a hub pinned down to four crossroads where the south of Calcutta, and sometimes the straying north, conducts its business. You can buy everything, they say, in Gariahat except elephants and even those can be arranged with a word in the right quarters

Everything that happens in the city ultimately has its reflections at the junction. A procession, a parade, a pageant, goddesses lorrybound for immersion or a matinee idol silk-draped, giving his fans his last *darshan* en route to Nimtola, with the road awash in weeping heads and not an inch of visible tramline. The PM inspires a cluster of pretty girls giggling under parasols at three o'clock in the afternoon, confronting the sun in March, tiptoe with anticipation. The CM sends a wave of triumphant floodlit trams clanking down the tracks shaking the foundations of buildings with more than usual fervour.

And the hawkers discuss the proceedings. Going to see Rajiv *thuk* filmstar *dekhtar moton*. The film at New Empire is *besh* hot A must-see The cricket situation is very bad With Srikkanth out with a twisted wrist, the Pakistanis are bound to pulverise us into calendars. The new style of hair some women are wearing makes them look exactly like *parar chheley. Didi, didi,* do you want a blousepiece, cutpiece, nightie, tablecloth?

Like all places everywhere, Gariahat has its own seasons. Winter is a 5 30 am fog over the tramlines, gradually lightening from brown to white around 6.30 with the sun warming out at seven. Shoppers don't move much beyond the normal, but the night life is in the heart of the bazaar where the *khols* and the *kartals* echo till sleep. Fires flicker on street corners and jatras echo through loudspeakers over blanketed pavement bodies A solitary milk cart and horse rattles through the fog at 5.30 like a ghost No one on the pavement moves to wake before 8.30 in



the morning.

Spring, if lucky, is a mild south wind from February, touched with Saraswati yellow and colour. Gariahat Saraswatis pose demurely in rickshaws imaged or real, or shelter under wickerwork thatch in every *galli*. Holi runs riot with a slightly sober tinge—a plastic bazaar *tholey* streaked shocking pink or screaming green making its way down the main road at seven to appease the *memsahib* with duty at the cost of pleasure or vice versa.

Spring starts to swell into cutpiece season from March to early April when the Baisakh sales cover the pavements with piles of material. Spring is hawkers crying *panch taka, dosh taka, panch taka, dosh taka*, sale, sale, sale, sale, sale! As the days turn towards the New Year, walking on the pavement in the evenings becomes a battle through a press of elbows, an evasion of outstretched cutpieces, feet and shopping fever—movements that seem to take forever.

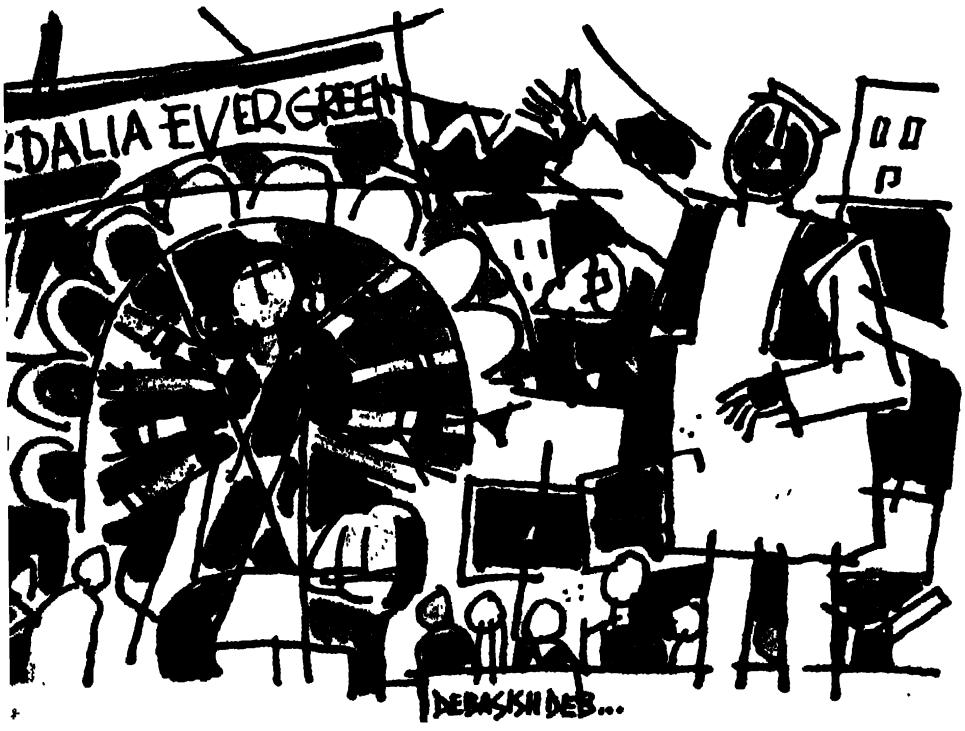
The excitement melts into summer—a sticky sluggish season marked by pitch in which nothing moves except the normal pace of shoppers. Bouni, at 10 o'clock in the morning, is the best bargain of the day, though few shoppers have the energy to stir out before the evening breezes. From one to four, business is officially closed by mutual consent and cards while away the heat with a background bidding hum.

Monsoon is a season fraught with difficulty for hawkers and shoppers. Gariahat doesn't normally flood, but the approaches do, leaving the junction a high deserted island in an ocean of wet In the middle of the evening a hard fist of rain can disrupt the entire proceedings, beginning to build up to a steady climax again for the Pujas. Shop fronts crash down, umbrellas unfurl and cars and streetlights swim in puddle reflections while shoppers search for taxis, trams and buses home or merely for dripping overhangs under which to wait while the clouds pass Sometimes, on rare occasions, the junction itself drowns and the whole parade squelches to a halt, boarded up, damp and dripping

Dry again for Puja, the sun hangs out new saris and demands for new clothes A rash of hoardings float swans, boats or elephants along with records and the latest-latest Puja must-haves Inexplicable barricades along the pavement edges make walking even more hazardous, leaving you a choice between treading on the hawker's feet, wares, or some *bhadramahular* Sandaks

No large pandals are seen on the junction, the nearest being Ekdalia Evergreen tucked well back from the main road, but discreet or indiscreet bits of disco and *dhak* permeate through the clank of trams and the honk of horns. *Nabami* night honks persistently with the wide-awakeness of pandal revellers determined to see it all.

Bijoya Dashami congregates on the tramtracks. Children, parents, hawkers, balloons. All evening everyone falls out of trams onto the road waiting for the carnival to start, knowing exactly when from north and south the *pratimas* will start their parade to the river. The *adda* passes all along Rashbehari comparing shape and size and lights. The tallest of the *sholar mukuts* is neatly sliced by an overhead line and the *pratima*'s equilibrium is gravely in doubt. All the way down the road, drivers with more serious errands are tearing their hair in despair and wishing that a city called Calcutta didn't have so much time to waste in endless futility. In Jadavpur, says the *adda*, the *ashur* turned into a green baby in the *pratima's* arms with a long accompanying poem to explain the change, *chhi, chhi*. 23 Palli cried and turned to *ashtadatu* and since then has never been given *bishorjan*, poor thing. Look at how the band parties have been robbed of all their glory, *chhi, chhi*.



Puja is probably Gariahat's biggest season, bigger even than First Baisakh. But Gariahat has other odd seasons, not necessarily weatherbound Politics, for example, is a perennial Gariahat season Left and Right crisscrossing each other's intentions, with Left determinedly vocal. At election time the wind blows odd scraps of propaganda—the six dugs of a cat, the fate of a night of no moon, schools built instead of railways, and the way of a man and a woman. All oddly Shakespearean and linked to nothing except the wind's own logic as it blows it down Rashbehari At other times, with votes not so urgently at stake, Gorkhaland and Rajiv Gandhi tear the evening in insistent high-pitched female voices Bandh days are reserved for football in the morning and red flag processions in the evening with red and white awnings festooning the area. On bandh days the women of Gariahat largely sit at home or tie and untie their hair on the verandahs, while their men meet and congregate and exchange waves of violent gossip, burning press vans, imperialist goondahs and the like

Cricket season produces a rash of transmitters and white hats heading hopefully for Eden Gardens, if a match is in progress. Long queues stand on tiptoe at TV shopfronts or ground floor windows exchanging *'Dada, key* out *holo's* In between commentaries, errant cricket balls hurtle out of blind lanes with suicidal Little Masters in eager pursuit even under the wheels of buses.

Watched over by the moon and the electric hoarding sign, by the ladies who air themselves on the rooftops in the afternoons and the ominous skyscraper that Bank built, Gariahat is in itself a season. A sari season. A tram season A shopping season. A moving season. All six of whatever season head south over the tramtracks and the crossroads or blow railway sounds from east and further south in the dark hours of the early morning ■

RAMPART

My first visit to the Himalayas, in 1951, took me to Garhwal. Four of us, all young New Zealand mountaineers, wanted to try our skills on the great Himalayan giants. Mt Everest seemed remote and beyond our dreams but Garhwal, we knew, had a multitude of great peaks—many of them unclimbed.

We travelled by train for day after day from Colombo to Madras, through Calcutta and Lucknow. Then by bus up the narrow winding road to Ranikhet. In the cool of the evening we saw a great row of snowy peaks tinged pink by the sunset—our excitement was intense as we glimpsed the Himalayas at last. We walked in the evening light to our forest bungalow and a lithe dark shape slipped across the road ahead of us. It was a black panther, we were told, seeking a local dog for a tasty dinner.

Tungnath, the highest Shiva temple in Garhwal

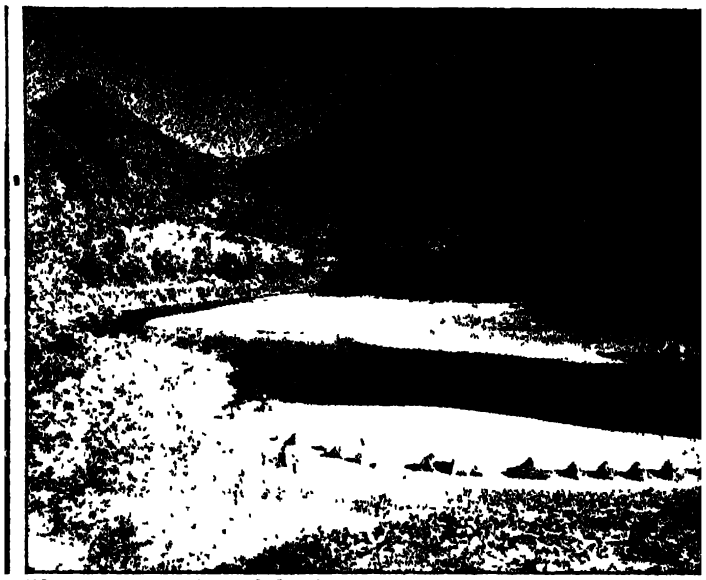


S OF HEAVEN









The upper reaches of the Ganga

Herds of grazing sheep and goats

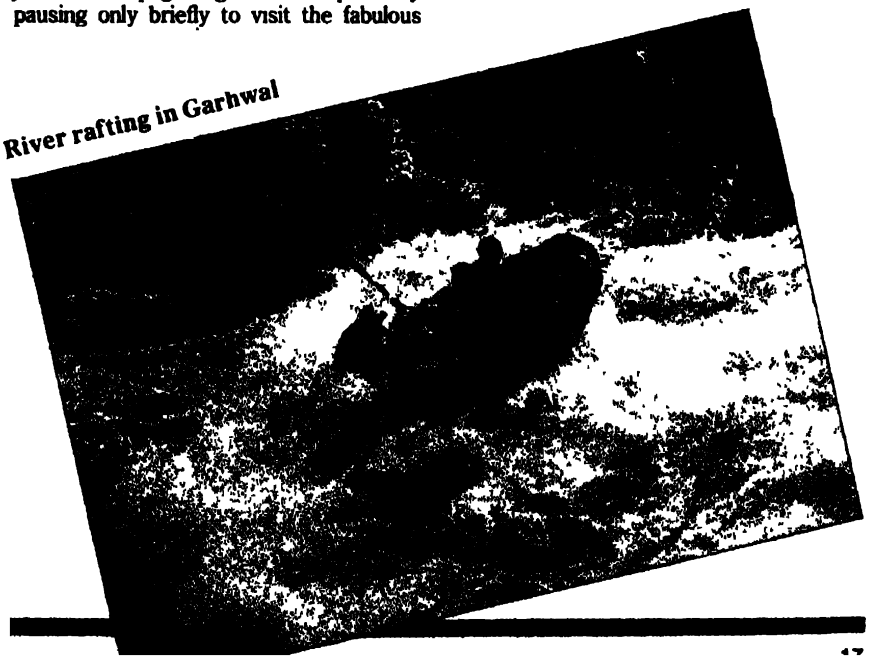
For most Hindus, Garhwal is the domain of the gods. For everybody, it is where eternal peace dwells. Photographer **Ashok Dilwali** was irresistibly drawn to the hills and dales, and the results speak for themselves. **Sir Edmund Hillary's** accompanying text defines the special attraction of Garhwal

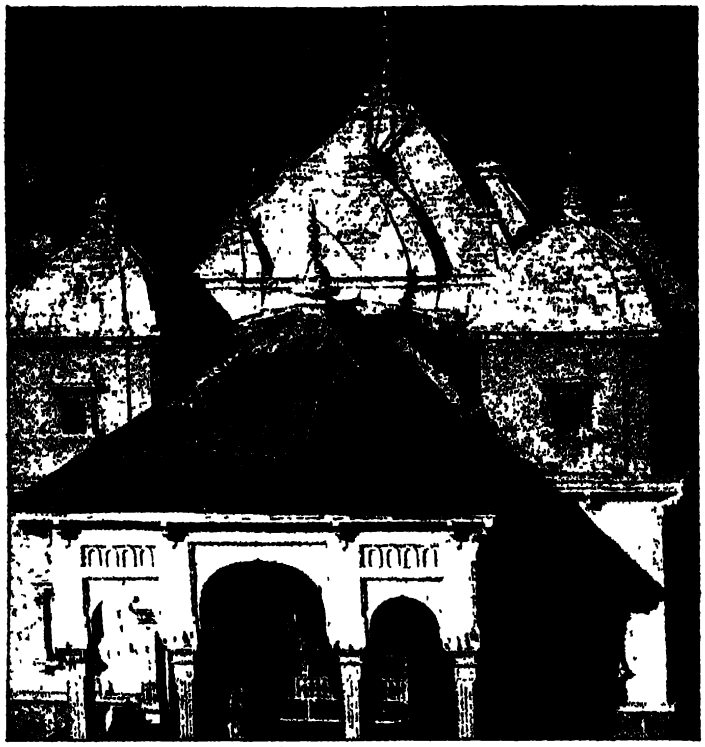
Four sherpas from Darjeeling were in Ranikhet to meet us, climbers renowned the world over. With their help we recruited 30 local porters—tough, stringy men who looked as though they could walk forever. We headed north up hill and down dale, through pine forests and open mountain pastures. It was a long grind up to the famous Kuari Pass at 12,000 ft and a superb view of the magnificent Nanda Devi. Then down again through the trees to camp beside a small mountain village. It was all so fresh and beautiful with not a foreigner to be seen and few local people as well.

We descended thousands of feet through beautiful countryside to the smallish town of Joshimath nestling on the hillside above the Alakananda river (one of the main sources of the Ganga). Then we joined the pilgrimage route up valley pausing only briefly to visit the fabulous Valley of Flowers. The sacred town of Badrinath was a new experience for us with its hordes of eager pilgrims and the great spire of Nilkanth piercing the sky near at hand.

For weeks we climbed up valley towards the Mana Pass making the first ascents of half a dozen new peaks, of which the best was the 23,800 ft Mukut Parbat, and revelling in the freedom from permits and people. Our Garhwal adventure was a wonderful introduction to the

River rafting in Garhwal





The temple at Gangotri



A demure young beauty of Garhwal



Rice cultivation, a major economic activity in Garhwal

Himalayas and led on to other expeditions and finally to the summit of Mt Everest itself.

I have made several other visits to Garhwal but they have been very different from our first journey. In 1977 during my expedition *Ocean to Sky* we battled our way in jet boats up the wild white waters of Ganga above Rishikesh, past Devprayag, Karnaprayag and Nandprayag. We climbed the great slopes above Badrinath and set foot on the 19,200 ft summit of Nar Parbat to complete our journey from the Bay of Bengal. It was one of the best expeditions I have ever undertaken. Nowadays white water rafting has become a popular pastime on the rivers of Garhwal. Sweeping over great surges of water, wet from head to foot, is both exhilarating and frightening—a delightful challenge for both young and old.

Ashok Dilwali has in his photographs captured the essence of Garhwal: the great mountains and the lesser peaks; the mighty rivers and the sparkling glaciers and streams; the steep hillsides and the forest clad slopes; the vigorous, colourful people and the sacred temples. Garhwal has changed greatly since I was first there—but it is still a place of spectacular beauty, a place of pilgrimage and eternal peace.■

Photographs by Ashok Dilwali and foreword by Sir Edmund Hillary extracted from *The Garhwal Himalayas: Ramparts of Heaven*; Lustre Press Pvt Ltd, New Delhi

CULTURAL DELIGHT



Thillana (Mohiniattam)

The Kerala Cultural Festival, held in Calcutta last month, left its audience spellbound. An appreciation

To most outsiders, Kerala's cultural heritage is identified only with Kathakali and, to a lesser extent, Mohiniattam, though of late its martial art form, Kalaripayattu, has made its entry on Calcutta's cultural platform. But other aspects of the state's rich music and dance repertoire have rarely been staged in this city However, some glimpses were provided at the cultural festivals organised by the Calcutta Malayalee Samajam in 1955 and 1975.

And now, after 13 long years, the Samajam, in collaboration with the government of Kerala, organised a three-day Kerala Cultural Festival at the Kala Mandir from May 28 to 30 that provided a welcome opportunity of witnessing some of the traditional and rare dance forms of the culturally rich southern state.

The festival was inaugurated by the Kerala chief minsiter, Mr E,K. Nayanar, in the presence of Mr Benoy Krishna Chowdhury, West Bengal's minsiter for land and land reforms. The three major troupes that kept the audience absorbed on all three evenings were the Kerala Kalamandiram led by Kalamandalam Kshemavati, the Kadathanadan Kalari Sangam with Karunan Gurukkal as its leader, and Jayadeva Varma's Tandava Kathakali Theatre

Besides, the familiar Kathakali, Bharata Natyam, Mohiniattam and Kuchipudi, the martial art form, Kalaripayattu, and its allied arts, Kolkkali and Thacholikali, were appreciated Kadathanadan Kalari Sangam's Kolkkali held the audience spellbound. A widely prevalent exposition of physical skill in Kerala, the performers manipulated small sticks with both hands to the music of impromptu songs; the movements forming a circle that expanded and contracted in both clockwise and anticlockwise directions. The art of combat with daggers, swords, rods and urmi made the onlookers sit up in awe. Thacholikali is very similar to Kolkkali, here the performers move in a circle, clapping and singing traditional songs

Kalamandalam Kshemavati seemed to have mastered the graceful dance of the enchantress—Mohiniattam Her exposition of the Varnam, the Padam (*karuna cheyvan*) and a group composition of Cholkettu were visual treats Her intense involvement in Bharata Natyam, specially the Padam—*Krishna nee begene baaro*—was evident. Although her Kuchipudi number, Tarangam, had little to do with Kerala's traditional arts, yet it was enjoyable for her dancing on the brim of a brass plate, executing intricate rhythmic patterns

Absorbing group compositions that were new to the Calcutta audience were the folk dances, representing various sects in Kerala—Oppana (a popular number among the Muslim women of north Kerala that depicts the scene of a shy bride being led to the nuptial chamber in her traditional ornaments with her friends moving slowly, clapping and singing charming mappila songs), Margamkali (the indigenous dance of the Syrian Christians performed during marriages and festivals that glorifies St Thomas) and Thiruvathirakali (an extremely popular, graceful and symmetric group dance predominating the lasya element and performed during Thiruvathirakali and Onam festive seasons by typically dressed women who move in circles singing and clapping)

On all three evenings, Jayadeva Varma and party's Kathakali repertoire—Kalyanasougandhikam, Kiratham and Duryodhanavadham—were impressive despite the fact that this classical style, included in a variety programme, cannot reach the heights it does in its temple glory

Sumit Mukherjee



Kiratham (Kathakali)



Oppana

Photographs: Ashoke Chakrabarty

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aakhri Adaalat:** Elite (S N Banerjee Road, 241383), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 244822), Krishna (T C Dutta Street; 250437), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Park Show House (Park Street, 441971), Madhuban (Regent Park)

Directed by Rajiv Mehra and with music by Annu Malik, the film stars Vinod Khanna, Dimple Kapadia, Jackie Shroff, Sonam and Gulshan Grover

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)--4 shows

Directed by K. Bapaiah, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra, Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)--3 shows, Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)--4 shows.

Govinda, Neelam and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film, directed by Kirti Kumar The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T. Prakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kabzaa:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)--3 shows

A film by Mahesh Bhatt, starring Raj Babbar, Sunjay Dutt, Dimple Kapadia and Amrita Singh The music is by Rajesh Roshan

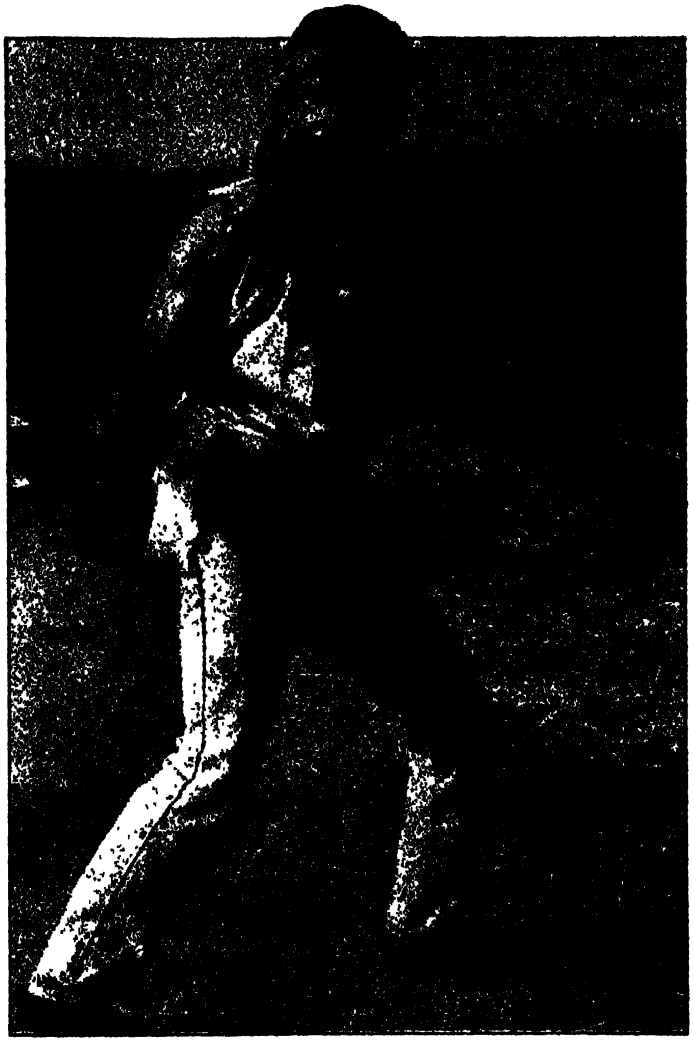
• **Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Indra (Indra Roy Road, 471757)—4 shows.

Directed by T Rama Rao, the film stars Dharmendra, Sunjay Dutt, Chunkey Panday, Neelam Mehra, Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amrapurkar. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Mere Baad:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141) & Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)--noon, Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)—4 shows

Raakhee and Amrish Puri play the lead in this film, directed by Vishwamitra and music by Usha Khanna

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)--4 shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956) noon



Naseeruddin Shah in *Zulm Ko Jala Doonga*



Moon Moon Sen and Tapas Paul in *Tumi Kato Sundar*

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind.

• **Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S.N Banerjee Road, 242664), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—4 shows

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor.

• **Rukhsat:** Opera (Lenin Sarani; 281849), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 247616), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 478167), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street, 354150)

A film by Sunil Garewal who also stars along with Mithun Chakrabotty, Anooradha Patel and Amrish Puri The music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Zulm Ko Jala Doonga (A):** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue; 553046), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road;



A scene from *Shabdo Abyakta*

474403)—4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417) – noon

Naseeruddin Shah stars in this Mahendra Shah film whose music is by Nadeem Shravan. Others in the cast are Sumeet Saigal, Vasanta Sena, Kiran Kumar, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Aruna Irani.

Bengali Films

• **Agoon.** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road 473162)– 3, 5.45, 8.30. Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352400) 2.30, 5.15, 8.

A film by Victor Banerjee who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Tanuja, Diya Rani, Utpal Dutt, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra, Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury. The music is by R.D. Burman.

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 554113), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road 474086) 1, 4, 7.

A film by Tarun Majumdar starring Sandhya Roy, Tapu Paul, Satabdi Roy, Sumit Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayashree P. and Sukhen Das. The music by Hemanta Mukherjee.

• **Saptapadi:** Dipsikha (Bidhan Sarani 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road 474067) – 3.30, 5.30, 8.30.

Pre-release of this Ajoy Kar hit starring the legendary pair, Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

Special Events

19 June: 6.30 pm

The premier show of SKM's comedy *Ek Anar Sou Beeman*.

At Kala Kunj

19 June: 6 pm

Rangakarmee's *Mahabhoj*, winner of the 1986-87 best production award. Directed by Usha Ganguli.

At Kala Mandir (basement), Theatre Road

22 June: 6.30 pm

Theatron will stage *Sada Ghora* (an Ibsen adaptation), directed by Salil Banerjee. The cast includes Dwijen Banerjee and Arunita Roychoudhury.

At Academy of Fine Art (Cathedral Road, 441205)

22 June: 7 pm

Cordelia presents *Shabdo Abyakta* based on James Thurber's *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. Directed by Joydeep Bhattacharya. lights by Joy Sen.

At Rabindra Sadan.

24 June: 7 pm

Ensemble *Ekla*. The music is by Partha Chatterjee, lights by Naveen Kishore and

At Kala Mandir (b

TRAVEL

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) AI-132A at 1905

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5)· AI-306 at 1830, Dep (5)· AI-306 at 1930

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6). AI-315 at 1855, Dep (6). AI-315 at 1955

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt)· Arr. (6). AI-455A at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York). Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2)· SU-542 at 1700 amd Dep (2). SU-542 at 1810; Arr (4). SU-537 at 1555, Dep. (4)· SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep. (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC-248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC 223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro· Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ 102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ 101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710 Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-271 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi· Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045 Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC 477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay. Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1230

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras· Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC 542 at 0620 Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC 541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad. Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC 278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC 203 at 0625, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610 Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh. Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal. Dep (daily) IC 255 at 0530 Arr (daily) IC 256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra· Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030* and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC 220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily). PF-701 at 0930, Arr (daily) PF-702 at 1300

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily). PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-706A at 1625

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7). PF-707 at 0610, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6). PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7)· PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7)· PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7)· PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5)· PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630, Arr (1, 3, 5). PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily). PF-701 at 0700; Ar (daily): PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7). PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6)· PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18 10	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

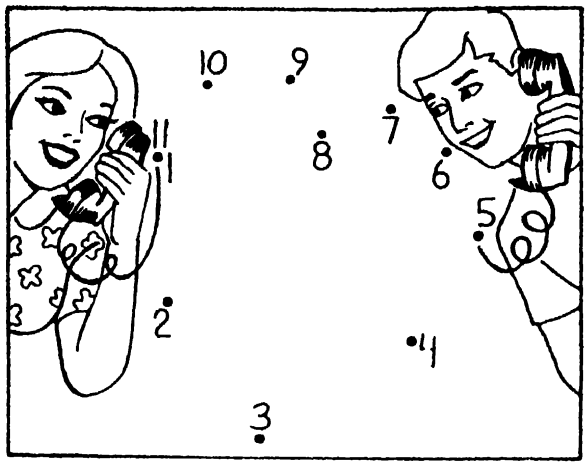
SEALDAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 50	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

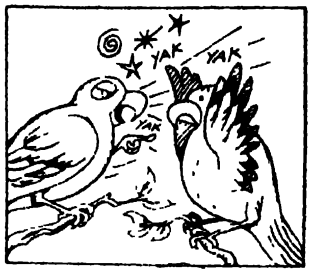
OUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



HEART LINE! Draw a continuous line from dot to dot to complete the scene above. Can you guess what's missing?



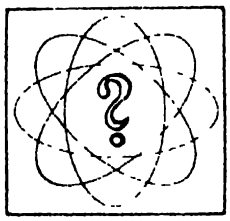
VERSE WORDS TO PONDER!
Letters of individual words of the last line of the poem below are scrambled. How quickly can you puzzle them out for sense?

"If words could satisfy the heart,
the heart might find less care
"But words like summer birds depart, and leave but empty air
"A little said, and truly said, can deeper joy impart
"Hnat stohs fo dowrs chwih chare tah dahe, utb venre chout teh aheter

No fair peeking

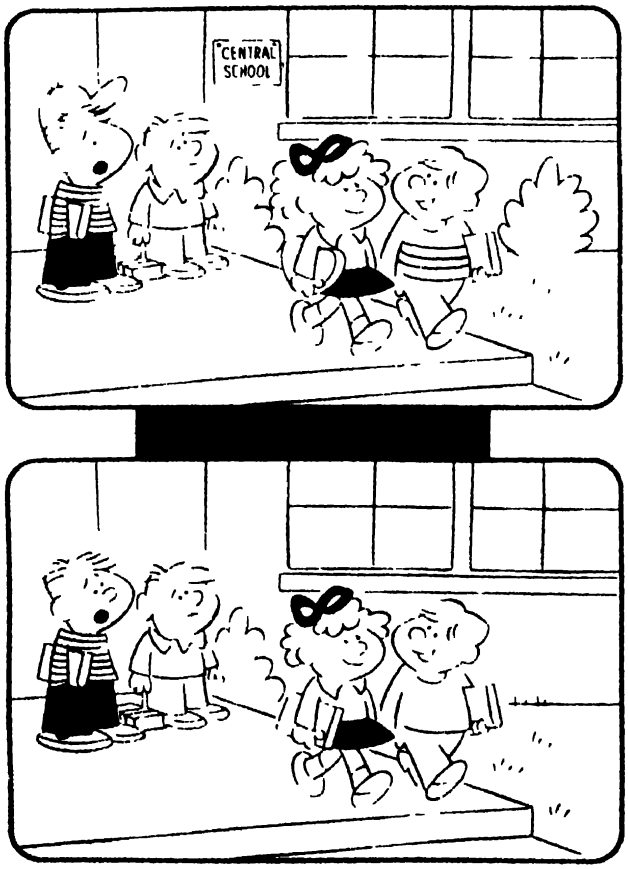
• **HOOP LA!** It is not hard to imagine a number of hoops joined together as shown below. But, once assembled, it is rather difficult to count them. Just how many hoops or complete circles do you say there are in this figure? Four, six, eight, ten?

Take a guess, then count them to satisfy yourself.



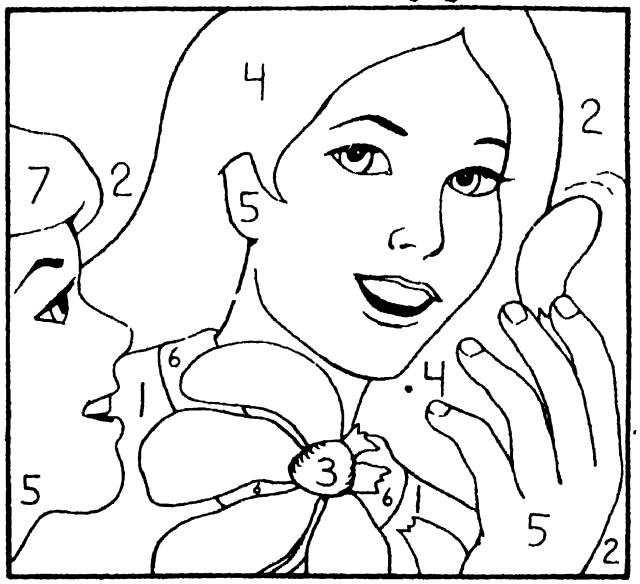
• **WORD PLAY!** I'm a five-letter word. Multiply my fifth letter by two for my first letter, divide my first by 20 for my third, divide my third by 5 for my second or fourth. What word?

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

FUNSPOT



STRIP TEASE! "He loves me, he loves me not." Apply colors neatly to numbered segments above: 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt purple 7—Dk brown

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

TASTEFUL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

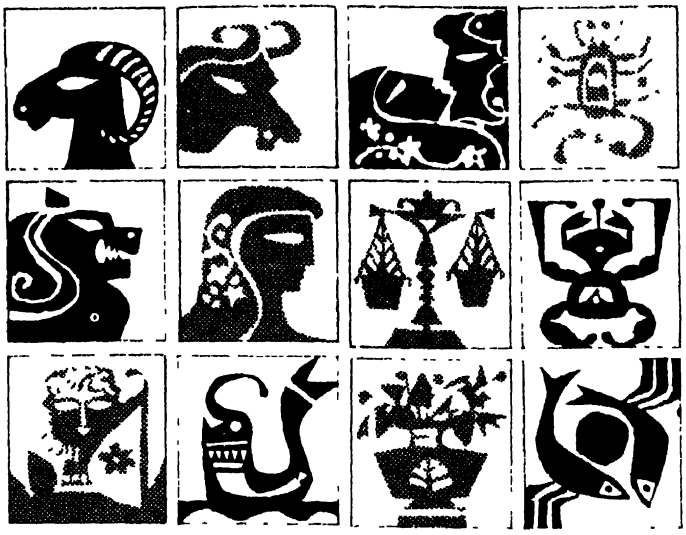
Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram: Flat suit

Differences: 1 Cap is missing 2 Sign is missing 3 Hair is different 4 Heart is changed to book 5 Shirt is different 6 Bush is missing

From June 19 to June 25

INNER EYE □ Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES

March 21– April 20

Do not depend on the information given to you by people you consider friends They may try to mislead you It will be in your interest to rely on facts and figures Legal issues may demand attention Professional and personal partnerships are assured Money will be available to you to start new ventures and friends and relatives will come forward with all possible support

TAURUS

April 21- May 20

Health precautions are advisable as the moon's first quarter falls in your sign Women will dress well, giving themselves a much needed boost in confidence Do not neglect pets You are likely to embark on a journey that does not promise to be trouble-free You will successfully put across your point of view Keep up with all correspondence

GEMINI

May 21--June 20

The sun Saturn opposition might cause health problems You may be subconsciously troubled by seemingly trivial matters Children will prove to be a mixed blessing Your moods will fluctuate without warning Romance, hobbies and creative pursuits are signified Money is likely to pour in by the weekend Your innovative self will scale new heights now

CANCER

June 21 -July 20

Home and family will need your attention and care You may be hard pressed for time and this state of affairs may irk you The desire to get to the top will, however, see you through this trying time Matters pertaining to news and money are highlighted Do not keep things pending for too long and catch up with all correspondence

LEO

July 21 August 21

Despite the Mars Mercury square, learn to take chances Deals and documents, especially important letters, will have to be signed Relatives will drop in unexpectedly Try and improve your relations with neighbours Legal complication will be resolved in your favour Relationships with family members will also show an appreciable change

VIRGO

August 22 Sept 22

Do not lose your temper with people unless you are absolutely sure of your ground Pressure on the work and home fronts will have to be dealt with Even though there are chances that nerves will be frayed, try and look at the brighter side of life Do not overspend Health may cause concern.

LIBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22

The moon's first quarter in your sign may cause some problems on the work front Relations with elders and in-laws may be strained The health of elders may cause concern There is a likelihood of going on an extended trip Some tact is called for in all your dealings Perfect timing is the key to success in all matters

BIRTHDAYS

June 19

Moon sextile sun Reach out to people and places through every possible means For some there are chances of going abroad to study Matters pertaining to legacies will work out in your favour A year full of success and happiness lies ahead

June 20

Moon trine Neptune, sun opposition Saturn-Uranus' Changes in your life-style are possible Health is suspect and so are relationships Teachers, writers psychics, doctors, salesmen and politicians will do well Use your acting abilities for better effect

June 21

Mercury square Mars Do not be hasty in taking decisions Careful thought is advisable if you are opting for a major change in your life Give due attention and thought to marriage and business proposals Take expert advice if in doubt

June 22

Moon's first quarter, Libra This is a year to accept challenges and adjust according to other people's whims and fancies Yoga, meditation and psychology will see you through Romance is possible and so is the birth of children or grand children There is a strong possibility of foreign travel

June 23

Moon trine Mercury-Venus Architects, housewives, real estate dealers, musicians and those dealing with chemicals and films will do well Changes in property affairs are likely and you may invest in a house, shop or office Tours and travel and highlighted

June 24

Moon sextile Uranus Your work will be done and you will succeed in pulling strings and getting what you want Romance is foretold and links could lead to business partnerships Public figures will win accolades for their performance and sincerity

June 25

Moon conjunction Pluto The Pluto effect encourages ventures and adventures Entertainment, hobbies and children will give tremendous joy A long standing wish will come true

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Expenses will skyrocket Liaisons and rendezvous are foretold Romance blooms for the fancyfree and eligible. Try and build your resources The weekend will prove to be memorable and exciting You may end one relationship and embark on a new one Get your travel kit ready A journey abroad is fated Friends and relatives will come forward with all possible support

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 20

Friends, associates and partners will rub you the wrong way However, do not let them get at you Learn to be calm and tactful in all your dealings Health safeguards are essential A confrontation or legal complication seems fated Travel plans may fall through, so plan vacations keeping this in mind Do not invest in any ventures without weighing all the pros and cons

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Massive changes on the work front are foretold You may change your job and take on added responsibilities There may be serious differences of opinion between you and your parents or in-laws The same holds true for partners and associates Be cautious in all your dealings and do not be foolhardy in any of your actions Learn to delegate responsibility

AQUARIUS

Jan 20- Feb 19

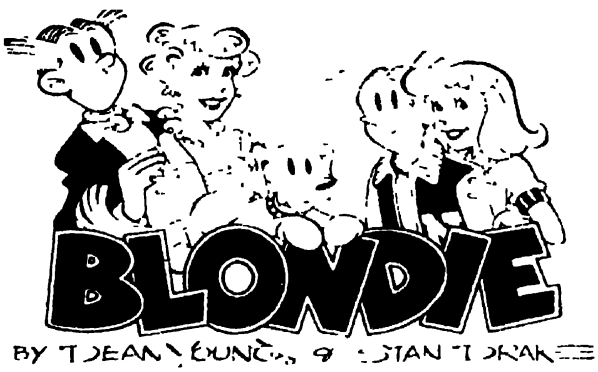
The sun opposition Uranus formation signifies sudden developments which may not remain in your control Those in publishing, modelling, copywriting, reporting, painting, sculpting and farming will do well Children will contribute to your happiness. Hobbies, sports and creative pursuits are highlighted A journey is on the cards

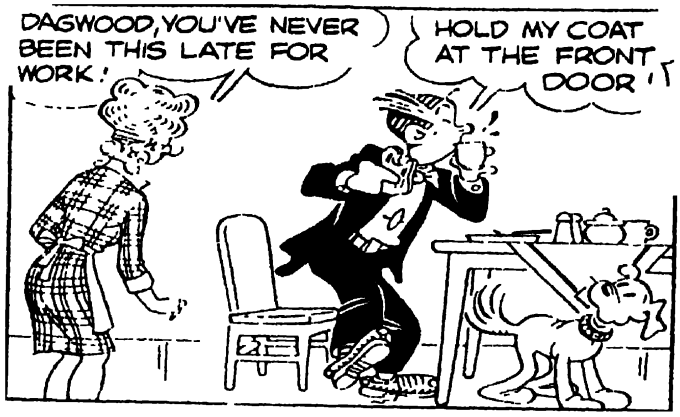
PISCES

Feb 20—March 20

Selling and buying will now take on added significance Make a concerted effort to change things on the home front The health of your boss and elders may cause concern Even though attachments and partnerships are on the cards it is not certain if these are permanent Take life as it comes and do not expect any thing from loved ones. Friends will recognise your worth finally.

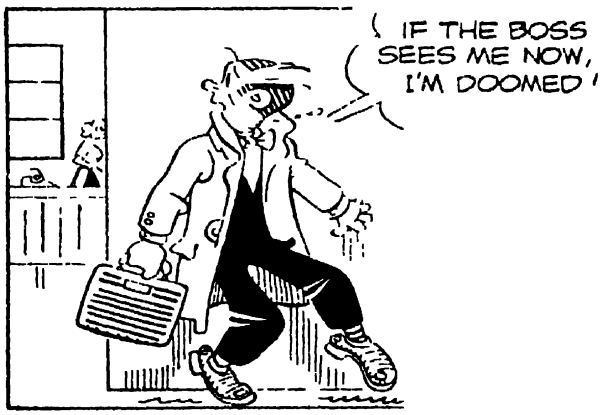
COMICS

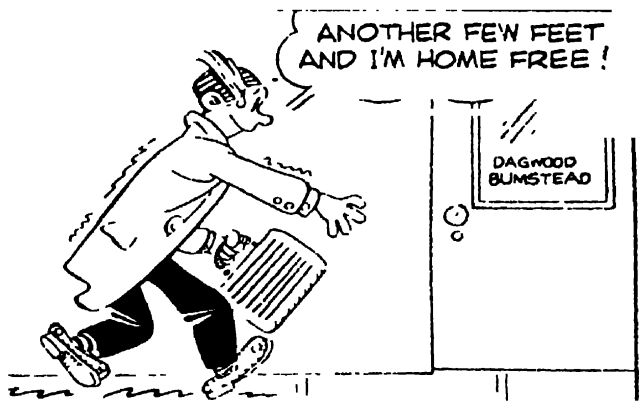

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

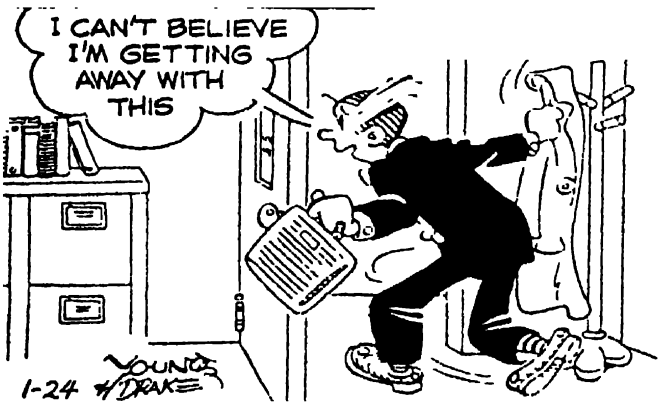

DAGWOOD, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THIS LATE FOR WORK!
HOLD MY COAT AT THE FRONT DOOR!

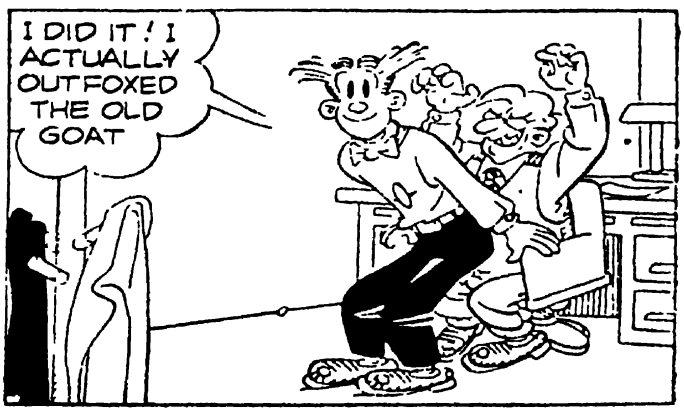

CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER?!
THIS IS A BUS, PAL! IT'S NOT A CAB!!


THE RECEPTIONIST IS AWAY FROM HER DESK... WHAT A BREAK!


IF THE BOSS SEES ME NOW, I'M DOOMED!

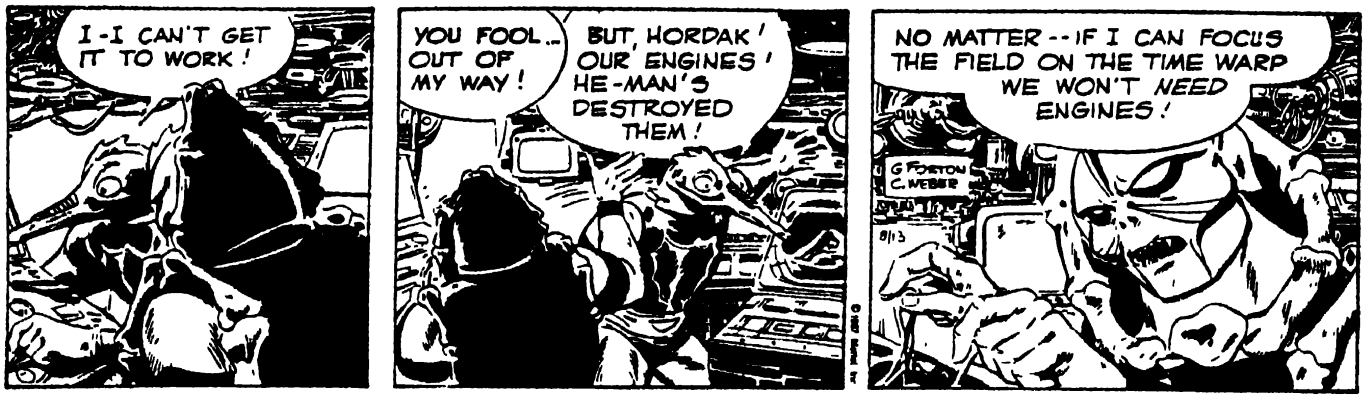

ANOTHER FEW FEET AND I'M HOME FREE!
DAGWOOD BUMSTEAD

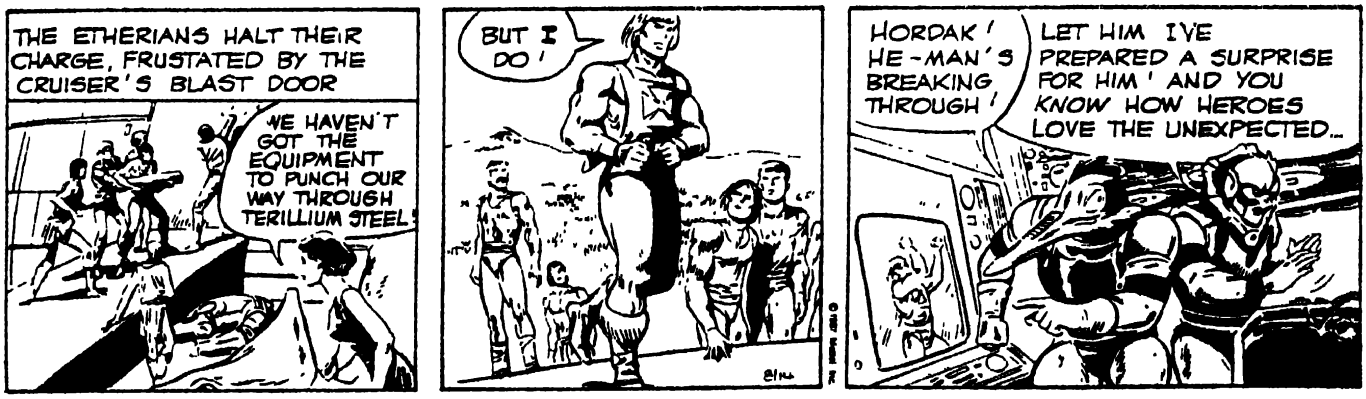

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING AWAY WITH THIS
1-24 YOUNG & DRAKE

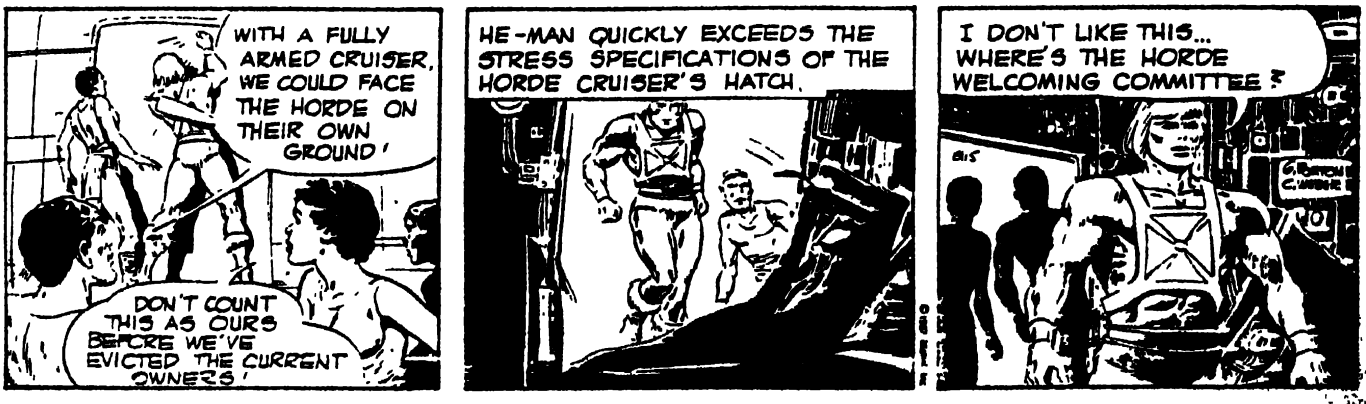

I DID IT! I ACTUALLY OUTFOXED THE OLD GOAT

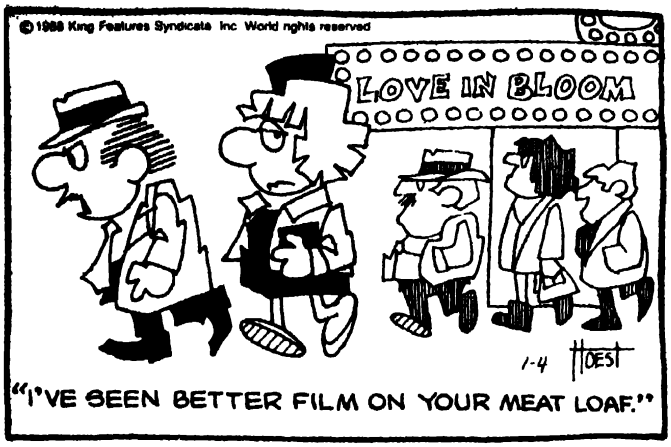
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

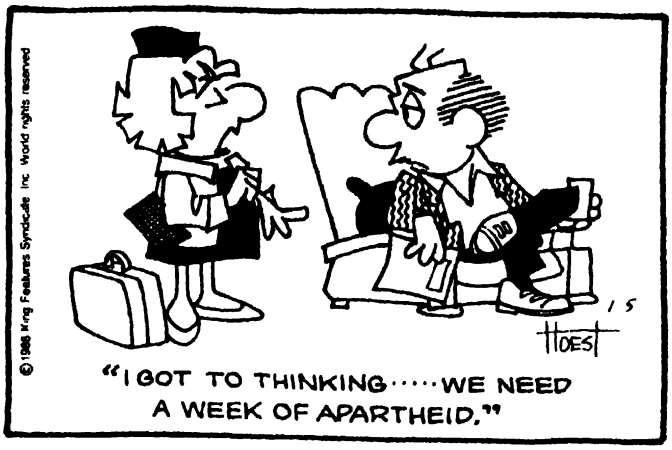


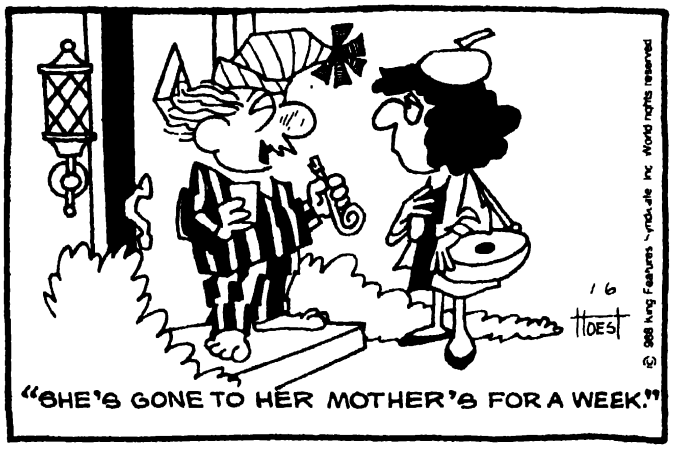


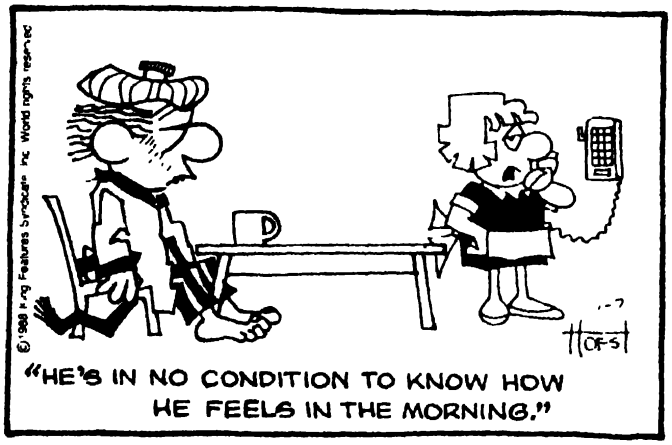




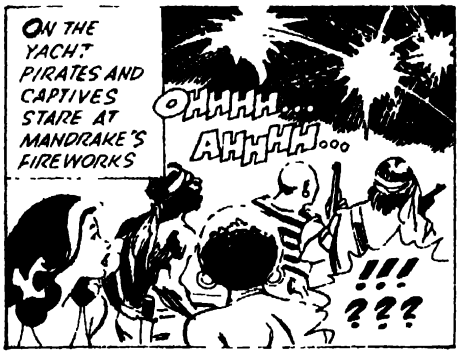


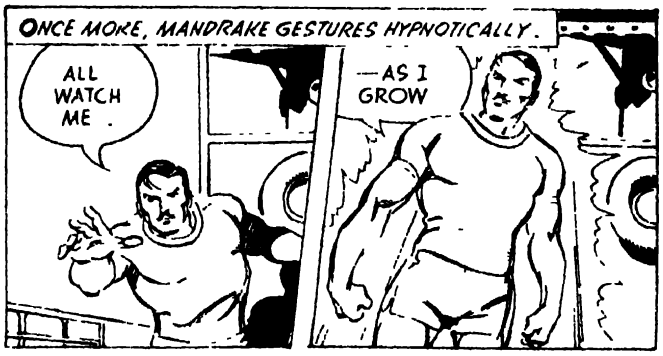






MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

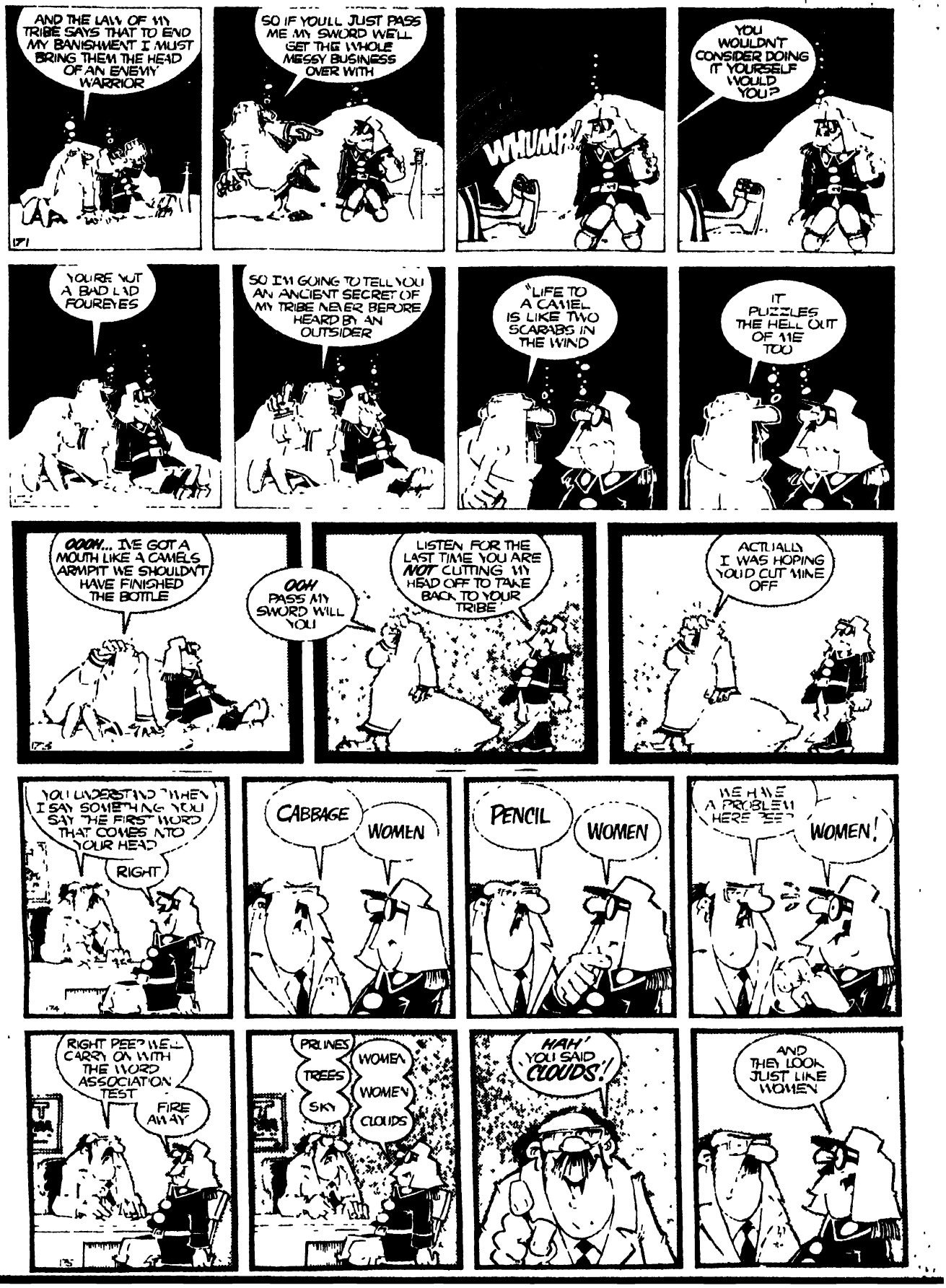








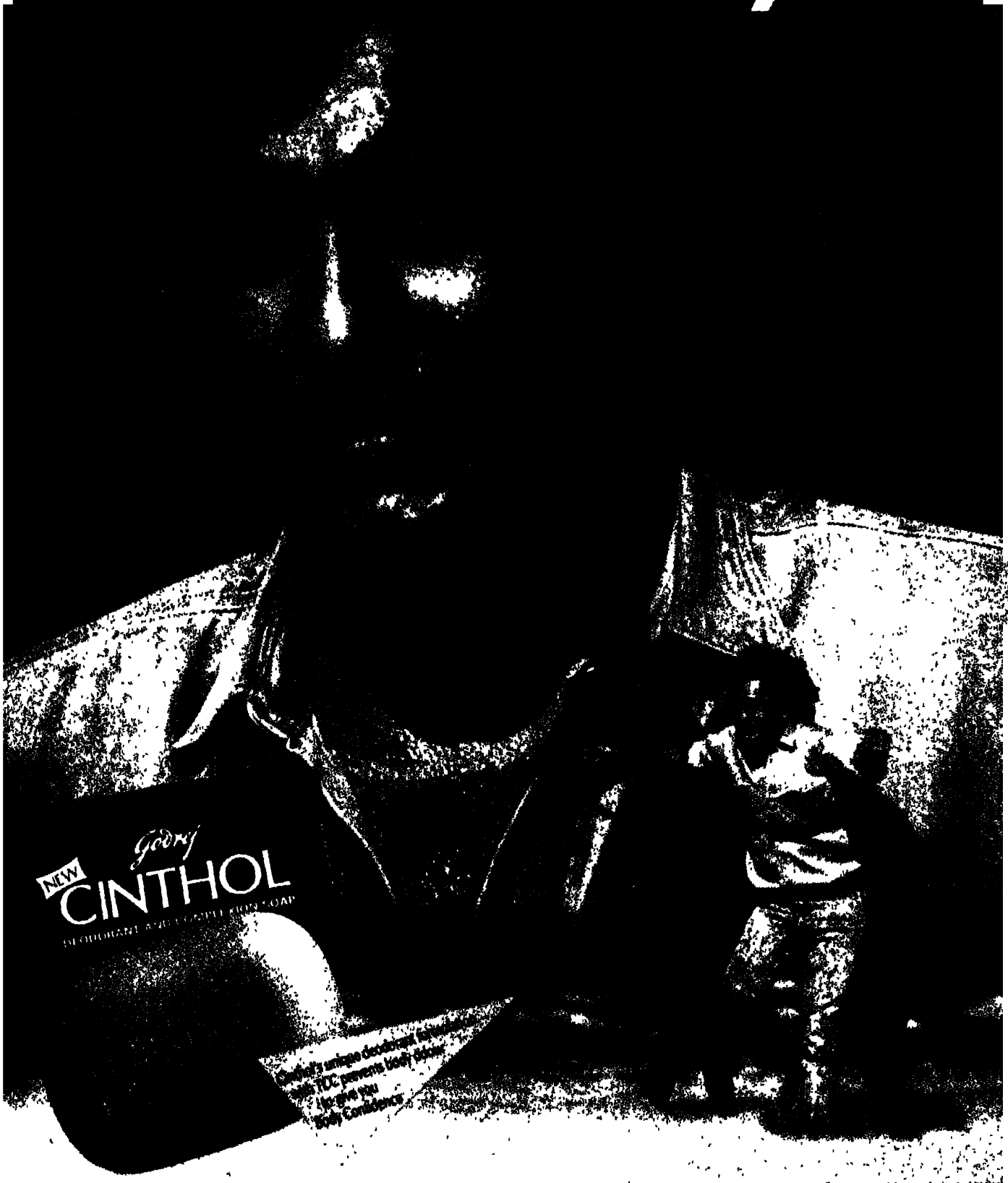
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


WOODCARVING IS MY HOBBY!
I THOUGHT GIRLS WERE YOUR HOBBY!
I COMBINED THE TWO!
ARCHIE & BETTY!
NOW WHERE DID THAT CRUMMY PIECE GO?!
DOGGONE, ROTTEN, STICKY GLUE!!
© 1987 King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THESE PARTS ARE TOO SMALL FOR HUMAN HANDS TO HANDLE!
I TOLD YOU YOUR SUGGESTION WOULDN'T WORK, MOM!
GRRR
I KNEW BUILDING MODEL AIRPLANES WOULDN'T HELP POP RELAX!
12-13

I use Cinthol. Do you?



Vinod's Body Confidence Soap. Cinthol.

MADISON-G-001

POST MORTEM

nderstanding

The article, 'The Tragedy of Not Understanding' (June 5) deserves praise. Parents today fail to understand their own children. In my case, my parents keep comparing me to others who are obviously better than I in studies, but they fail to realise that everyone does not possess the same intellectual faculties. At times, I feel really frustrated. Articles such as this may help in making parents more understanding.
Debalit Sengupta (15),
Calcutta

■ Parents should stop pressurising their children so much and let them enjoy a reasonable amount of freedom.
Rashmi Tiwari,
Calcutta

Fitting Name

A fitting name is really a matter of inspiration ('Lots in a Name,' May 22). I was born during the freedom movement and my father preferred to name me Swaraj. My name has been a constant source of inspiration for me.
Swaraj Chakravarty,
Calcutta

Computer Art

look'
Col
Mr.

Engineering Feat

The decision to construct a second bridge across the Hooghly is a welcome step as it would help ease the traffic congestion on the Howrah Bridge. It seems a miracle how the bridge withstands so much load, specially during peak hours.
Joseph George,
North Lakhimpur (W.B.)

Covering Up

When you published 'Love Me, Love My Soap' (May 8), I had to cover the Colour Magazine with the newspaper. But this time, with the cover story, 'Summer Morality' (June 12), I could do nothing. The story carried pictures which could not be shown to either my child or my father-in-law.

Please maintain the sanctity of the magazine. For persons who want to see bikini-clad girls, there are many other magazines.
Urmila Deshpande

Women like Urmila Deshpande, who are ready to do anything for money, need no publicity in the Colour Magazine.
Arpita Mukherji,
Howrah

■ Lekha Dhar's article made interesting reading, but some of the photographs were in bad taste.
Supratim Sarkar,
Calcutta

Sorry

There was an error in the article, 'Delhi's Bengal' (June 5). The deputy minister in the ministry of rehabilitation at the time referred to was Mr P.S. Naskar and not Mr N.R. Laskar. Mr P.S. Naskar took the initiative in getting the settlement at Kalkaji of the EPDP Colony for the Bengalis.
Dr Bikram Sarkar,
Secretary, Development and planning department,
Government of West Bengal,
Calcutta



CONTENTS

The Telegraph
3 JULY 1988



Rajesh Kumar

4 Home minister Buta Singh has reached the coveted ministerial post through sheer hard work and loyalty to his leader, two qualities he swears by. An insightful interview

16 Extracts from the book, *Essence of Indian Art*, which shows the diversity and depth of India as a country and culture

SECTIONS

9 Heritage
10 Viewpoint
12 Panorama
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19 Memories
20 7 Days
23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Images

Cover Subrata Gangopadhyay

MANAGING THE HOME

The three airconditioners at full blast shut out the sounds of the many-layered security that today surrounds the country's home minister, Buta Singh. He is arguably no. 2 not only in the power hierarchy, but also on the terrorists' hit list. His government bungalow, across the road from the CPI(M)'s central party office, is a veritable fortress and even after clearance, one has to pass through a Kafkaesque journey from room to room full of suspicious eyes before reaching the luxurious drawing room where Buta Singh has agreed to give one of his rare interviews. People keep lining up for appointments, time is short and the bureaucrats get restive, but Buta Singh is

Buta Singh has risen from poverty to the coveted position of Union home minister through hard work and loyalty to his leader. MANINI CHATTERJEE speaks to the man behind the minister

Photographs: Rajesh Kumar



relaxed and in the few minutes of conversation, talks readily of the situation in Punjab and his early days of struggle as a youth.

Many questions remain unanswered for lack of time such as his rise in Congress politics or his alleged ruthlessness while dealing with adversaries. But what emerges is a man who has risen from real poverty following only two maxims--hard work and loyalty to his leader. "No job is mean for me," he has said and in the same breath, "I never question the decisions of my leader." It is a combination that has worked, propelling the poverty-stricken Harijan boy, who used to fill pitchers of

water in a newspaper office, to one of the seniormost positions in public life

If loyalty has paid, it has not made him popular Buta Singh has neither an overpowering charisma nor a mass base that would make him a leader in his own right. Many feel that it is this lack of base that has made him the Prime Minister's most trusted minister Buta Singh, after all, was forced to fight the 1984 elections from Rajasthan and, as things stand today, there is little likelihood of him winning an election from Punjab Even in the early days, he never managed to create a base in Punjab He was first elected on an Akali ticket from the Moga reserved constituency and later, after switching to Congress, fought the Ropar reserved seat far away from his village in Jalandhar district Though a Mazhabi Sikh, he failed to emerge as a leader of that community and only rose to power through ministerial positions in the Central government From the time he joined the Congress in 1966, he remained totally loyal to Mrs Indira Gandhi and during the Janata period was entrusted with handling party funds Over the years, he rose from being a deputy minister to sports minister at the time of the Asian, housing minister,then got the most coveted ministry home, under Rajiv Gandhi in 1986

It is in the past few years that he has really come into the limelight– not always favourable After Operation Bluestar, he organised the rebuilding of the Akal Takht through the services of the controversial Santa Singh His loyalty to Mrs Gandhi resulted in his being declared a 'tankhaiya' and to his credit, he has never tried to get rid of the label by kowtowing to the priests He remains a religious man and has a particular affinity for Sikh sants, but not at the cost of promoting fundamentalism

In fact, the greatest points in his favour remain his secularism and a continuing empathy with the underprivileged His anti-communalism is rooted in his youth when he was greatly influenced by certain radical Marxists in Punjab

Though he left the Marxist fold, even while fighting for a Punjabi speaking state, he remained close to progressive writers and from the beginning, shunned theocracy. The early influence, though watered down with power and the exigencies of real politik, has remained strong enough for him to give no quarter to the pro-extremist elements in Punjab

Today, Buta Singh sits in a wall-to-wall carpeted room with plush furnishings but he has not forgotten his past. Perhaps, it is the knowledge that only hard work pays that has made him accept all orders from his boss without question. It has got him many enemies, both within the Congress and without, because as home minister, he is credited with removing chief ministers who have fallen out of favour or using the home ministry clout to topple state governments, as in Tripura At the same time, however, he is moved by tales of poor people who could not manage to find an escape route as he did, and is said to be very helpful to those in distress. The CPM leader, Mr Harkishan Surjeet, though a political adversary, admitted that Buta Singh was not communal and maintained a certain affinity for the poor.

There are little known aspects about him; his love for Punjabi literature, for



I never shirked work. I mean, I liked any job. When I came to the *Phulwari* office, I was not a journalist, I was only a peon

example, which has given this soft-spoken man a certain gentleness so removed from the often unsparing politics he practises It was this love for literature which first brought him into politics, but today he finds no time to read "except on flight "

Today, he has on his hands the most difficult task of his life solving the crisis that is Punjab—and he is aware that he may pay with his life It is easy to condemn him as the Prime Minister's foremost 'yes man,' but Buta Singh is also one of the few men in public life to have risen from nothing He did have godfathers, his professor, Gurbachan Singh Talib, being the most important of them But if he had not shown enterprise, no godfather could have made him Ultimately, he is a man who was bright enough to fight against his circumstances but not brilliant enough to chart his own path, diligent enough to follow but not visionary enough to lead.

Excerpts from the interview.

There are reports that at one time you were a Marxist and involved in the communist movement

I was working for a newspaper As a matter of fact, in Punjab at that time, there was no Marxist party, there was a left party and a right party At that time, the left party was known as the red communist party, the Lal Communist Party

It wasn't part of the CPI?

No, that was separate *Iska naam hi* Lal Communist Party *tha* And I was working in a paper which was the mouthpiece of the Lal Communist Party The editor of the paper was a great freedom fighter, Giani Hira Singh Dard, and the leader of the party was Teja Singh Swatantra

When was this?

This was in 1951-52

What about the CPI?

The CPI was there, but it was, even at that time, the CPM It was a radical group which had come out of the CPI

And what was the paper called?

There were three papers, a group of papers One was a monthly called *Phulwari*, the other was a Punjabi paper called *Lal Savera* and the third was in Urdu called *Awami Jamoorat* I was working for the group, mainly translating from English to Punjabi

Were you a member of the party?

I was never formally a member of the party I never had a card

But usually communist parties don't employ people who are not members

As I said, it was a split party They were not rigid about membership They were taking all kinds of people who believed in their ideology and working in a voluntary capacity But I was getting a salary You know, in such an institution it is easy to get influenced and I did get influenced

It has been said that the day Stalin died, you cried

Yes, we did We were a small group of workers and there was a condolence meeting I was a very young boy and I had some idea about the Soviet Revolution and mainly I had been overawed by the philosophy of the revolution At that time, Stalin was a hero of the revolution and so, when he died, so many people sobbed and I was one of them

But you were not influenced enough to remain with them?

No, I was an employee and then as a journalist, I became a subeditor of the *Akali Patrika*

You didn't ever consider becoming a full-time communist?

No, no I was only, I should say, a progressive writer I was a poet, I was writing features on the history of Punjab, the Ghaddar movement, literature of Punjab and other such features I always liked writing features

Then you also studied in Bombay?

Yes, after doing my BA from Punjab, I went to Bombay because one of my teachers was very kind to me He was transferred to Bombay and so he took me

along with him His name was Prof Gurbachan Singh Talib, a great scholar He was a great influence in my life

And among the political leaders, who influenced you?

Well, as I said, the first people to influence me were the Lal Communist Party leaders I came to know many other leaders there was Dr Bhag Singh, he was an intellecutal Then, I came in touch with Baba Karam Singh Cheema who was a veteran freedom fighter and a great communist After that, as a journalist, I came in touch with Congress leaders. Among the Congress leaders who influenced me were Jathedar Udham Singh



Naboke, Darshan Singh Pheruman and Pratap Singh Kairon

There was an agitation going on for a Punjabi speaking state and I, as a journalist, started writing for a Punjabi speaking state purely on linguistic basis. I had some differences with the Akalis--they were asking for a state with more Sikhs in it and I wanted a state with Punjabi speaking people in it I was not for a majority Sikh stat

But you came into Parliament for the first time on an Akali ticket

I am coming to that. (I was) in Bombay and (in Punjab) what happended was that Pratap Singh Kairon had banned all publications related to the Punjabi speaking state and the Akalis were finding it hard to even have some kind of publicity campaign And so we, from Bombay, started publishing material on a Punjabi speaking state There was a weekly paper in Bombay which we published only for this purpose It was called *Ranjit* and I was the main force behind it We used to get articles from Balraj Sahni, Rajinder Singh Bedi, Mulk Raj Anand, Harman Singh Naaz

We had an association, the Punjabi Writers Association I was, of course, small fry. We used to meet regularly and contribute views about the Punjabi speaking state Then we used to despatch those papers through some of our sympathisers who used to travel by air and so we used to send this literature to Punjab

And Master Tara Singh was pleased with us and felt these people have organised it well So when the time came in 1962 (elections), they were looking for somebody to plead the case in Parliament and sent me a telegram offering me the seat from Moga I was the youngest MP during my days

How old were you?

I was about 26 years old; just a few months earlier I had qualified on age They selected me as a candidate and I won The Moga constituency included parts of Ferozepur district, Ludhiana district Then, I came to Parliament and the arrangement inside Parliament was to my utter dismay I was made to sit with the Swatantra Party The agreement among the Akalis was that all MPs will sit as associate members of the Swatantra Party

Why?

Because the Swatantra Party and the Akalis had an alliance during the elections And, therefore, for a Marxist to sit with the Swatantra Party, you can imagine the plight . but my main interest was a Punjabi speaking state and so I presented a memorandum before the cabinet subcommittee (on Punjabi Suba) comprising Mr Tyagi, Mr Chavan and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. She was then the minister for information and broadcasting

The memorandum which I submitted was in a printed booklet form and after a few days of submitting it I happened to be in the Central Hall of Parliament I was sent for and met Mrs Gandhi She said, 'Your views are quite different from the Akalis' views, your views are completely on linguistic basis ' I had given a very detailed background of the history of Punjabi language, literature in Punjabi language and she said, 'There is nothing wrong in it, your memorandum is based purely on language and I like it.' That memorandum was given to the Hukam Singh committee also and that committee





report quoted extensively from my document

This happened in 1965 and at that time I grew very close to Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir who was the president of the Pradesh Congress committee. He said, 'Since you have worked so hard for the Punjabi speaking state and the Akali party is going to split on the issue and your views are not so rigid, why don't you join a bigger party?'

But when the Akali party split, you remained with Master Tara Singh.

Yes, I did.

What was the main reason for the split?

It was essentially on caste basis. Master Tara Singh was challenged by Sant Fateh Singh purely on the question of Jat versus non-Jat. And so Master Tara Singh was almost completely isolated by the dominant caste, that is, Jat. Sant Fateh Singh became president of the Akali party. Therefore, my friends also suggested that there was no scope for anybody with a

Let me tell you, my poverty never stood in my way. As a matter of fact, I enjoyed poverty—when I was not having a book, I would borrow a book, try and memorise it in full and then give it back

secular mind and I should join a bigger party.

Luckily, I got Giani Gurmukh Singh to introduce me to Shastriji and other leaders. As a matter of fact, K C. Pant was the secretary of the parliamentary party and he admitted me to the party. So, I was with the Akalis from 1962 to the end of 1966 and the next term I was in the Congress (1967 election).

Now that the Akalis are considered a religion-based party, do you regret that stint?

No, because at that time, although they were fighting for a Punjabi speaking state and an element of communal sentiment was very much in it, the Akali party was basically a nationalist party. The sharp turn came when they passed the Anandpur Sahib resolution; that was the time when the Akalis started giving vent to separatist feelings. Previous to that, there was hardly any difference between the Congress and the Akali party. It was only the question of Punjabi language that they sponsored and I think they did justice to the language. If they had not, the language would have remained a language of the people. By taking up the

language, they gave a communal colour even to the language. Also, the reaction from the Hindus—it was foolish on the part of the Hindus to disown their own language. It was purely communal, they thought Punjabi was associated with Sikhs.

Looking back, do you think you should have joined the communists? Or are you happy with the decision to join Congress?

In retrospect, I feel (there was) a lack of national fervour in the communist ranks, a highly doctrinaire approach in our society (which) is not good One has to be patriotic -I don't mean the communists are not patriotic, they are, but to a limited extent. They mostly go by their brand of international Marxism Of course, their socialist appeal, their progressive policies and non-communal character are good, but the basic deficiency in communism is that they do not take pride in their own people There is much more in our own philosophy, in the philosophy of our *gurus.*

But what is it, apart from the Punjabi Suba movement, that drew you to politics instead of remaining a journalist?

My major concern is the socio-economic conditions of the bulk of our population living in rural areas and among them the weaker sections, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who are socially deprived--this was the major consideration

When did your interest in the language begin?

Language is because of my interest in literature as a student I stood first in Punjab in BA honours, Punjabi literature—that was because of my deep love for Punjabi literature I studied in Khalsa College, Jalandhar

You have said that you came from an underprivileged family

Yes, a very poor family

How did you manage to educate yourself, go to Bombay, etc?

Let me tell you, my poverty never stood in my way As a matter of fact, I enjoyed poverty--when I was not having a book, I would borrow a book, try to memorise it in full and then give it back to the person who lent it to me That was the thing which really kept me alive You know, my wants, my poverty was one of my assets I couldn't afford shoes, for example, and up to matriculation I never wore shoes Even now you will always find me, even in the highest meetings, sitting without shoes My first instinct is to remove my shoes; then I sit. Because I had no shoes, neither the severe winter nor summer had any effect on me I could not get woollen clothes till I reached college —my sister gave me a sweater then

What did your family do?

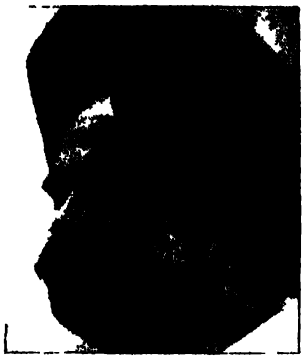
My father was a sort of helper in the railways and after giving up the service he came to the village and started a small grocery shop. On occasion, he used to get cut pieces of cloth and go out selling these among the villagers.

How many generations ago did you become Sikhs?

My father became Sikh. I am the second generation. We were a very big family—four sisters, three brothers, four uncles, all living together.

Among your brothers and sisters, you have done the best in life?

Well, I have studied, the others could not study The youngest was able to study



Every Sikh meets me. Only a few fanatics (do not), even they meet me privately, not openly. All other leaders, all Akali leaders; the whole rank and file meet me, there is no problem

but then he went abroad, joined Air India and lives in London

How did you manage to study?

Well, the primary education, I got in my own village and higher education at a school six kilometres from my village Very early morning I used to go, and come back late, but there was no difficulty and the only question was how to get books That, I used to manage from friends, and sometimes I used to get a little money from my father, from my friends

I never shirked work. I mean, I liked any job When I came to the *Phulwari* office, I was not a journalist, I was only a peon

I used to carry messages from one office to the other, I used to fill water in the *matkas* and things like that. And then slowly, slowly, I used to be sitting with these editors and they used to ask me, 'Can you read this?' and I would say, 'Yes, I can read it very well ' I was still in school and they used to ask me, 'What is the meaning of this word?' I was good at languages right from the beginning and so I used to translate They used to allow me to translate, to write addresses on the mail, and that is how I started.

Actually Giani Hira Singh Dard encouraged me. They helped: yes, if it had not been a communist paper, maybe it would have been different. Nobody bothers about class four employees, but he used to share his meals with me, he used to sit with me, he used to look at the translations I had done and improve upon them. I owe much to him.

As a Mazhabi Sikh, do you think caste differences still play a role in Punjab?

Yes, there are caste differences, specially in rural areas where it is practised. Lower caste people cannot go to the *gurdwara* of the higher castes. We have separate *gurdwaras* even now.

How far did your caste affect your life?

As I told you, I used to enjoy my low caste also. I always tried to prove that if a high caste man can do it, I can do it also.

Once you reached Bombay, things got better?

In Bombay, I suffered the other way round. Earlier, I used to get a stipend which the government gave to scheduled castes, but my caste was not recognised as a scheduled caste in Maharashtra

My caste was recognised only in four states—Punjab, Himachal, UP and Rajasthan So they denied me the stipend and I had to work hard, I had to take tuitions and so it worked the other way round.

This declaration of you as a 'tankhaiya'—does it affect you, does it bother you?

So far as functioning is concerned, it has not come in my way. Every Sikh meets me Only a few fanatics (do not), even they meet me privately, not openly. All other leaders, all Akali leaders, the whole rank and file meet me, there is no problem

I am proud that they inflicted this on me because I was working for national unity and I have been punished for that

How do you react to being called the Prime Minister's hatchet man?

I am always serious about the job given to me, I don't bother about what people say. No job is mean for me. I take interest in whatever assignment is given to me and I treat my leader as my ideal. I never question the decisions of my leader, I follow them literally even if I have to risk my life.

You are known today as the Prime Minister's most trusted minister

All ministers are the Prime Minister's most trusted ministers...

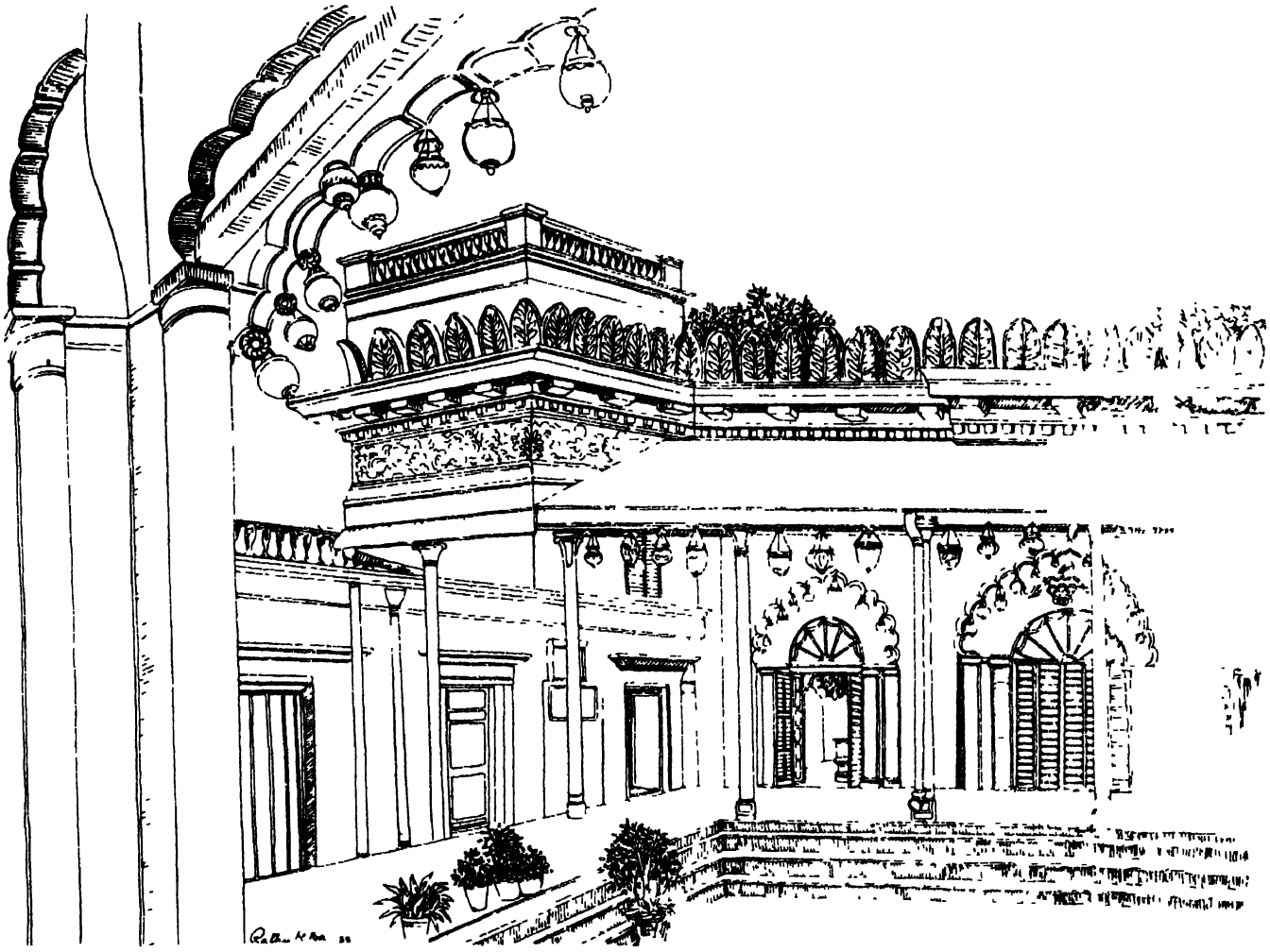
Till they leave the party?

Well, that is some individuals. But I respect my leader more as a leader. Of course, the Prime Minister is supreme, he is the captain of the team. But more than the Prime Minister, I adore my leader. ■



HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

SIBTAINABAD IMAMBARA, METIABRUZ



Oudh was annexed by the British in 1856 and its last nawab, Wajed Ali Shah, settled in Calcutta. Lucknow was lost but in Metiabruz, then known as Manikkhola, on the outskirts of Calcutta, grew a township which has often been called a miniature Lucknow.

The residents of Metiabruz observed the same ceremonies, enjoyed the same pastimes and spoke in the dialect special to Lucknow. The Nawab himself built several fabulous houses, some with elaborately laid out parks. There was even an open-air zoo stocked with rare fauna, an enclosure for snakes and an aviary. There were markets and imambaras.

Wajed Ali Shah was a devoute Muslim and did not miss a single prayer. He used to spend hours at the Sibtainabad Imambara, a part of which is sketched above. And it was here that he was laid to rest. The building once stood on sprawling grounds with flowering plants and fountains. After the Nawab's death, the British sold all the property and distributed the returns among his heirs.

The Sibtainabad Imambara was built in 1864. It stands, with its sparkling whitewashed walls, on Garden Reach Road, its imposing arched portal surmounted by the *naubatkhana*. All through the day, through its gates emblazoned with double mermaids—the emblem of the royal family—people stream in and out. For the Imambara is a living heritage and even today it resounds with the chatter of children who come to study there and with the daily prayers of the faithful.



QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

CBS

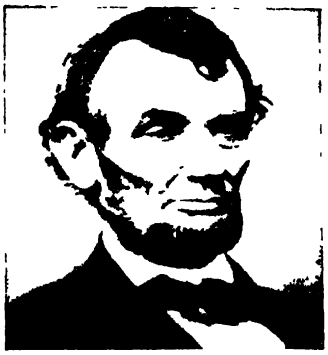
11th Question: **Who said, "If the country used my brains we would not be in such a bad financial position. I would have solved it easily"? (Natarajan Anand, 25/2, Nepal Saha Lane, Howrah 700101).**
***Ans*: Natwarlal!**

"Who plotted Abraham Lincoln's assassination?" This question comes from J K Joseph, Siliguri

Protective funding and political shielding was inherent in the great plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln of the US John Wilkes Booth, John Surratt and four other men had planned to murder President Lincoln and most of his Cabinet on April 14, 1865. Of all the plotters, only Booth was successful in killing Lincoln, as he sat in a box at Ford's Theater watching a comedy, *Our American Cousins*

A set of startling events began to occur minutes before Booth made his way down a dark passageway to the President's box. Lincoln's bodyguard, John F Parker, was not on duty and Booth entered the box totally unchallenged. Parker later told authorities that the play bored him, so he went to a nearby saloon for a drink! He was never reprimanded, dismissed or prosecuted for such gross negligence of duty.

Booth's escape, even with an injured leg resulting from his dramatic leap from Lincoln's box to the stage of the theatre, was unbelievably smooth. He raced a horse through the streets and was allowed to pass over the heavily guarded Anacostia Bridge as he made for Maryland. The commercial telegraph wires leading from Washington were mysteriously crossed and put out of commission for two hours from almost the moment Booth pulled the trigger.



Abraham Lincoln

When Booth was finally trapped in a barn by a troop of federal officers he was informed that he could surrender. Yet, he was killed by a Union soldier, Boston Corbett. Some later claimed that the assassin killed himself.

Corbett was a strange case—a religious monomaniac who castrated himself in 1858 after a prostitute solicited his attentions; a man, one report claimed, who was in the exclusive service of Secretary of War Edwin McMasters Stanton.

It was to Stanton that Corbett brought the diary found on Booth's person. The Secretary of War kept this diary until compelled to turn it over to investigators. By then 18 pages of the diary were missing. Perhaps overlooked was one still intact line: "I have a greater desire and almost a mind to return to Washington, and in a measure clear my name, which I fee l I can do."

Stanton is the pivot to the answer about the Lincoln conspiracy. A truculent, seething man who violently opposed Lincoln's pacifist plans for the South's reconstruction, Stanton's conduct following the assassination was nothing less than hysterical. He ramrodded the trials of the conspirators and made sure Mrs Surratt, apparently innocent of the plot, was hanged with the guilty parties. Stanton also confiscated the only photograph ever taken of Lincoln in his coffin. He also ordered that the master plate be destroyed. All but one of the prints were burned and the remaining photograph did not surface until 87 years later.

More importantly, Stanton acted strangely in his handling of the case against John H. Surratt, Booth's co-conspirator. Several times government agents located the fugitive and informed Stanton of his whereabouts. The Secretary either refused to order his arrest or delayed taking a decision. Tracking down Surratt developed into a world case. He was ultimately found in Egypt and was returned to the US (against Stanton's orders).

Surratt's trial was a farce and he was acquitted through the clever loophole-picking by his lawyers, men who "incidentally" happened to be Stanton's friends. Surratt lived to a ripe old age in Baltimore.

A few years following Lincoln's murder, his son, Robert Lincoln, was found in his Vermont home burning many of his father's papers in the fireplace. When asked why he was destroying such historic documents, Robert Lincoln replied: "These papers contain the documentary evidence of the treason of a member of my father's Cabinet. It is best for all that such evidence be destroyed."

QUESTIONS

1. What was the name of the organisation that freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh formed in order to achieve Independence? (Sailesh Kr Singh, BIT, Sindri)

2. What is ecclesiaphobia? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)

3. In Burma it is "Tigula," in Thailand "Sangkan," in Poland "Arina," and in Czechoslovakia, "Bolia-dhanom". What is it in India? (Brijesh Kr. Singh, BIT, Sindri)

4. What is unique about India and Pakistan's participation in World Cup cricket? (Omkar Bhattacharya, Calcutta 45)

5. What is unique about Talat Aziz's album *Tasavvur*? (Rakesh R Sahay, BIT, Sindri)

6. Which batsman scored the first Test double century for India? (Vinay Kumar Rastogi, BIT, Sindri)

7. Which is the rarest disease in the world? (Ravi Gupta, Calcutta 29)

8. Which is the first book to be blessed by a Pope? (Sutanu Mukherjee, Calcutta 47)

9. In newspaper parlance what is the "silly season"? (Rohit Sonthalia, Calcutta 19)

10. What is the Lupera sickness? (Rajesh Sarda, Calcutta 6)

ANSWERS

1. Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.
2. The fear of churches.
3. Holi.
4. They have never played against each other in the World Cup so far.
5. It is the first ghazal cassette to be picturised on a 90-minute video cassette. Co-starring with him in the cassette is Jhanra,a new find.
6. Polly Umrigar, 223, vs New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1955-56
7. Kuru or laughing sickness
8. *Ben-Hur* by Saw Wallace
9. It refers to the period during which no major events occur and so trivial news is published to fill in the newspaper.
10. It is a Mafia way of execution by shooting a person in the head.

LEND THEM AN EAR

Instead of making things even more difficult for the deaf

As a deaf person, I have had to face great difficulties in the early part of my life, specially while learning to equip myself for an easier life ahead

The method and medium of instuction imparted to us were hardly effective and, consequently, we had to depend solely on the teachers at the primar level of education No direct assistance was forthcoming from my fellow human beings mainly because I could not communicate in a way they could comprehend easily, in the 'normal' way We deaf persons exchange ideas and thoughts among ourselves in a manner which is also not comprehensible to most others

On my part, I was unable to understand the language and gestures of the other people and this troubled me specially till when I was a minor

After schooling, I was admitted to the Government College of Arts and while studying commercial art I had to overcome a number of difficulties In the initial stages, as a trainee in the subject, I felt greatly inconvenienced though later things seemed to ease The greatest difficulty was in the matter of measurements or calculations for any object

In later life, one finds that nobody is interested in providing employment to a deaf man even if he is well qualified. I was, however, favoured with a letter from the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Calcutta calling me for an interview I could get an appointment letter only after frantic efforts The GSI was reluctant to issue me a letter of appointment because there was no reservation of posts by the Government of India in any cadre for physically handicapped persons I had to write to the ministry of steel and mines in New Delhi and I was then considered for the post of technical operator During my tenure in the GSI, I proved myself worthy of the tasks entrusted to me and I was promoted to the level of STA (DO) and awarded a certificate of merit by the President of India

While in service, I faced further obstacles. The officials at the helm of the administration went so far as to heckle the deaf or physically handicapped persons in their day-to-day work and were always out to deprive them of cadre benefits We did not get any cooperation or help from our colleagues, either junior or senior. On the contrary, they sneered at their unfortunate colleagues I know of two others at the GSI who, in spite of not having hands, were skilful draftsmen Yet, they were made objects of ridicule



The author in front of the Gallaudet University

In India, most of the deaf people are ill-clad, ill-fed and illiterate They do not have the means to pursue studies even at the primary level Therefore, they are often despised by the general public The enlightened people can help change the world of these handicapped people, but in reality, the picture is different, though, I must add, that there *are* a few large-hearted people who go out of their way to help

In our country, there is no college or university where the deaf could go after schooling So they have to go to the USA for special education in the Gallaudet University It is high time that colleges on the lines of those abroad are established in our country For more than half a century, the plans and programmes drawn up by the teachers who have returned from overseas after higher education, are not translated into practice and usually end up in smoke

During my tour of Europe and America, I had the opportunity of visiting the Gallaudet University in Washington D C I gained a good deal of knowledge about the method of training given to the deaf On completion of the course, they are provided gainful employment, too Two centuries have passed since the death of T H Gallaudet, but the glory of the institution he left behind remains

State schools have always played an important part in the history of education of deaf children in the US offering both elementary and secondary courses From these state schools, they go to the Gallaudet University a multi purpose educational institution for the deaf To achieve what this university has is not easy, but we should at least make some effort to emulate its example

Sunil Chandra Rakshit

BARTER BANK

• **Cassettes:** I offer 20 cassettes of old and new Hindi film song hits for a camera with in-built flash Contact Naresh K Tanwani, Mandhan Soorkey Mill, Rathtala, Barasat, North 24-Parganas, 104, Jessore Road, West Bengal.

• **Record player, speakers** and **amplifier:** I offer a Philips stereo record player and Sonodyne speakers and amplifier in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sanwar Singhania, 55, Ezra Street, Calcutta 1

• **Study material:** I offer ISC test papers from 1979 to 1988 and a set of books on commerce for anything of corresponding value Contact Jayanta Jana, 234, B B Ganguly Street, Bowbazar, Calcutta 12

• **Wristwatches:** I offer a Citizen quartz and a Casio lithium digital wristwatch for a Sony or Sanyo Walkman Write to Sunil Chhaperia, 21, Burtolla Street, Calcutta 7

• **Synthesiser, carrom board, calculator** and **emergency light:** I offer a red Casio piano synthesiser, a full size carrom board a Sharp calculator (model EL-812) and a Japanese emergency light for anything of corresponding value Contact Pankaj Udhas P-40, CIT Road, Phool Bagan Scheme 6-M, Calcutta 54

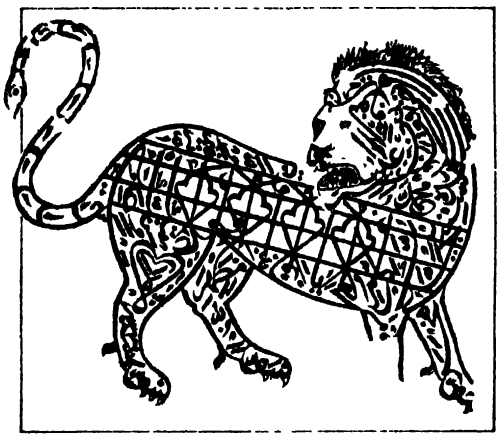
• **Cassettes:** I offer assettes of *Aulad, Majal, Nagma* and *Dosti Dushmani* for *Ishreen* by Pankaj Udhas Write to Shiku Kamal Ahmed 20, 8 A P C Road, Calcutta 9

DIVINE DESIGNS

G.S. Farid traces the history of the fine art of Islamic calligraphy

There is, perhaps no other religion in the world except Islam that has exploited the immense possibilities of calligraphy. Even today, Islamic calligraphy boasts of a colourful and interesting history due to the varied styles that developed in different places over hundreds of years.

In English, despite different styles of printing like block capital, copper plate.



The lion or tiger which is mainly used in the *Tughra* style symbolises the valour of Hazrat Ali and is used to compose prayers called *Nad-i-Ali* that ward off evil spirits

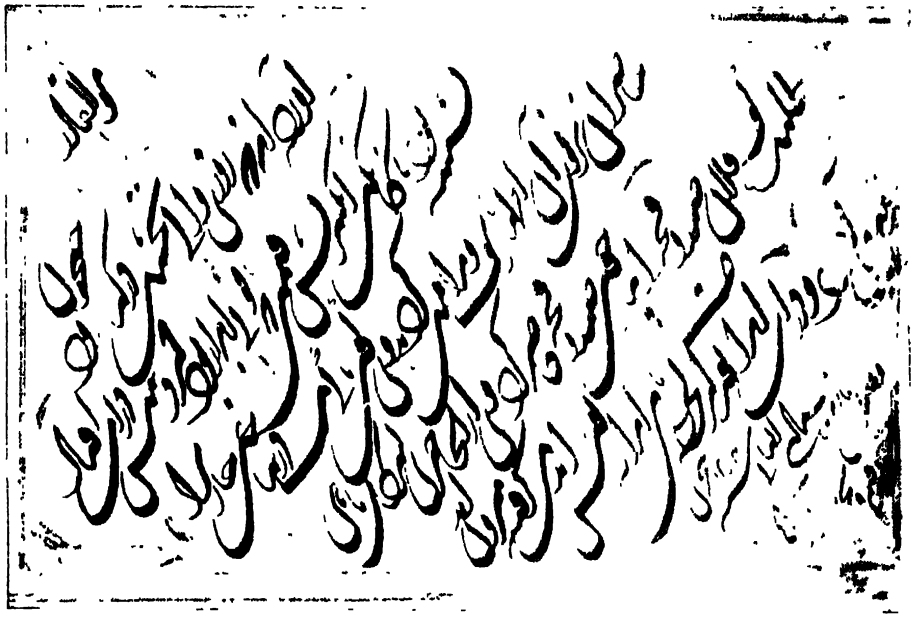
cursive round hand and italics, the shape of each symbol remains basically the same. Similarly, in Arabic too, the styles of calligraphy are varied but the shape of symbols never varies. Before the advent of printing, English writing developed as a decorative art but it never reached the stature of Islamic calligraphy which has been used since time immemorial to decorate books, paintings, ceramics, coins and even mosques and mausoleums.

Calligraphy, as it obtains in Islam, developed to the extent it did mainly because of the ban on drawing animate objects. Secondly, Allah, in his first revelation to Prophet Mohammed, declared that above all, he desired in man the power to wield the pen. The Holy Prophet himself commended the art of writing:

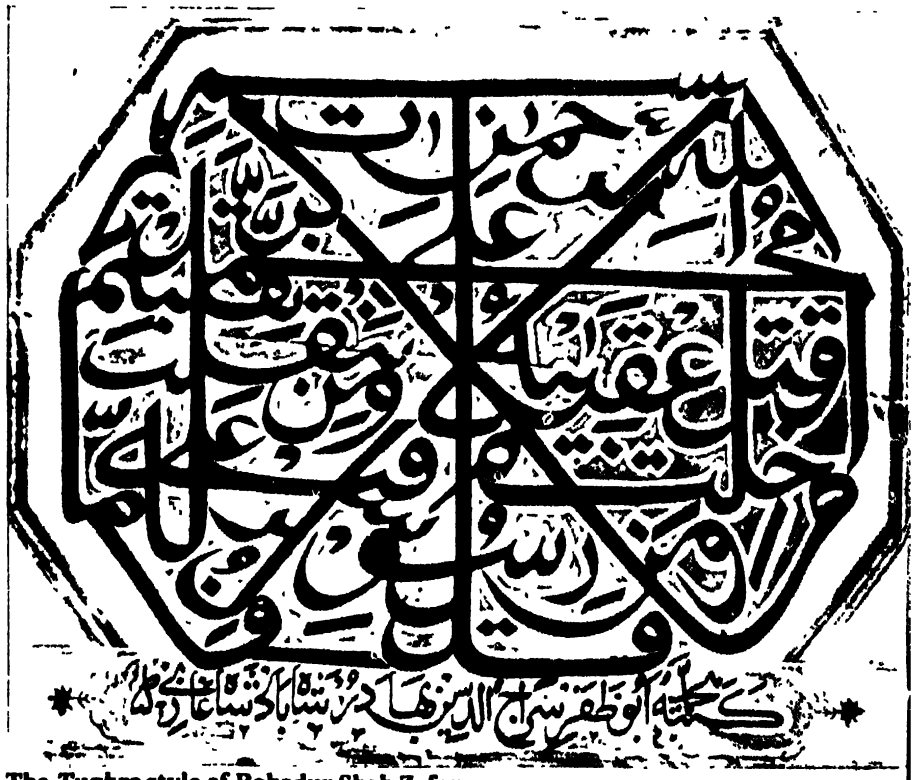
Writing is the offspring of thought,
the lamp of remembrance,
the tongue of those who are far off
and also the life of those whose age
has been blotted out.

Lastly, copying the Quran, the words of Allah, was considered to be an act of piety and a sign of devotion. The Quran thus became the fountainhead of artistic talent and great care was taken towards its ornamentation, exquisite designing and intricate writing. Calligraphists vied with each other in perfecting the art. Their labours were best summed up in Attabi's words, "Books smile as pens shed tears."

Islamic calligraphy did originate in Arabia with the transcription of the Quran but



The *Khatt-i-Shikasta* script



The *Tughra* style of Bahadur Shah Zafar

it attained its true glory in Iran, where Muslim artists gave full expression to their innate creativity by developing and evolving different styles in keeping with specific calligraphic rules. There are several localised or minor scripts but the four major ones are *Kufic* and *Naskh* which developed in Arabia and *Nastaliq* and *Shikasta* that evolved in Iran. The other styles are variations of these four. All the styles are written either in bold, *Khatt-i-Jali*, or in fine or minute calligraphy, *Khatt-i-Khafi*

In the 8th century, Qetba established the relative size of letters and 100 years later, Ustad Ahwal of Sistan laid down calligraphic laws in Baghdad. Others like Ali bin Hamza Kusai, Nasr ibn Asim, Hajaj ibn Yusuf, Hasan al Basri and al Khalil ibn Ahmad made significant contributions to the development of Islamic calligraphy.

The *Kufic* script reached its zenith in the hands of ibn Muqla, a disciple of Ustad Ahwal and vizier of al Qahir Billah, the Abbasid ruler of Egypt Even though the Kufic style was successfully used to decorate monuments, its scope was somewhat limited because of its angular form Increasing competition among calligraphists, all of whom tried to outdo the others, led to an increasingly complicated style, which was finally superseded by the cursive *Naskh* style The *Kufic* style remained in use for about 300 years till the 12th century AD

Ibn Muqla was largely responsible for introducing improvements in the *Naskh* script An innovative calligraphist, he introduced *Naskh* to the Chancery of Baghdad and was appointed vizier of the three caliphs of Baghdad, al Muqtadir, al Qahir and al Razi. Unfortunately, he fell victim to a court intrigue and his right hand was amputated by Khalifa Razi. Undeterred, he continued with calligraphy till he was finally killed.

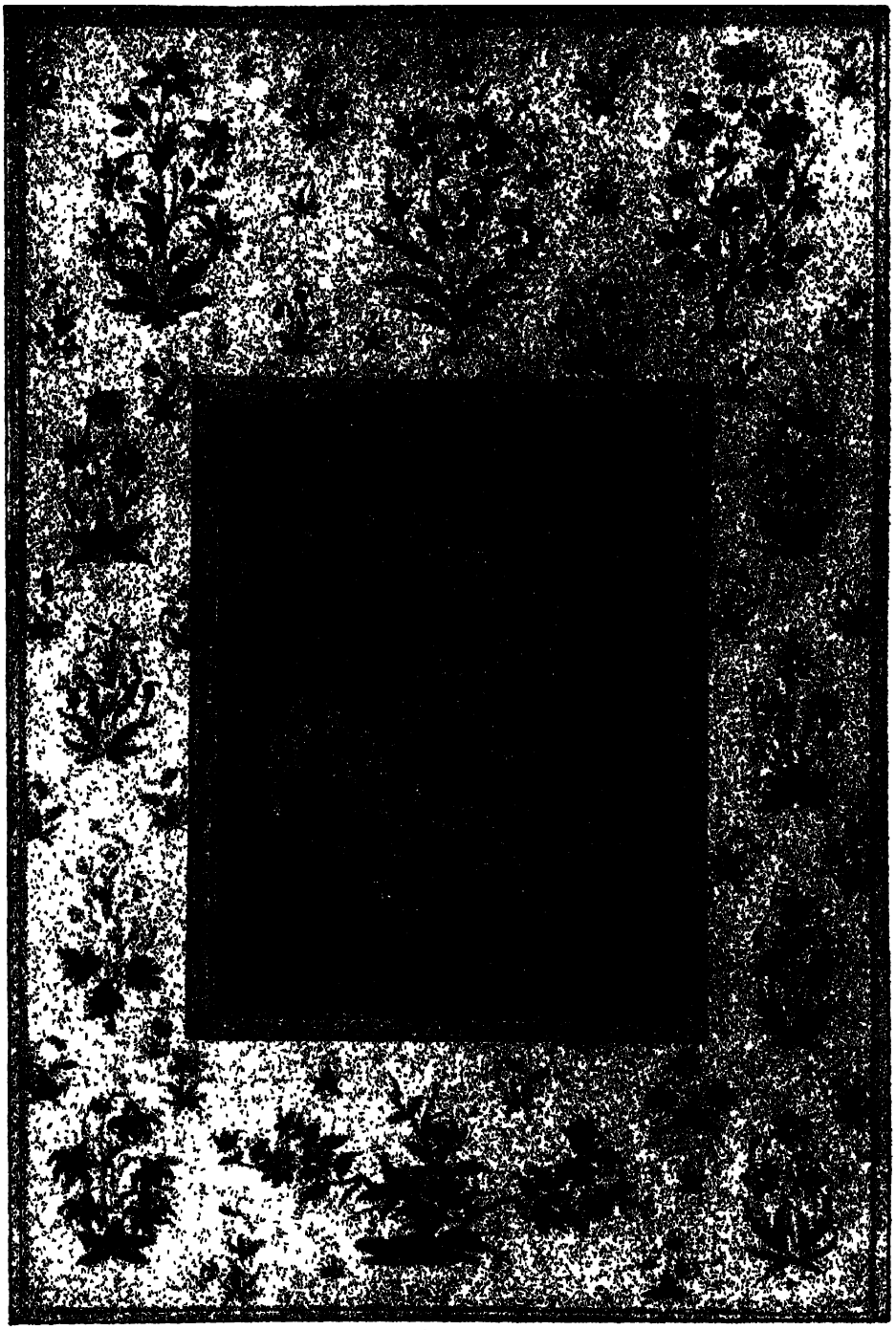
In the 16th century, India became a haven for calligraphists who assembled in the Mughal courts where they received royal patronage from the kings and princes who themselves were conversant with the art of calligraphy which formed part of their basic education.

Babur is credited with the development of a personal style of writing called *Khatt-i-Baburi*. A copy of his Diwan in this style is in the Rampur Library. Aurangzeb too, was famous for his mastery of the *Naskh*, *Nastaliq* and *Shikasta* scripts One of his handwritten Qurans is at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad. Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor, was also an expert calligraphist. He was well versed in several styles, particularly in *Tughra*. Other wellknown calligraphists of the time included Dara Shikoh, Shuja, Murad and Zebun Nisa.

Khatt-i-Bihari was a style that developed in Bengal during the reign of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud in the middle of the 15th century. This was a cursive style that resembled *Naskh* rather than the angular *Kufic*.

Most of the calligraphists who came to India received royal patronage and honours were heaped on them *Zarin Qalam* (golden pen), *Roushan Qalam* (bright pen) and *Haft Qalami* (master of seven styles) were some of the honours that were bestowed on them. Mir Khalilullah Shah was, perhaps, one calligraphist who received the highest honour, *Badshah Qalam*, (king of pens) when he presented a copy of the *Nau Ras* calligraphed by him to Ibrahim Adil Shah, the king of the Deccan

The art of calligraphy came to an end with the downfall of the Mughal empire With the introduction of printing, calligraphy is all but a dying art not only in India but the entire Muslim world. However, with the introduction of calligraphed postage stamps in Islamic countries, the obsolete styles like *Kufic*, *Suls* and *Maghrib* are once more being revived ■



Courtesy: Bharat Kala Parishad, Benares

***Wasli* by Mir Ali Katile in *Nastaliq* character**

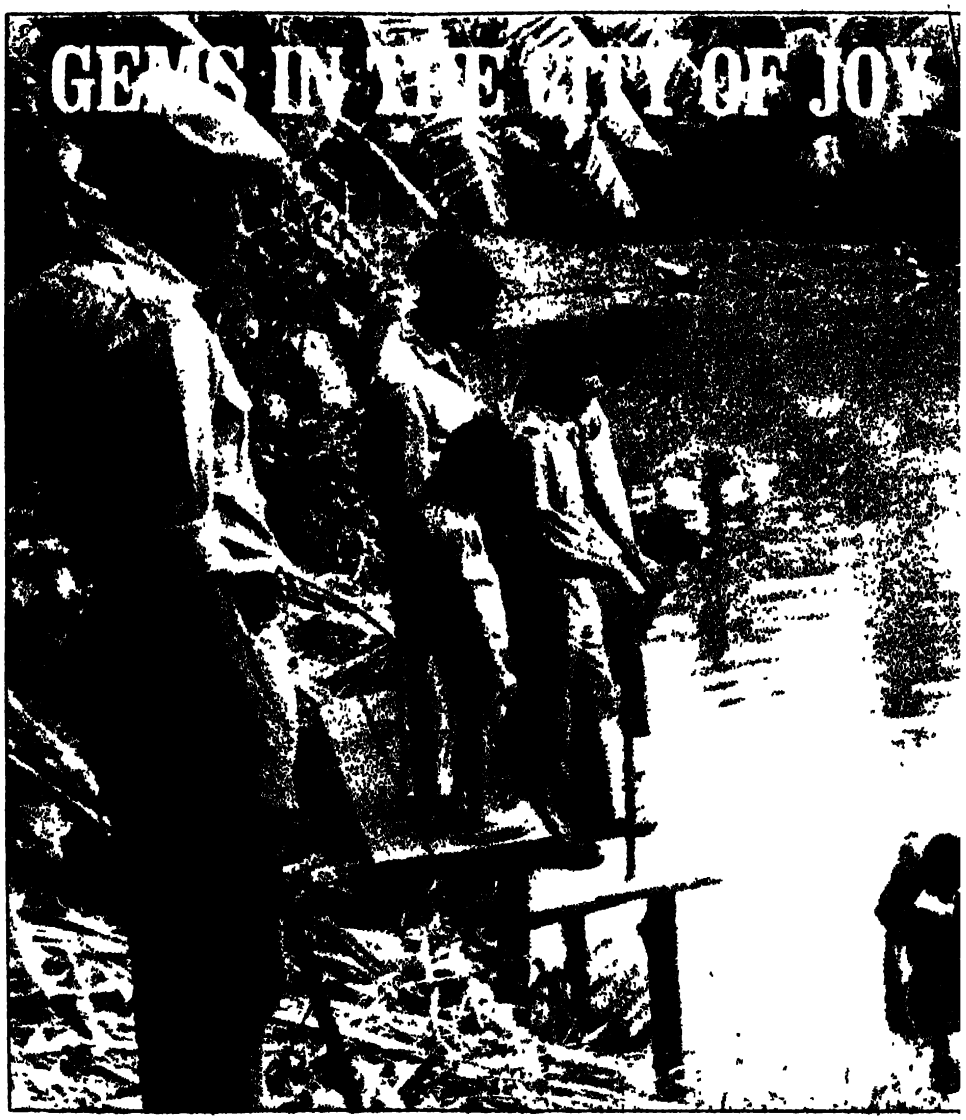
GEMS IN THE CITY OF JOY

There is many a rich stone laid up in the bowels of the earth, many a fair pearl laid up in the bosom of the sea.. "
Contemplations,(Book IV), The Veil of Moses

But "fair pearls" in a shallow pond on the fringes of Calcutta seem ludicrous. Most Calcuttans dismissedthe rumour that pearls had been found in water mussels in a pond in Vidyasagar Colony, Jadavpore, on June 2 as impossible. However, doubts lingered and people started swarming to the pond in search of the precious gem Alarmed at this turn of events, the pond owners, five unemployed youths, who had taken the pond on lease from the state government, sought help from the Jadavpore police station to control the crowds.

The posse of policeman posted in the area discovered that the pond indeed contained pearl mussels. In fact, many locals claimed to have obtained pearls from the pond. On their part, the pond lessees claimed that they had implanted the mussels about one year ago on the advice of some pisciculture experts.

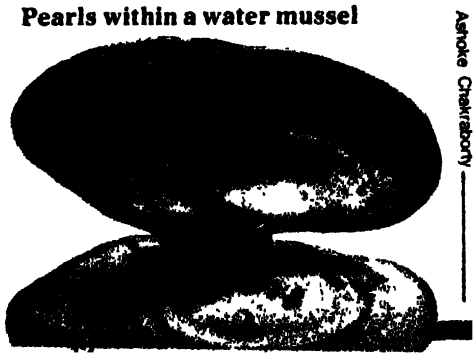
Early last month, the news that pearls had been found in a local pond, took Calcutta by storm. Tapas Chakraborty delves into the mystery find



Curious onlookers crowd the pond believed to contain the pearl mussels

Once it was confirmed that they were indeed pearls in the water mussels, pandemonium broke out in Vidyasagar Colony. Besides the hoi polloi, a stream of experts poured into this relatively new colony. Among them were officials of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Geological Survey of India (GSI), environment experts and, not to forget, pearl dealers. While the cowds became uncontrollable, necessitating the presence of senior police officials including the DSP (town) Mr Akhil Roy, the ZSI and GSI experts collected samples of water mussels and pond soil and water specimens.

Pearls within a water mussel



Ashoke Chakraborty

The lessees disclosed to the experts that they had "cultured" pearls in the pond without understanding its ramifications. In 1985, the Vidyasagar Colony committee had handed over the pond to the youths following a lease agreement that the young men would excavate the pond and use it for pisciculture. The secretary of the colony, Mr Abinash Sarkar, said, "Originally, the area was a marsh which frequently got flooded even after a slight downpour It later became a jungle infested with vicious reptiles. The colony committee wanted to set up a park around the pond, and with this in mind, the boys were given the lease." Accordingly, in 1986, Unnayani, the youths' association, excavated the pond.

The Unnayani president, Mr Mridul Kanti Rudra, recalled that soon after excavating the pond, they went in for pisciculture in a big way, investing Rs 50,000 at the very inception Even though the endeavour was a success, the pond soil remained hard and they consulted some experts who told them that "the pond water was favourable for pearl culture as well."

Mr Moloy Nandi, another member of Unnayani put forward the explanation that mussels had been implanted in the pond to improve the quality of the soil. He said, "We did not take the suggestion seriously. But we were worried about the condition of the soil in the pond because it affected the health of the fish. We were told that mussels improve the quality of mud so towards the end of 1986, we implanted 100 mussels in the pond."

Nandi disclosed that nearly two years after this (in May this year) he started hearing rumours that pearls had been



Ashoke Chakraborty



Ashoke Chakraborty

Partha Das, one of the first few colony residents to find a mussel containing pearls

recovered from the neighbourhood. The story gained momentum when a local handicapped youth, Partha Das, stumbled upon a mussel which when cut open, revealed a sparkling pearl. The boy informed his parents who in turn contacted a gemnologist who confirmed their find. The news spread like wildfire and soon hordes of people jumped into the pond in search of the precious gem.

Meanwhile, the South 24-Parganas district police sent pearl samples to the GSI. On June 4 this year, Dr K.K.Basu, the GSI director, confirmed that the water mussels indeed contained pearls. He said the pearls found in the pond were natural and not cultured or artificial. According to him, at least one of the pearls was of "fairly good quality." The director added that it was difficult to distinguish between natural and cultured pearls as they were identical compositionally. "The former can, however, be distinguished by the larger number of layers, lustre and durability," Dr Basu pointed out.

Following Dr Basu's statement that was carried by a news agency, all doubts about the authenticity of the pearls vanished. However, it led to several significant steps being taken by the state government. The state director general, Mr Nirupom Som, sought a report from the SP of South 24 Parganas about the incident and the alleged theft of pearls from the pond. On the other hand, the Vidyasagar Pally colony committee urged the state government to take over the pond and carry out tests in the ponds adjoining the venue of the pearl find. To quell the crowds that swarmed to the spot every day, the district police was forced to clamp prohibitory orders in the area on June 8.

Meanwhile, the GSI and ZSI also started conducting tests in the pond. Dr Basu of GSI tested the pearls and collected water samples from the pond, and Dr Ashis Ghose and Dr N.V.Subba Rao of ZSI have begun culturing fresh water pearls in the pond. They will submit their report soon.

On the basis of tests, Dr Basu revealed that the pearls did not appear to be cultured as they were not all round in shape. Besides, culturing pearls in a pond, as claimed by the youths was not simple, he added.

Dr Subba Rao of the ZSI said cultured pearls had first been experimented with in China in the 13th century in fresh water ponds. Pearl culture in sea water started first in Japan and Hong Kong. The process involves implantation of a grain in the oysters that leads to irritation within it. To overcome the irritation caused by the insertion of foreign particles the oyster produces secretions which gradually enclose the grain. This ultimately leads to the formation of a pearl, given certain weather conditions and the chemical composition of water. Dr Basu pointed out that on occasion, the mussel fibre may be used to cause irritation within the mussel and in such cases, laboratory tests cannot identify the end product as a cultured pearl. Hence, the distinction between natural and cultured pearl is not easily discernible.

Tests at the Jadavpore pond revealed that tribes of the water mussels had settled in the softer sediments of the pond after having driven other marine zoological specimens to the harder areas. The ZSI experts maintain that water mussels are not typical oysters or saline water species. According to Dr Subba Rao, *Lamellidens marginals* and *L. Cornanus* are two commonly found species. He said these two were capable of producing pearls in fresh water under certain specific conditions. Dr Basu, however, admitted that the number of pearl producing mussels was far higher in the Jadavpore pond than the other places where pearls had been found earlier. He added that on the basis of tests, the possibility of cultivating pearls in this pond might be seriously considered.

The former director of the ZSI, Dr B S. Lamba, also felt that more extensive research was necessary. "The findings might revolutionise the pearl industry in India," he said.

What is the commercial viability of fresh water pearls? Pearl dealers in Calcutta said that considering the size and growth of the Jadavpore pearls, they would not fetch a good price. Usually small fresh water pearls fetch Rs 15 to Rs 100 depending on their quality. A central Calcutta jeweller said that while most pearls sell by weight in the wholesale market, only precious ones earn high prices. He said the pearls found in the pond can sell from Rs 15 to Rs 50 each.

The relatively low prices placed on the Jadavpore pearls is not because of poor quality but because the gems were fished out of the water prematurely. Unnayani representatives lamented, "One year is too short a period for a full fledged pearl to develop." A GSI official also echoed their opinion. "At least four or five years are needed to develop a full sized pearl." Dr Basu attributed the absence of pearls in juvenile mussels to this as well.

Even as experts and the public argue about the quality and viability of producing pearls in fresh water ponds in cities, there is no doubt that a breakthrough will open up new avenues in indigenous pearl production. ■

THE ESSENCE OF

India is different. India defies definition. India is an entire universe in itself. And this universe is encompassed in the fascinating art of this great subcontinent. A few examples in this first extract from **B. N. Goswamy** and photographer **Jean-Louis Nou**'s book, *Essence of Indian Art*

Extracted from *Essence of Indian Art* by B.N. Goswamy; photographs by Jean-Louis Nou; Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad and Asian Art Museum of San Francisco; paperback; Rs 450

THE GODDESS IN COMBAT WITH ASURAS

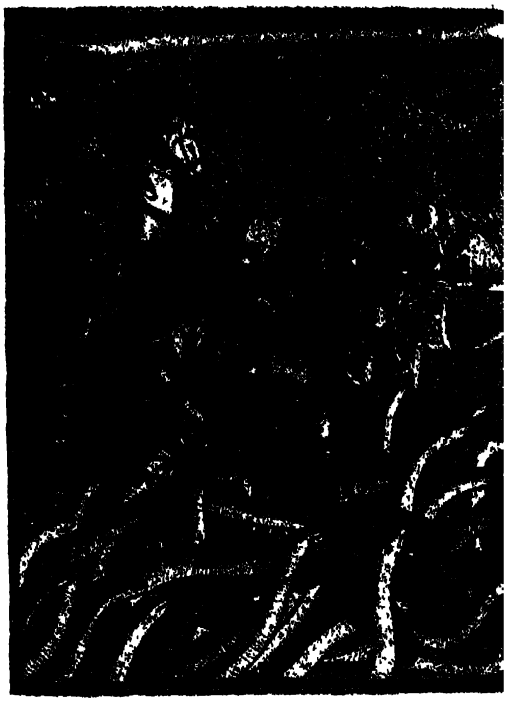
From a Devi Mahatmya *series, Gouache on paper, Rajasthan, dated 1703, from a Sirohi workshop, 12.8 × 20.5 cm, State Museum, Lucknow, No 65.135/2*

Passionate energy informs some of the Rajput manuscripts, Rajasthani or Pahari, that treat the exploits of the goddess. This text is not unique in providing opportunities for showing spirited action, but there is a special air of conviction in most of these leaves. This may stem from the widely held belief in the efficacy of the *Devi Mahatmya* as a text, which is recited even today (as it was in days past) when uncommon dangers present themselves, or a specific wish is entertained by the devotee. Through faith in this text—its recitation and its visualization—they must have sought to propitiate Devi.

The present leaf picks out another episode from the goddess's many encounters with hordes of demons, as narrated in the text. As she sits self-assured on her leaping tiger she hurls weapons at the enemy and also destroys those hurled at her. With two of her upper arms, she wields a massive-looking double edged sword or *khanda*, with the other two, she fingers another missile-throwing weapon that reminds one of the matchlocks featured in other paintings of this series. Facing her, the two equestrian figures look equally agile, especially the upper one who holds a sword between his teeth as he throws all his energy into the lance he wields with the right hand. These demons have human aspects, and are probably modeled after Muslim generals who fought the Rajput armies. On the ground, several warriors lie dead or dying, pierced by the instruments of death that rain in this gory field of battle.

This series was earlier believed to come from Sirohi in the south of Rajasthan, but a recently discovered leaf from this very manuscript bears a colophon Samvat 1760 (A.D. 1703) and the place of its execution as Balotra, not far from Jodhpur in the Marwar area. The manuscript is unfortunately now widely dispersed and many of its leaves are damaged.





GARUDA AND SNAKES IN COMBAT

From the Shiva Purana *series; Gouache on paper, Pahari, 1st quarter of the 19th century, from a Kangra workshop, Chandigarh Museum, Chandigarh, No 527*

There are times when the Pahari painter, his imagination fired by some little detail in a narrative, gives himself free rein. Opportunities for doing this are offered by a text such as the *Shiv Purana*, which describes at great length the battle, fierce and ongoing, between the gods and demons. Since both are endowed with the power to create their own particular *maya*, a kind of cosmic illusion, the encounters between them take on bizarre aspects at times. When the demon generals let loose countless serpents upon the gods, the gods press into service Garuda, the sun-bird (*vahana*) of Vishnu and natural enemy of snakes: a flight of Garudas in turn pounces upon the snakes. Here we find them making short work of the serpents, maiming and killing them with sharp, powerful beaks. The gods look on: Vishnu on Garuda, Indra on his white elephant Airavata; Surya in his horse-drawn chariot, and so on; so do the demons who occupy the top left part of the painting.

Other things are happening in this leaf.

NDIA



In another sanguine combat, again between the magical, illusory powers of the two antagonists, we find the herds of elephants owned by the demons taken on by a pride of tigers and leopards, which emerge from the side of the god's phalanx. Also, a powerful mace, hurled into the air, perhaps by Vishnu, breaks in two a mountain segment that demons have thrown at them in order to crush them. While this happens, arrows of different descriptions whiz past the earthbound animals

When a powerful demon is spoken of in the Puranic texts, he is often described as an especially *mayavin asura*, wielding great powers or ceating illusions This is what the painter of this series, a member of the Purkhu family of Samloti, also believes Taraka, enemy of the gods, to be. It might be of interest to mention that W.G. Archer sees the work as coming from Garhwal.

WOMAN AND SCORPION

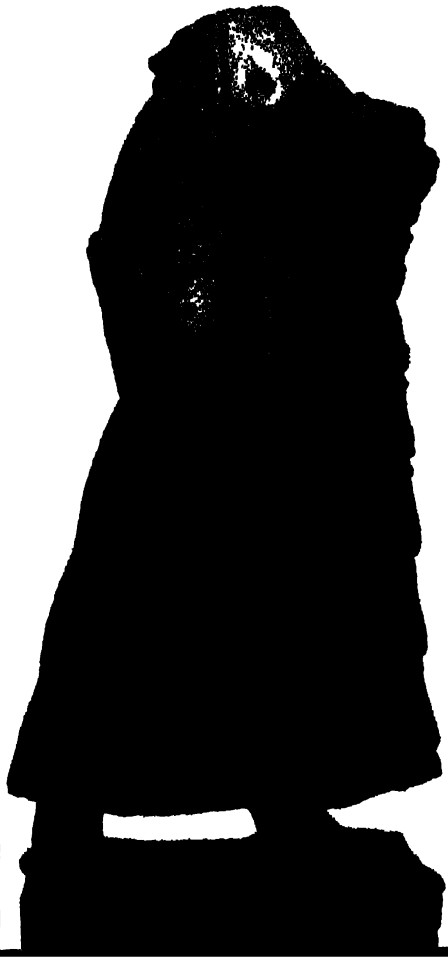
Red sandstone; 5th century; Uttar Pradesh; 75 cm; Indian Museum, Calcutta, No. 25021

A Sanskrit verse, probably by Bhavabhuti, runs.

The folds of her waist are the exudation of allurement from the three interstices of the creators' fingers, as he balances her within his fist, adding weight to loins below and breast above.

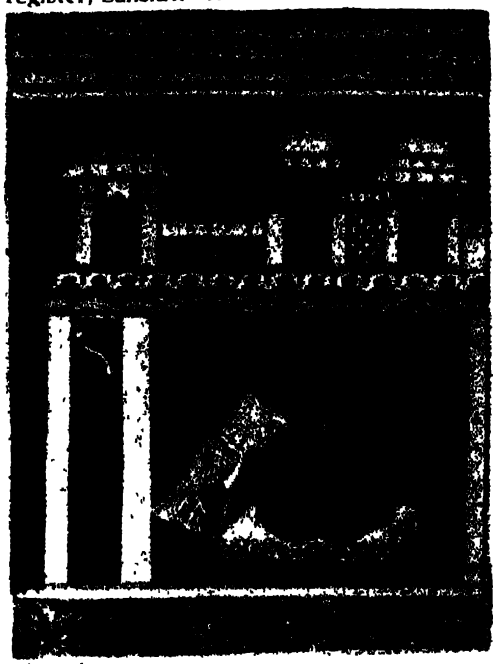
It is images like this, at once graphic and sensuous, of which the sculptor avails himself every so often in the high periods of Indian art. The suddenness of a movement that allows an unexpected glimpse, innocent play in the course of which a state of mind is revealed, are things that the poet and the sculptor alike seize upon, as here, where a scorpion, faintly visible in the narrow and indicating rocks at the base, startles a young maiden of alluring form, with those "smooth thighs" of which the poet speaks Since the upper part of the figure is broken, one cannot be certain about its former appearance, but it is a fair guess that above the narrow waist with its elegant folds, the breasts must have held the loins in balance by their weight

There is wonderful rhythm in the form, and the transparency of the drapery, a cliche in some female figures in this period, is here sensitively exploited to point to that "root of bliss," in the poet's discreet phrase. A sense of jerky motion is communicated by the long, pendant necklace that falls across the bare torso and swings to one side, while the stylized folds along the edge of the lower garment, so sumptuous and so delicate, set off the plain bareness of the lower part of the body, the clinging, revealing surface



THE GUESSING GAME: THE HERO COVERS A HEROINE'S EYES

From an Amarushataka *series; On top register; Sanskrit verses inscribed;*



Gouache on paper; Malwa, 1680; Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, No 52 1/17

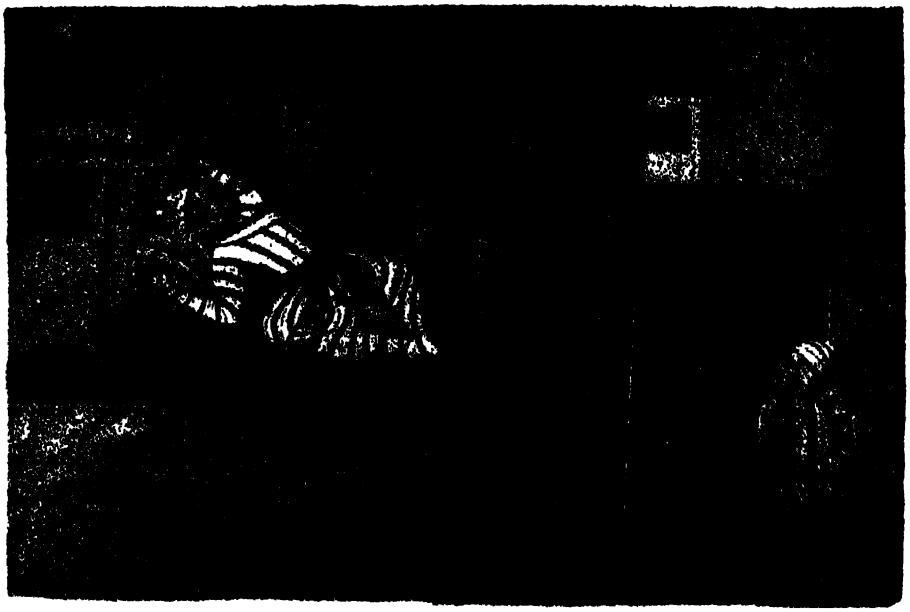
The hero's dilemma and his stratagem for meeting the situation are known from other texts and sources. as he enters, he finds both his lovers on a raised seat, expecting attention from him Quickly he thinks of a way out. With alacrity he advances and covers the eyes of one of them in a tender, playful gesture and, while she feels a thrill of joy course through her body, he bends down to quietly steal a kiss from the lips of the other one, evidently the greater favorite.

Amarus' celebrated anthology, the *Amarushataka*, is rich in such verses, and the Malwa painter avails himself of these delightful, impulsive situations in this rich and colorful series. The action is set apart in a corner of the royal chamber, the stylized elements of architecture provide a highly ornamental ambience, as does the floral frieze below. The flat, rich colors of the ground help build a distinct mood as this amusing little drama of affectionate deceit is enacted.

DASARATHA FALLS INTO A SWOON

Gouache on paper; Mewar, 17th century. 22.1×31.6 cm; Bharat Kala Bhavan, Varanasi, No. 11105

Joyous preparations for Rama's coronation turn to tragedy at the moment depicted in



this painting The scene is taken from the great epic, the *Ramayana.* King Dasaratha, Rama's aged father, has just been tricked by his jealous wife, Kaikeyi, into promising to send Rama into exile Because he is a king he must keep his word, although it means hurting his favorite son and depriving him of the kingship he was to gain on the very next day. Overcome by grief at the prospect of being parted from his son, Dasaratha faints dead away. Never to fully regain his health, the old man dies a few days later

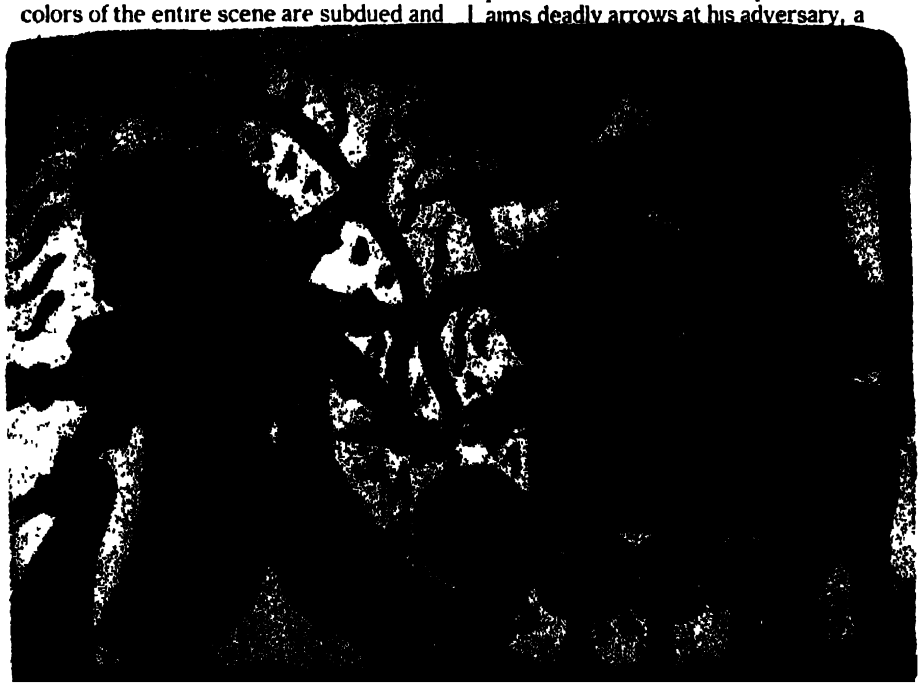
In this rendering of the episode, Dasaratha lies sprawled across his bed with his eyes half closed and his hands thrown helplessly behind him. The strips of his garment swirl around him wildly, reflecting the chaotic state of his mind and the sudden movement of his fall The colors of the entire scene are subdued and cool, suggestive of hopeless sorrow's quiet isolation. (P.K.)

A RAGING BATTLE

Watercolor on paper; Paithan, 4th quarter of the 19th century; 36 × 46 cm; National Museum, New Delhi, No 83 63

The energy which informs the battle scenes in Paithan painting is in a class by itself Whole pages seem to burst with vitality, and even though the folk painters from Paithan (who carried these works from village to village, displaying them to the accompaniment of music and song to simple villagers, an indication of the long Indian tradition of "picture showmen") had developed a highly terse, conventional style, it is not difficult to take in their power. Here, a hero on elephant-back [illegible] arms deadly arrows at his adversary, a five-headed figure fighting a hopeless battle as arrows fly, swords clash, and fragments swirl around. The scale of the trees at the bottom of the picture, which follows so closely the tradition of leather puppets, is dramatically altered appropriately to the language of the style, for the focus already is on action here.

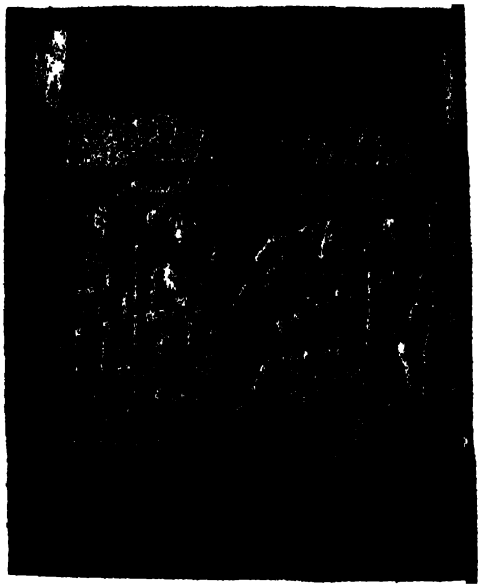
The leaf is from a very late and unidentified series. Although its coloring is harsh and jagged, it seems somehow to fit the heroic mood of the work.



A RULER IN HIS HAREM

Ivory; 18th century; South India; 15 × 10 cm; Collection of Mr D. Natesan, Bangalore

When Shringara is expressed through personal adornment, every detail seems to have been carefully designed and chosen to heighten a mood. This little ivory carved comb has at its center an intimate scene showing a ruler, perhaps a Nayak king, in his harem. He reclines in a large and luxuriant canopied bed, weight on the right elbow as he stretches his legs to the lap of a queen or mistress who sits at his feet. But she does not look at him.



An aura of passion fills the air; the atmosphere of luxury and intimate leisure is nearly perfect. The small scale prevented the carver from lingering upon the beauty of the ladies in this vignette, but he does articulate their feminine forms, their elaborate coiffures, and their jewelry with great care The figure of the king is a paradigm of attentive, loving manhood.

There are traces of coloring on the comb. The sunken relief is edged by geometrical patterns framing the amatory scene. ■

ADDING UP TO A LOT

In a quiet room on the third floor of the residential wing of St Xavier's College, one of the last living colleagues of Albert Einstein leads an unassuming life, characteristic of a Catholic priest. Now in his mid-80s and troubled by failing health, Fr F. Goreux still retains the remarkable sharpness and alacrity which has made him a world figure in mathematics

For Fr Goreux, it has been an arduous journey to cross the rubicon and reach the omega point Though mathematics is the other name of life for him, his vividness cannot be concretised merely into the cold world of figures and equations A philanthropist, an amateur magician, and a brilliant *raconteur*, Fr Goreux is literally worshipped by his students. And he reciprocates this feeling by describing his students as "charming" and "capable of taking on any student in the world in terms of intelligence."

Fr Goreux was born in 1905 in Brussels He received education at St Michel College run by the Jesuit Society, and got his doctorate in mathematics from Louvain University, one of the prestigious institutions of Belgium He then joined the Military Academy, but soon left it to join the Jesuit order. Forty-eight years ago, he came to India to join the mathematics department of St Xavier's College in Calcutta and has remained a Calcuttan ever since

During his illustrious teaching career, he has spurned many lucrative offers to teach at premier Western universities: name and fame never mattered to him. In his school and college days, he was impressed by the priests of the Jesuit order, who were his teachers. Inspired by the "religious motive guiding the institution," he joined the order and went on to become one of its most selfless servants.

As a mathematician, Fr Goreux is virtually an authority on analytical geometry and calculus He has some "original proofs" to his credit, and his two books, *Introduction to Tensor Calculus* and *Differential Geometry*, bear the stamp of his ingenuity The former incidentally is an introduction to Einstein's theory.

Fr Goreux proudly recalls his intimate association with Albert Einstein, the eccentric genius of the scientific world A two-week seminar conducted by Einstein brought the two men together. Fr Goreux was deeply moved by Einstein's simplicity Far from being imposing Einstein had a ready ear for everyone and respected others' opinions as much as his own Sharing the same platform with Einstein was indeed a glorious experience for the Catholic priest

When Fr Goreux came to India for the first time, during the British Raj, it was the custom for personnel at railway stations to call out the name of the station for the convenience of the passengers. During his maiden journey from Bombay to Calcutta he was intrigued to find that every station in India had the same name, "*Cha garam, garam cha* (hot tea)!"

An eminent figure in the mathematics field, Fr F. Goreux came to Calcutta half a century ago. And never looked back

"The most important characteristic of a teacher," says Fr Goreux, "is to love and appreciate the students, and never try to *rule* them." His students include many leading scientists who will vow that he practises exactly what he preaches The teacher must try to expand the natural talents of the students and never try to impose on them his own personality The students must be made confident in their own abilities, and a good teacher, in half an hour, "changes the entire perspective of a student." Fr Goreux regrets that education has become a costly affair today and the average student cannot spare the money necessary to buy good books for a wider knowledge base He minces no words against the present teaching community "who are out to earn money and have no devotion to their noble job."

Fr P. D'Abrew, the prefect of a leading missionary school of the city and one who was close to Fr Goreux, recalls an incident involving the latter and the controller of examinations of a certain university The students had made specific complaints about the question paper, and Fr Goreux took up their cause in right earnest He fiercely pointed out to the controller that several questions were out of syllabus and some were much above standard, and demanded that justice be meted out to the students. With a lesser mortal it could have led to a bitter showdown, but the controller was awed by the sincerity of Fr Goreux's convictions and his genuine concern for the students. He readily agreed to look into the students' grievances, and Fr Goreux left a happy man

Fr Goreux has taught students in Western countries as well as in India, but the one fundamental quality of the latter which appeals to him is their "sensitiveness to friendship." "The students in England judge a teacher by his professional abilities, but those in India are impressed by his human values," he says

Being an educationist in the true sense, it is no surprise that Fr Goreux professes religious toleration and universal brotherhood. In an age where the anguished voice of humanity is getting lost in the cacophony of communal forces, he admires all religions, saying, "We are in the hands of God. The idea of worship is central to all religions, though there may be special ways of doing it."

Fr Goreux has today become one with Calcutta and does not have links with Belgium except for occasional meetings with his sister He organised the Goffi Club, an association for "simple-minded people," and is said to have remodelled an entire typewriter by introducing mathematical notations to suit his needs Asked why he liked the city so much, he replied that it was for its novelty. "Nowhere in the world would you find a cow standing in the middle of the street, obstructing traffic," he laughs.

Suvagato Chowdhury



Sourik Poddar

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aakhri Adaalat:** Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road, 241383), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street, 250437), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Park Show House (Park Street, 441971), Madhuban (Regent Park)

Directed by Rajiv Mehra and with music by Annu Malik, the film stars Vinod Khanna, Dimple Kapadia, Jackie Shroff, Sonam and Gulshan Grover

• **Commando:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Gem (Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)

Directed by B Subhash, with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Mandakini and Hemant Birje.

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)— 4 shows.

Directed by K Bapaiah, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra, Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 292250)—3 shows, Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)— 4 shows

Govinda, Neelam, and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film, directed by Kirti Kumar The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T. Prakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Kabrastan:** Society (Corporation Place; 241002)—12 30, 3 15, 6 15, 9, Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)

A film by Mohan Bhakri

• **Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Indira (I, Roy Road, 471757)- 4 shows

Directed by T Rama Rao, the film stars Dharmendra, Sunjay Dutt, Chunkey Pandey, Neelam Mehra, Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amrapurkar The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Mere Baad:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141) & Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)— noon; Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828—4 shows

Raakhee and Amrish Puri play the lead in this film, directed by Vishwamitra and music by Usha Khanna

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows; Moonlight (T C Dutta Street; 254956)— noon

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S.N Banerjee Road, 242664), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—4 shows

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor

• **Rukhsat:** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 247616), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 478167), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street, 354450)

A film by Sirni Garewal who also stars along with Mithun Chakraborty, Anooradha Patel and Amrish Puri The music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Zulm Ko Jala Doonga (A):** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046)

Naseeruddin Shah stars in this Mahendra Shah film whose music is by Nadeem Shravan Others in the cast are Sumeet Saigal, Vasanta Sena, Kiran Kumar, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Aruna Irani



Lipika, Tapas Paul and Abhisek Chatterjee in *Tumi Kato Sundar*

Bengali Films

• **Agoon:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 47-3462)—3, 5.45, 8 30, Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—2.30, 5.15, 8

A film by Victor Banerjee, who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Tanuja, Divya Rana, Utpal Dutta, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra, Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury. The music is by R.D. Burman

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road; 474686)— 1, 4, 7.

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayashree T. and Sukhen Das. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.



Anooradha Patel and Mithun Chakraborty in *Rukhsat*

7 DAYS



Sridevi in *Ram Avtar*

• **Saptapadi:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 358080) Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 461567) 2.30, 5.30, 8.30

A re-release of this Ajoy Kar hit starring the legendary pair, Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

• **Tumi Kato Sundar,** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045) 2.30, 5.30, 8.15 Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282) 2, 5, 7.45

Lapas Paul and Moon Moon Sen are the lead pair in this Manoj Ghosh film. Others in the cast are Abhisek Chatterjee, Lipika, Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Nirmal Kumar, Satya Banerjee, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee and Master Rintu.

NEW RELEASES

Hindi films

• **Pyar Hi Pyar:** Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 244822), Prabhat (all 4 shows)

The film stars Dharmendra, Vyjantimala and Pran. A R S Production, it is directed by Bhappi Soni and the music is by Shankar Jaikishan.

• **Waqt Ki Awaz:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Majestic, Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), T S House, Priya, Malancha, Vaishali and Ananya.

A Shree Ramdevji art release, it stars Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi. Produced by Trivikrama Rao, it is directed by K. Bapaiah and the music is by Bappi Lahiri.

Special Events

July 4—10:4 to 8 pm

Exhibition of photography, Encounter 2, by Ravi Kant Dwivedi.

At the New Gallery, Academy of Fine Arts.

July 6, 6.45 pm

Natasena present the 632nd show of their comedy, *Gorur Gari Headlight*. The play is directed by Satyajit Ray.

At Rabindra Sadan.

TRAVEL

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A at 1905

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830, Dep (5): AI-306 at 1930

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1855; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt): Arr. (6). AI-455A at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York): Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1700 amd Dep (2): SU-542 at 1810; Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555, Dep (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ 116 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ 113 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-114 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4) IC 247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA 213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC-248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC 443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi. Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG 694 at 1715 and IC 223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045 Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG 313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi. Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400; Arr (1, 3, 5). IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6). IC-296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1): IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1): IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily). IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-542 at 0620, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC 277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7): IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1, 4, 6) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (1, 3, 5). IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily). IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily): IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105.

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

* **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555; Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6)· PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15 25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

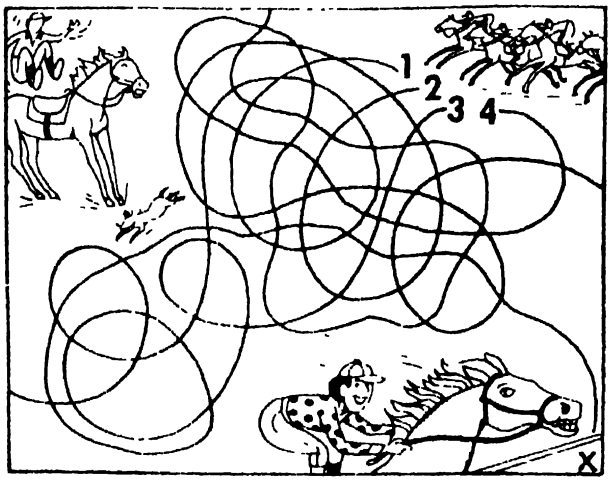
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY
HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20 30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21 00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4 30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21 50	**Sambalpur Express**	5 55	6
15	21 30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10 00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	11-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

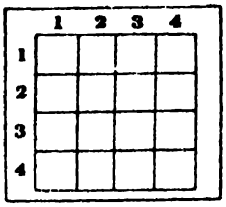
ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



PICK 'EM! Just one of four horses crosses the finish line at lower right above Which one is for you to say

• **PAPER CLIP!** How can you take four from four and leave eight? Hint It takes paper to do this Pen or pencil won't help How s it done?



CROSSWORD PUZZLER

A miniature crossword puzzle that s a wits tester appears above Some trick definition are used to solve it They are

ACROSS
1 A linoleum block
2 A kind of fish
3 Sewer pipe
4 Mahjong counter

DOWN
1 Golf ball pegs
2 Assenting voices
3 Overhead railways
4 Life of Riley

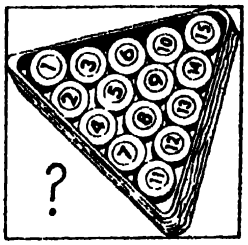
As stated solution of this poser requires your ability to see through some trick definitions

How quickly can you meet the challenge?

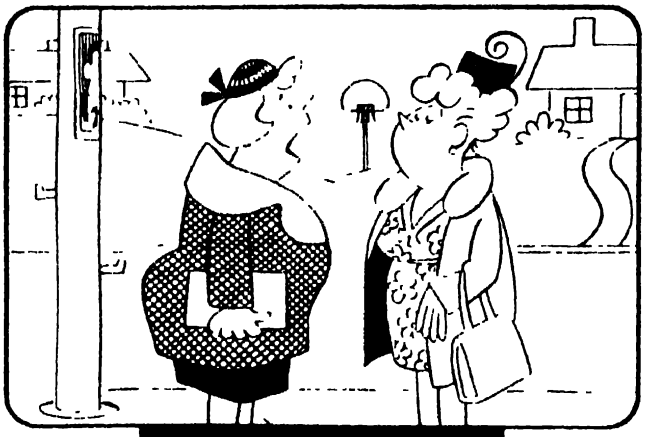
• **RACK STACK!** Fifteen pool-balls are racked up below How many more similar-sized balls will stack atop this formation to form a five-layer (in all) triangular pyramid with one ball on top?

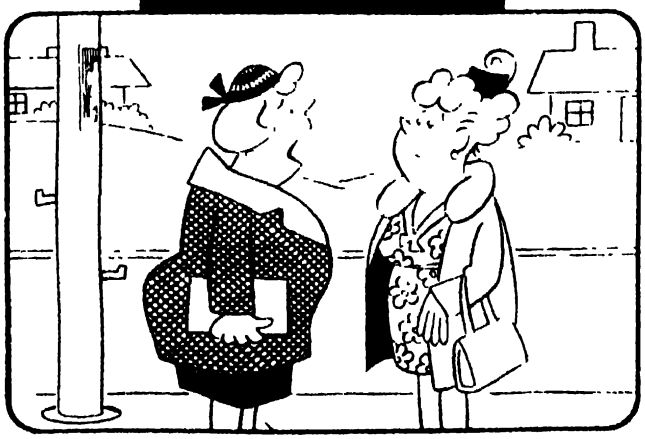
Will it require 10 more balls? Sixteen more, as many as 20 more?

If you can't puzzle out this answer take a guess



HOCUS-FOCUS

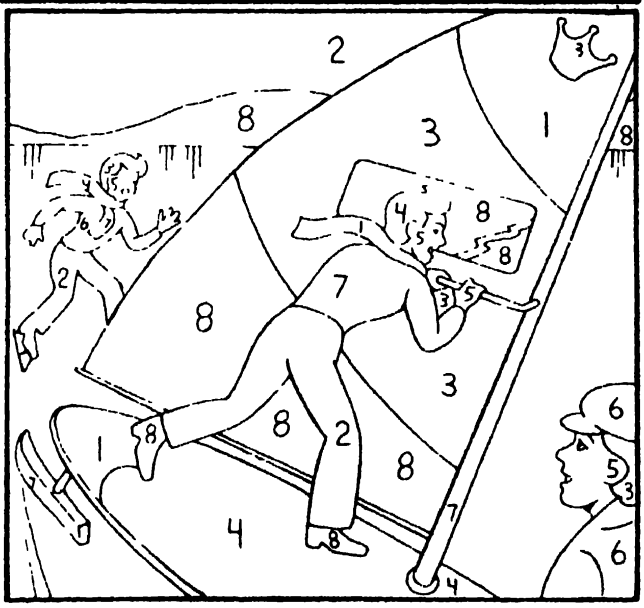




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Poster is smaller 2 Collar is different 3 Basketball hoop is missing 4 Hat is different 5 Purse is smaller 6 Path is missing

FUNSPOT



ICE SAILOR! Apply your crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments above. Colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

POMANDER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Drop name

INNER EYE ◻ Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES

March 21--April 20

The moon s last quarter in your sign will help you to find another job, communicate with people and embark on a journey There are chances that you will strike a bargain but do not do so at the expense of other people Fuse ambition with tolerance Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

The moon Jupiter in your sign emphasises matters pertaining to finances and expenses However do not fret as the increased expenditure will bring in returns soon Business transactions will be a success Those in import-export, collaborations teaching, research and public relations will do well

GEMINI

May 21 June 20

You will excel in anything that you set out to do Architects businessmen, real estate dealers and painters will make it big Friends and relatives will offer you all possible support However, learn to be self reliant and innovative You will launch a new enterprise soon

CANCER

June 21 July 20

Mars sextiles Jupiter and there is no doubt as to who is the boss Success is assured at work and home Romance and entertainment are foretold Money will pour in and you will win awards The last four days of the week are ideal for pushing a new project or enterprise Rely on your intuition in all important matters

LEO

July 21 August 21

This is a time for romance and work Even though you will work at a feverish pace, you will accomplish a great deal in your personal life Socialising and entertainment are indicated Do not pay heed to criticism from those who are jealous of your success Family matters are highlighted You will win accolades at work

VIRGO

August 22--Sept 22

This is the time to embark on projects involving writing, teaching, communicating and debating Important news that you have been waiting for since a long time will



now come your way Do not disregard monetary affairs as there are chances that someone will try to cheat you Rely on meditation and introspection to attain peace of mind Businessmen and builders will come into money

LIBRA

Sept 23- Oct 22

You will get along well with people This quality will see you through trying times and will ensure that you get things done Your popularity will reach new heights now Accept invitations with good grace Friends and lovers will give you peace and happiness

SCORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 22

Job opportunities will present themselves to you A legacy or windfall is likely to come your way Ceremonies, home and property disputes and monetary affairs will keep you busy Despite your hectic schedule, find some time to relax and recuperate You will soon receive an important message or letter

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

Music will be the motivating factor in your life now as Mercury returns to your fifth angle Travel, creativity, children and research will keep you busy in the coming weeks In the next few days matters pertaining to joint finances, insurance and loans will also be highlighted Ceremonies, rites and rituals will gain prominence now Anything that you now do, will gain publicity

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

While the home and business fronts will see several changes you will be involved in solving personal and professional posers Stay alert and examine all the pros and cons of issues before taking a decision Rules may however have to be broken Success and happiness will be yours towards the weekend

AQUARIUS

Jan 20- Feb 18

The moon s last quarter in your sign will help you to be decisive and dominating This attitude may, however, lead to problems and people may feel threatened by you Given time, they will start looking up to you for ideas Romance and outings are indicated Hobbies and creative pursuits are sure to give happiness

PISCES

Feb 19- March 20

The Mars sextile Jupiter formation highlights buying, selling, investment and shopping You can start a new enterprise now Partying and socialising will keep you busy Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication Sign contracts and take on new assignments

BIRTHDAYS

July 3

Moon sextile Saturn-Uranus: A job hop or promotion is on the cards. An overseas assignment is possible A shift or transfer cannot be ruled out. Producers and dealers will make it big as will research scientists and educationists A year for progress.

July 4

Moon trine sun, square Mercury: Expenses will rise but you will be exceptionally lucky in matters pertaining to the heart House and property disputes will be solved amicably New enterprises may be launched. Children and loved ones will provide a great deal of joy.

July 5

The Mars moon conjunction will strengthen your determination to do well. A journey may take on added significance now. Artists, politicians and editors will have to take extra care to ensure that they do not step on any toes. Try and clear all misunderstandings.

July 6

Moon's last quarter Aries: Do not be impulsive, and weigh all the pros and cons before taking any decisions. Do not, however, sit back and enjoy your past achievements either Step out and take reasonable risks Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible.

July 7

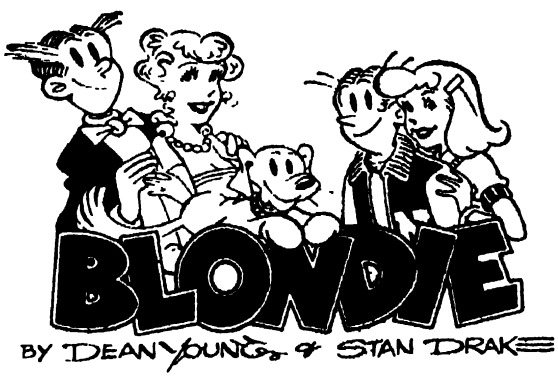
Moon trine Saturn-Uranus. A lucky year lies ahead Take chances and forge ahead This is the time to expand your work and even take on a new job Your creative skills and leadership qualities will find full expression now.

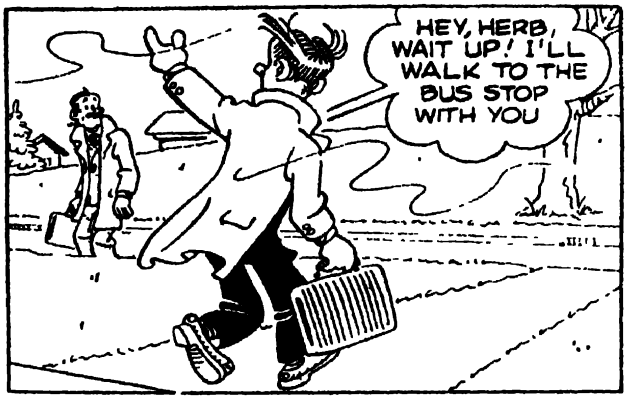
July 8

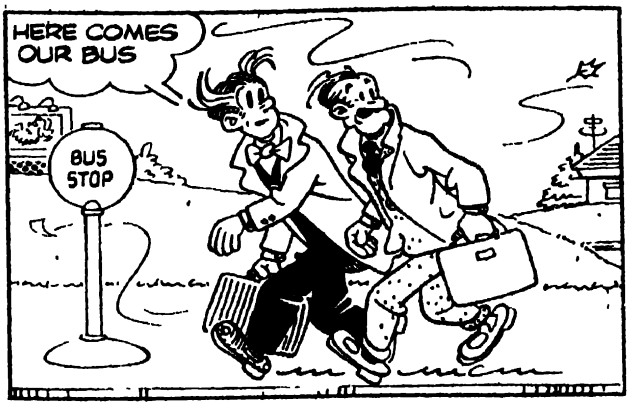
Mars sextile Jupiter:- Entertainment, socialising and monetary affairs are highlighted in the year ahead. You will seriously think of settling down now. Do not underestimate your abilities and rely on your intuition when in doubt. Emotional attachments are likely.

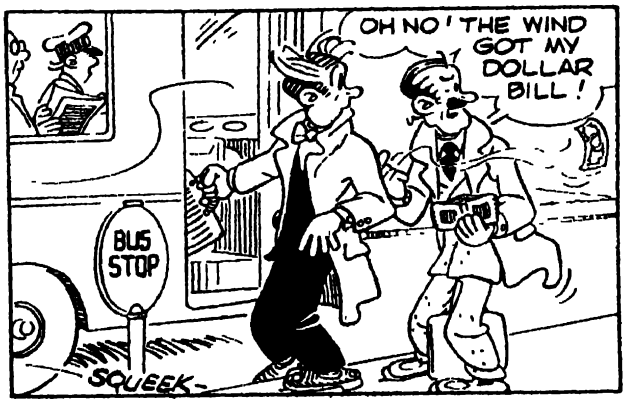
July 9

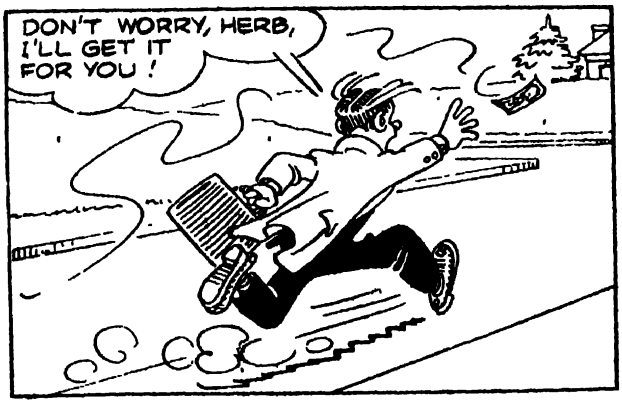
Moon conjunction Jupiter: Expansion and progress are highlighted. You are due for a promotion soon. The eligible and fancyfree will settle down. A reunion from estranged ones is also likely. Children and grandchildren will provide joy. Take care of your health and exercise regularly.

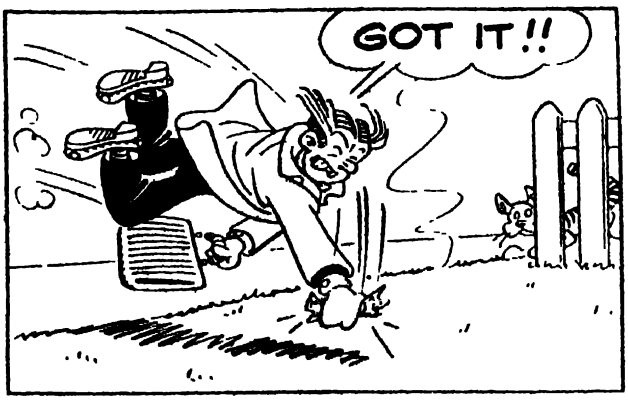


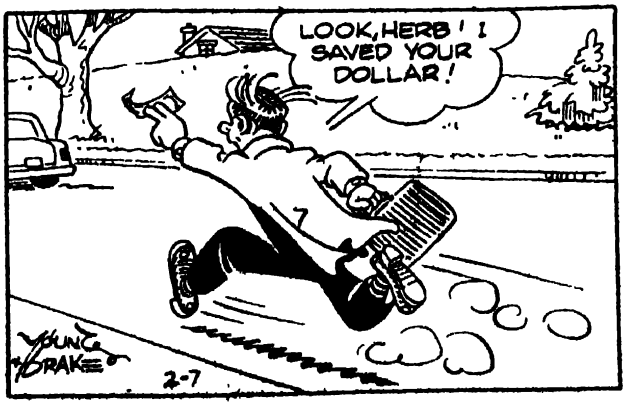












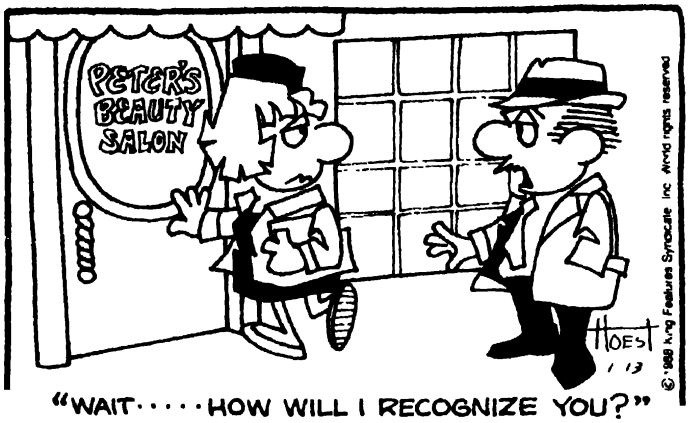
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HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



THE LOCKHORNS



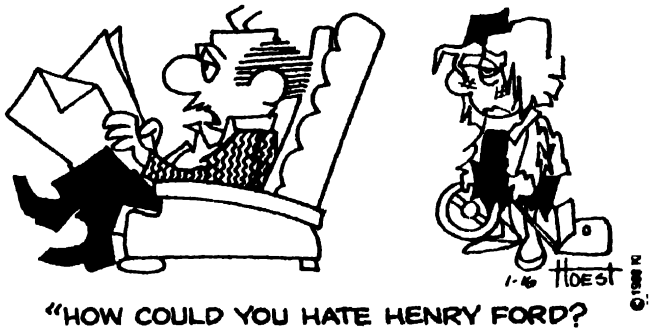
"WAIT·····HOW WILL I RECOGNIZE YOU?"



"WELL, I'D BETTER GET BUSY. I NEED TO LOSE TWENTY POUNDS AND GROW A FULL HEAD OF HAIR IN TIME FOR MY CLASS REUNION."



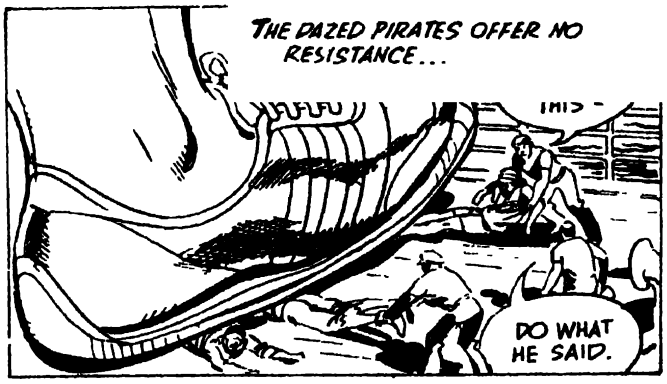
"IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ANYTHING, FAKE IT."



"HOW COULD YOU HATE HENRY FORD? YOU NEVER EVEN MET THE MAN!"

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk











Photograph: **Arindam Chatterjee**

NELCO BLUE DIAMOND

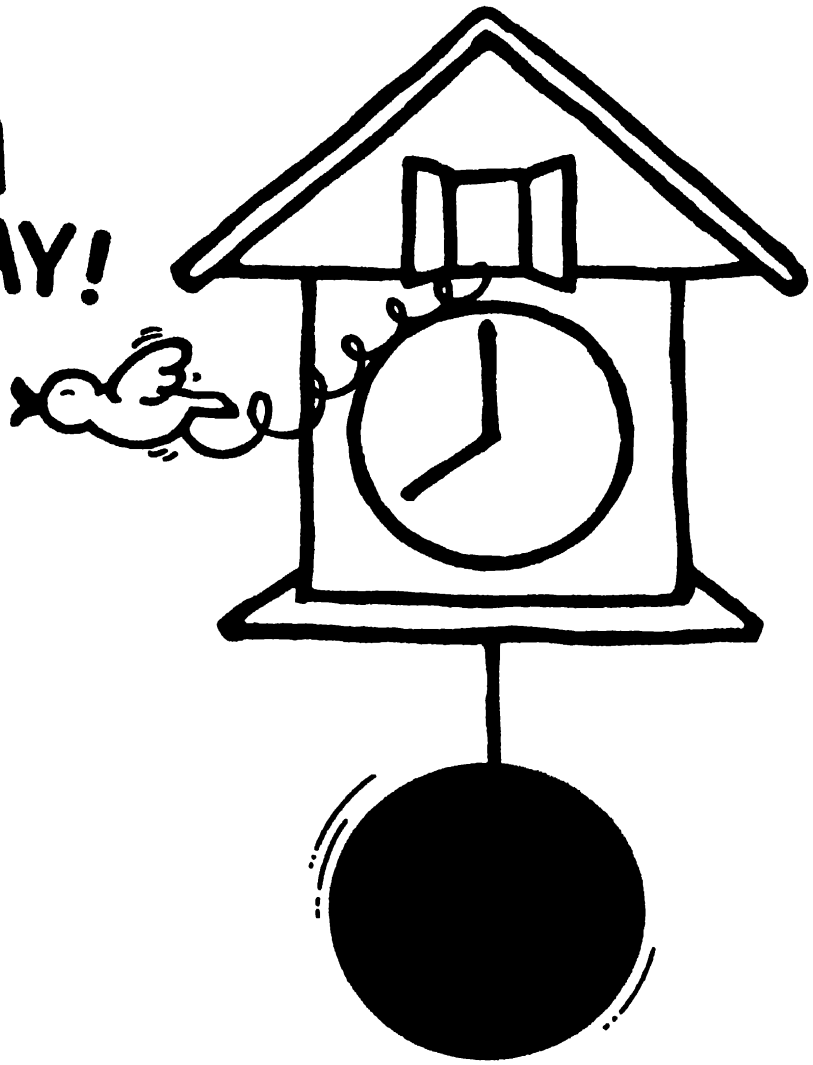
It's been seen.
It's been compared.
It's been bought.

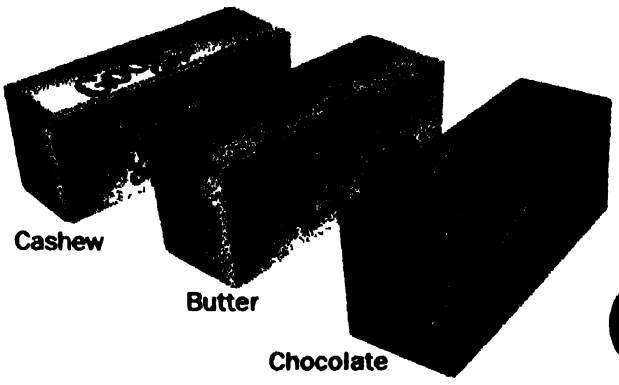
NOW, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!



NELCO
BLUE DIAMOND
PRODUCT

HAVE A GOOD DAY!





The wholesome goodness of the best ingredients, mixed with love and baked with care, for that special 'Mummy's-made-them' taste.

BRITANNIA

Good Day™

That special home-made taste!

LINTAS BIN GY P 9 2417

Mail

[illegible] Mitra's essay says that someone, some day, will make Calcutta the queen she was meant to be. We should make it happen ourselves because no angel will come down to do it.

Bharat Kumar,
Calcutta

● The essay was touching, but it is pointless to expect a favourable response to the city from all its residents. It is now up to us to find for our Cinderella a handsome Prince Charming.

Sonia Majumdar,
Calcutta

The Computer Club

I was very disheartened to find that the article on computer training (June 12) failed to mention The Computer Club located at 169 Bepin Pal Road, Calcutta 700 029. The club was not mentioned in this earlier supplement on computer education (May 29) either in spite of the fact that our computer training, workshops are unique and highly successful. At present, we have approximately 200 members and The Computer Club is probably the first of its kind in the country.

[illegible]

On the Contrary

Dr B.N. Nag, general secretary of the Association of Health Service Doctors, West Bengal, has raised some objections (Post Mortem, June 19) relating to the article, 'How Reliable is Your Doctor?' (May 1). As a matter of fact, the reporters deserve congratulations and deep appreciation for revealing the actual deeds of the doctors. Whatever has been written is cent per cent true and is an eye-opener for the general public. If Dr Nag is so worried about such doctors, he would do better advising them not to be so commercial minded and telling them that they have no right to play with precious lives.

If Dr Nag wants to see how the life of my wife has been completely ruined, he is most welcome to my residence to see for himself as to how a wellknown orthopaedic surgeon (*name withheld*) who did the hip-joint operation of my wife in March 1980 and again in November 1980, has totally damaged her leg. Her condition became much worse after the operations. And for all this, he looted me like anything, making me completely bankrupt. That is why the people of Calcutta have totally lost confidence in the doctors here and are forced to go out of the state for proper medical treatment.

B.K. Gupta,
Calcutta

Children, Too

It is true that sometimes parents do not take proper care of their children, as Debaki Nandan Mondal wrote ('The Tragedy of Not Understanding', June 5). Children are often not bothered about studies, either. They go to school, make friends and loiter around after school with their parents' money. Something should be written about that, too.

Md. Asrif Ayaz,
Calcutta

Tribute to Raj



The Colour Magazine has [illegible] you [illegible] readers [illegible]

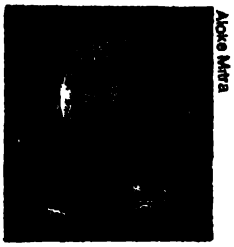
Heart-stopping

The cover story [illegible] Morality [illegible] the photographs [illegible] [illegible]

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The Telegraph

10 JULY 1988



Aloke Mitra

13 Lt Gen R M Vohra, the new GOC in C recalls his experiences on the battlefield and what the new post means to him

18 The concluding extract from the book *Essence of Indian Art*

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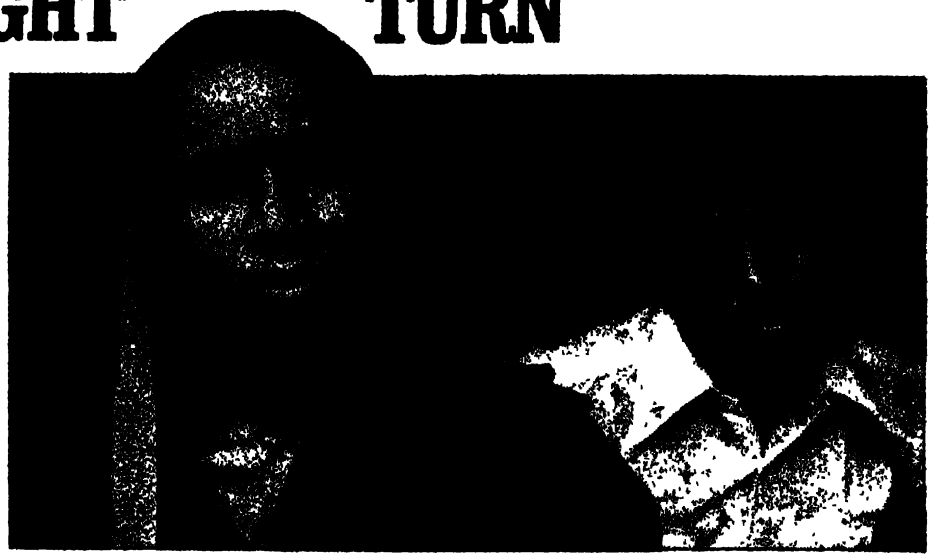
25 Comics

30 Candid Camera

Cover Aloke Mitra

TAKING A RIGHT TURN

That's what life is about. Photographer Sunil K. Dutt discovered the human being in the antisocial who gave up a life of petty crime and is now doing well



Bar Jahan and his wife

That even antisocials have a heart that throbs in their breast was proved by Bar Jahan (30) recently Bar Jahan was an expert pickpocket and snatcher who had been making his living thus since the tender age of 14. Of course, he should have been doing something more constructive.

But destiny ordains otherwise sometimes And the road from Ilambazar to Santiniketan (Birbhum district) became Bar Jahan's regular 'beat' The profession was paying, no doubt, even it somewhat fraught with danger. Society had not given him what he felt was his right; and he took to taking from others what he felt was his He also had a wife and two children to look after

Destiny had another turn to add to his life In a wallet he had picked one day, he found just a little money and a doctor's prescription which he could make little of, being illiterate. Something kept worrying him, however, and he had this prescription read to him by an associate. This gentleman scolded him and thinking it was a prescription for Bar Jahan's mother, he said "These were very important medicines for your mother And you are still roaming around finding out what it reads! Your poor mother is still alive?"

Something stung Bar Jahan He had picked the pocket of a man who had also lost this important prescription And that loss could cost, or must have already cost, him his mother's life Bar Jahan's conscience kept nagging him Finally, when he could take it no longer, he decided that he would do penance And a modernday Valmiki was born.

Bar Jahan hunted around for something to do and since one good turn deserved another, he managed a loan of Rs 3,900 on September 12, 1986 by the branch manager of a bank in Ilambazar, Mr Subir Ghosh Mr Ghosh heard his full story and was convinced that here was a man who genuinely wanted to reform Deciding that Bar Jahan was a man who needed that little bit of incentive to help him reform, on the basis of the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP), he managed the loan to Bar Jahan.

Today, Bar Jahan has left behind the antisocial deeds that were with him since the age of 14. He is determined to lead a clean life—and by the sweat of his brow. He now trades in cows and goats and earns a weekly packet of Rs 150. He himself realises the meaning of "earning" his income rather than snatching it from others. 'Bar Jahan' exists in many other hearts as well. And this example may convert them, too.■

In his goatery



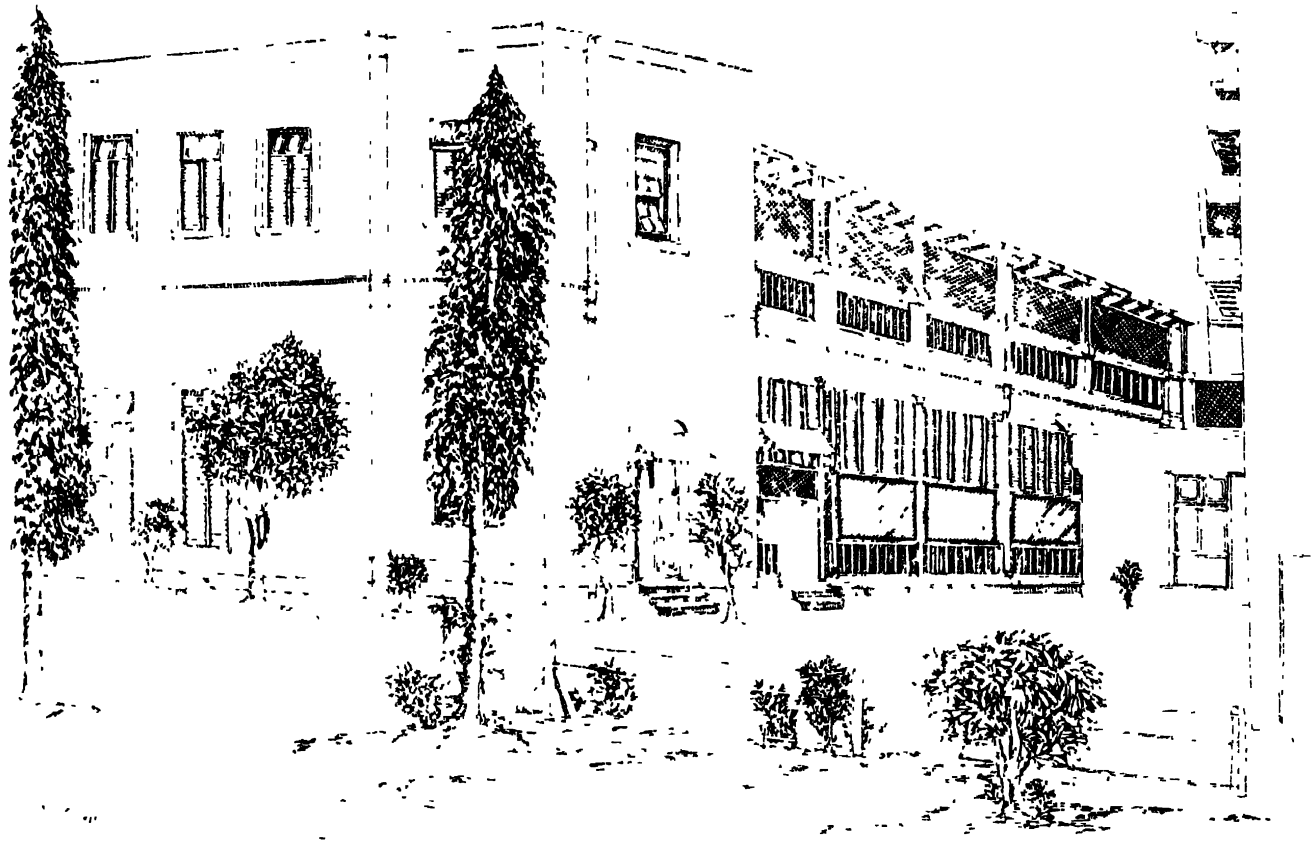
The pan shop with which Bar Jahan has rehabilitated his younger brother





HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

LORETO, ENTALLY: MOTHER TERESA'S FIRST SCHOOL



The sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary more commonly known as the Loreto sisters first came to India in 1841. Their mother house at Rathfarnham in Ireland was founded in 1822. Beginning with their high schools in Calcutta and later those in Darjeeling and Lucknow, the Loreto Sisters made a deep impact on Bengali society. Young women who were educated at Loreto were admiringly called the "Loreto girls" and the first woman judge in the Delhi high court was a Loreto College graduate. The Loreto at Entally, a part of which is sketched above, is one of the order's oldest complexes.

Agnes Gonxha is perhaps the most famous inmate Loreto, Entally, has ever had. But Agnes, whom we know as Mother Teresa, left the complex on August 16, 1931 to begin her order of the Missionaries of Charity with the blessings of the Pope.

Roman Catholic nuns have to follow strict rules of enclosure and the only time Mother Teresa walked out of the Entally complex was from her annual retreat to Darjeeling, was after the Muslim League called Direct Action Day on August 16, 1946. The tragic sights she saw that day with hundreds of dead lying on the streets, may have had something to do with her final decision to leave the safety of the school enclosure to devote herself to the care of the poor, homeless and suffering.

Loreto, Entally, still stands on the same extensive grounds behind the thick, tall walls as it did during Mother Teresa's days there. She used to teach geography and English at Loreto's sister school, St Mary's, within the same compound, and was its headmistress for several years.

AN OLD STORY...IN A NEW VOICE

BY HEMLATA THAWANI

An ordinary roadside cafe quite inconspicuous
Nothing special about it still it would remain momentous
A part of painful memories for at least two if not three of us!

HE...

Love is for the heart let not its passion cloud your life
For love is love and life is life
Just on love life cannot survive
So set me free don't hold me with your eyes
A lifetime commitment? It's too high a price!
So I guess it's goodbye meeting you was nice!
(No angry recriminations
No nasty accusations
No soulful pleas
Not a single sigh released
Just a tension filled atmosphere and an ever rising feeling of unease)
Was that all it was
Were those promises of forever just a clause
In a pact that ended before it was begun, because
the one wanted everlasting love and the other to be just good friends, of course!

SHE...

A month ago I had commanded him to leave me alone
But he relentlessly pursued me till every barrier was off course blown
And now all of a sudden he was gone
who ever said "better late than never" couldn't have felt so forlorn
As I felt, sitting transfixed as if turned to stone
Aimlessly into the streets I finally ventured

With leaden heart and spirits punctured
Youthful optimism no longer held the crown
Maturity stocked in with Olympic speed and weighted me down
To those warnings plentiful if I had paid heed,
Would my heart today in misery bleed?
Oh! I try so hard to forget but that is no easy feat
Memory after memory surges forth Alas! I must accept defeat
Visions of yesterday I see in my mind's eye repeat
Shimmering sands caressing our feet
To the music of the waves our hearts in unison beat
Unspoken messages relayed as our eyes in silence meet
The moon in its starry seat
Gazing down sparkling at our togetherness in ecstasy
Shivering sands now shrunk from my feet,
Lost in the noise of the waves is the cry of my heart's solitary beat
My pleading eyes his now refuse to meet,
But for the moon still in its starry seat,
Now gazing down with a sad smile- our togetherness could be mere fantasy!
(In the name of all that is just and all that is fair
The story should have ended there
But conspiracies at higher levels contaminated the air.
And in a world where finer emotions are so rare
Began the tragedy of a mortal mere!)

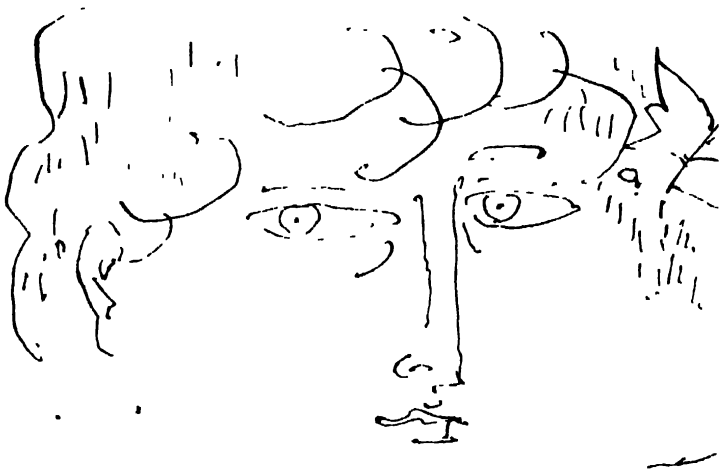
SHE...

To be just "friends" with no ties attached
It sounded quite easy, but I couldn't be so detatched
So I broke away to avoid the pain
But, a fond memory it could no longer remain
For when fate decided to throw us together again,
There wasn't much I could do, that's certain
(The meeting place was the same
But the scene enacted this time was not so tame
When the purpose of the meeting into the open came
Each on the other got the blame)
Nerves were highly strung
Accusations, wildly flung
He refused to give up his ambitions and aspirations

She argued about her rights and liberation
The "issue" under consideration
Created endless debates on chauvinism and emancipation
But finally they reached a mutual conclusion
Abortion was the only solution!
Sadly enough, their verbal war stifled the cries of their very own creation!
Small, helpless, defenceless
A "living" entity nonetheless!
No cacophonous proclamations
No cruel recrimination
Only a silent appeal full of determination
"Give my feelings too some consideration

ME.....(The New Voice)

Life for them is a game
"Playing at love" is the name
Loving and leaving is a regular sequence,
A "living mistake" is sometimes the consequence
For them I was "anathema"
My death the only answer to their "dilemma
It was life and I had no say
For their "mistake" I had to pay
I thought children were considered the Image of God





But then an unwanted child is a burden one can ill afford
So when freedom is at stake
The Image of God' is renamed 'mistake"
And obliterated before its birth
From the very face of the earth
A "couldn't care less" attitude
at such a blasphemy profanity indignity is adopted by a multitude
No doubt their lassitude and passivity
Gives a blatant testimony of their innate insensitivity
A different story understood by few
Was presented by Spike Milligan for review
And I must give credit where it is due
For he is one more in a billion
Who in his book *Sir, I Declare of a Scorpion*
Has given voice to the unseen and unheard victims abortion
With great depth of feeling and emotion
And thereby won my heartfelt admiration
Since I cannot find words to express the beautiful simplicity his narration
I do sincerely hope I have his permission
For quote I must his version
of the tragic conclusion
of the unwanted child 'abortion'
("Somewhere at sometime
They committed themselves to me
And so I was
Small, but I was
Tiny in shape
Lusting to live
I hung in my pail my eyes
Soon they knew of me
My Mother My Father
I had no say in my being
I lived on trust
And love
Though I couldn't think
Each part of me was a me
A silent Wait for me
I will bring you love
I was taken
Blind, naked into exile
By the hand of fate
Whose good name
Was graven on a silver plate
in Wimpole Street
And dropped on the sterile floor
Of a plastic bag operated
Waste bucket
There was no Queen's Counsel
To take my brief
The cot I might have warmed
Stood in Harrod's shop window
When my passing was told
My father *smiled*
No grief filled my empty place
My death was celebrated
With two tickets to see Danny La Rue
Who was pretending to be a woman
Like my Mother was")
No grave, no epitaph no commemoration
So shed no tears on my execution
Soon I'll remain just a figment of imagination
For all my protestations
I'm too tiny
And a single soul's mutiny
However well meant cannot change our Destiny"■



Ashoke Das

A universally popular fare

DELICIOUS DIRT

Which Calcutta school child has not partaken of *puchkas* from his or her favourite *puchkawala*, crunching the innocuous looking but unbelievably tasty coriander and chilly laced potato filled wonder, unquestionably one of the marvels of Indian culinary expertise. Walk down any of the bylanes of Calcutta and you are sure to spot a *puchkawala*. More often than not, he is surrounded by a bevy of hungry customers in the process of downing the tamarind water served with the *puchkas* or eagerly awaiting their turn. His clothes could be bordering on gray, his bare feet calloused with dirt (who dares to see his finger nails) or he may be dressed in a clean white dhoti with sparkling aluminium utensils lying atop his stand.

But for all their popularity, every now and then, the state government and civic minded citizens raise a hue and cry over the unhygienic conditions in which Calcutta's ubiquitous *puchkawalas* live and prepare their fare. The uproar gained momentum when about 30 people fell ill in April after eating *bhelpuri* at the maidan opposite Victoria Memorial. Soon after, the corporation authorities conducted raids on the 2,500 *puchkawalas* spread out in the city and its suburbs.

What was surprising, however, was the speed with which the *puchkawalas* mustered their defences and organised anti police and municipal rallies to protest against what they called harassment. Interestingly, the state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is masterminding the protest move and has formed an association for the *puchka* hawkers called Kalikata Puchka Nirmata-Bikreta Sangh (Calcutta *puchka* makers and sellers' union). Last month, at least 1,500 *puchkawalas* led by the BJP municipal councillor Shantilal Jain, participated in a protest rally outside Writers' Buildings.

Calcutta's popular *puchkawalas* are up in arms following police raids on them. Whom should we support?

Barun Ghosh reports

Tapan Sikdar, the state BJP general secretary, asserts that they will intensify their stir against the state government if it continues with its present harassment. He alleges that the police and corporation officials have been "torturing" innocent *puchka* vendors under the pretext of launching a drive against unhygienic roadside eateries.

The BJP councillor, Mr Jain, went a step further by organising a training programme for the city *puchkawalas* in Burra Bazar where more than 500 vendors were taught by health officials of the corporation how to prepare *puchkas* hygienically. "We are not against the *puchkawalas* but their unhealthy manner of preparing *puchkas*. This is why we have organised this unique training programme for them," he said.

The mayor of Calcutta Corporation, Kamal Basu, welcomed the move to set up training camps for the *puchkawalas*. "If they are trained to make *puchkas* hygienically, there will be no problem," he said, adding, "Our drive is against only those persons who prepare *puchkas* unhygienically." He said that such training programmes by the corporation health officials would be conducted in other parts of the city as well.

What started as a drive against the *bhelpuri* vendors in the city, developed into a largescale operation against the *puchkawalas* who are found in large numbers in the maidan overlooking Victoria Memorial. Another reason for this anti-*puchkawala* drive is the rumour that the vendors mix drugs in their mixture. "We have been told that the *puchkawalas* mix drugs in the spicy puris to boost their sales," said Subodh Dey, mayor in council member (in charge of health). He attributed the spurt in cases of gastro-enteritis and food poisoning to the unhygienically prepared *puchkas*. "We are perplexed at the food habits of the people who patronise the *puchkawalas* and other roadside eateries even though they are aware of the unhygienic way in which they prepare their wares," he observed.

Most of the city *puchkawalas*, who strayed in from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, have lived here for generations. Even though they live in slums they educate their children in city schools and in some cases, colleges as well. Said Sisaram Sau, 26, resident of a slum on Rakhal Das Auddhya Road near Chetla, "We consider Calcutta to be our homeland." Sisaram, who completed his BA examination from Calcutta University in 1986, hails from Gaya district of Bihar. "My forefathers were *puchka* sellers in Calcutta but I did not take to this profession and continued with my studies," he said.

Sisaram, however, is a exception to the general run-of-the-mill *puchkawalas* in the countless slums dotting Rakhal Das Auddhya Road, Manicktala-Phulbagan, Kalakar Street and Burra Bazar.

Most of what the *puchka* vendors earn is sent back home to their families. Surprisingly, in Calcutta today, the raids notwithstanding, *puchkawalas* earn more than rickshaw-pullers and even taxi drivers.

Agnnswer Sau, a hawker in the Manicktala area confided that he earned more than Rs 1,500 per month of which he spent only Rs 200 on himself "I send the rest of it home Sometimes, I send the entire amount to my parents and wife in Bihar," he added Mugeswar Sau, a vendor in the Kalighat area,attributed their low personal expenses to the fact that "we live with other people from our districts " Mugeswar, who is from Gaya district, said, "We live very simply All we have for lunch are rice and *dal* Bread suffices for dinner We do not eat fish or meat " Most of the puchkawalas have opened bank accounts in the city

One reason why the *puchka* vendors earn more than even taxi drivers is that they lead spartan lives "We don't spend anything on liquor We spend only a small part of what we earn on ourselves and deposit the rest in the bank," said Suleswar Sau who operates in Burra Bazar

One *puchkawala* from Chetla, who preferred anonymity, disclosed that they dealt with drugs which they sold in the *puchkas* to youngsters "The returns are handsome but we have to operate clandestinely," he said According to him the drug laced *puchkas* are sold in parks and the maidan area late in the evening

What about police harassment? 'We have to bribe the police as well They take their quota from us everyday," he added



***Puchkawalas* demonstrating against police raid.**

A senior official of the detective department of the police, however, denied the allegation and said 'We will take stern action against policemen if they are found accepting bribes from *puchkawalas* in parks or the maidan area'

[illegible] and the *puchka* battle over whether [illegible] is the best antidote or not there is little doubt that lovers of this typical Indian delicacy are in for a long pull of exploitation ■

BARTER BANK

• **Comics** and **books:** I offer *Amar Chitra Katha, Richie Rich, Archie* and *Dennis the Menace* comics and several books like *King Solomon's Mines,* the Nancy Drew series and *Fast Bowling* by Bob Willis for any of the following a carrom board, tape recorder, Walkman, English music cassettes, video games or camera. Contact Rajiv Newar, 11/A, Chowringhee Terrace, Calcutta 20.

• **Ceiling fan** and **record player:** I offer a DC ceiling fan and a record player for anything of corresponding value. Contact Indrajit Bhattacharya, 30-B, Galunda Auddy Lane, Chetla, Calcutta 27

• **Video game:** I offer a triple screen video game, *Tronica,* for a Walkman or anything of corresponding value Contact Ravi Shashi Pachisia, 20/2, Ram Swroop Khetry Road, New Alipore, Calcutta 53.

• **Camera, adopter, filters** and **lens hood:** I offer a German Rolleiflex twin lens reflex camera (model F) with built-in coupled and synchronised exposure meter with original leather case, a Rolleiskin 35 mm adopter, three filters and a lens for anything of corresponding value. Contact Thakurdas, c/o India Gift House, Grand Hotel Arcade, 15/4, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 13.

• **Study material:** I offer the complete set of Competition Research's foundation course (with solutions) and other books for IIT-JEE, 1988, for a male bull dog or boxer puppy or Walkman or anything of corresponding value Contact Aniruddha Deb, 56/2, Ananda Mohan Bose Road, Calcutta 74

• **Radiogram,cameras, records** and **stamps:** I offer an HMV radiogram Swinger for a fan or dining table with chairs, I would like to [illegible] National 110 [illegible] for a stereo record player or cassette player or showcase I also offer an Agfa click 3 camera, record of Bengali songs, and a basket of rare Indian stamp for anything of corresponding value Contact Bulbul Ghosh, 6/2, S N Bye Lane Calcutta 65

• **Guitar:** I offer an Indian Hawaian guitar in good condition, for anything of corresponding value Contact Navtej Singh Khattal, Qr no MH 196 G Azad Nagar, PO Mathon Dam, Dist Dhanbad, Pin 828207

• **Camera, posters** and **book:** I offer a click 3 camera in good condition, a few *Cricket Samrat* posters of cricketers and a Hindi edition of the *Guiness Book of World Records* for MBA study material or anything of corresponding value. Contact Sanjay Banka "Manish," 152/1, Banaras Road Main [illegible] Dist Bhoo Salka 151506

• **Study material** I [illegible] the complete [illegible] tion Research Point [illegible] pondence [illegible] other [illegible] adoption [illegible] corresponding [illegible] I S Mahapatra Qr no R16 [illegible] Pin 680015 Orissa

• **Flashlight** I offer a flashlight for two double screen video games or a Walkman or anything of corresponding value Contact Sunil Chhajeria, 21, Bentolla Street, Calcutta 7

• **Magazines** I offer [illegible] issues of the *Weekend Reader* for a Sony or Sanyo Walkman in good condition or anything of corresponding [illegible] Contact Manoj Pandey Pandya House, 94, Cotton Street second floor Calcutta 7

WHERE HAVE THE SMILES GONE?

Sadananda Chakraborti recalls the Darjeeling he knew



Biswaranjan Rakshit

Will Darjeeling be happy again?

The daily newspaper headlines give a grim account of the unending acts of violence in the Darjeeling hills and it is sad to think how fate plays odd tricks with the people and their land which once had been so peaceful. Where are those broad grins gone. The Darjeeling Nepalese will never again wear that smile, for the masks which now hide their beautiful faces will have changed their hearts for all time to come.

To remember Darjeeling, as I saw it during my innumerable visits in the course of my official duties, brings down a shower of sweet nostalgia. Jawaharlal Nehru's visit in December 1957 was one such occasion. A public meeting was organised at the Strawberry Ground, a far too small place for Nehru to address, and by present standards of security, it would be simply impossible to contemplate. But in that cold shivering winter, policemen with lathis took up positions expecting to regulate the crowd as best as they could.

Men and women began to stream in from all directions and soon enough the place was overcrowded. Those who could not find place for their feet had climbed on to vantage points from where they slid down the hill sides and landed on all fours wherever they could. Naturally, the police had to take notice and wielding their lathis, they beat back the over-enthusiastic elements in the crowd and this resulted in jostling and in some fisticuffs. The crowd was in an ugly mood but we knew from past experience that with Nehru on the rostrum the situation would change. Nehru arrived and there were cheers, and when he addressed them they fell silent. The address was soon over and he had to get down a slope to the Darjeeling Mall, which meant that the rear had to be blocked till he was safely away.

But there was another diversion, more steep and perilously close to the route taken by him, and a section of the crowd began to stampede down, expecting to get close to him before he could reach the Mall. The police cordon fell back and failed to stem the tide. The people had only one obstacle left, namely, the six-and-a-half-foot police inspector Campbell, who stood half-way between the surging wave of men and women on one side and Nehru on the other. When the crowd charged at Campbell, he shouted, "Stop!" The crowd stopped and as Campbell turned to face Nehru the Prime Minister in turn shouted back, "Why stop?" and hurled his baton towards him. The inspector gave a smart salute and picked up the baton and returned it to Nehru.

The Nepalese let out a lusty cheer and one of them placed a garland around the inspector's neck. I distinctly heard Campbell say, "What a nuisance!" while the Darjeeling Nepalese gave him the broad grins for which they were famous.

Some 23 years later, when a severe landslide had struck the hillsides of Darjeeling, I happened to be present as the district police chief. Unconfirmed news of extensive damage in the remote areas began to flow in and a lack of prompt relief measures aggravated the temper of the local Nepalese. The police, too, had no

news and tapped their wireless sets on the off-chance of hearing a voice that might come through. Nothing happened and it soon looked that whatever was to be learnt would be from seeing first hand with a reconnaisance team

With a magistrate, we moved down the hillsides with pickaxe and shovels and in time reached Bjonban Beyond this it was almost impassable on account of the road blocks and the rugged hill made every inch of its climbing both tiresome and hazardous We found that a few hamlets had been wiped off the face of the rocks and it was heavy going across the debris We, however, came across a village which seemed to have survived the shock

The place was close to Kanch and the villagers turned away from us in a sullen mood They were angry because we had not reached them soon enough However, I tried my luck and came across an old Gorkha who seemed to enjoy some status in that hamlet and in time good manners broke the surface and we were given tea Inside his house, on a wall hung a sword resembling one which I had seen the Japanese officers carry in Burma during the second world war (I happened to be in Burma during the Japanese occupation)



The Mall as it was in 1965

My guess proved to be correct when the host explained that he was in the Burma Campaign and kept this sword as a souvenir When I explained that I was from Burma, his joy was to be seen to be believed He assembled his folks and broke this news and asked them to give us all the help we required He provided us with guides and almost the whole population followed us, cheering us on our way to Rammam

It was a 19-km trek from Bjonban to Rammam and we promised to return the same way Meanwhile, they were to repair the hill track for which the magistrate assured ready funds We reached Rammam late at night, across the ravaged bridge at Jhepi Our feet began to hurt, but we succeeded in making contact with Darjeeling over wireless

Deputy commissioner Chaturvedi, who was in Darjeeling, flew down relief material in a helicopter and requested us to return by air when the job was done To think of missing the Gorkha ex-serviceman with his Japanese sword waiting to meet us, was far too cruel and we decided to trek back the way we came All the way, it was marigold and marigold, and heaps of garlands were pressed on us till we reached our Gorkha. We found that the tracks were being cleared and a rousing welcome fit for heroes was given to us We were plied with tea and more tea and whatever other delicacies they could produce The farewell was painful and the faces of those little men and women still shine like stars out of the distant mists. ■

THE PEERLESS GENERAL FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD

CORRIGENDUM

In the advertisement feature of The Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. published in the issue dated June 26 1988, the sentence in the first column of page 27 which starts "Even if a ....." should be read as follows:

"Even if a single quarterly instalment has been paid, the same will be returned with bonus after expiry of the Endowment period."



QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

"Who was the first person to die in the electric chair?" asks Manas Barua, Guwahati

The first electrocution in the US occurred in New York's Auburn Prison on August 6, 1890 The condemned murderer was one William Kemmler, who had taken a hatchet to his mistress, Tillie Zeigler, in Buffalo on March 29, 1889 Opinions on the viability of the newly developed electric chair widely differed and Kemmler's execution drew a host of doctors

On the day of the execution, physicians sat around the chair Warden Charles F Durston ushered Kemmler into the death room with solicitous decorum The short, black-haired murderer was wearing a new suit, "dressed better than he had ever been before," in the words of one eyewitness He enjoyed being the center of attention and Warden Durston acted out a role similar to that of a master of ceremonies "Gentlemen," Durston announced dramatically, "this is William Kemmler "

The murderer walked quietly to the chair, gave a little bow and sat down He crossed his legs and calmly stated "The newspapers have been saying a lot of things about me which were not so I wish you all good luck in the world I believe I am going to a good place "

"Now we'll get ready, William," Durston said, upon which the killer stood up for a moment at the warden's motion "Let me take off your coat " With the warden's help, Kemmler took off his coat and casually placed it on the back of the chair in which he was to die He began to undo his vest but the warden reminded him that it was unnecessary to take it off since it was split at the back Kemmler's shirt was then torn to expose the flesh where the lower electrode would be placed De puty Sheriff Joseph Veiling then began to strap Kemmler down, his hands shaking terribly Kemmler looked at Veiling and said soothingly "Don't get excited, Joe I want you to make a good job of this "

Durston then fixed the electrodes Kemmler moved his head from side to side to indicate that the head electrode was too loose "I guess you'd better make that a little tighter," he said Durston next affixed the lower electrodes to the base of the back (this electrode is now fixed to the leg) A mask was then placed over Kemmler's head

"Good bye, William," Durston said

"Good-bye," Kemmler said in the same calm voice

Durston then moved to the door of a small adjoining room where the unseen executioner waited The warden banged on the door twice and the switch was immediately put on, sending 1,000 volts tearing through the killer The current stayed on for 17 seconds (*It* now takes two to three seconds to electrocute a human)

A reporter of the *New York World* watched as doctors gathered about Kemmler's body He stared bug-eyed as "suddenly the breast heaved There was a straining at the straps which bound him The man was alive Warden, physicians, everybody, lost their wits There was a startled cry for the current to be turned on again Signals, only half understood, were given to those in the next room at the switchboard When they knew what had happened, they were prompt to act, and the switch-handle could be heard as it was pulled back and forth, breaking the deadly current into jets "

Though Kemmler was finally pronounced dead, the bungled execution was the cause of diatribes from the press, condemning this new form of execution as inhuman and torturous The New York *Times*, however reserved opinion and commented, "It would be absurd to talk of abandoning the law and going back to the barbarism of hanging "

But, even the *Times* was appalled when almost three years later, on August 27, 1893, the execution of William G Taylor, condemned for cold bloodedly slaying a fellow inmate in Auburn Prison, turned into a horror show

CBS

11th Question: **Who or what are "grey ghosts" in Australia? And why do people fear them? (Sanjib Bhattacharjee, Room no. 10, Eastern Hostel, Institute of Agriculture, Visva Bharati University, PO/AT: Shreeniketan 731236).**

Ans: **They are a new class of Australian traffic police workers who check and fine vehicle owners who park in parking-lots for more than 2 hours. They mark the vehicle with chalk and then fine them. They wear grey uniforms. Hence their name.**

QUESTIONS

1. On which day is vegetarian food served on Indian Airlines flights? (Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Godda 33).
2. Suomen Tasavalta is the official name of which country? (Anjanava (Gadai) Dutta, Calcutta 31).
3. Who says in his autobiography, "Where would I have been in Calcutta? In a dingy corner of Jadavpur. Look where I am now, living like a lord in Oxford " (Devasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
4. Which country does not have a single cinema hall? (Manoj Kumar Singh, Ranchi 4)
5. What is common to kangri, jooli, gadan, applique and pintucking? (Brijesh Singh, Sindri 23)
6. What is the main difference between Sanjay Gandhi's conception of the Maruti car and the present Maruti that is running on the road? (Shantanu Dey, Calcutta 50).
7. Whose biography is *Saat Suron Ke Saath*? (Mohan Kumar Agarwal, Bargarh 28)
8. "Even if I had no weapon and had a broom in my hand I would have hit him with it " Who said this and about whom? (Sanjay K. Jha, Jamshedpur 5)
9. What is "choke damp"? (Nayana Mitra, New Delhi 66)
10. How did the name of the police dog,dobermann pinscher,originate? (Nirveek Bhattacharjee, Kharagpur 2).

ANSWERS

1. Tuesday.
2. Finland—Republic of Finland
3. Nirad C Chowdhury
4. Saudi Arabia.
5. They are all different stitching techniques
6. The present Maruti has its engine in the front while the original Maruti was supposed to have the engine at the back.
7. Shankar Jaikishan, the music composer's .
8. Wijemuni Vijitha Rohana deSilva, the Sri Lankan naval rating who attempted to murder Rajiv Gandhi during a guard of honour parade. He was referring to the Prime Minister.
9. It is a name given to carbon dioxide by miners because it causes suffocation
10. The dog is named after the 19th century tax collector, Louis Dobermann, who used elegant, fast and fearless watchdogs to guard the cash he carried

SOLDIER'S SOLDIER

SOUTIK BISWAS meets the new chief of the Army's Eastern Command, Lt-Gen. R.M. Vohra

Photographs: Aloke Mitra

As for being a general, well, at the age of four with paper hats and wooden swords we're all generals. Only some of us never grow out of it.

—Peter Ustinov

At 56 and at the helm of the prestigious Eastern Command, Lt-Gen. Raj Mohan Vohra has certainly grown out of Ustinov's description of a tinpot general that all children imagine themselves to be. For this flamboyant and charismatic officer, the transition from a "childhood" general to the real thing was eminently logical: Lt-Gen. Vohra hails from an archetypal *risala* (cavalry) family which has given all its four sons to the Indian Army. Two brothers have already retired as generals, the third leads the Eastern Command and the youngest is a brigadier.

The general's face lights up in anticipation. "You know," he says, reclining in his opulently upholstered revolving chair in his airconditioned sanctum sanctorum at Fort William, *"Inshallah,* if my youngest brother also becomes a general, we'll be in the *Guinness Book Of World Records."* The Vohra family has its roots in an illustrious warrior clan from Bhaun village of west Punjab, now in Pakistan.

The Vohras have certainly stuck together. All four brothers have served in the Indian Armoured Corps, and their great-great-grandfather was in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's army. The eldest brother, Maj -Gen. I.M. Vohra, was studying at



The general with wife Cuckoo

'THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF 1962'

Relaxing in his plush and tastefully decorated Fort William office, Lt-Gen. Raj Mohan Vohra, attired in his bottle green uniform gave his first press interview since taking over command. He spoke for about an hour between cups of tea and the three Classics, his daily cigarette "ration." Says he, "I never exceed more than three cigarettes a day."

Excerpts from the interview:

How do you feel on becoming the general officer commanding-in-chief of the Eastern Command?

It is certainly a challenge. The Eastern Command is one of the biggest commands. When you get a challenging job, you are always happy. I have seen most of the area, and had previous experience here also when I commanded a unit for eight months in the insurgency-prone areas of the Northeast.

And what are your immediate priorities in this region?

My predecessors have done a tremendous job in this region. My job is to consolidate what they have already done. The command is in a very fine shape.

Have you identified the troubled areas in your command?

Yes. In our area we have potential external and internal threats. As far as the external threat is concerned, it primarily comes from China. The Chinese have laid claim to the whole of Arunachal Pradesh and we are prepared. *Inshallah,* there will be no repetition of 1962. China was previously providing assistance in arms and training to various insurgent groups in the Northeastern states. The aid, I think, from China has stopped. I am talking about active aid. There might or might not be some kind of a covert operation.

As far as the potential internal threats are concerned, they come from the insurgents in Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura. There are some perceived trends in Meghalaya, Assam, and north Bengal.

What about the situation in Darjeeling? Do you hold it as a threat to the region's security?

The unstable situation in Darjeeling is a basic threat alright. This is because of the effect it can have on the morale of the Gorkha soldiers in the Indian Army. At the Eastern Command, we have carried out an operation code-named Hamdard for the last three months. In the disturbed areas, we are looking after the families of the Gorkha soldiers. The operation involves welfare teams comprising an officer, a JCO and a few jawans, who contact the



soldiers' families to provide them assistance in rations, canteen facilities, stores, medical facilities and deliver mail. We are attending to their domestic problems.

We are also in touch with every single Gorkha unit. The operation is working efficiently and paying us handsome dividends.

Are you still continuing with it?

Yes, we are still continuing, but it's on a lower key right now.

What about the reports of desertions by Gorkha soldiers from the Indian Army in the wake of the Darjeeling crisis?

There have been no desertions by Gorkha soldiers at all. Such reports are untrue. If the families of Gorkha soldiers are facing any problems, they can go to the nearest Army station and report. We will even provide them with security. We have already received a number of letters from the Gorkha Brigades appreciating our efforts in Darjeeling.

What is the current state of insurgency in the Northeast?

The insurgency in the Northeast is in the nature of crests and troughs. The current state is of relative dormancy. The Army's aim is to carry out anti-insurgency operations and bring it down to a level where a political settlement can take place. In this regard, we are well on our way in Nagaland. In Assam, I do not think that the ULFA is gaining much ground. It is a very young organisation though it is helped by the NSCN. In Tripura, the insurgency is very much under control and the people are very happy with the Army. Many of the TNV insurgents have already surrendered to the Army.

What is actually the best way to carry our anti-insurgency operations? There is a lot of confusion over the role of the paramilitary forces and whether it overlaps with the role of the Army in such operations.

It has been my experience that all forces which are deployed in the insurgency-prone states must be unified and should not be influenced by local political issues. This unification calls for having Army control over all paramilitary and civil police forces in the states. It is only the Army which has the communication and mobility to plan, direct and execute offensive, counter-insurgency operations.

What has been the Eastern Command's contribution to the IPKF in Sri Lanka?

We had sent a contingent of soldiers from the command in January-February this year to Sri Lanka. The arrival of these well-trained forces from counter-insurgency operation areas has given a fresh impetus to the IPKF against the LTTE, and contributed immensely to a reduction of the LTTE's fighting capability.

How did you react to reports of the mass rape of tribals by Assam Rifles jawans in Tripura recently?

It is a slander campaign by some vested interests to malign the Army. The reports are totally untrue, and a fact-finding committee of the Tripura state government has confirmed this. I can tell you that we will never go beyond the line drawn for us. Any unsoldierly behaviour by our armed forces cannot go unnoticed. When we find out, we take suitable action and the punishment is fast and immediate.

Government College, Lahore, when "one fine day" in '42, he joined the Army. The next, Lt-Gen. J.M. Vohra, joined the Lahore Medical College and later got a seat in the Calcutta Medical College. He stayed in Calcutta for about a year but "pushed off and joined the Army without telling our father possibly because he didn't like the water or food."

Now it was for our general to take the plunge. "Having two brothers already in the Army, I thought I'll give it a try. My mother was against it, and quite reasonably so, for she had already given two of her sons to the Army. But my father said it was entirely up to me," the general recalls. And sure enough, the call of the battlefields was too strong to ignore and Vohra applied for the joint services and "got through" in January 1949.

The tradition was nearly set and the rest is the history of the four brothers fighting in wars, two of them sometimes together, and all of them emerging from the battlefield with flying colours.

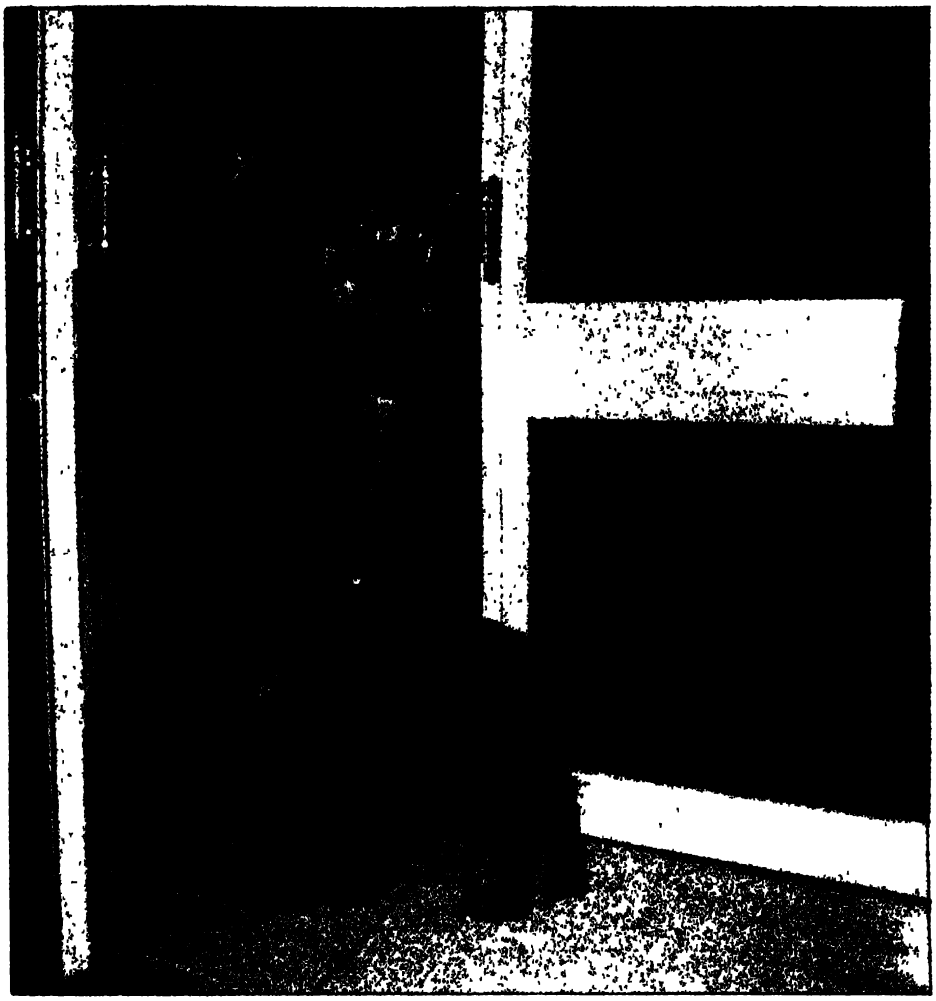
Lt-Gen. Vohra's chequered career is a fascinating collage of bravery, conceptual vision of logistics in tricky war situations, and even a stint with the 23-nation United Nations Command in the Congo War during 1962-63.

Perhaps, the general's most memorable stint was his command of the crack Fourth Hodson's Horse during the Indo-Pakistan war in 1971. Earlier, he had fought the 1965 war in the Punjab sector. Hodson's Horse won 30 awards under Vohra and shot 39 enemy tanks in the Shakargarh sector. Vohra was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) for gallantry while commanding an armoured regiment in this sector.

It was on a chilly December morning in 1971 in the Shakargarh sector that Lt-Gen. (then Lt-Col.) Vohra found himself and his regiment of Centurion tanks on enemy minefields. The regiment was a veritable sitting duck in that situation, but the general reminisces, "We eventually crossed every minefield in broad daylight without any infantry brigade to provide support."

How did they do it? "We were trudging along and three of our tanks entered the enemy minefields. I realised that we were on the Thakarduara minefield inside Pakistan. We immediately pulled our tanks back. Splinters flew all around us," recalls the general.

Showing laudable presence of mind, Vohra contacted Gen. (then Brigadier) A.S. Vaidya, who was his brigade commander, to seek permission to cross the minefield in daylight by "trawling" the tanks. The green signal came through and the tanks, with armoured trawlers fitted upfront, crossed the minefields, shooting four enemy tanks while doing so. "It was a unique moment of an armoured regiment crossing an enemy minefield without an infantry brigade," the general says with justified pride.



With his spaniel Rusty

Another memorable operation spearheaded by Vohra was during the Battle of Chakra in the same war. "All us four brothers were on the battlefield during that war. And by God's grace, we came out of it unscathed," says a grateful general.

Elder brother J.M. Vohra was commanding a brigade across the Kanr and Bain rivers while our general was in quite a fix at Chakra. "We had decided to attack the Chakra defences from a flank which meant crossing the Kanr river. But their defence was like a fortress and on a higher ground with tanks, infantry and recoil-less guns."

Brigade commander Vaidya contacted Vohra and asked him to take the tanks across the river at night. "I told him that was not my task. But he insisted. He said he had reasons for his decision and wanted my regiment to take part in the operation. I accepted the challenge," the general remembers. Vohra chose Major Jiti Chowdhury to beef up the infantry attack that night which was supposed to begin at 11.30 pm. The preparations were completed, the logistics made foolproof, and the attack went on the run on schedule.

But, within a few minutes the battle for Chakra seemed to be jinxed. The Pakistanis had planted mines on the river bed and the 48-tonne Centurions ran into an underwater minefield. "The mines were also laid in the banks of the river. We could not make any progress with the operation. Even though we were dismayed, we refused to give up," the general says, puffing on his Classic with a quiet sense of pride.

Major Jiti Chowdhury, who ran into the minefield, contacted Vohra late at night to inform him about the seemingly aborted operation. "I do not know what you would do if you were here, but I feel like laughing," Chowdhury told the future general. "I cannot make any headway and my tanks are getting bogged down in the river."

Vohra promptly rushed to the site and





"found five or six tanks stuck in the muddy river." The situation was depressing. The tanks were bogged down, the enemy was firing from the other side and using starshell illuminations to see what was going on in the Indian flanks. And there the Pakistanis committed a cardinal error which was to prove costly in the long run.

Recounts the general: "We immediately decided to postpone the operation to 4 am the next morning. But little did we realise that the enemy had made a big mistake. When they saw our tanks in the river, they though we were actually moving five to six tanks across every half-an-hour. Whenever they flashed their lights they saw the tanks and thought that our whole regiment was passing through. Their confusion was compounded by our drivers who were trying to rev up the tanks on the river banks."

This vital miscalculation by the enemy helped Vohra that night but, as he admits, "some God was protecting us alright. I'm a great believer in anybody's religion. I believe in the Lord up there. I prayed to God that night: let my boys take this operation. I brought in the recovery vehicles to pull the tanks across. What worried me was that if we failed to recover the tanks, the enemy aircraft would shoot them."

Next morning, the operation proceeded without a hitch. Brig. Vaidya provided some anti-aircraft guns and Captain Tony Bedi, a "gallant" officer, brought three guns by 3 am. An hour later four Indian tanks were pushed across the river into enemy territory.

A snatch of conversation on the wireless between Pakistani Army officers confirmed that the battle was lost for them. A Pakistani officer was overheard giving orders to his men on the wireless. *"Aag lagane wale tank a rahe hain. Jisko jana hai chale jao, main to ja raha hoon.* (The fiery tanks have come. Those who want to flee can go, I am going right away)." The denouement was damning for the enemy: eight enemy tanks were shot after crossing the river, and by 6 am the Indian Army had captured the area. The enemy Patton tanks lay in the ditches and the enemy had vanished.

But then, according to Lt-Gen. Vohra, there is "no particular event in a war which is memorable. The whole thing is memorable." He insists that "we have the finest and most dedicated men in the Indian Army" and such memorable events when the jawans actually wrench victory from the jaws of defeat are the outcome of a complete team effort.

Vohra remembers the Sikh soldier who crawled under a tank in the thick of a battle to salvage his commander's lunch box while an artillery shell exploded just yards from him. His superiors pulled him out, but in spite of bleeding profusely, he refused to budge as he wanted to see the end of the enemy. "The dedication and motivation of the soldier was remarkable. There he was standing with a *dabba* full of sandwiches, bleeding all over and refusing to leave the battlefield for medication."

So when anybody pontificates to Lt-Gen. Vohra on motivation, he retorts, "Do not teach me motivation. If I can motivate each of my boys to lay down their lives for their country, what more is needed? Look at Siachen. Our boys have gone up to heights of 22,000 feet and given their lives."

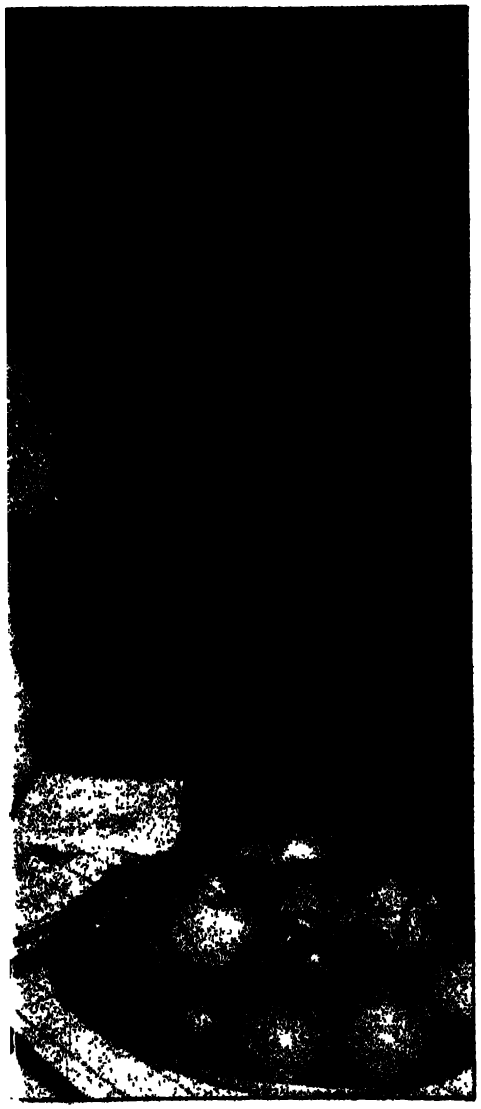
Quite understandably, the general is a stickler for punctuality and discipline. "It is my teaching, upbringing and training," he explains, "which is responsible for such qualities. My training does not allow me to come a minute late. If I am not dressed properly, nobody will recognise me. You



'At home I am not leading the comma







have to set an example."

He continues, "Today we have a completely disciplined and prepared force which the country can make use of readily. I am also happy that the coordination among the three services—Army, Navy and Air Force—is at its peak. The red tape is out."

Heading the Eastern Command is a "challenging job" for Lt-Gen Vohra and he talks animatedly of tackling the now relatively dormant insurgency in the Northeastern states (*see interview*). He is slightly worried with what he describes as a "slander campaign by some vested interests to malign the Army" by "spreading reports" that the Assam Rifles jawans posted in Tripura were involved in the mass rape of tribal women in that state. He clarifies that the media often makes the mistake of confusing paramilitary forces and the BSF and CRPF. "In fact, the Assam Rifles is the only paramilitary force in the classical sense. It is organised and trained to fight at the company and the battalion level, and it is well equipped," he points out.

Tucked away in an idyllic corner of Alipore, the tastefully designed Command House is Lt-Gen. Vohra's abode. But the clean boulevard and the sprawling lush green lawns outside are deceptive symbols of leisure. "One hardly gets much time for leisure," says the general. But then, when he finds the time, he reads anything—from comics to Paul Kennedy's *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers* and Marshall G. Zhukov's *Reminiscences and Reflections* to the latest issue of *Filmfare*. "It really depends on my mood and it might even be an old issue of *Time*."

His demure and soft-spoken wife, Cuckoo, who was born in Baluchistan and brought up in Quetta, tends to the household chores. She is finicky about the house's interior right down to the flowers in the vase. And at home, Cuckoo, who met her husband in Ambala, is the boss. "Yes, at home I am not leading the command and I accept this with humility and a sense of pride. My wife has been with me through thick and thin and never complained," the general confesses with a smile.

When the general is not reading Irving Wallace or John Updike or "any book from the *Time* bestseller list," he is listening to ghazals—Farida Khanoon is his favourite—and Indian classical music. "But then I cannot stand rock music or the latest Western music which assaults your ears. My son likes it though."

In fact, his only child, 25-year-old Vivek (Bunny) Vohra, is an exception in this soldier's family. He is an export executive working in a firm based in Indore and has just got married to a Chandigarh-based girl. "People often ask me why I have only one son. My answer is that I never got the time for a second child," the general says with a burst of laughter.

The general arrived in Calcutta on May 4 and has already made some acquaintances. "This city is very warm and hospitable," he feels, adding, "I came from Lucknow which is also famous for its hospitality." The city roads, however, are a perpetual source of irritation to him.

The general and his wife sometimes go out for a walk "but right now, we are still setting up house." He has given up polo after sustaining back injuries in a bad fall, but plans to take up golf here. At the end of another strenuous day at the Fort William Command headquarters, Lt-Gen. Raj Mohan Vohra, more popular among his friends as "Ghugi", prepares for a good night's sleep after a spartan dinner—ready for any battle the next day. ■

A TOUCH OF

The second and concluding extract from *Essence of Indian Art* by **B.N. Goswamy** and **Jean-Louis Nou**

Extracted from *Essence of Indian Art* by B.N. Goswamy; photographs by Jean-Louis Nou; Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad and Asian Art Museum of San Francisco; paperback; Rs 450

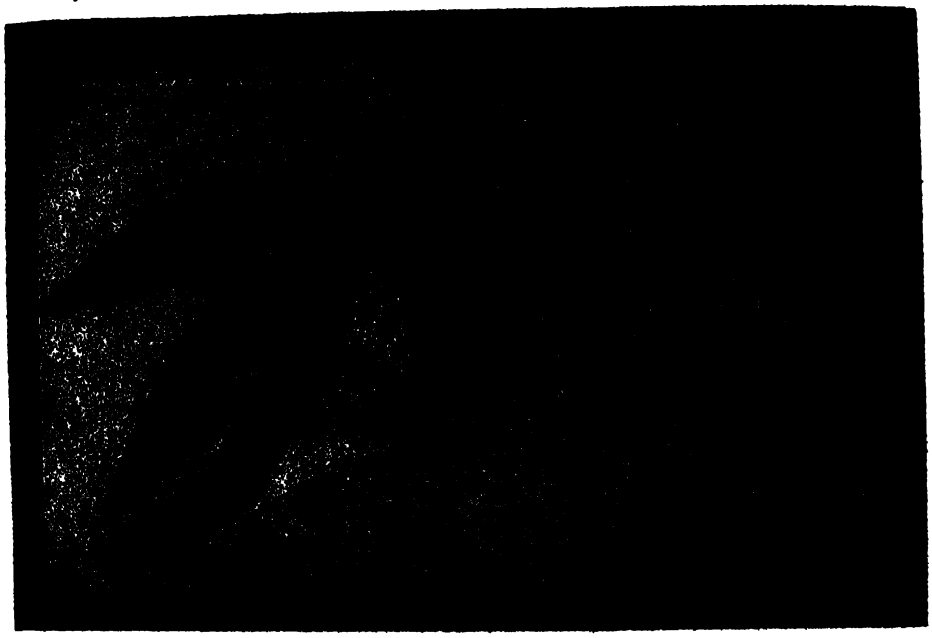
THE FIGHT BETWEEN JATAYU, THE VULTURE KING, AND RAVANA

From a Ramayana *series*
Gouache on paper; Pahari, 1st quarter of the 18th century; Bharat Kala Bhavan, Varanasi, No. 11098

This episode from the *Ramayana* is much loved for the feeling of devotion (*bhakti*) that it contains. When Ravana, the powerful demon king of Lanka, abducts Rama's wife Sita and is proceeding with her to his island home, Jatayu, the great vulture and a devotee of Rama, hears her lamentations and decides to intercept Ravana. This courageous act is doomed, for Jatayu is no match for Ravana, whose enormous power is symbolized by his ten heads and twenty arms. Fierce is their struggle all the same, Jatayu throwing everything into it. Driven by rage, he pounces upon Ravana, and clawing and pecking, succeeds in relieving his adversary of many of his weapons. Eventually he is overpowered and dies at Ravana's hand, but not before he has a chance to meet his adored Rama, and tell him of the direction which Ravana had taken Sita. That sets off another chain of events culminating in the attack on Lanka.

The battle, as envisioned here, is fierce and sanguine: Jatayu flies at Ravana, trying to sink his massive claws into his frame and gouge out his eyes with his powerful beak. Seeing his courage, this act of desperate valor, Sita is wonder-struck and Ravana's fury mounts. Already he has pierced Jatayu's body with a spear, and now he proceeds to hack his mighty wings away with the axe he wields as one of his myriad weapons.

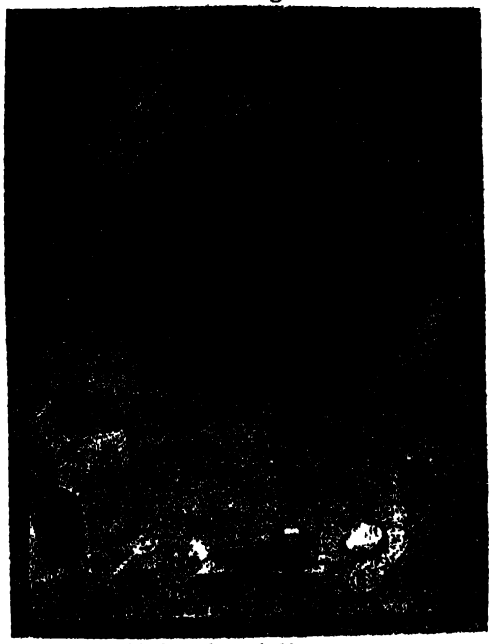
The painting belongs to a large series (more than 270 leaves) popularly referred to as the "Shangri" *Ramayana*, with reference to the small place in Kulu; from its ruler many leaves were acquired. W.G. Archer splits the Shangri leaves into four styles, and in his classification, the present leaf would fall into his style IV



THE LAMENTATION OF LAURIK, THE HERO

From the Laur-Chanda *series; Gouache on paper; Sultanate, 1st half of the 18th century; 21×15 cm; Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, No. 57.1/62*

As the heroine Chanda lies lifeless under a tree in a bleak landscape, Laurik, the hero of romance, becomes utterly distraught and laments. She has been bitten by a serpent and now lies dead, the text says, all this having happened while he had been briefly absent during their unhappy wanderings. The sword and the shield tied to the tree trunk are apparently his. Like Laurik, we do not see the serpent but only guess at its recent presence—the curled form lying at the foot of Chanda's pallet is an unrolled turban, Laurik's, fallen from his head in this moment of grief. The



painter establishes the grief in many ways: the physical appearance of the hero, hair hanging loose, body bent and agonized, arms outstretched, as well as the fallen turban, the tree devoid of birds or any signs of life, the inert form of Chanda. To suggest unequivocally that Chanda is dead, not sleeping the painter tendered her eyes without pupils, a well-established convention. With the background still full of "golden-hook" decorative patterns and the spandrels of the arch of the composition containing, arabesques, the painter is not freeing himself from the decorative conventions he follows in the rest of the manuscript. The backgrounds are only varied: they are never left bare. (The narrative goes on to say that Chanda did not die but was cured of the snakebite by a wandering and helpful physician.)

INDIA

THE HUNCHBACK KUBJA AND KRISHNA

From a Bhagavata Purana *series; On front, top border, in Sanskrit, descriptive label; Gouache on paper, Rajasthan, 3rd quarter of the 16th century; from an Isarda workshop; 20×27 cm; Collection of Mr Gopi Krishna Kanoria, Patna; No. GK 287*

An unlikely love is related in the episode of the hunchback woman, Kubja's encounter with Krishna in the city of Mathura. As things move inexorably toward the final confrontation between Krishna and Kamsa, the evil king who has set a trap for Krishna in his capital city, there are moments of banter and trivial occurrences as Krishna, his brother Balarama, and their cowherd friends roam the streets of the city. In the course of their stroll, they meet a hunchbacked woman "whose eyes were beautiful but whose back was curved as lightning." A perfumer by profession, Kubja is proceeding towards the king's palace, carrying the choicest perfumes and unguents. Krishna pays attention to Kubja and speaks to her gently, a sensation that she has not had for a long time. Taken by his manner and his radiant beauty, she offers him and his companions all she carries. Suddenly and impulsively, greatly pleased with her, the text says, Krishna reaches out and touches her; taking her chin in his hand, he gives her a quick jerk which makes her hunch disappear. Unbelieving, she regards her erect body and, her heart filled with gratitude and longing for Krishna, she asks him to stay with her. Krishna has other matters to attend, but he promises to return to her chamber, which he does later, and Kubja surrenders herself entirely.

The painter of this sumptuous series from Isarda freely translates the scene of Krishna's encounter with Kubja. Suddenly we see the sky light up with stars, even as an uncertain light looms on the high horizon; a tasseled canopy decorates the entire length of the page; Balarama turns back to share a moment with the *gopas* who stand, much like the two brothers, in taut but lively manner softened by their flowing, curling scarves and looped loincloths. By comparison, Krishna and Balarama are gorgeously dressed, as is Kubja, drawing all attention to themselves, placed on a passionate red ground which fills the space against which the three characters stand sharply etched.

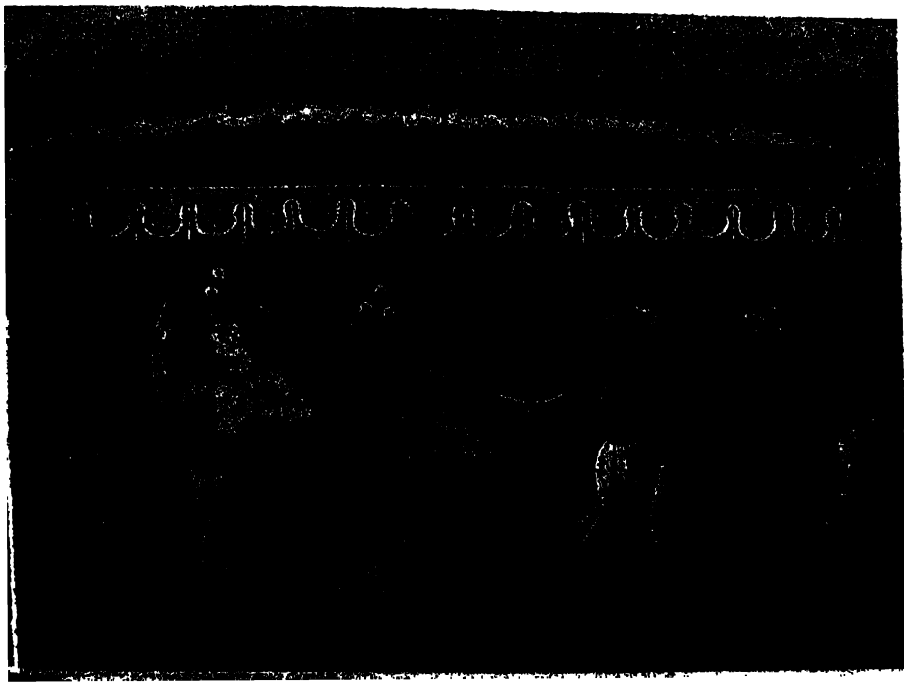
KRISHNA STEALS BUTTER

From a Bhagavata Purana *series; Descriptive label in Takri on top border; Gouache on paper; Pahari, 1st quarter of the 18th century; from a Mankot workshop; 2.5×31 cm Chandigarh Museum, Chandigarh; No. 1301*

Among the finest series of paintings inspired by the Bhagavata Purana—that early text which is of such central importance to the cult of Vishnu, especially his eighth incarnation, Krishna, is the one from which the present leaf is taken. The work of some anonymous masters active at the little hill state of Mankot, in the early years of the eighteenth century, this is a series of "bustling verve and gay anarchic spirit," as W.G. Archer puts it, with its "swirling rhythms, the impulsive eruption of its strong and sturdy forms, the insouciance with which shapes are hurled around the avoidance of all rich or intricate details, its dramatic concentration on basic essentials, and perhaps, above all, its air of swaggering elation." It is unlikely that the entire *Bhagavata Purana* was visualized by the painters of this dazzling series, what has survived at any rate is the Tenth Book portion, which tells the story of Krishna in such intimate, loving detail.



This leaf is devoted to one of the best-loved episodes from the childhood of Krishna as he grows up in the household of his foster-parents, Nanda and Yashoda He is constantly up to pranks, and loved all the more for them. There are songs sung still that speak with joy and devotion of the way he, in his winsome, irresistible manner, teased everyone in the village from his mother down to the maidens and householders of the neighborhood. In these pranks he frequently teamed up with his mates in action, stealing butter. As the inscription on top says, Yashoda his mother interrupts the churning of the curds for a moment and goes inside, where the milk she had left on the fire is about to boil Seizing the opportunity, Krishna quickly calls up his friends, leaps on to the back of one of them and reaches up to the earthen pot hanging from the ceiling and containing his much-loved balls of butter. Not only does he take butter out for himself, but also for all his companions who include a monkey and two cows who seem to be enjoying the situation very much Were he to be caught in the act by his mother, Krishna would send up a wail and protest perfect innocence In his words, Krishna would first blame his *gopa*-friends, older than himself, for how could he have gotten up to the pot of butter, hanging as it does so high from the ceiling? ■



All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aakhri Adaalat:** Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road, 241383), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Madhuban (Regent Park).

Directed by Rajiv Mehra and with music by Annu Malik, the film stars Vinod Khanna, Dimple Kapadia, Jackie Shroff, Sonam and Gulshan Grover.

• **Commando:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680)

Directed by B. Subhash and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Mandakini and Hemant Birje.

• **Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250)—3 shows, Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)—4 shows

Govinda, Neelam, and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film, directed by Kirti Kumar. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Kabarsthan:** Society (Corporation Place; 241002)—12.30, 3.15, 6.15, 9; Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250).

A film by Mohan Bhakri.

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138)—4 shows.

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T Prakash Rao. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

Karm Yudh: Opera (Lenin Sarani; 281849), New Tarun, Champa



Aamir Khan and Juhi Chawla in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*

The film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh and Pran.

• **Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917).

Directed by T. Rama Rao, the film stars Dharmendra, Sunjay Dutt, Chunkey Panday, Neelam Mehra, Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amrapurkar. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Mere Baad:** Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)—noon; Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)—4 shows.

Raakhee and Amrish Puri play the lead in this film, directed by Vishwamitra and music by Usha Khanna.

Pyar Mohabat: New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147)—noon, Binapani (Bankura), Aurora (Kharagpur), Hari (Vaishali).

This M.M.C. Cooper film which is directed by Ajay Kashyap, stars Govinda, Mandakini, Raakhee and Kader Khan. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033)—4 shows.

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film. The music is by Anand Milind.

• **Ram Aytar:** , Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515)—4 shows.

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor.

• **Rukhsat:** Gem (Acharya J Chandra Bose Road, 247616), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 478167), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 351382), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street; 354450).

A film by Simi Garewal who also stars along with Mithun Chakraborty, Anooradha Patel and Amrish Puri. The music is by Kalyanji Anandji.

Shree 420: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—11.30, 5.45, 9, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Grace, Khanna, Vaishali

A re-release of this hit Raj Kapoor film.

• **Waqt Ki Awaz:** Majestic, Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Priya, Malancha, Vaishali and Ananya

A Shree Ramdevji art release, it stars Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi Produced by Trivikrama Rao, it is directed by K. Bapaiah and the music is by Bappi Lahiri.



A still from *Parashmoni*

Bengali Films

• **Agoon:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462)—3, 5.45, 8.30; Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—2.30, 5.15, 8.

A film by Victor Banerjee, who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Tanuja, Divya Rana, Utpal Dutt, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra, Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury. The music is by R.D. Burman.

Jayashree T and Sukhen Das The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

• **Parashmoni.** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686) – 1, 4, 7

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee Rajeshwari Roy Chowdhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee,

• **Saptapadi:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567) -2 30, 5 30, 8 30

A re-release of this Ajoy Kar hit, starring the legendary pair, Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Tumi Kato Sundar:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045) 2 30, 5 30, 8 15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 271282) 2, 5, 7 45

Tapas Paul and Moon Moon Sen are the lead pair in this Manoj Ghosh film Others in the cast are Abhisek Chatterjee Lipika Amil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Nirmal Kumar, Satya Banerjee, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Ruma Guhathakurta, Sabitri Chatterjee and Master Rintu The music is by Mrinal Banerjee

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• **Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 251956) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 5511133) Chaya, Jaya (Laketown), Sonali (Dunlop), Bangabasi (Howrah) and Piccadilly (Salkia)

The film stars Rishi Kapoor, Jayaprada, Govinda, Farha, Kader Khan, Shashikala, Aruna Irani and Anita Raj The music is by Bappi Lahiri and it is directed by Kalpataru

•**Hamara Khandan:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Grace and Khanna

Directed by Tahir Hussain, the film stars Rishi Kapoor, Farha, Asha Parekh, Alok Nath and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pyaralel

Special Events

10 July. 5. 30 pm

Anandam presents a cultural programme of Bengali songs Artistes include Manna Dey Hemanta Mukherjee Aarati Mukherjee, Pratima Banerjee and Mallar Bose

At the Netaji Indoor Stadium



Sunny Deol in *Ram Avtar*

14 July. 7 pm

Rangakarmee presents Gorky and Brecht's *Mai* Directed by M K Raina

At Sisir Mancha

16 July 6.30 pm

The premiere of Ionesco's *Exit the King* in Hindi organised by the Padatik Repertory Directed by Anmol Vellani The cast includes Rajaram Yagnik Nivedita Bhattacharya Vinay Sharma Shampa Ghosh and Mansha Chaturvedi

At Gyan Manch 11 Pretoria Street Calcutta 71

16 July 6 30 pm

The Padatik dance circle present Arati Ghosh in a Bharata Natyam recital

At the Padatik Little Theatre, 67 Acharya Jagadish Bose Road Calcutta 17

TRAVEL

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A at 1905.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830, Dep (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1855; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt): Arr. (6): AI-455A at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York): Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145.

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr (2): SU-542 at 1700 amd Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1810; Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555, Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-411 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC-248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920 Dep (7) IC-441 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG 693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily). IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-478 at 1045, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5). IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (2, 4, 6). IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6). IC-296 at 2105

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-542 at 0620, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC 541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC 277 at 1145 Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC 278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC 278 at 1430

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845 Arr (7) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad Dep (3, 5, 7) IC 269 at 1445, Arr (5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC 269 at 1800, Arr (1, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305 Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC 203 at 0625, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC 204 at 1235, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530 Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625 Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily) PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF 702 at 1300

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily). PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525

* **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4, 6). PF-705A at 1300, Arr (2, 4 6) PF-706A at 1625

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7). PF-707 at 0610, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela Ranchi. Ranchi Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 715 at 0555, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: D

(2, 4, 6). PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5). PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-730A at 0850
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5)· PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5)· PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5)· PF-723/724 at 1915
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800, Arr. (daily). PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily). PF-701 at 0700; Ar (daily)· PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7). PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6) PF-735 at 0930, Arr. (2, 4, 6)· PF-736 at 1620

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6 35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

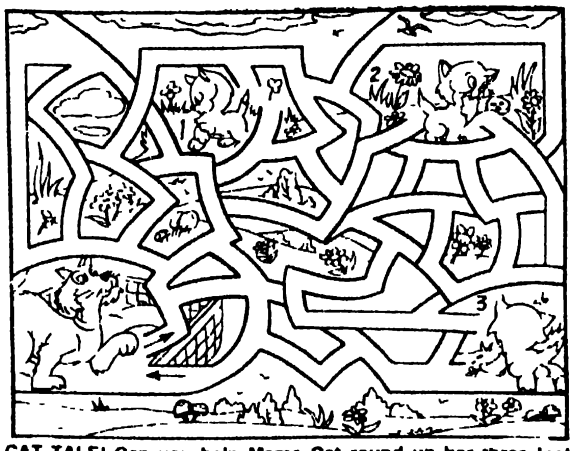
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16 10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Saral Express** via SBG Loop	2 50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-2[illegible]	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat	14 15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	1-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5 55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7 15	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	–
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	--
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



CAT TALE! Can you help Mama Cat round up her three lost kittens? Arrows indicate start and finish of rescue trip

• **MURKY MATH!** It's possible for six to be half of eleven and seven to be half of twelve Quickly explain, if you can, how this can be

LOOSE END GATHERING!

Resolve this puzzle by supplying the missing letters to the ten six letter words ending in end de fined below

Word no 1 for example is de pend See if you can find the rest

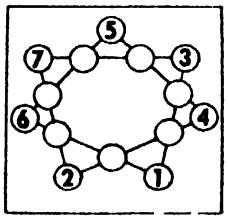
1 END Rely on
2 END Stretch
3 END Amigo
4 END Protect
5 END Wait on
6 END Pay out
7 END Climb
8 END Plan out
9 END Affront
10 END Attach

Remember each is a six letter word

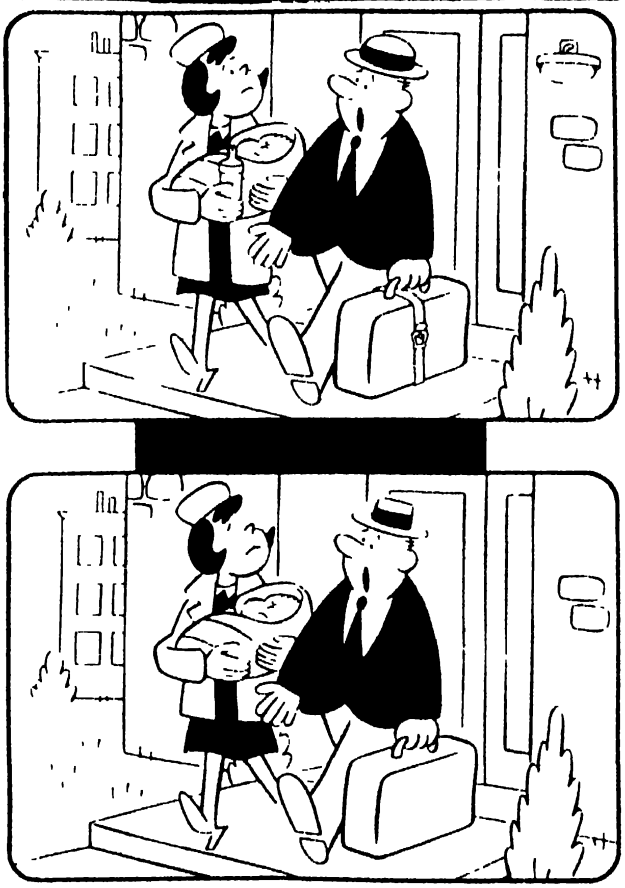
• **STAR WARP!** Challenge Insert numbers 1 through 14 in the star-shaped diagram, below, so that each of the figure's seven rows of four numbers in a straight line total 30

Numbers 1 through 7 are already in place, leaving 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 to be inserted properly

Remember, each four number row is to total 30



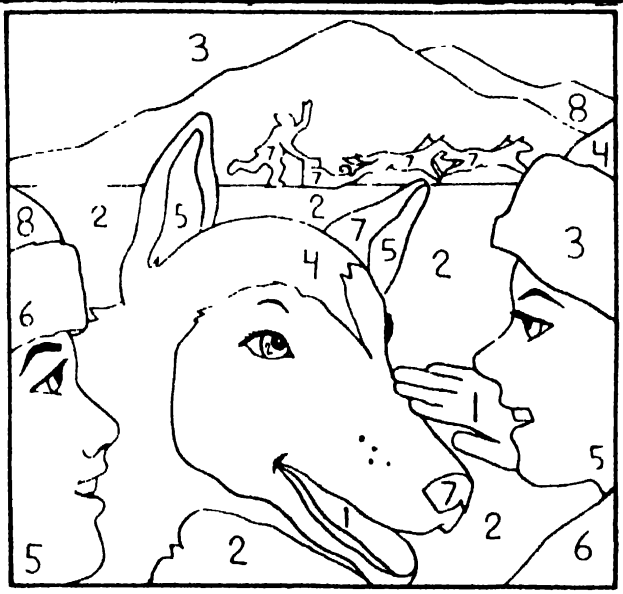
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Building is smaller 2 Bottle is missing 3 Coat is shorter 4 Hat is different 5 Strap is missing 6 Light is missing

FUNSPOT



HUSKY TASK! Pulling a dog sled is a husky task in more ways than one Apply colors neatly 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

PITIABLE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Bite pal

INNER EYE ◻ Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES

March 21 April 20

The new moon accentuates matters pertaining to home and property affairs alteration, decoration renovation installation of new machines and a shift or transfer This is the time to replenish your wardrobe as well Parents and in-laws will take an undue interest in your affairs A get-together is on the cards

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

The moon Mercury conjunction signifies increased expenses You will reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication Neighbours will be extraordinarily friendly Buying and selling are signified There are chances that you will embark on a long journey soon Catch up with all pending correspondence

GEMINI

May 21 June 20

Mercury in your money angle indicates matters pertaining to legacies wills joint finances buying selling and shopping Hectic socialising is also on the cards You may have to host lunches and dinners Reach out and meet as many people as possible People will recognise your worth

CANCER

June 21 July 20

The new moon in your sign in a sure indication that you should start taking greater interest in your business dealings Move ahead with any professional and personal projects that you may have in mind Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way Journeys, contracts and contacts will keep you busy Success is assured in all that you do

LEO

July 21 August 21

Allow things to happen without making a special effort to see that they do Home and property affairs are likely to keep you busy Travel is on the cards Relatives and friends will play an unusually important role in your life Any money spent on family members will be money well spent Meditation religion philosophy ecology and anthropology are highlighted



VIRGO

August 22 Sept 22

Friends, loved ones, astrologers and psychics will play an important role in your life this week Your intuition could get you far Moon conjuncts Mercury and contracts and communication at all levels are highlighted Do not plan too far ahead and try and accomplish as much as you can now Do not, however take people at face value and learn to look below appearances

LIBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22

Partnerships once again play an important role in your life Links ties collaborations and joint ventures at all levels are indicated At the same time matters pertaining to home and property affairs will also be highlighted Disputes over land deals will be settled A journey is in the offing Go ahead with any plans that you may have in mind to change your office or residence

BIRTHDAYS

July 10

Moon conjunction Venus, Mars square Uranus Expenses and travel are the outstanding features of the year ahead Those in sales, commission work and import and export will do well Health may, however, cause concern

July 11

Moon opposition Saturn Moderation is called for in all matters You will come into your own only after November Learn to plan out your routine well in advance Exercise patience and tact in all your dealings, particularly at work

July 12

Moon conjunction Mercury You will have to make an extra effort if you want to get anywhere in life Children will give joy You will bag a prestigious contract Travel and home figure prominently in your future plans

July 13

New moon, Cancer This will be a better year than the one that has gone by in the sense that monetary problems will ease and happiness will once again prevail

July 14

Moon sextile Jupiter All long-standing wishes will now come true Contracts and assignments are signified Romance indicated for the eligible Friends and children will contribute to your happiness

July 15

Moon square Pluto Romance, an engagement or an intense relationship is foretold for you this year Money is likely to pour in Many of you will embark on a long journey soon

July 16

Moon trine Saturn-Uranus This is a year to do something different Those in the arts management science, industry trade commerce, show business and interior designing will do well

SCORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 22

Moon sextiles Jupiter and matters pertaining to romance, an official engagement, children and collaborations are highlighted Do your best to impress people Expect visitors to drop in unexpectedly Relatives may come for prolonged visits Friends and loved ones will recognise your worth now Do not waste time over trivial matters and learn to concentrate on significant issues

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20

You will receive news that you have been waiting for around the weekend Visitors may drop in unexpectedly Loans funds and business ventures are also signified You may have been doing some work on the side which will now bring in satisfactory results Buying selling and investing are indicated Money will be available now to start new ventures

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

Moon trines Saturn and this is the time to quit your job and look for greener pastures if you are inclined People will take the trouble of trying to understand your point of view Relationships with the opposite sex are foretold Travel is on the cards When in doubt do not hesitate to consult elders The weekend will bring good news

AQUARIUS

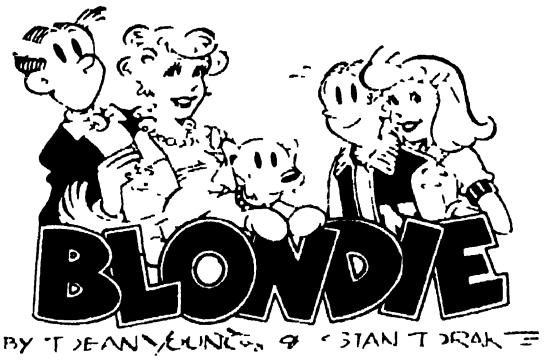
Jan 20 Feb 18

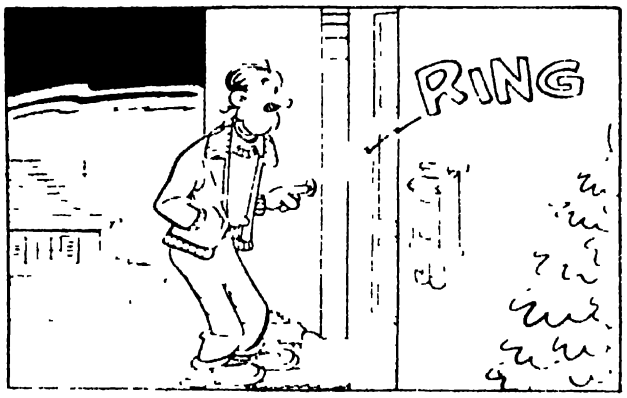
A job hop with increased perks and responsibilities is on the cards If you have recently had a promotion expect pressures at work to increase soon People will start noticing you and recognising your worth The health of parents and in-laws may cause concern Do not neglect your health and go for regular check-ups

PISCES

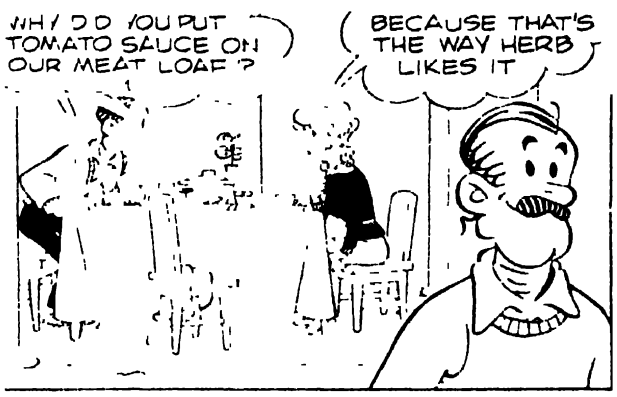
Feb 19 March 20

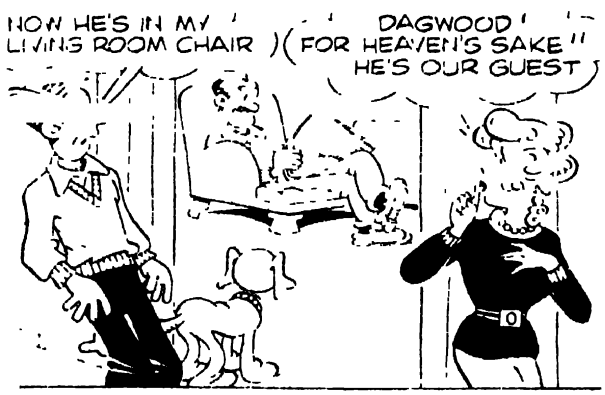
Health safeguards are called for Work pressures will mount towards the weekend You creativity will be recognised and appreciated Do not however get taken in by praise and learn to look below appearances You will be prone to minor coughs and colds Relatives may drop in for prolonged visits You may be misunderstood by loved ones so take care to clear controversies.

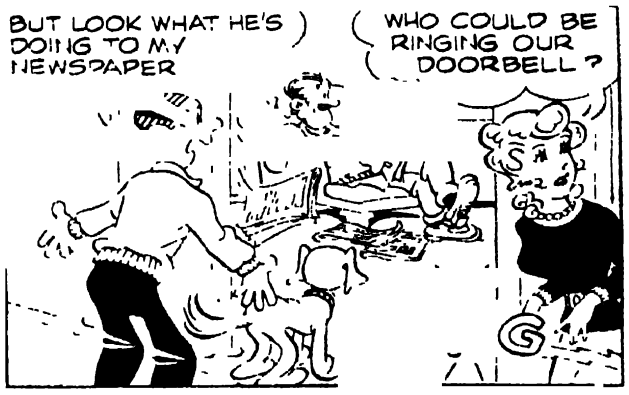

BLONDIE
BY CHIC YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

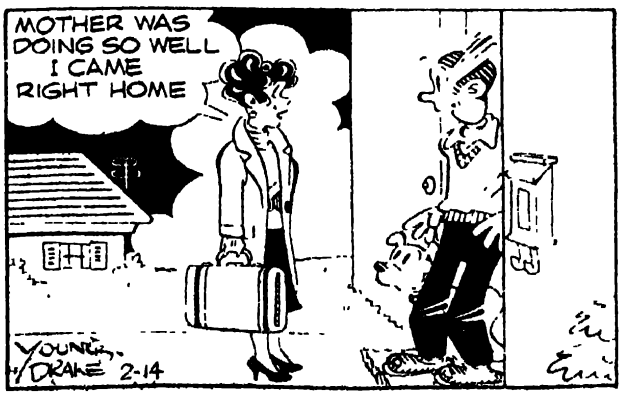

RING


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU INVITED HERB TO HAVE DINNER WITH US EVERY NIGHT WHILE TOOTSIE'S GONE
DAGWOOD, SHAME ON YOU! THEY'RE OUR BEST FRIENDS


WHY DO YOU PUT TOMATO SAUCE ON OUR MEAT LOAF?
BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY HERB LIKES IT


NOW HE'S IN MY LIVING ROOM CHAIR
DAGWOOD! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! HE'S OUR GUEST


BUT LOOK WHAT HE'S DOING TO MY NEWSPAPER
WHO COULD BE RINGING OUR DOORBELL?


MOTHER WAS DOING SO WELL I CAME RIGHT HOME
YOUNG & DRAKE 2-14


TOOTSIE! OH, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
KISS
KISS
KISS

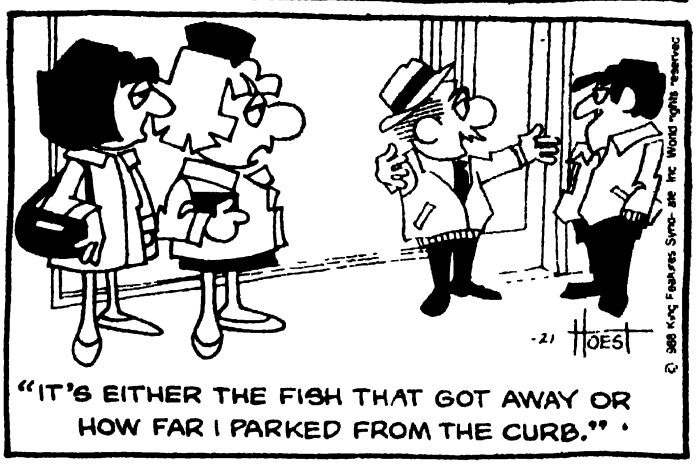
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull







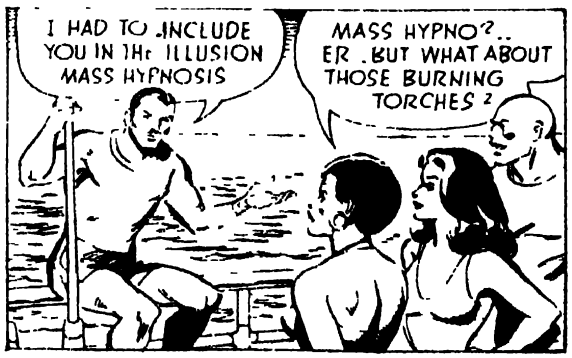


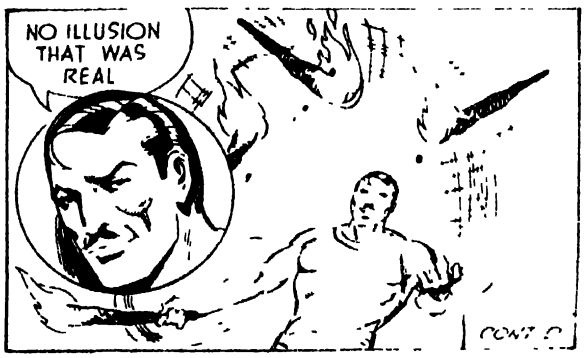


MANDRAKE By Lee Falk





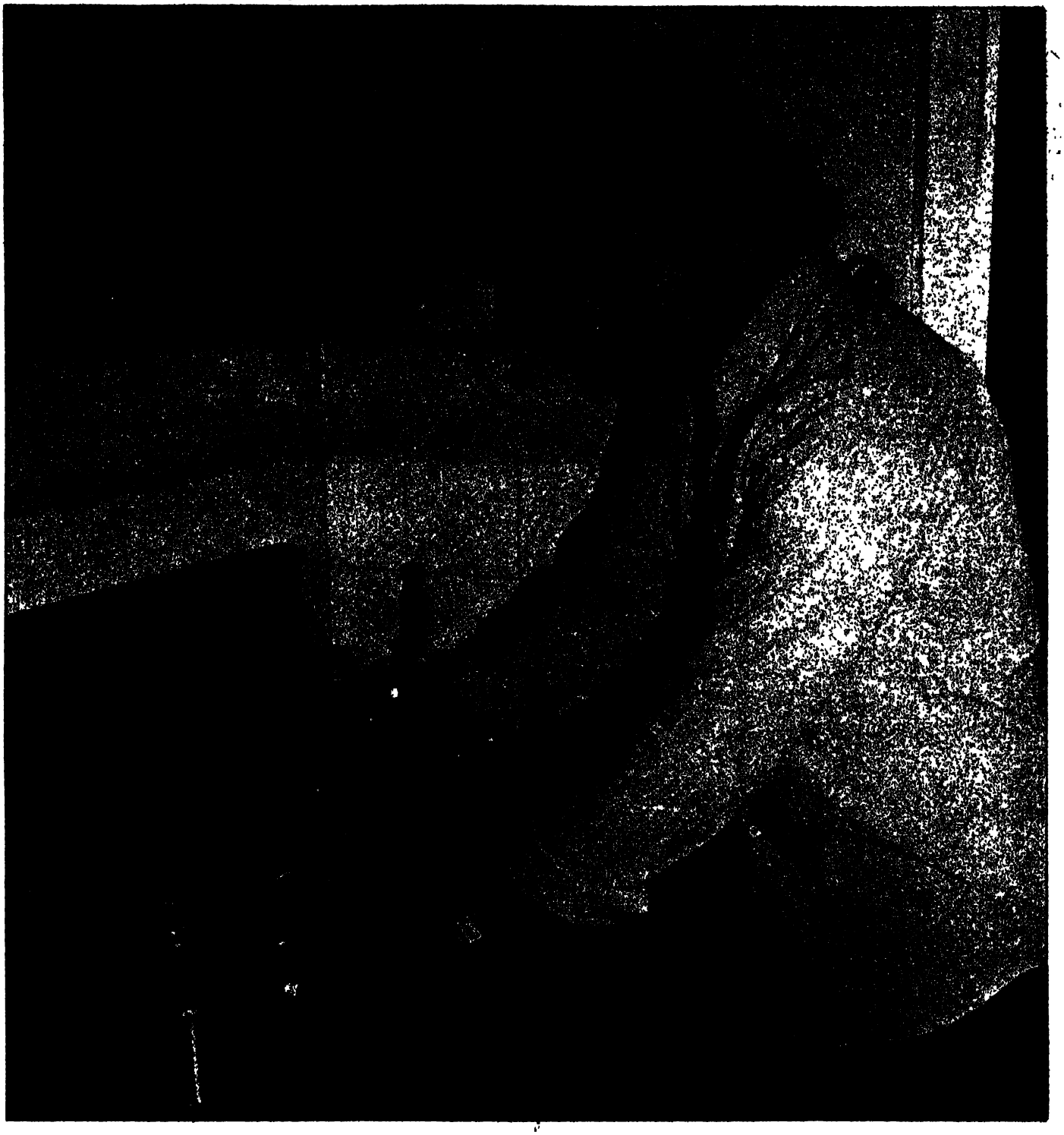




THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP




REMEMBER, POP, IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE!
RIGHT!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY ON ALLOWANCE DAY!
WOW! THE HOLIDAYS WENT BY FAST!
OUR TREE WAS SURE BEAUTIFUL!
I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T USE AN ARTIFICIAL ONE LIKE I WANTED TO!
WHY I WAS SO OPPOSED TO A REAL TREE I'LL NEVER KNOW!
SNIFF! SNIFF! AH-- AH--
AH CHOO
NOW IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME!
1-3



Pray, what was **Arun Govil** doing, talking politics in Allahabad on behalf of the Congress(I) when he should have been waging war with Ravana on the small screen? He fired on all cylinders, but evidently the public took his campaigning as just so much gas. Having failed in this *agnipariksha,* he will hopefully say 'Ram, Ram' to politics. And banish his blues. Photograph by HIRAK SEN



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250	17,600	—
350	25,500	—
600*	37,750	5,250
840*	52,750	7,400
1300*	82,500	11,500

Age limit 5-70 years.

*Personal Accident cover available on payment of additional premium.

depending on your needs and requirements

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Jyoti Basu

It is high time to ponder over why we missed Jyoti Basu who has so far kept reigning over West Bengal with an iron hand. Prof. Samir Gosain, Comrade June 12). He has been doing a commendable job but the Marxists will face a challenge from the Opposition after him.
Sasanka Ghoral,
Begumpur (Hooghly)

■ Tarun Ganguly's piece on Jyoti Basu (June 12) had an entirely uncalled-for remark on the Assam chief minister, Prafulla Mahanta. He has not been reduced to being a nagging politician and his cabinet is firmly united. Just as Mr Basu happens to be a hero to communists and to the people of West Bengal, Mr Mahanta and his cabinet colleagues are our heroes.
Rajib Bhuyan,
Kokrajhar (Assam)

Summer Heat

After a long time, the Colour Magazine came out with such a story ('Summer Morality,' June 12). The models were gorgeous. We want some more hot stuff in the near future.
Rikky Jones,
Calcutta

True Education

With reference to Dehaki Nandan Mandal's article (June 5), education means to draw out. It should not be reduced to an ugly gathering of marks. Hari Palchiyala recently argued in Calcutta that our universities were churning out mental [illegible]

[illegible] Parrot) cannot be called [illegible] those who can [illegible]
C. Gupta,
Calcutta

That Temper

Bhagwat Jha Azad ('Rough and Ready,' June 19) can [illegible] successful if he can do away with his infamous temper. To survive and be successful, he needs to compromise to an extent.

The chief minister of Bihar must also chalk out



his priorities. The areas which need immediate attention are the plight of the medical college, universities and government hospitals; the problem of bonded labour and the atrocities of Naxalites; poverty and unemployment; corruption in government offices; and the disastrous state of affairs in public sector companies and thermal power stations.
B. Ganguli,
Jamshedpur

■ For several years, Bihar has suffered under corrupt chief ministers who were always devising methods to [illegible] their seats. It is clear a long way that Bihar has got a chief minister who is capable of delivering the goods in Bhagwat Jha Azad.
Sukh[illegible]ndi,
Dhanbad

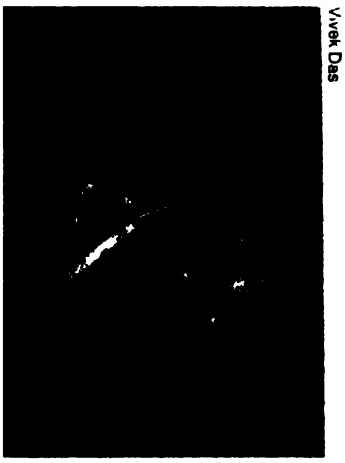
Not Surprised

We, the students of the BHMS course, were not surprised to read Dr Saikat Chatterjee's comments (Post Mortem, June 26). He has honestly written about the condition of diploma homeopathic colleges.

The condition of Big Brother, that is, the BHMS colleges which are affiliated to Calcutta University, is not different. There is a shortage of lecturers, the visiting professors do not receive their pay for as long as 18 months and the five-and-a-half-year course (including one year's internship) usually drags to eight years. There is only one hostel at Kankurgachi for three degree colleges of Calcutta and each room is packed with about nine students.
Students of BHMS colleges,
Calcutta

■ Dr B.N. Nag has protested (June 19) against the article, 'How Reliable is Your Doctor' (May 1). I would remind him of the recent road accident where Dr Reba Dasgupta and her niece were crushed to death on the spot. The sister-in-law, who was seriously injured, was taken to the Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishtan and remained unattended to for as long as four hours. The reason was: who would bear the expenses. This was despite the lady being in her senses and assuring them that her family would, as soon as they came. It was only because of the timely action of Mr Prasanta Sur that she was attended to.
S.K. Sarkar,
Calcutta

The Telegraph
17 JULY 1988



Vivek Das

4 Smoking is not just poison for the smoker, but also affects the health of the passive smoker. Why not stop now before it kills?

14 A ride through the troubled Bodo region of Assam

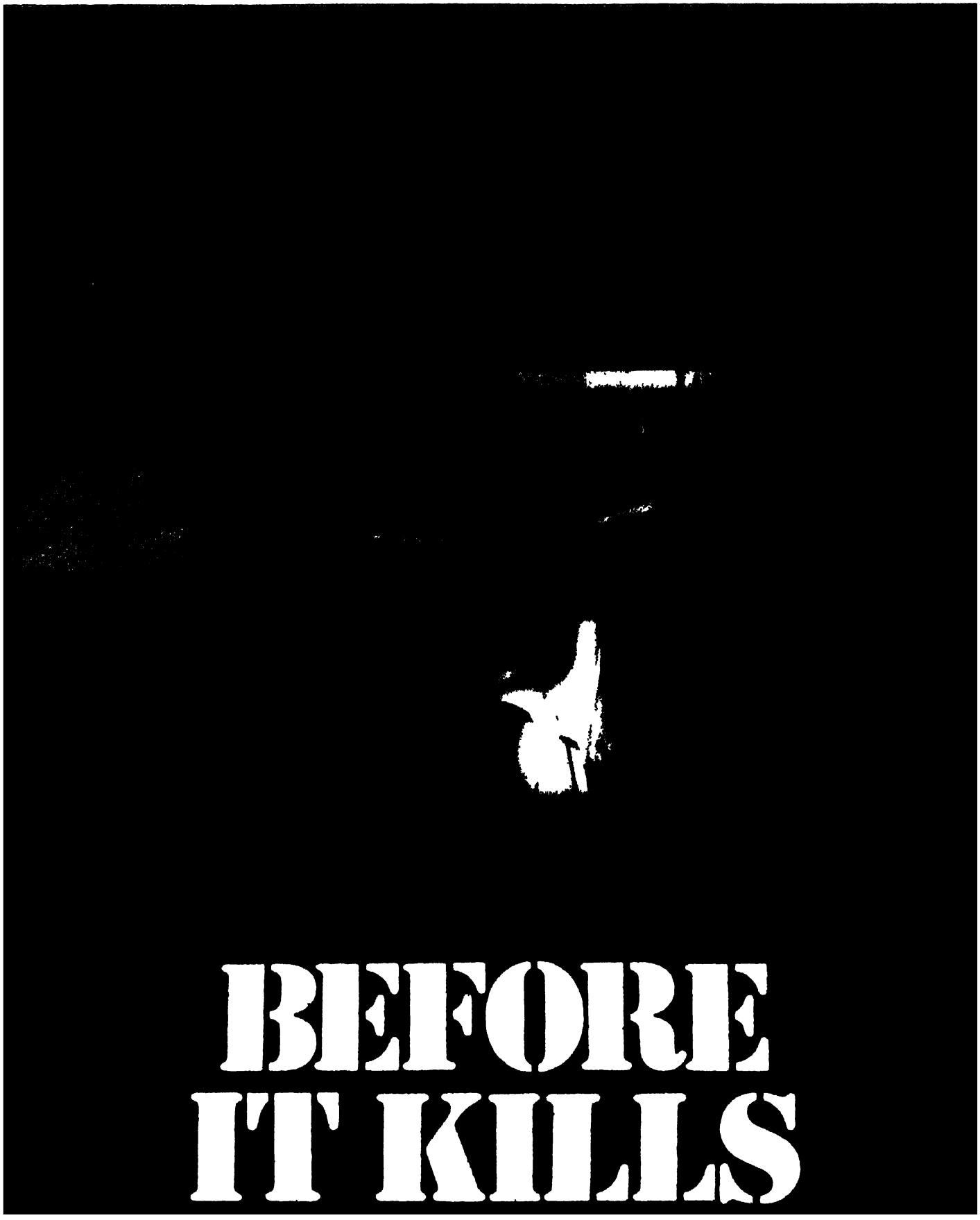
16 A galaxy of dance artistes will descend upon Calcutta this week

SECTIONS

9 Heritage
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23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Candid Camera

Cover Vivek Das

Vivek Das



BEFORE IT KILLS

"Do a death-defying act Stop Smoking"
"If you think you are smoking that cigarette, remember that in reality it is the cigarette that's smoking you- you are merely a sucker at the other end" *"Cancer and cigarettes Made for Each Other"*

The smoker today is under fire From July 1 the government of West Bengal banned smoking in all its hospitals In Tamil Nadu on the same day the ban was introduced in all government offices, educational institutions, cooperative societies, local bodies and state-owned companies You will not find an ashtray in Mantralaya, the seat of the Maharashtra government, these days Section 116 of the Bombay Police Act has nothing to with *goondagiri* it provides for stringent penalties on anyone smoking or spitting in government offices Since last month, you are "requested" not to smoke on Indian Airlines' flights that last an hour or less The "request" covers 112 of IA's 215 flights On the other flights the non-smoking section seats have been increased by 20 per cent Last May the Railways introduced one II class three-tier compartment on three long distance trains that is to be smoking free on an experimental basis

Since last April, following the popularity of the ban covering sub 90 minute flights, all flights in the US of less than two hours duration have 'No Smoking' signs that do not go off even after take off Offenders can be fined $1 000, it is twice as expensive to be caught smoking in the carrier's toilet In Japan, the national airline JAL has been swamped by court cases following the introduction of no smoking flights since last April Similar resistance has surfaced in Australia where smokers demanding the right to light up have promised to field candidates to fight what they call "interference by a nanny government"

Like never before, the categories of 'smoker' and 'non smoker' are coming to represent an important social division An addiction that was till recently socially tolerated- and sometimes even entirely acceptable -by non addicts is increasingly being seen as reprehensible and downright anti social Slowly but surely, the anti-smoking movement the world over is winning friends and influencing people, a small but significant proportion of them being smokers. (Currently there are 5 5 million ex-smokers in Canada, 10 million in Britain and 40 million in the US) How-I-kicked-smoking and similar titles are known to have topped bestseller charts internationally. Counselling on the subject is a cottage industry in the developed world Briton Allen Carr, a 100-a-day ex-

Smoking remains a burning issue. But never before have smokers faced such concerted opposition, making them feel guilty and isolated. Ashok Kamath feels the impact of the anti-smoking wave

Interviews by Debashis Aikat; researched by Sunrita Sen

smoker whose *The Easy Way to Stop Smoking* was a chartbuster, gave up chartered accountancy for the flourishing profession of helping other people kick the habit

But from a stance of friendly persuation the antismoking movement all over the world appears to heading towards a situation where smokers can with good reason feel persecuted This is somewhat surprising because it is not as though suddenly scientific research has *conclusively* established cigarette smoking as the *cause* of killer diseases like lung cancer and coronary heart problems at best what has been established (at least 50 years ago, at that) is the statistical association between smoking and certain killer diseases Yet the manguable nexus notwithstanding, association is never equal to causation

What, then, is it that has suddenly turned the drive against smoking into something of a self-righteous crusade? The main reason must be the increasing awareness of the health hazards of "passive smoking" Of the 28,000 passengers from over 100 countries that the International Foundation of Airlines Passengers surveyed recently a significant 75 per cent were in favour of sealed off sections for those that smoked As high as 37 per cent wanted an unconditional ban on smoking during flights, 11 per cent wanted the ban to be restricted to journeys that lasted under two hours and only two per cent did not make any distinction between smokers and non-smokers The high percentage of flyers who either wanted smoking banned or the in flight smokers isolated is indicative of concern about the ill-effects of passive smoking and this has contributed to the recent widening of the Great Divide between smokers and antismokers.

Thanks to the health hazard scare of passive smoking, a fuming cigarette is increasingly being seen as a miniature factory chimney that pollutes the air, threatening the wellbeing of all those who breathe it Robert D Tollison of the George Mason University put the conflict between smokers and non-smokers in perspective "It is a matter of certain environmental property rights Smokers have historically held these rights either by custom or by default, and still do in most settings Non-smokers are now seeking, whether for perceived medical or nuisance reasons, to have these property rights reassigned"

For every World Health Organisation (WHO)-sponsored study on the dangers of passive smoking there is a substantial body of research that disputes the findings ("WHO says smoking causes cancer" is countered by "Who says smoking causes cancer?") But even if for a moment it is conceded that the dangers of passive smoking are exaggerated, the nuisance, not to speak of an easily identifiable hazard like eye-irritation, caused to someone at the wrong end of the cigarette can never be overemphasised This alone is good enough reason for non-smokers to get uppity about environmental tobacco smoke they are forcibly exposed to How many smokers, it may be asked, would like to be closetted in a room filled with something as apparently harmless as *agarbatti*-smoke? Ask me I've been a 40 cigarettes-a-day smoker and the fuming joss-sticks of a puja room can give me a terminal headache

An Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) estimate asserts that at least eight million Indians die annually from cancers caused by tobacco-use In the US some three million Americans are said to have died prematurely from smoking related heart diseases Official surveys told that health related costs of cigarette smoking alone totals $53 7 billion annually in the US Day in and day out the international media bombards anyone who cares to read or hear or see the harmful effects of smoking And though conventional notices about smoking being out are often open to debate the anti-smoking campaign invariably asserts that the medico statistical case against smoking is overwhelming that the case is now closed All that needs to be discussed now, they aver, is what kind of government control are required and whether the effort should stop just short of clamping the awful weed called *nicotiana tabacum* off the face of the earth

Some of the measures recommended by the government of India by the [illegible]



'Made for each other...cigarettes and cancer,' a hoarding launched by the Maharashtra government in its cancer control programme

WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY

There hardly seems to be a single silver lining on the clouds that smokers spew out all over the world. Doctors, suffering family members and colleagues, and irate co-travellers on buses and trains are vociferous in their dislike of the fumes that uncaring cigarette, cigar, pipe and *bidi* smokers emit.

However, the high rate of smoking-related diseases in India today only serve to reinforce the ominous forecast of the World Health Organisation report of 1978 which predicted, "In the absence of strong and resolute government action, there is the serious probability that within a decade the smoking epidemic will be inflicted on countries least able to withstand it for twin reasons of commercial enterprise and government inactivity."

Prof A.K. Chakraborty, head of the epidemiology department, All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, agreed with the gloomy forecast of the WHO report. "Although the rate of lung cancer has fallen in the UK and the US, cigarette smoking is on the rise in China, the Soviet Union, East European countries and India."

Dr Saroj Gupta, director of the Thakurpukur Cancer Centre and Welfare Home claims that "the act of smoking is more a psychological dependence prompted by various social habits," while Dr Uchhal Bhadra, professor at the R.G. Kar Medical College, Calcutta, insists that the "problem of smoking is neither psychological nor social. It is a political problem."

Dr Bhadra disagrees with the generally held opinion that the government cannot ban the cigarette and tobacco industry because of the employment and revenue it generates. He asserts, "In relative terms, the government's expenses in providing health care for those affected by smoking surpass the money earned from the industry." However, both doctors agree that a smoker will give up the deadly habit only when the realisation comes from within.

Dr R. Biswas, teacher in community medicine at N.R.S. Medical College, agrees that personal motivation is imperative for a smoker to give up the habit but he says a forceful anti-smoking campaign can also bring down the number of smokers. "There is a visible decline in smoking among men in Western countries and the lung cancer death rate has also fallen."



Sunil K. Dutt

BOMBAY'S CRUSADER

"Anti-smoking is not an extension of the police raj into private life. I am not a policeman. I am a health secretary. I am not interested in legislation, but in creating an atmosphere. We are trying to build a non-smoking movement in the country," says Maharashtra's 42-year-old health secretary Mr D T Joseph.

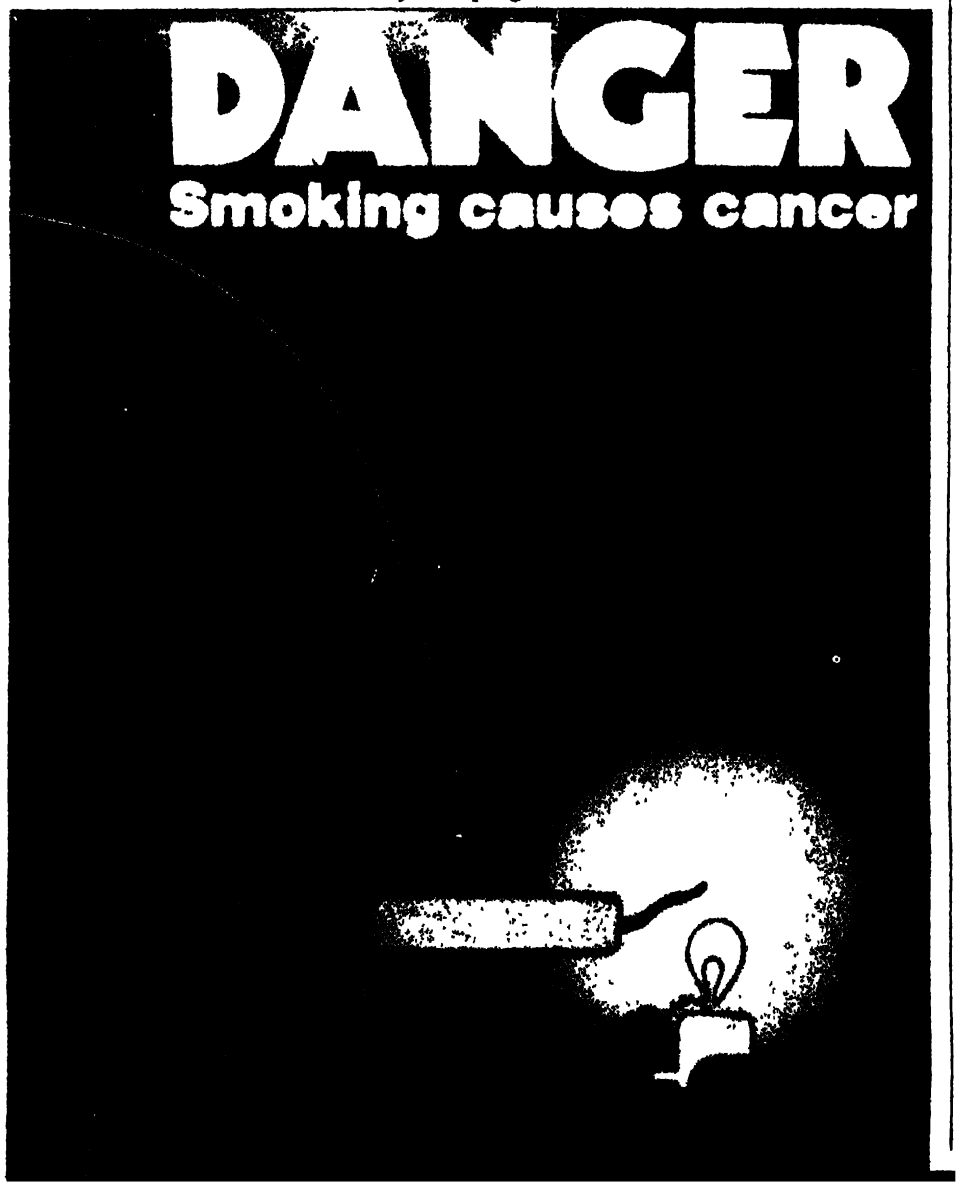
Joseph has much to be proud of—he has successfully pushed the ban against amniocentosis and other sex determination tests, besides being the guiding force behind the anti-smoking campaign pioneered by Maharashtra. In both areas he has virtually begun the campaign at home. His only child is a girl and he is a former chain smoker, having smoked four to five packets a day without a break for 20 years, beginning at age 21. He gave up the cigarettes when he took over as health secretary in November 1985, and kept silent for a year before beginning a public onslaught on the cancer stick.

Explains Joseph: "The campaign started, generally, with cancer. Since action should begin at home, Sections 116 and 117 of the Bombay Police Act were enforced at Mantralaya and other government offices. In January we started counteracting with the emphasis on health for instance, 'Tobacco smoking is injurious to my health.' 'Taste the spirit of free doom,' and so on. In April it was the sociological campaign— 'Be wise. Live longer. Choose a non-smoker.' And now it is the economic angle, with kiosks carrying the message 'Become a non-smoker and grow richer.' There is also the cleanliness campaign."

The biggest blow that the health department has in store if it can be swung is to prevent those under 18 from smoking and also to prevent hawkers from selling loose cigarettes. But the department is still not sure whether these measures will just go up in a puff of smoke.

Lekha Dhar

Part of the Indian Cancer Society campaign



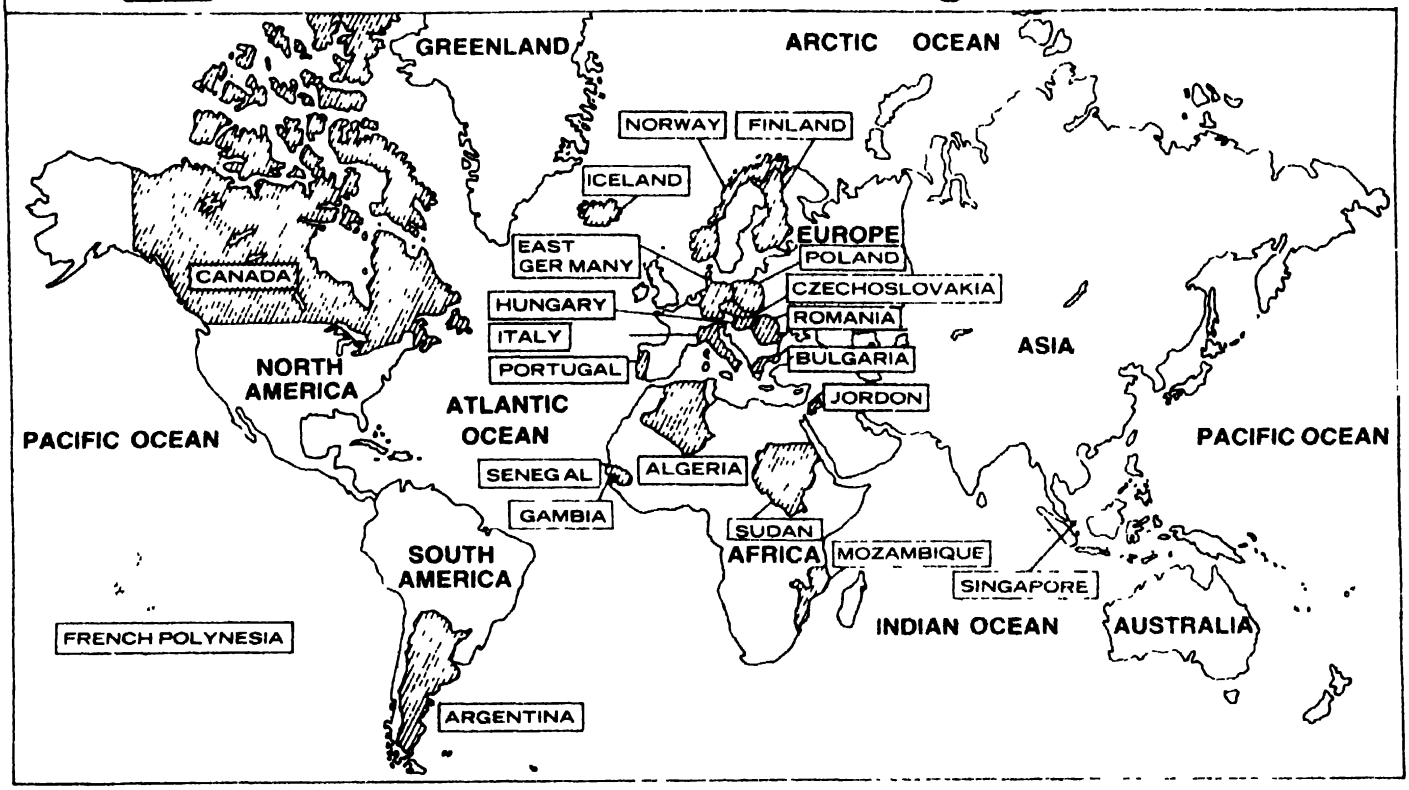
smoking lobby include making it mandatory for cigarette and *bidi* manufacturers to print more specific health warnings on packets. For example, the current "Cigarette smoking is injurious to health" ought to be replaced by an unambiguous "Cigarettes cause cancer" or "Cigarettes cause heart problems." In India, unlike in most developed countries, it is not mandatory to print on packaging the tar and nicotine content of the product. But given the illiteracy levels, not to speak of the variable vernacular, it remains open to debate how meaningful written warnings will be in this country.

It was in April 1970 that the statutory warning on cigarette packets and advertising came into effect. Yet the government has not felt the need to extend the warning to *bidis*, *zarda* and chewing tobacco which account for 75 per cent of the tobacco produced in the country. The current *bidi* consumption ratio is 1:13 which should indicate the largeness of the sector that goes uncovered by the statutory warning.

Cigarette manufacturers say they will be contributing Rs 1,060 crores to the national exchequer this financial year. (Actually, it is no big deal because the tax burden is really borne by the cigarette buyer.) In its effort to dissuade cigarette smoking, the government has hiked excise duty by a whopping 1,133 per cent over the last 10 years. The cigarette industry contributes nearly 2.5 per cent of the Central government's total revenue. Yet therein lies the rub of any attempt to curb or even minimise the manufacture of "cancer sticks."

Banning all cigarette advertising has been contemplated but never put into effect in India because countries like Norway and Poland where it has been totally prohibited have reported appreciable drops in consumption. Interestingly, *Reader's Digest* reckons that one

Where tobacco advertising is banned



THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

Puffing on a cigarette, a 70-year-old writer recently announced the founding of the World Association of Smokers. Namio Shintani, of Yokohama, said the club would promote smokers' rights in the face of anti-smoking campaigns.

"These movements by non-smokers are spreading like wildfire all over the world," Shintani said. He appointed himself chairman and said at a news conference that the association would fight government and corporate policies that persecute smokers.

Shintani, a five-pack-a-day smoker for 50 years who boasts excellent health, said he took on the issue as a matter of principle. "I love smoking," he said. "But even if I didn't, I would have taken this initiative. Each human being in the world has the right to live as he pleases."

Shintani said he does not believe researchers' findings that smoking harms health. He denies that tobacco companies were behind his efforts.

The association will not encourage people to take up the habit, Shintani said. He added that the club would favour no-smoking areas as long as space was set aside for smoking. Shintani, a longtime free-lance journalist, has already complained to Japan Air Lines about the non-smoking flights inaugurated on April 1. He has also worked with taxi companies in Kyoto to prevent non-smoking-designated cabs.

He pledged to work against anti-smoking education and said he would soon appoint club branch chairmen in various world regions. Shintani said he was particularly concerned by rampant anti-smoking provisions in the US. Japan has been slower than the US in protecting non-smokers from passive smoking.

A Smokers' Association logo depicting a giraffe smoking a cigarette and another animal smoking a pipe on stickers are available with club membership information. Shintani said, "I hope people will put these stickers on lighters or ashtrays or wherever they would like," he added.

Los Angeles Times / Washington Post News Service

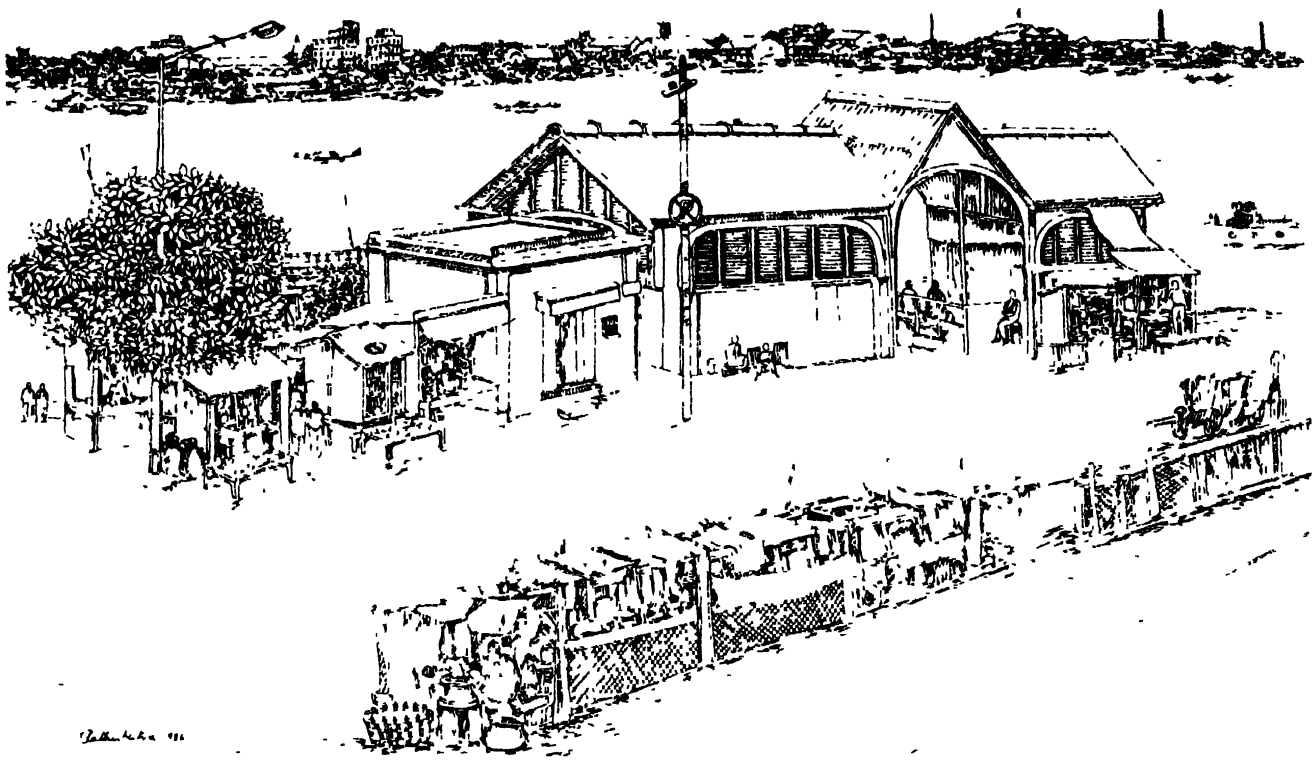
wide refusal to print tobacco related advertisments has cost it $242 million over the last 30 years. Even print media giants like *Time* and *Newsweek* are known to have censored bad news about smoking out of supplements they produced in collaboration with medical associations.

If the scientific evidence is so overwhelmingly against smoking, why is it that the world spends $ 240 million (according to WHO) on cigarettes everyday? Why is it that the smoking fraternity pays through its nose (and many other organs of the human body) for an indulgence that is doing it no good, forget for a moment the argument about the harm? Personally, with the experience I have now, if I could go back in time to the day I began smoking, I would never have lit that first cigarette. I have asked innumerable fellow-smokers this hypothetical question and the answer without exception has been "No, never." In the 15 years that I have been a smoker, I reckon even at a minimum average of 20 cigarettes a day at 20 paise each, I must have smoked 1,09,500 at the aggregate cost of Rs 21,900 at the very minimum. Staggering! Forget for a moment the debate about the smoking-related hole in my lungs; the hole in my pocket at least is uncontestable. And, come to think of it, indefensible.■



HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

MADAN DUTTA'S GHAT



Madan Mohan Dutta was a famous businessman of late 18th century Bengal. He made the greater part of his fortune through buying sunken ships complete with their cargo. The famous Hatkhola family began with him but it was his grandfather, Gobindcharan Dutta, who left their ancestral home of Andul and first shifted to Garh Gobindpur and later to Hatkhola.

There is an interesting tale about Madan Mohan and one of his famous proteges—Ramdulal Sarkar. Ramdulal's destitute grandmother had been given shelter by the Dutta family, and he was appointed 'sarkar' (man in charge of the business) by Madan Mohan. Once, Ramdulal acquired a sunken ship free of cost and made a profit of Rs one lakh on it. With rare honesty, Ramdulal deposited the entire sum in his master's coffers. A pleased and generous Madan Mohan gifted the Rs one lakh to his employee. Ramdulal began his own business with the capital and soon outstripped his former employer in both fame and riches. He is believed to have established India's earliest trade links with America and his two sons—Chhatubabu and Latubabu—are famous figures of 19th century Calcutta.

While Madan Mohan lived out his life at Hatkhola, a cousin, Jagatram Dutta, shifted to Nimtala and his descendents still live in the family home there. Madan Mohan's son, Ramtanu Dutta, was one of the renowned 'Eight Babus' of Calcutta and he built a ghat along the Hooghly (sketched above) which is called Madan Dutta's Ghat.



QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

Deepak Verma reviews the year's second open quiz

"The Summer Invitation Quiz run by Octave, after a lapse of some years, was actually held in summer—a hot, dry weekend Earlier it had somehow been held in heavy rains and last year even ended up as an autumn quiz

"More than 20 teams took part in each of the four preliminaries Most of the preliminaries were closely contested and ultimately Octette, Vulnerables, Soup, Octave, DI B, Help, DI A and Cream made it to the final

"Octave made a quick start but they were soon overtaken by DI A Going into the visual round, DI forged ahead and at the halfway stage on 14-and a-half points had a four-and-a-half point lead over their nearest rivals Octave, the others lanquished somewhere between 3 and 7 points The second round saw Octave come virtually to a standsill while Octette and Cream made a slow but steady start DI A , however continued to consolidate their lead and stayed ahead to the end (27-and-a-half points) For the others it was a blanket finish with Octette eventually taking second place (17 points) followed by Cream (16), Vulnerable (15), Soup (14) and DI 'B (13)

DI 'A' was represented by Neil and Derek O'Brien, Stanley David and Ian Zachariah

"Francis Groser, who has been conducting this quiz since its inception in 1972, did his usual good job as quiz master It was sad to hear his announcement that this might well be the last Summer Invitation Quiz He has virtually run this quiz single handedly as quiz master, organiser and sponsor Surely it deserves to be continued with commercial sponsorship Any takers?'

Sheila Pradhan, Calcutta, has sent this question "How can you differentiate among musical variety shows, pantomimes, musicals and rock operas?"

The Programme consists of "acts" dancers, singers, comedians, and sometimes jugglers or acrobats A band plays music to accompany the acts, and the costumes and stage settings are often lavish and colourful

Pantomimes are normally put on at Christmas and New Year A pantomime is a fairytale like *Cinderella* or *Aladdin* told like a musical play Pantomimes are full of songs and dances and sometimes include jugglers or even performing animals The story always has a handsome hero, a beautiful heroine, a wicked villain, and a comic "dame" (an ugly, old woman, usually enacted by a man) There is often a chorus of singers and dancers in colourful costumes, and the music is provided by the theatre band Some pantomimes nowadays are performed on ice and all the performers move on skates

Musicals are a modern form of an older entertainment called "operetta" or "light opera " The story is told in a play full of songs and dancing The songs often become hits on their own, quite separate from the rest of the show Some of the best musicals of this century are also films For example, the "dance musicals" starring Fred Astaire or Gene Kelly, and the musicals written by Rodgers and Hammerstein (such as *The King and I, Oklahoma, The Sound of Music*) are often shown in cinemas and on television More recent musicals include *Oliver!* and *West Side Story*

Rock operas are like musicals, but use rock music Some of the best known are *Godspell* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* Like musicals, rock operas can be full of hit songs, and are often popular as films as well as on the stage

A report from Pratik Chakraborti on an annual interschool quiz

"The first annual interschool quiz organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce was held at the Chamber's Calcutta premises Eight schools participated in a keenly contested final After a see-saw battle St Xaviers (26) just managed to overtake La Martiniere for Boys (24-and-a-half) Hindi High School (20) came third The winners wre represented by Ranjit Narayanan and Arjeet Chakrovorti It was a pity that the quiz was not well attended Nevertheless, quiz master Alban E Scott did a good job "

11th Question: What is the Calendar Art Syndrome? (Jayati Majumdar, EB-148, Salt Lake,Calcutta 700 064.)
***Ans:* This syndrome forces Bombay film directors to stay bound in the worst traditions of Hindi film culture, producing stereotypes rather than characters, doggerel rather than dialogue and imitations rather than art.**

QUESTIONS

1 Who is known as the "shadow prime minister" in Britain? (Samaula Das, Calcutta 14 and Kambupani Khamari, Sambalpur dist)
2. In 1988, both the US and the Soviet Union will participate in the Summer Olympics When did both last participate in the Olympics?
3 What is common to *Harijan, Navjeevan* and *Young India* ? (Manoj Kumar Singh, Ranchi 4)
4 What is the origin of the word bombast"? (Anindya Das Gupta, Calcutta 45)
5 What is the ancestral surname of Pandit Nehru s family? (Alok N Ashish, BIT, Sindri)
6. Whose autobiography is *Child of Change*? (Subhasis Bose, Durgapur 4)
7. If one was engaged in "pogonotomy" what would one be doing?(Ashok Thakwani, Calcutta 13)
8 Who was the fampus singer who played the role of a coachman in a song sequence in Raj Kapoor's film *Aah*? (Javed Nishat, Calcutta 16)
9. Other than George Washington, which US president has a country's capital named after him? (Srinjay Chakravarti, Calcutta 31)
10. What is the "smorgasbord syndrome"? (Debasish Naik, Sambalpur 1)

ANSWERS

1. The leader of the opposition party
2. 1976, Montreal Games
3. All were magazines published by Mahatma Gandhi
4. Originally the word was applied to cotton wool used for stuffing or padding. Hence it had come to mean "expressions stuffed with words "
5. Kaul The name Nehru is derived from the Persian word *nahar* meaning "canal " One of the ancestors was given a plot of land and a house besides a canal by the ruler of Kashmir
6 Garry Kasparov
7. Shaving!
8. Mukesh (who was also the playback singer of the song).
9. James Monroe, the capital being Monrovia (of Liberia)
10. Feeling hungry at the sight of new food

THE GRADUATE

You see them wandering around with a resigned look in their eyes trying to hold on to some obscure sales job. You see them crowding the floors of a thousand interview rooms across the country. You see them holding hands with college sweethearts adding their joint incomes, counting their chances of a comfortable life together. You see them reaching the booking window at cinema halls and then realising that they cannot afford a balcony ticket anymore. You see 25-year-olds looking as world weary and tired as people double their age. You see friends meeting with a show of bravado, each hiding the despair that threatens to overflow.

They are the Graduates. And our country produces over 60 lakhs of them every year.

So, for a while, let's stop mooning over the MBAs, or frowning over the CA's, or yapping about the yuppies — let's take a good hard look at the dilemma that a graduate today faces.

He goes through college with a misplaced belief in opportunity. If you attend the requisite number of classes, you'll get your forms. If you study enough you'll pass. Anyone can top the class. If you work hard the pressure lets up and you can have a long period of relaxation. The graduate gets used to routines being set for him - first a geography class, then a history one and so on.

However, the moment he finishes college, he realises that things are rather different in the "real" world. There are no classes to attend, no routines to follow. In short, the marks race gives way to the rat race.

Let's take a look at the limited options open to a graduate today. Some glib ones manage to talk their way into advertising agencies. A few who can write dart into newspaper offices. The enlightened go hell bent for MBA courses. A handful of the others pull a few strings and transform themselves into management trainees. But what about the rest?

How can the country best use the thousands of young men and women being churned out by our colleges every year?

What of our friend who got a high second division and attended 90 per cent of his classes? And was school monitor before that? For 16 years he fed his mind but now he is ready to step out and shoulder his share of responsibilities. He is willing, he is eager, he is all set to become a cog in the ever grinding wheels of business, commerce and industry.

But, who's going to have him? There are good sales jobs, but not enough to go around. There are the civil service examinations, but they too are forced to weed out applicants at an alarmingly discouraging rate. And banks and other marketing companies will soon insist that even their plumbers need to be MBAs!

Like a candle that slowly but surely burns itself out, a graduate's hope and enthusiasm begin to sink. Gradually, realisation dawns--a realisation often tinged with desperation when he needs a job *fast* (for whatever the reason). And then like a boxer stunned by a succession of power packed punches, our graduate reels on the ropes, harried and bemused, ready to take up almost any job that might come his way.

Stop! Enough gazing at this dreary canvas. Are there any solutions? How best can we channelise the energies of graduates to make them enterprising and effective? Obviously, changing the education system will take years (though in my mind there is no doubt that it will ultimately happen - the first signs are already there). Until this takes place, how about some immediate steps to provide more direction to graduates and college goers.

How about representatives of different trades giving talks to first year college students, say, every Friday afternoon. So one Friday, a manager of an advertising agency could talk about his profession. What is it really like? What kind of people do they look for? In what ways should a person develop himself or herself over the next few years to have a better chance of joining an agency? For example, start noticing advertisements from X, Y and Z angles or read A, B and C important books. The next Friday a newspaper man could speak, then a banker, a film director, a travel agency person, an army man and so on.

Perhaps summer training for college students should be made compulsory. Come the summer holidays and every student has to opt for a certain profession. Then for the next three months he or she will do a project with a company. This will give the student a good idea about the profession he wants to pursue and may even help employers identify bright young, budding executives.

Would it be possible to have formalised job counselling in colleges by a knowledgeable person who has sessions with each student and advises him according to his inclinations and aptitudes?

Students themselves can take up this cause. In addition to college festivals, how about a 'job jambouree" with different stalls representing different professions, each containing information pamphlets as well as one or two experienced people to answer questions?

And finally here's the clincher.

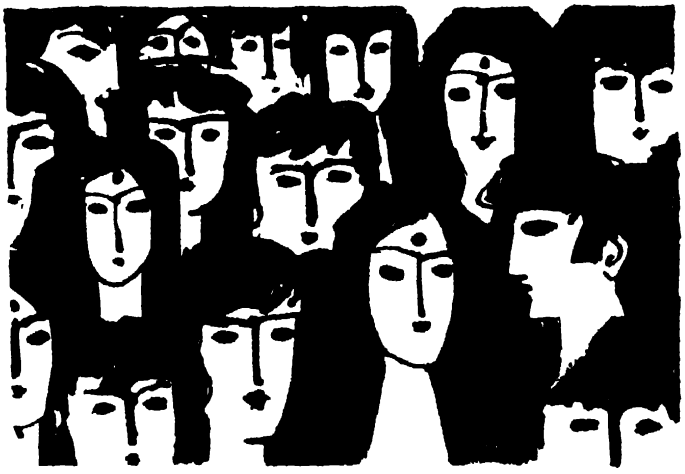
How about a modern well connected employment bank for people who have just graduated from college? Every student who wants to register himself there, has a half-an hour session with the "controller." The student's aptitudes, inclinations and talents are listed. These are then fed into a computer bank. Subsequently, whenever companies require personnel they apply to this employment bank and are recommended personnel according to their requirements. As soon as a person is hired, the employment bank receives one month's salary as commission.

You might say that all these are not original ideas. You might say that they won't work.

You might be right!

But that still brings us back to the original problem: how can the country best use its graduates.

Shivjeet Kullar



GASPING TRUTHS

Recently, the city dailies carried a news item which said that our respected chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, and our equally respected information minister, Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, during their China visit had seen, with their very own eyes, a baked fish gasping That is, even after it was cooked, when man was attempting to eat it, that incredible Chinese fish was still in the last throes of its life A vivid description of the "gasping fish" was given to newsmen by the chief minister himself on his return

Some believed the news Some did not Many did not when Mr Bhattacharjee first came out with the story It was only later, when the chief minister corroborated it, that many *seemed* to accept it I am a mere journalist and I believed the story as soon as I read it I just don't understand why a handful of people are finding it so difficult to believe

What my colleagues failed to do was to ask the chief minister a very pertinent question When the fish was gasping in front of our members of the Communist Party of India, with its bracketed (M), the boiled fish with its mouth wide open, must have said something in its native Chinese pisci-language, to our behind-bracket Marxists *What did it say?*

I do not know if our local minister for fisheries comprehends the language of fish

The Chinese wonder-fish might have been a cursed Marxist

What I do know is that the fish of our land gasp only on the way to the cold storages and when they turn up in the market they are frozen stones When they are expertly sliced by the fishmonger, there is not a drop of blood to be shed But even they hold for us a magnetic attraction It is the child's food, his father's protein, the patient's cure and a must for the son-in-law's menu In a country where a live fish gasping is a rarity, a boiled fish gasping must, indeed, be sensational But the point still is what did the gasping Chinese fish murmur to our Marxists? I am sure I know exactly what it must have said. It said in its Chinese dialect "Comrade, red salute Long live the revolution "

In fact, the gasping fish should have led to erudite discussions and, perhaps, scientific investigation Let me put before you the facts I have collected from my personal enquiries and deductions The Chinese fish our ministers encountered was a close companion of Lenin during the Russian revolution It was well versed in Marxist philosophy and was in intimate contact with the revolution. But during Stalin's regime his activities were declared to be anti-socialist and against the revolution. Stalin cursed him with the lowliest curse You shall be reborn a fish, a meal of men. You shall start your new life in a pestilential American pond and find your way to the capitalist American's table as tasty tidbits to accompany his drink The poor accused fish wrapped itself round Stalin's ankles and wept profusely. Said Stalin then A curse is a curse and I can't take it back All I can do is lighten it You shall be born in a pestilential pond of one of our neighbours instead

Then said Comrade Fish, "But how shall I be released from the curse?" By then, Stalin was feeling he had been a trifle too harsh He said, "In the eighties, two virtuous communist ministers will one day give you a deep look No matter what state you are in then, you will revive immediately and if you can manage to say, 'Red Salute' thrice, you will be reborn a communist in India You will be born with your little palm clenched in a fist That means a future as a trade union leader You will begin your career in the offices of the Writers' Buildings at B B D Bag, Calcutta Your initiation will be through the coordination committee."

Those who are not satisfied with these investigations of mine, well, all I can say is go ahead and investigate it yourself. My first conclusion is based on the great Hindu epics. The second is more contemporary—Bengal's *Lakshmi Panchali*, which says, *Je ba pare, je ba shone, jeba rakhe ghare, Lakhhir kripaye taar bare dhane, jane/Aputrer putra hoi, nirdhaner dhan, iha-loke shukh, ante sarga gaman* (He who reads, he who listens, he who keeps it at home, Lakshmi blesses him with wealth and might/The childless have children, the poor wealth, happiness on earth and heaven after death) Thus, too, if one worships a Marxist leader, impossibilities may be possibilities Sridevi's Miss Hawa Hawai is thus pure culture, Jeetendra's disco dancing is the *mantra* to arouse the masses and a boiled fish, too, may open wide its eyes and start floundering again What could the poor Chinese fish do but squirm alive in front of the piercing glances of our very own Marxist ministers? It could hardly be limp like a piece of damp cloth.

When I was in school, we were not in the habit of taking along a packed tiffin box With our daily allowance of one paisa we used to have the *hawai mithai* If you delayed in gulping it down, it would disappear For those who have never seen the *hawai mithai*, even this would seem an unbelievable story I once ate an entire chicken My wife said she heard it crowing in my tummy all night. If I could believe my wife, I don't see why on earth I should not believe such eminent men as our chief minister and information minister. Besides, there is something called faith

Dulendra Bhowmick

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A REASON TO LIVE



Shukla Das with her daughter Ipshita

Shukla Das has always chosen to be different Twenty years ago when there were hardly any women film makers on the scene she chose to join Doordarshan and make films She also took another courageous if slightly controversial step two and a half years ago when she decided to adopt a child and bring it up singlehandedly

Maker of the enormously popular children s serial *Magic Lamp* she has won national and international accolades including the prestigious Golden Plaque and Hose Bunka awards But inspite of her success Shukla s personal life was crisis ridden Wealthy successful and famous she felt empty drained and bereft of an emotional anchor Two and a half years ago matters came to a head I was tired of my work she says I had nothing to live for no one to give myself to no one to work for When I came home after work my mind was a blank and my emotions were spinning on nothing That is when I felt that I needed a child to commit myself to I needed someone to live for

So she took the momentous decision of adopting a child Ipshita her adopted daughter Shukla says is a source of joy I had lost all reason to live She has brought meaning into my life Art has to be inspired by human beings Now any problems that I face seem transitory No problems regarding money or anything else matter she declares feelingly

What problems has she faced as a single parent? I gave up my career for two years when Ipshita was a baby and now I am trying to make a come back There are no good creches or pre school centres for upper middle class children Servants exploit me financially and neglect my child but I have to rely on them Though I sometimes feed and bathe Ipshita most of her physical needs are taken care of by the servants Sometimes I m out for days and then I m totally dependent on them Neither friends nor family really help in such situations

Ipshita s arrival has brought not only joy and fulfilment but also responsibilities in its wake Earlier I was free and could give all my time to my work There were no economic imperatives Now these have become very strong Previously I had only myself to think of Now I have to earn in order to support Ipshita At the same time I cannot take on documentary film production because it keeps me out for six months at a time I am only taking on work that is not demanding I would like to work on a feature film or serial a little later Shukla admits

Two-and-a-half years ago, Shukla Das, a wellknown film-maker, adopted a girl and decided to bring her up single handedly. Why did she take such a step? And how successful has she been?

Ipshita has brought significance to Shukla s life but her commitment to her work is total When I work I completely forget Ipshita I am a person in a line which is competitive and demanding Ipshita will have to share me with my work I have to shut her out when I work In fact Ipshita and my work feed each other From my work comes the excitement for living and from Ipshita comes the inspiration

Being a single parent Shukla feels is a difficult job Why? I have to bring home the bread I have to provide material as well as emotional security I have to go out and earn a living but I have to see to it that the tensions and frustrations of my job should not spill over into my child s life In a two parent family the mother looks after the home and children and the father provides material security His home is looked after and so he enjoys his children I have to take care of my office my home the preparation of food and financial aspects like investments At the same time I also have to have a life of my own so that I can evolve as an individual and keep abreast of new developments Combining a career and the role of a mother is difficult I would love to have a relative living with me to look after Ipshita But I want to be the foremost person in her life

Shukla feels that a married couple gets more help from neighbours and friends than a single parent does When you are a single parent people are afraid to come forward and help They feel that you will become a burden and continue pressurising them Socially too it is difficult to relate as most married people prefer the company of couples

But being with Ipshita more than compensates for all the problems of being a single parent No matter how bad day it has been just coming home to her daughter make life worthwhile for Shukla If I ve had an awful day I come home and Ipshita comes t crying out Mama S dd the crisis vanishes it ceases exist and I forget myself her she says with a

Ranjita Basu

IN THE LAND

Wasbir Hussain takes a trip through the troubled Assam countryside

Photographs: Samir Choudhury



It is like any other countryside in Assam. Lush green paddy fields stretch over vast areas on either side of the road. Here and there, groups of tribal women are engaged in community fishing. The Bhubaneswar hills close in on us as we approach Kokrajhar, until recently a sleepy town known outside only for its excellence in junior football.

As we take the lateral road to Kokrajhar, off National Highway 31, we find tall plantations on either side. Curiously enough, the thickets and other undergrowths have been cut, making the large tree trunks distinctly visible. "The police and the authorities think that Bodo extremists might ambush VIPs when they pass through this stretch, that is why they used the jawans to cut the bushes. But actually the situation is not that bad yet though the police consider all young Bodos to be extremists," explains Rabi Ram Brahma, the general secretary of the All Bodo Students' Union (Upendra Nath Brahma group), who accompanies us.

One thing which cannot escape the attention of any visitor to Kokrajhar is the large, black patches on the walls within the town and on its outskirts. "It is the work of the police, they have put paint over our slogans," says Anitya Brahma, a young ABSU member. And going by the number of such black patches, it appears that till recently the walls in the town were full of popular slogans like "Divide Assam 50-50," "Do or Die for Separate Homeland," etc. The ABSU slogan painters have not spared the Assam State Transport Corporation's buses which ply in and outside the district.

In Kokrajhar, everybody knows Upendra Nath Brahma, the president of ABSU. We meet this unassuming 28-year-old leader who was elected ABSU chief in 1986, at the residence of Mrs Promila Rani Brahma, president of the All Assam Tribal Women's Welfare Federation (AATWWF). Hailing from the remote village of Boragari, near Dotoma, about 35 km from Kokrajhar, Upendra Nath Brahma is a postgraduate in physics from the Guwahati University. He has also privately done his BA and is currently pursuing his LLb.

As we sit down for what was to become a long conversation, we ask whether Brahma was a common title since more than half the people so far were Brahmas. "The Brahmas practise Vedic rituals as the other Hindus and are the followers of Guru Kalicharan Brahma. But our culture is the same as the other Bodos who believe in Bathou Barai (analogous to Shiva of the Hindu Trinity)," says Upendra Nath Brahma.

Why does he want a separate homeland? "We want to establish a district Bodo nationality, a rich and prosperous nationality. We want to establish the social and cultural links among the Bodos of the world. We want to prosper and we cannot be a developed community if we continue to be dominated by the Assamese chauvinists," Brahma goes on. We learn that the ABSU leaders are going to address two public rallies in the next two days. Says the district magistrate, U. Bhuyan, "We have lifted the prohibitory orders for these two meetings and have asked them (ABSU leaders) not to speak anything other than what transpired at their meeting with the chief minister while he was here."

Upendra Nath Brahma (left), Promila Rani Brahma and other movement leaders returning after paying homage at the martyrs' column



It is a bright sunny day as we drive along the gravel road to Khaspur, a forest village near Patgaon, about 25 km from Kokrajhar. This was the venue of the first meeting. On either side of the road, through the narrow lanes in between the fields, brightly dressed Bodo women march in single file. They are clad in the *dakhanas*, normally of yellow hue, which they themselves weave on their loom. "They are proceeding to the meeting; our members belonging to the local unit have informed the villagers around Patgaon about the rally," says Anitya.

At a distance we see a bright red and pink hoarding. It is the map of the proposed Union Territory on the north bank of the Brahmaputra which ABSU is agitating for. Clearly the work of professionals, the map shows the area (25,478 sq km) and

OF THE BODOS



The Kherai dance which was part of the ABSU rally

population of the proposed homeland Supporters of ABSU had conveniently put the hoarding high on electric posts along the road "You are lucky to find this hoarding, there used to be such sign boards at the entrances of all the villages before the policewasenguged to remove them," Anitya points out

A group of boys stops the car which is carrying Upendra Nath Brahma, Mrs Promila Rani Brahma and other movement leaders They want the leaders to first go a little further and pay homage at the martyrs' column which they have set up before returning to this spot for the two-km trek to Khaspur At the martyrs' column, the names of 13 ABSU supporters who were killed in the course of the agitation, now into its 16th month, are prominently displayed

We reach Khaspur after the trek which involves the crossing of a rivulet. There is no road worth the name to Khaspur from the point where we leave the car, not to speak of a bridge over the rivulet. The ABSU leaders are accorded a traditional welcome by the villagers with a group of Kherai dancers leading them to the dais to the accompaniment of drums and flutes. The women probably outnumber the men in the crowd of about 3,000.

The leaders speak about the alleged police atrocities on their supporters and relate the horrors of Bhumka, in which Assam police personnel were accused of having gangraped seven teenaged tribal girls, in gory detail The urgent need for a separate homeland is argued The same sequence follows at Bhalukmari, the venue of the meeting the following day Here, the crowd has waited from 10 am with placards in their hands but the ABSU leaders arrive in the evening, six hours later But they do not lose their spirit

Are they following Big Brother AASU who, during its anti-foreigner movement, so successfully mobilised the women? Says AATWWF president Promila Rani Brahma "Of late, our women have realised the futility of remaining with Assam And though we have no organisational link-up with ABSU so far, we fully support the demands raised by it Of course, we are ready to take up independent phases of agitation and mobilise our women more effectively in case such a situation arises."

However, it would be unjust to say that ABSU enjoys total support of the Bodos though it has been able to steal the thunder from the district level political parties which had initially raised this demand for separation from Assam Says Mr Charan Narzary, leader of the Plains Tribal Council of Assam (PTCA) and an MLA "ABSU's agitation is a stunt, they are terrorising the people and that is how they are successful in drawing some crowd."

Mr Narzary says that his party is ABSU's main target of attack "The ABSU leaders have political aspirations and they know very well that as long as the PTCA remains, there will be no scope for them to reach the centrestage of tribal politics in Assam," he adds PTCA had first voiced the demand for "Udayachal" way back in 1967

Despite this lack of unity amongst the tribals, the hardliners among them are one in denouncing the Assamese "who have been illtreating us all through" Says an elderly villager, "We are the actual sons of the soil and now we have to pay from our pocket to learn our own language"

Now, even as the Bodos, at the initative of ABSU, have sought divine intervention for a separate homeland for themselves (hundreds of ABSU members participated at the Dharma Yagna or religious prayers



Such sign boards are common along the village roads

on June 29 where they took a "do or die" oath for achieving a homeland), the Assam government has initiated a negotiation process "We are happy that the chief minister had come to Kokrajhar and showed his keenness in solving the problem through discussions but we expected him to go to some of the interior areas and take stock of our problems personally," says Mohini Mohan Brahma, a noted Bodo scholar Till then, it is the slogan, *"Bodosa Dethasat"* (victory be to the Bodos) which is sweeping the Bodo region

One hopes a solution acceptable to both sides is found before emotions begin running too high ■

THE MELODY OF RHYTHM

A classical dance festival featuring major artistes will be held in Calcutta later this week. Sumit Mukherjee details the different Indian styles and provides a preview

Indian classical dance has followed a steady line of development for nearly 2,000 years. A fundamental attribute of all Indian classical dances is that they have sprung from the religious urges of the people and their thematic content depends almost entirely on the rich mythological lore of Hinduism

All major Indian classical dance styles adhere to the codes of Bharata's *Natyashastra* which dates back to the second century AD Another ancient text on dance is the *Abhinaya Darpana* by Nandikeshvara, which was written around AD 1000

All classical dance forms have two major aspects: *Nritta* (pure dance that consists of a clear expression of the movements of the body coordinated with limbs performed for their own beauty and not to convey any special meaning to the beholder), and *Nritya* (a combination of pure and interpretative dance performed specially to convey the meaning or import of a theme or idea This is accomplished through facial expressions, codified hand gestures and symbolic body poses). Apart from *Nritta* and *Nritya*, the third aspect of the Indian dance tradition is *Natya* which, besides facial expressions and hand gestures, has the additional element of drama often introduced through the use of the spoken word.

Common to all classical dance schools are the *tandava* and *lasya* elements These two represent the carry-over into dance aesthetics of the central concept of Hindu philosophical thought: the male-female principle *Tandava* is the male principle—heroic, bold and vigorous; while *lasya* is soft and graceful. However, this does not mean that *tandava* is employed exclusively by the male and *lasya* by the female.

The major schools of Indian classical dance are Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Manipuri and Kathak although Kuchipudi and Odissi are today also considered classical forms as is Mohiniattam

In times gone by, classical dance did not enjoy the popularity and respectability that it does today. Until a few decades ago, dance was not considered a noble profes-



Avnash Pasricha



Kalamandalam [illegible]kitt: A renowned Kathakali exponent in *stri vesham*



Priti Patel and Sruti Banerjee (right): Talen[illegible] Swapna Sundari: An excellent singer as w[illegible]

sion and a dancer would invariably be looked down upon.

This stigma attached with classical dance gradually underwent a transformation, largely due to the efforts of Rukmini Arundale, Uday Shankar, Madame Menaka and above all Rabindranath Tagore. Today, classical dance occupies centrestage of our country's culture which is evident from the frequent international cultural exchange programmes.

With the growing popularity of classical dance, festivals featuring various styles have come to be organised almost throughout the year in different parts of the country. Although the winter months are considered to be ideal for music and dance festivals, they are no longer restricted to any particular season And Calcutta, which is often referred to as the cultural capital of our country, does not lag behind in hosting such events. The ensuing three-day classical dance festival (from July 22-24), organised by Durbar in collaboration with ITC is significant, it will feature all the seven classical styles, that is, Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Kathak, Manipuri, Odissi, Kuchipudi and Mohiniattam. The seven diverse forms will portray India's unity in diversity and offer an opportunity to trace the common characteristics of the elements of *Natyashastra*

Swapna Sundari, one of the finest Kuchipudi dancers of the country who has participated six times in the Khajuraho Festival will present her dance form on the first day of the festival. Bharati Shivaji, a Bharata Natyam dancer who trained under Lalita Shastri in the strict discipline of the Kalakshetra style, will perform her favourite Mohinattam as well as Bharata Natyam.

Kalamandalam Venkitt, an excellent dancer in *stri vesham* who trained under Kalamandalam Raman Kutty Nair and later Kalamandalam Gopi, will perform Kathakali, while Protima Bedi, the prima donna of Odissi and one of the best known pupils of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, will demostrate this classical dance form of Orissa.



Vivek Das

ed Manipuri dancing duo



Avinash Pasricha

Bharati Shivaji: Artist with a gift of mime



S Paresh

Protima Bedi: The prima donna of Odissi



Prerna Shrimali: Exponent of the Jaipur school of Kathak

The festival will also feature some of the younger dancers like Prerna Shrimali who learnt dance from Nrityacharya late Kundan Lal Gangani from her childhood A Kathak dancer of excellence, she was awarded the title of Rajasthan Yuva Ratna by the Rajasthan state Jaycees in 1983 The festival will also feature the Manipuri duo, Priti Patel and Sruti Banerjee, who have trained under Guru Bipin Singh. Kalavati Devi and Darshana Jhaveri since 1972.

Besides the three evening performances, seminar-cum-lecture demonstration sessions will be organised on the last two days by the participating artistes and eminent personalities from the arts The venue: Gyan Manch. ■

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REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aakhri Adaalat:** Elite (S.N Banerjee Road, 241383), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Park Show House (Park Street; 441971), Madhuban (Regent Park), New Cinema (Noon), Jyoti.

Directed by Rajiv Mehra and with music by Annu Malik, the film stars Vinod Khanna, Dimple Kapadia, Jackie Shroff, Sonam and Gulshan Grover

• **Commando:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)

Directed by B Subhash and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Mandakini and Hemant Birje

• **Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street; 254959), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Chaya, Jaya (Lake town), Sonali (Dunlop), Bangabasi (Howrah) and Piccadilly (Salkia)

The film stars Rishi Kapoor, Jayaprada, Govinda, Farha, Kader Khan, Shashikala, Aruna Irani and Anita Raaj The music is by Bappi Lahiri and it is directed by Kalptaru

• **Hamara Khandan:** Lotus (S N. Banerjee Road, 242664), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757), Grace and Khanna.

Directed by Tahir Hussain, the film stars Rishi Kapoor, Farha, Asha Parekh, Alok Nath and Amrish Puri. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelel.

• **Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)—3 shows, Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141)—4 shows

Govinda, Neelam, and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film, directed by Kirti Kumar The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138)—4 shows, New Royal, Rupmahal

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T. Paakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kabrastan:** Society (Corporation Place; 241002) — 12 30, 3.15, 6 15, 9; Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)

A film by Mohan Bhakri.

• **Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917)

Directed by T Rama Rao, the film stars Dharmendra, Sunjay Dutt, Chunkey Pandey, Neelam Mehra, Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amrapurkar. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Basusree (S.P Mukherjee Road; 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033) — 4 shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956)—noon

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film. The music is by Anand Milind



Juhi Chawla and Aamir Khan in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*

• **Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515) — 4 shows

Directed by Sunil Hingorani with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor.

• **Shree 420:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—11 30, 5.45, 9; Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Grace, Khanna, Vaishali, Ajanta (Behala)

A re-release of this hit Raj Kapoor film

• **Waqt Ki Awaz:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Majestic, Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Priya, Malancha, Vaishali, Ananya, Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757) and Ragini

A Shree Ramdevji art release, it stars Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi. Produced by Trivikrama Rao, it is directed by K. Bapaiah and the music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Agoon:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462)—3, 5.45, 8.30; Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740) — 2.30, 5.15, 8.

A film by Victor Banerjee, who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Tanuja, Divya Rana, Utpal Dutt, Asit Sen, Tanushri Shankar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Manoj Mitra, Shakuntala Barua and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury The music is by R.D. Burman

• **Parashmoni:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P. Mukherjee Road; 474686) — 1, 4, 7

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Santu Mukherjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Biplab Chatterjee, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Kaushik Banerjee, Kali Banerjee, Satya Banerjee, Jayashree T. and Sukhen Das The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

• **Tumi Kato Sundar:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045) — 2 30, 5.30, 8.15; Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282) — 2, 5, 7.45.

Tapas Paul and Moon Moon Sen are the lead pair in this Manoj Ghosh film. Others in the cast are Abhisek Chatterjee, Lipika, Anil Chatterjee, Tarun Kumar, Nirmal Kumar, Satya Banerjee, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee, Ruma Guhathakurta, Sabitri Chatterjee and Master Rintu. The music is by Mrinal Banerjee.



Tapas Paul and Moon Moon Sen in *Tumi Kato Sunder*

NEW RELEASES

Bengali Films

• **Choto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 443762), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)

The film stars Ranjit, Sandhya Rai, Kali, Meenakshi, Debika and Prasanjeet. The screenplay, dialogue and direction is by Anjan Chowdhury.



A scene from the play, *Look, No Hans!*

• **Surer Sathi:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 080800) 2.45, 5.30, 8.15, Alochaya 11.15, 4.7, Jogmaya (Howrah)

Tapan Sinha directs this film that stars Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy and Subhendu. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

Special Events

17 July 6.30 pm

The Palatik Repertory presents *Aur Raj Mat Gaya*. Directed by Anmol Vellani, the cast includes Rajaram Yagnik, Vinay Sharma and Shampa Ghosh.

At Gyan Manch.

18 July onwards. 4 to 8 pm

The Seagull Foundation for the Arts in collaboration with the West Bengal government and the African National Congress presents a week-long programme, "Nelson Mandela: Freedom at 70."

The programme includes a drama, documentaries and a panel discussion.

18, 21 July: 7 pm

Scene Stealers present the comedy, *'Look, No Hans!'* by John Chapman and Michael Pertwee. The cast includes Vivek Mansukhani, Shikha Rai, Sandip Patel and Aparna Roy. Directed by Farkhondeh Khaleeli.

At Gyan Manch, 11, Pretoria Street.

20 July: 5.30 pm

Discussion on "Soviet and Indian Youth in the struggle for peace," and Odissi dance recital by Nandita Sinha.

At Gorky Sadan, 3, Borky Terrace, Calcutta 17.

22, 23 July: 6.15 pm daily

Durbar presents "Golden Greats," a festival of Indian classical dance featuring Swapna Sundari, Prerna Shrimali (22 July) and Kalamandalam Venkitt and Bharati Shivaji (23 July).

At Gyan Manch.

23 July: 10 am

Seminar and lecture demonstration by Swapna Sundari, Prerna Shrimali and Guru Bipin Singh with Priti Patel and Sruti Banerjee.

At Gyan Manch.

23 July: 7 pm

Cordelier presents *Shabdo Abrakto* based on James Thurber's *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. Drama, direction by Joydeep Bhattacharya.

At Girish Mancha.

TRAVEL

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1): AI-132A at 1905.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830, Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1855; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt): Arr. (6): AI-455A at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York): Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145.

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1700 amd Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1810; Arr. (4) SU-537 at 1555, Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2). JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-415 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1530, Arr (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 1920.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4). IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510, Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7): IC-248 at 1425.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC-443 at 1540, Dep. (7) IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6), GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-477 at 1005.

Calcutta-Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400; Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1635.

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-295 at 1640, Arr (2, 4, 6). IC-296 at 2105.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1). IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (1 3 5 6 7) IC-410 at 1110, (2 4) at 0850, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr. (2): IC-270 at 2155.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0530, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1000.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (1 3 5 6 7) IC-241 at 1030, (2 4) at 0810 and IC-242 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650, Arr. (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-202 at 0910.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105.

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily). PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

* **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep

(2, 4, 6) PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0800, Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-729 at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 730 at 1610

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight) Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-729A at 0630, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-730A at 0850

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-727 at 0940; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-732 at 1000

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-737 at 0630, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-738 at 1235

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5). PF-721/722 at 0630, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723/724 at 1915

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF-709 at 1800; Arr (daily). PF-710 at 1935

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700, Ar (daily). PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7). PF 736 at 1610

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6)· PF-735 at 0930, Arr. (2, 4, 6)· PF-736 at 1620

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20 00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep --Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep -- Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues , Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8 45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep – Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep -- Sun up to Amritsar Arri -- Mon , & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep --Mon Tues Thurs , Fri & Sun Arri --Tues , Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri Wkly Dep -Tues Fri & Sat Arri --Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep -Mon & Thurs Arri --Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20 05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	15-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5 20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5 45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6 35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri – Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep -- Tues Thurs & Sat Arri -Mon Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	[illegible]	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri -Thursday	7 30	960

SEALDAH

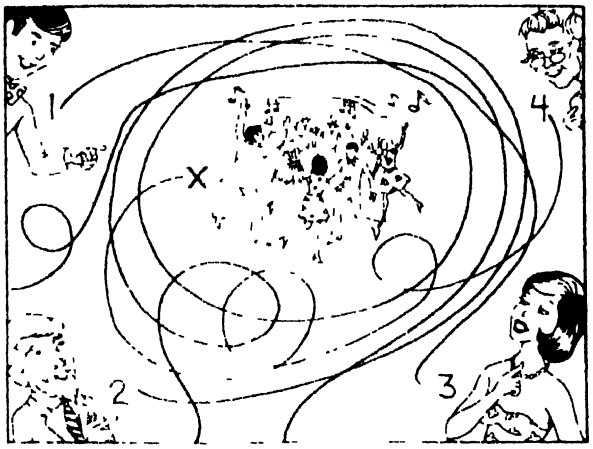
Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6 15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20 45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

3	20 45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Wed , Fri & Sat Arri —Mon Tues , Thurs , Fri , & Sat	14-15	59
134	21 00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4 30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21 30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7 15	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	--
-	14 10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

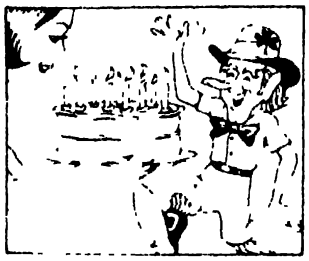
ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203536-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



REEL FUN! Which one of four persons is about to join in the lively dance above? Take a guess, then trace routes

• **WORD MAGIC!** Start with O, add a letter to make a preposition Add another for a number Add another, and alakazam — it's gone! Can you explain?



BIRTHDAY PUZZLER!

By the way Terrence ' said the leprechaun s thum what day of the month were you born and how old are you?

"If," said Terrence, "you add together the numbers of the days of March that precede my birthday, you'll discover they total one third of the total number of days of March, that follow it As for how old I am, a man s age is nobody's business but his own "

Can you figure out Terrence s birthday?

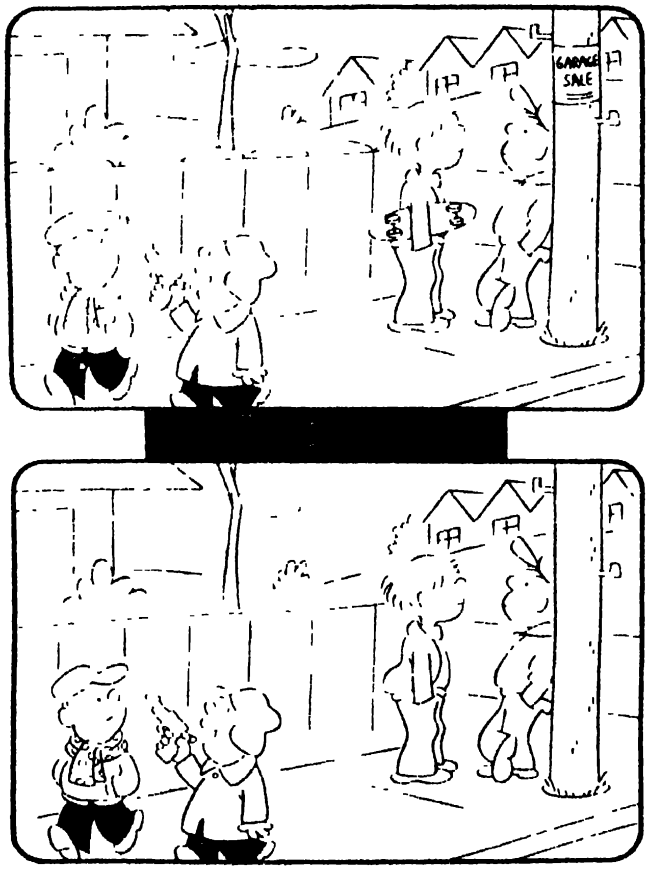
• **FISH NET!** There are fish to be caught in this pool of letters below Moving across or down (but not diagonally), letter to letter, see how many fish you can land.

For instance, begin with S at upper left and spell SOLE, then SALMON (letters may be used more than once)

Trace out names of 10 fish if you can.

S	O	H	A	L	I	B
A	L	M	D	M	H	U
R	E	O	D	A	A	T
D	I	N	O	C	K	E
A	N	E	R	O	D	R
W	H	I	R	I	N	E
P	A	T	I	N	G	L

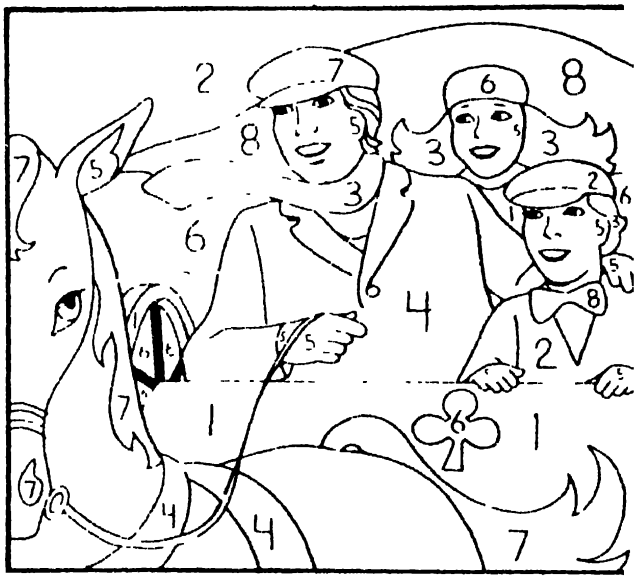
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Fence top is different 2 Gun "sight" is missing 3 Cloud is smaller 4 House is missing 5 Skateboard is missing 6 Poster is missing

FUNSPOT



GREAT DAY! Sure 'n begorra, the family's out for a spin Add the following colors neatly 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

DISPERSE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

From July 17 to July 23

INNER EYE □ Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES

March 21 - April 20

The home and property trend will continue this week as well with certain definite developments You will get a chance to settle some long standing negotiations and finalise deals A dispute that has irked you for a while will now be settled in your favour Travel is indicated People will come forward to lend you support in almost anything that you do

TAURUS

April 21 -May 20

You will reach out to people and places through all possible means of communication Visits and interviews will take on added significance now There are chances of an official engagement or marriage Journeys to distant places are foretold A lucrative business offer will come your way Artists, decorators, editors and painters will win accolades

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Money will continue to pour in Romance, socialising and entertaining are distinct possibilities Use all the contacts and support that you can muster to accomplish your goals Relationships with near and dear ones will improve Happiness will finally be yours and the week will be relatively tension-free Parents will stand by you

CANCER

June 21- July 20

You will score a remarkable victory over your critics However, do not become overconfident of your abilities and plan your moves with a calm head Utilise the time on hand to finish pending chores before taking on new assignments Your famed charm will win you many admirers and there are chances that you will tie the knot before the year is out

LEO

July 21—August 21

The sun sextile Jupiter formation indicates that you might get into trouble because of your impulsive nature Home and property affairs are once again highlighted Caterers, hoteliers, editors, entertainers and students will do well A journey to distant lands is in the offing Artistes will finally come into their own and win name and money



VIRGO

August 22- Sept 22

Contacts, communication and correspondence are highlighted this week This is the ideal time to launch a new enterprise or venture Moon sextiles sun and the formation also highlights socialising and entertaining Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible Money will pour in if you are ingenious Health may cause concern

LIBRA

Sept 23- Oct 22

Work, property, housing and publishing are highlighted this week Land disputes may worry you Your personal and professional life may clash so make an effort to keep them separate Be more diplomatic in your approach and do not over react to people and situations Do not take people at face value and learn to look below appearances

BIRTHDAYS

July 17

Moon trine Neptune This trine assures success in that you will be able to put across your ideas forcefully Teachers, salesmen, copywriters, artistes, journalists, managers, writers and brokers will do well Journeys and trips are foretold

July 18

Mercury trine Pluto Your creative impulses will find an appropriate channel now Money, recognition and happiness will finally be yours Trips will prove to be lucky Children, hobbies, creative pursuits and import-export are highlighted.

July 19

Moon sextile Sun· This could be a year of wish fulfilment. Teachers, journalists, publishers, accountants, doctors and students will do well this year Make the most of all the opportunities that come your way

July 20

Moon square Neptune· Rely on your intuition and learn to motivate yourself to do things Domestic affairs may prove to be unsettling but take that in your stride Pay attention to details If there has to be a parting, let it be as graceful as possible

July 21

Moon sextile Saturn, Uranus You will get a chance to prove your worth. At work, more responsibilities and perks will come your way Renovation, decoration, buying, selling and refurbishing are foretold

July 22

Moon's first quarter, Libra Follow the dictates of your heart An addition to your family, hobbies, creative pursuits, loans, funds, renovation and decoration are foretold Artistes and writers will make a mark

July 23

Moon trine Mercury· This will be an extremely lucky year for producers, financiers, executives, salesmen, surgeons, generals and commanders Learn to assert yourself. Capitalise on your contacts and rely on your intuition in important matters.

SCORPIO

Oct 23 - Nov 22

Assert yourself Moon sextiles Pluto and this will give you the necessary pep to project yourself and vanquish your rivals Money will also pour in Learn to make the most out of business transactions and ventures People may regard you as pushy or overbearing but do not let that bother you Disregard criticism and forge ahead Do not, however, take your health for granted

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23- Dec 20

Loans, funds, business ventures, rites and rituals, ceremonies and collaborations are highlighted this week A breakthrough is likely towards the weekend It will be well worth your while to entertain and socialise Do not hesitate in doing a good turn for someone you care about Functions and meetings will demand a share of your time

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

You will continue your search for a more satisfying position in life Mercury moves into your seventh angle giving you a chance to spruce up your image and the reputation of the company that you represent Functions, meetings and social commitments will keep you occupied throughout the week

AQUARIUS

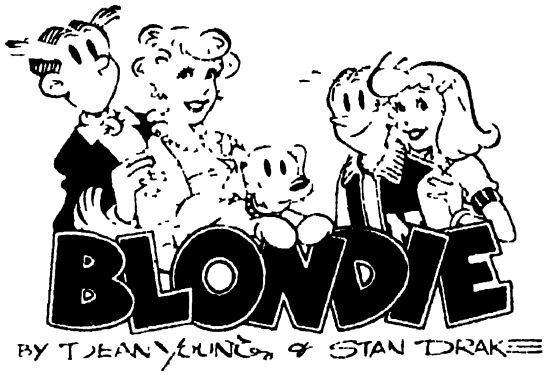
Jan 20- Feb 18

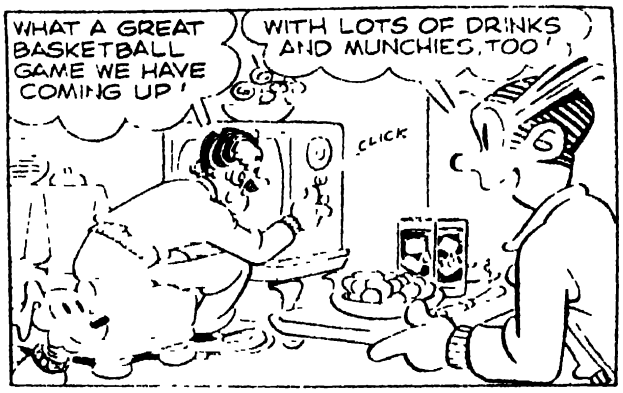
A job hop is on the cards Your new job will have additional perks but your responsibilities will also increase manifold This is the time to draw up a new plan of action and streamline the system Try and bag new assignments Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible

PISCES

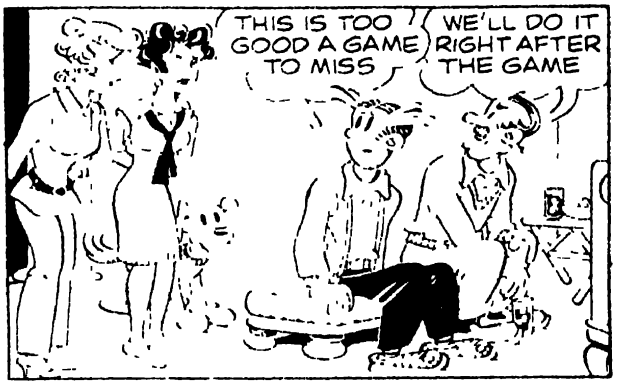
Feb 19—March 20

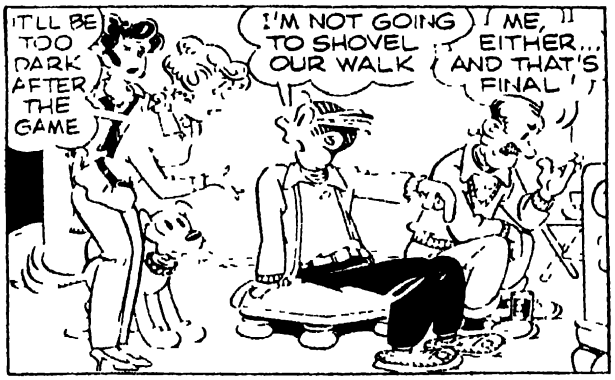
Sun sextiles Jupiter and this formation is sure to enhance your prestige and reputation Partnerships, links, ties and collaborations are foretold A journey is also a possibility Children, hobbies and creative pursuits will keep you busy Your interest in photography and dress designing may suddenly be aroused

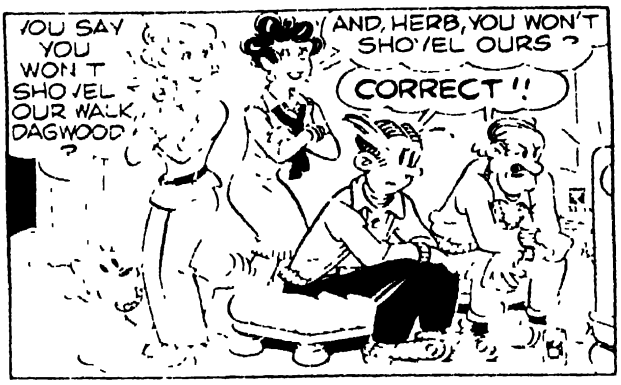

BLONDIE
BY TOM YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


WHAT A GREAT BASKETBALL GAME WE HAVE COMING UP!
WITH LOTS OF DRINKS AND MUNCHIES, TOO!
CLICK

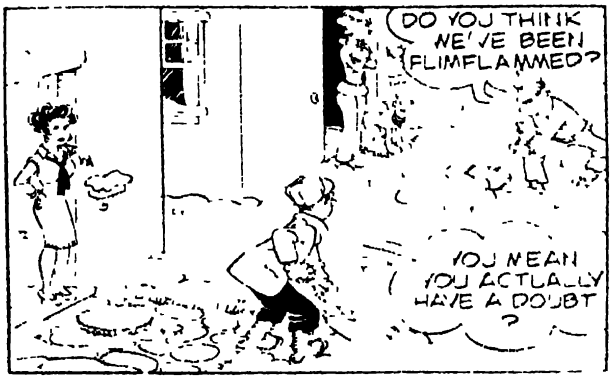

BEFORE YOU TWO GET INTERESTED IN THE GAME...
THERE'RE SIDEWALKS TO BE SHOVELED


THIS IS TOO GOOD A GAME TO MISS
WE'LL DO IT RIGHT AFTER THE GAME


IT'LL BE TOO DARK AFTER THE GAME
I'M NOT GOING TO SHOVEL OUR WALK
ME, EITHER... AND THAT'S FINAL!


YOU SAY YOU WON'T SHOVEL OUR WALK, DAGWOOD?
AND, HERB, YOU WON'T SHOVEL OURS?
CORRECT!!

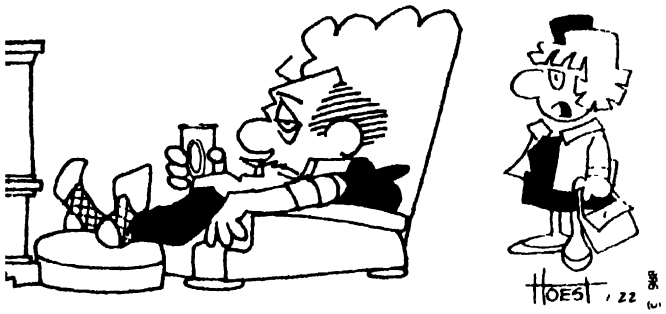

THEN, DAGWOOD, YOU SHOVEL THEIR WALK
AND, HERB, YOU SHOVEL THEIRS!
4/DRAKE 2-21


DO YOU THINK WE'VE BEEN FLIMFLAMMED?
YOU MEAN YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A DOUBT?

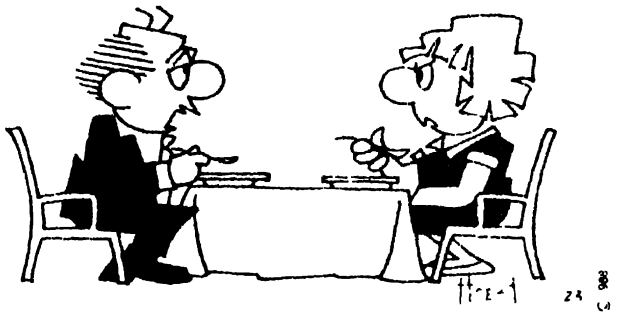
HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull



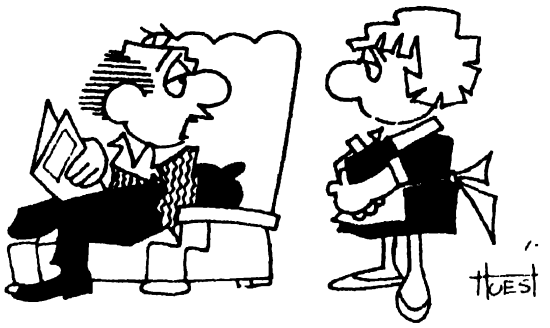
THE LOCKHORNS



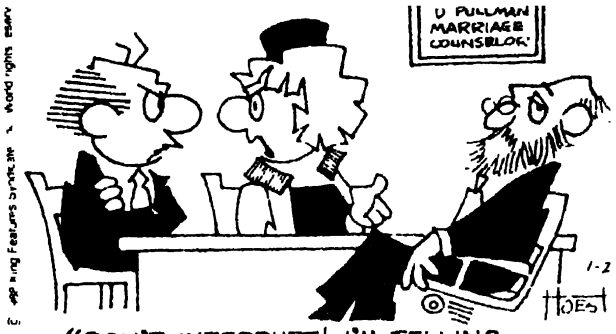
"I HATE TO DISTURB YOU, LEROY, BUT YOUR CAR IS ON FIRE."



'THIS PUDDING IS MORE TASTELESS THAN USUAL, WHICH IS A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT."

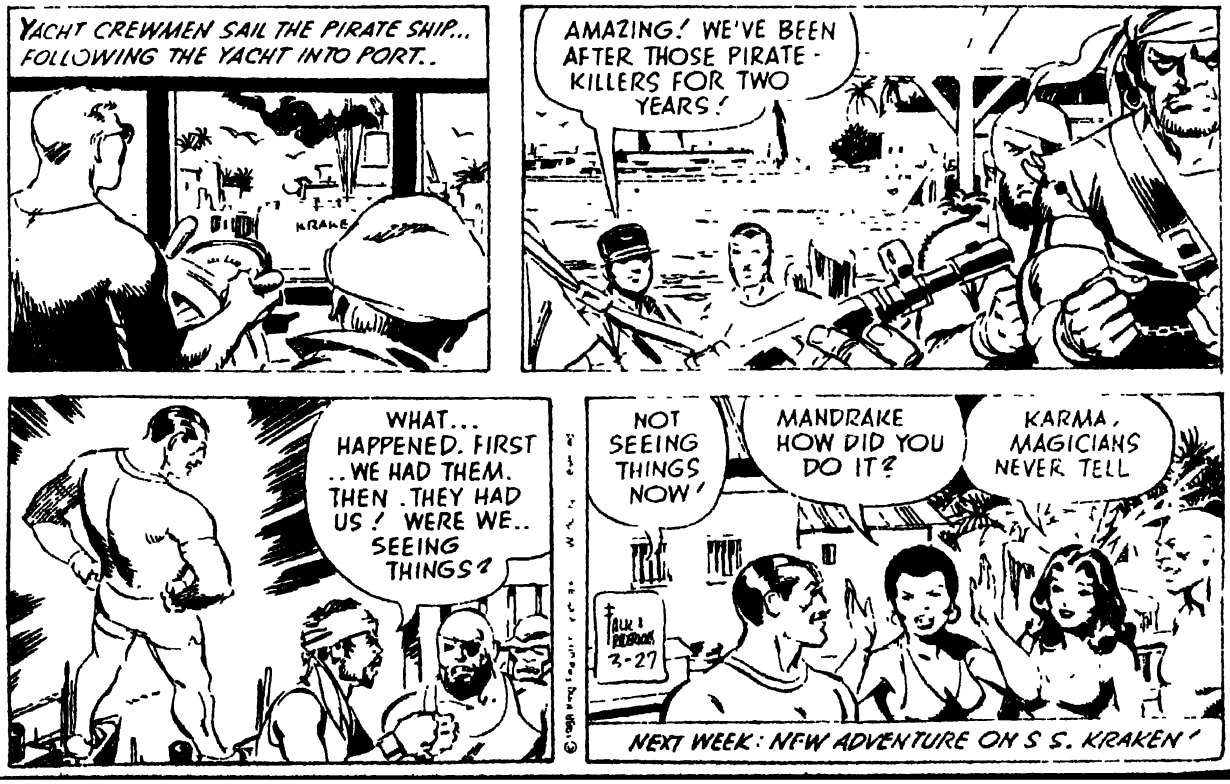


"WHAT DO I WANT FOR SUPPER? I'LL HAVE WHATEVER IS THE LEAST LIFE THREATENING."

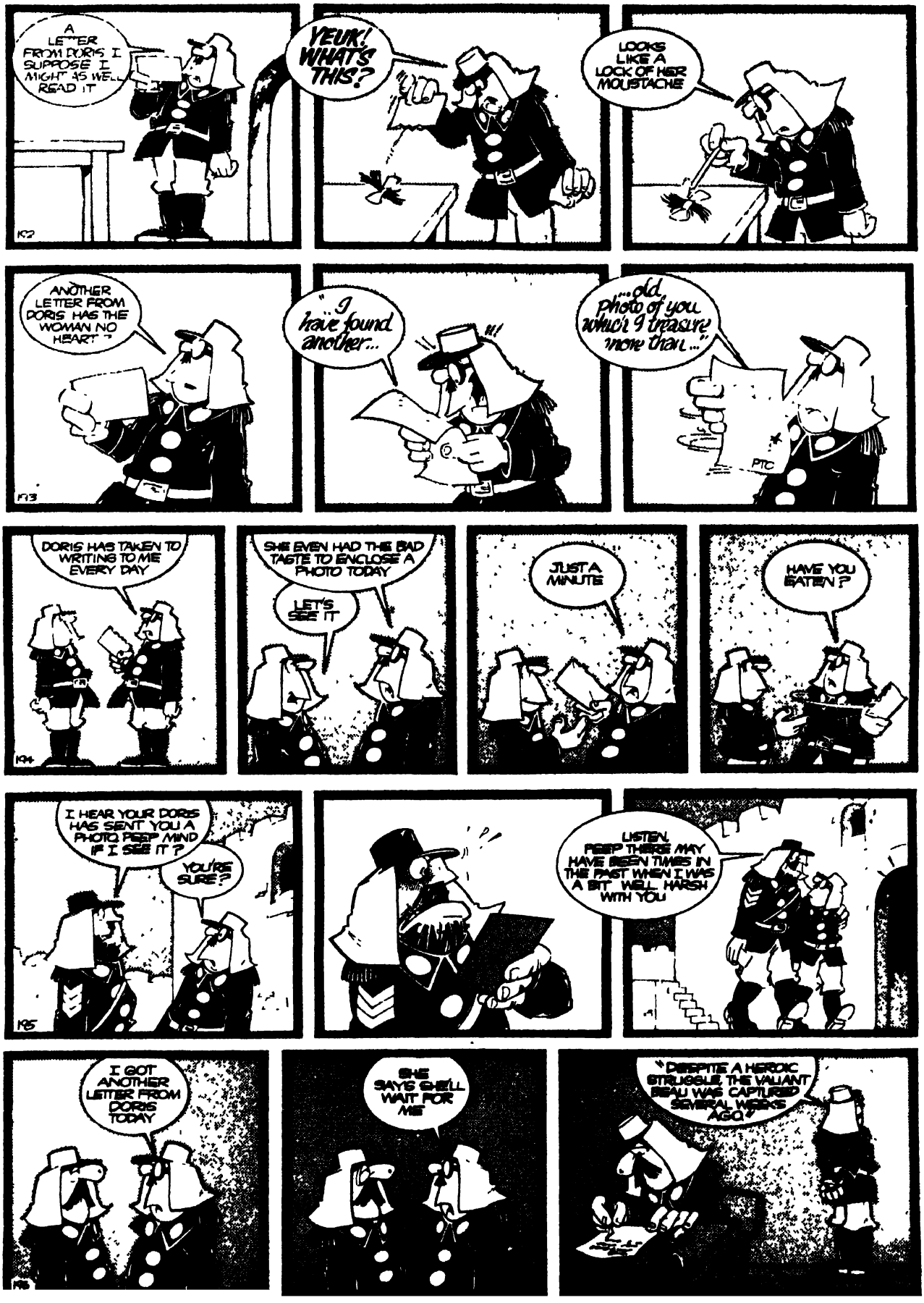


"DON'T INTERRUPT! I'M TELLING YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY!"

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


JULIET.. FAIR JULIET...
ARE YOU A THESPIAN, TOO, MOOSE?
D-UH, NO... I'M A SCORPIO!
TO BEE... OR NOT TO BEE...
THAT... IS THE QUESTION!
TO BEE!
I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE FOOLED AROUND IN DRAMA CLASS!
YEAH, THE TEACHER ALWAYS MAKES A BIG PRODUCTION...
...ABOUT DECIDING TO SEND US TO THE PRINCIPAL OR NOT!
MR. WEATHERBEE PRINCIPAL
1-10

Tender Times



It was a touching moment at Sanjay Gandhi's *samadhi* when **Sonia Gandhi** embraced and kissed nephew **Varun.** They were there to commemorate Sanjay Gandhi on his death anniversary last month.
Photograph by C.NARASIMULU RAO



Luxury like this, cannot be explained.

Only experienced.

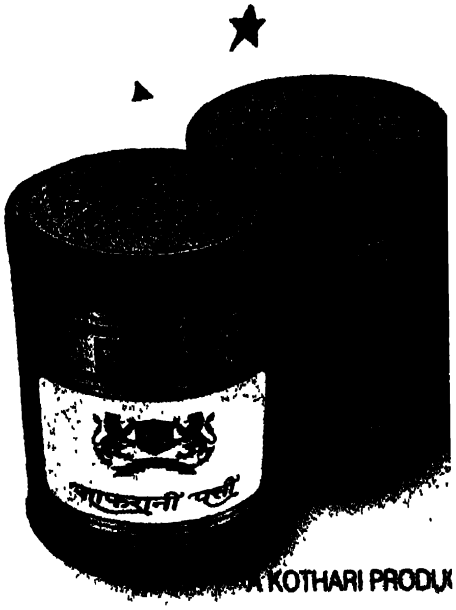
Chancellor Luxury Filter
A distinguished taste of

Masti Ka Rang



Add a lot of fun to all that you're doing with the unique flavour of Parag Zarda. A superb blend of the finest tobaccos, Parag Zarda is made with the same care as your favourite Pan Parag.

So pick the grade you like – 110 or 50, and savour the lingering freshness, the special 'masti' of Parag Zarda.



PARAG

ZARDA

STATUTORY WARNING : CHEWING TOBACCO IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH.

A KOTHARI PRODUCT

Computers for Peace

The truth about supercomputers was brought out very well (May 29). Most of them are used for destructive purposes like designing of war materials. Can anyone build a computer which will help in fostering peace?
B.B Kar,
Calcutta

Not All That Tense

The future does not seem all that tense for IIM-educated managers as profiled by Jaideep Bose (May 29). It seems all that they worry about is compensation, not contribution.
Rajarshi Dasgupta,
Calcutta

■ It was unfortunate that you did not cover women MBAs and the job environment they have to face.
Sona Varma,
Calcutta

■ Mention should have been made of the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Calcutta, one of the premier institutions of India, which runs fullfledged MBA courses affiliated to Calcutta University.
Suparna Saha,
Calcutta

■ The article made delightful reading, but it would have been better had it depicted the aspirations and prospects of the MBAs from universities and institutions like XLRI and TISS instead of confining itself to IIM graduates alone.
Subhrajit De,
Chandannagar (W.B.)

Not Wide

The article on Chittaranjan Park (June 5) was impressive, but it was wrong to refer to the roads there as "wide". They are, in fact, among the narrowest in Delhi and many accidents take place because of that.
Sumit Sen,
New Delhi

■ As a Bengali living in Calcutta, I was overjoyed to learn about the steps taken by the Bengalis of New Delhi to retain their culture and heritage.
A.N. Bhattacharya,
Calcutta

Rags and Riches

Is it not tragic that while the descendants of Tipu Sultan (May 22), who gave his life fighting the British, are living in poverty, the Jaipur family (June 26), whose forefathers chose a path of compromise with the British, has amassed unlimited wealth?
Mayajit Mazumdar,
Kharagpur (W.B.)

Glaring Fallacies

The writers of the article on doctors (May 1) seemed to have certain ideas of their own. For example, they write that doctors nowadays will do very little without 'foolproof' pathological tests. In the USA, a patient is put through a C.T. scan if he goes to a doctor with a simple headache. The tragedy in our country is that some people (who would rather have their headaches treated abroad and insist on a C.T. there) expect doctors in our country to have eyes which can do the job of C.T. scan.


Rajesh Kumar
Chittaranjan Park

Among various other glaring fallacies in the article, we would like to point out that there is no drug in pharmacology called 'oechogen' or 'oeshogen'. It is oestrogen. This shows the callous attitude of the writers and it greatly saddens us to note that grave allegations have been made against the medical profession in general. As in any other field, there are as exceptions, a handful of quacks and corrupt individuals. To generalise is a grave injustice to a profession which is still largely noble and selfless.

We also wonder if Vedantam Subrahmanyam in his letter (May 29) is guilty of misrepresenting facts when he says that a girl had to shell out Rs 700 to the doctor for two or three visits for a cat scratch. In all probability the lady was asked to take a course of anti-rabies (PCEC) vaccine which costs around Rs 700, which incidentally she would have paid to the pharmaceutical company.

As for his statement that pharmaceutical firms gift doctors motor cars, we wonder if he thinks readers are so foolish as to believe such wild allegations.
Dr K.S. Srinivasan and
Dr Sougat Samanta,
Calcutta

■ Our 'friends in need' should come forward to save the nation by breaking the vicious circle immediately. We, the people, will join you if you require our help as we want clean administration and better treatment facilities.
Jyotsna Datta,
Jalpaiguri

The Telegraph
24 JULY 1988



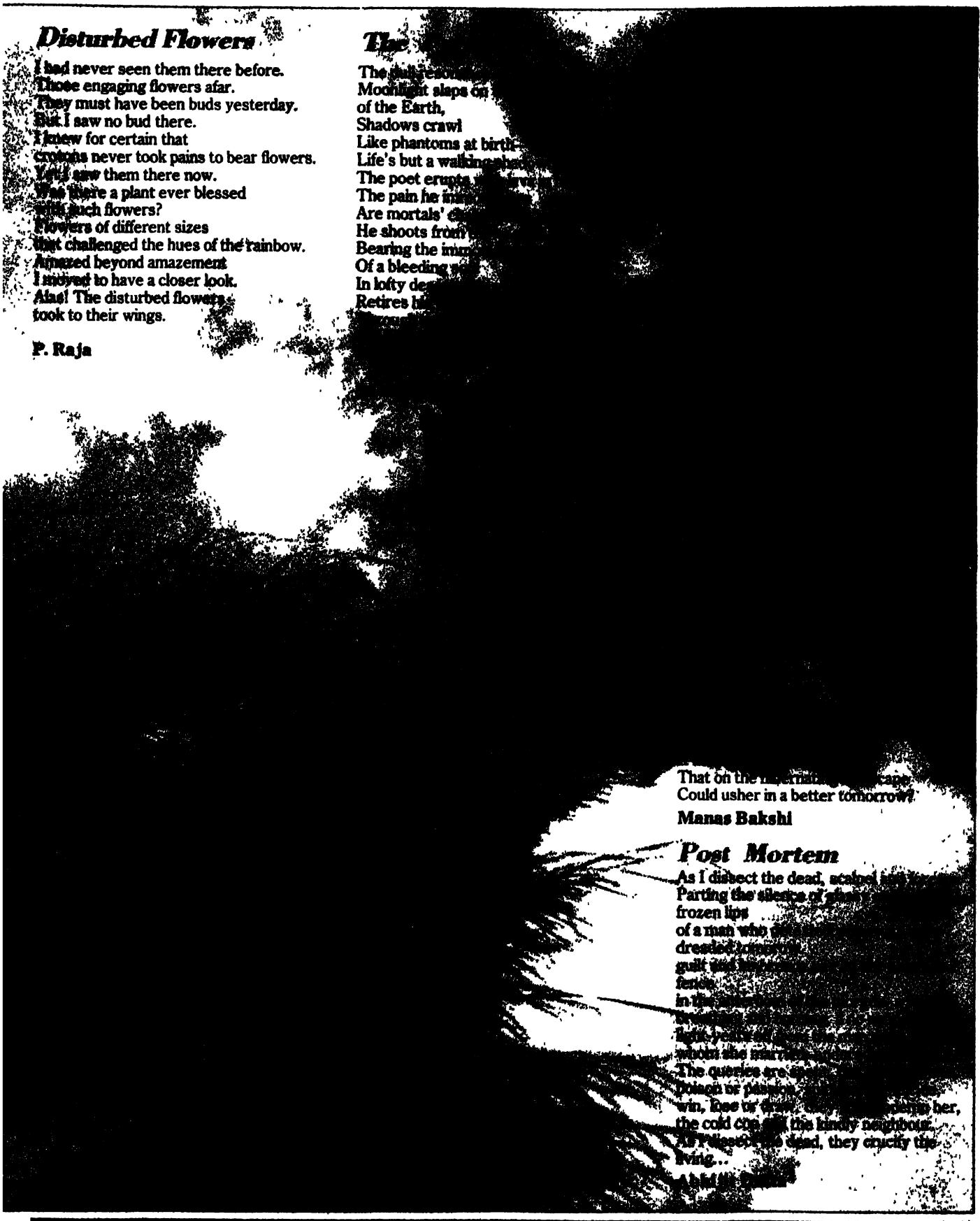
14 Journalists all the time tell you what they think of politicians. This time, politicians tell you what they think of journalists

10 Why were the Madhyamik results this year so poor? A report

SECTIONS

4 Poetry
5 Profile
6 Viewpoint
8 Nostalgia
9 Heritage
12 Quiz
13 In the News
20 7 Days
23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Candid Camera

Cover Bulbul Sharma



Disturbed Flowers

I had never seen them there before.
Those engaging flowers afar.
They must have been buds yesterday.
But I saw no bud there.
I knew for certain that
crotons never took pains to bear flowers.
Yet I saw them there now.
Who were a plant ever blessed
with such flowers?
Flowers of different sizes
that challenged the hues of the rainbow.
Amazed beyond amazement
I moved to have a closer look.
Alas! The disturbed flowers
took to their wings.

P. Raja

The

The
Moonlight slaps on
of the Earth,
Shadows crawl
Like phantoms at birth
Life's but a walking
The poet erupts
The pain he in
Are mortals'
He shoots from
Bearing the im
Of a bleeding
In lofty de
Retires h

That on the
Could usher in a better tomorrow?

Manas Bakshi

Post Mortem

As I dissect the dead, scalpel
Parting the silence of
frozen lips
of a man who
dreaded
guilt
fertile
in the
light
about the
The queries are
poison or
win, lose or
the cold cre
As I dissect the dead, they crucify the
living...

Sunil K. Dutt

THE DISCOVERY

It's a rat race here, too, but maybe another has been made...

On one side of the Atlantic, an Indian is writing economics anew in circles that were previously confined to the inside of pre-university heads grappling with the elastic pulls of demand and supply in contrary directions. Closer at home, on one side of the Ganga, another researcher, namely self, has completed a Drake sham voyage of discovery and is all set to begin stumping the world where Batra left off.

The first problem, of course, was undiscovered territory currently in extremely short supply, what with the massive influx of explorers preceding us having thoughtlessly left precious little undiscovered. All potential discovery spots have been staked out and franchised. Mount Everest has become a tourist spot for the ambitious, and a viable alternative to Shimla, Mussoorie or Darjeeling, the Poles are mere vacation spots for scientists with hery ideas better kept on ice, the moon may well be confused by the unmitigated with the French Riveria hosting a Washington Summit, while Africa has been so thoroughly discovered that authenticity may only be found in the zoos. No wonder the young generation wishes to change the face of the earth with a few H-bombs that there may, afterwards, be some scope for new discoveries.

If only those 'pioneers' had left some of, say, Africa, unexplored, Opposition leaders could perhaps be sent on a safari to learn how to fight off big cats—which would teach them a thing or two about political survival—instead of bothering an already bothered government back home. Occasionally, a fullfledged Parliamentary fact finding (or remains-finding, as the case may be) team could drop in and meet them. "The Opposition we presume?"

Would ease the strain on our poor PM considerably.

However, to get back to the discovery.

It is posterity's loss that very few discoverers – barring exception of the likes of Newton and Edison – have been able to put their fingers pat on the point and say, "Here at this point of time, I began discovering." Applicable in this case, too, the closest I can get is to a bus-stop with a blown up pygmy dancing from one foot to the other, peering short sightedly into the distance and muttering under his breath at an uncommunicable "2B or not 2B that is the question." Somehow it stuck in the mind with the promise of some unexplored darkness beyond.

Om aum padme hum at [illegible] with the accent on the *hum* that hummed in the mind constantly like a palpable question mark. Brows furrowed in the effort to squeeze a few drops of revelation off the legendary grey cells, but to no avail. The source remained. But [illegible]



[illegible] Dad had [illegible]

[illegible] open [illegible] Shakespeare [illegible] around. [illegible] Gobar[illegible]

And the [illegible] in the pond.

The second [illegible] bothered [illegible] those days. The telephone was not [illegible] Calcutta [illegible] Dear Dad, [illegible] Love, Dee. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

AS YOU LIKED IT

Every time the wedding season comes around, my poor Bengali stomach revolts at the impending assault of chilli fish, *dal puris* and *biryani*. Having suffered countless encounters with Sino-Continental-Mughlai cuisine, with side attacks of *paneer matar* and *dahi barra*, my palate craves for the good, old-fashioned Bengali wedding feast which I relished in childhood. Where, oh where are you, you wonderful "Vien" cooks who used to dish up the delectable traditional fare, for which Bengali weddings were famous? Save us from the now fashionable caterers—save Bengali cuisine from strangulation.

> Bengali cuisine, specially at weddings, is no longer what it used to be

Wedding invitations were, not so long ago, a source of happiness. The sight of a turmeric-spotted, red-and-gold envelope evoked pleasurable rumblings in the stomach. Who was marrying whom was rather secondary, what was more important was that this or that family had the best bunch of cooks in their service. One did not make feeble excuses for not attending, but marked the date with anticipation.

First of all, there were no buffets, certainly not! Guests were to be seated, served and coaxed to eat. No Bengali *bhadralok* would ever attend a wedding if he was expected to serve himself. Dinner was served in "batches" with youngsters, old people and those who lived far away being seated first. Tables and chairs were laid out in rows with aisles in between for the servers to pass. Ladies and gentlemen were seated separately so that neither was distracted from the primary objective of eating.

Food was served on freshly washed plantain leaves with earthen bowls for curries and tumblers for water. Slivers of lime and salt were placed on the right hand corner of the leaves as were the *bhajas* or fried vegetables such as brinjal, palval, potato or spinach so that no empty plate would greet a guest. But these were not meant to be given much importance for the serious business of eating would only commence with the advent of hot, fried *luchis* accompanied by *moong dal* cooked with fish-head, or *channa dal* with coconut and raisins. None of your limp *dal puris*, thank you, these were plump and crisp, bursting with pride at having been fried in pure ghee. A number of *dalnas* or vegetable curries would be presented and, depending on the season, these would vary from cauliflower, cabbage, palval, green jackfruit or a permutation of all these. But wait, these were mere appetisers, to activate the salivatory glands for the real delicacies to follow, and follow they did, in quick succulent succession. Prawn cutlets, potato chops or *dolmas* filled with spicy fish or fat slices of fried *bhetki*, otherwise known as plain "fry". No cook worth his sacred thread would touch haddock, salmon, pomfret or any of the poorer cousins.

Priyaranjan Rakshit



The feast today: A change of taste

These delicacies were repeated numerous times to the entreaties of the elder members who supervised the serving, which was always done by the young men and boys of the host family. The uncles, senior sons-in-law and other veterans of several wedding feasts would walk up and down cajoling their guests to "have one more" or remonstrating with the invitees that they "hadn't touched a thing." Once these tidbits were tucked away, guests tackled the fish curries—prawn *malai* curry, *rohu kalia*, *doi maach* or *sarse bata*—eaten with mounds of *pulao*, fragrant with saffron in which almonds and raisins played hide and seek.

In very traditional wedding dinners, the savouries would halt there, leaving ample room for the sweets, but recently even purists had succumbed to popular demand and the finale was more often a meat curry. Not chicken; never chicken at a wedding, only goat meat and that too bought from a "Bengali Goat Shop," whatever that may mean.

By now the tempo of eating would slacken and reasonably appeased guests toyed with the odd *chutney* and *papad* to give their stomachs a rest and refresh their palates for the arrivals from the sweet department.

Sweets in those days were half the meal. Not just a paper cup full of ice cream of indeterminate temperature and texture. It started with *misti doi*, and here the generosity of mine host would be displayed as several fresh pots would be brought out to ensure that the connoisseurs got only the top, rich and creamy *Rabri* was also a favourite, but sometimes considered too rich for the delicate Bengali digestion. *Rajbhog*, *kamalabhog*, *pantuas*, dripping with golden syrup, would follow as would *darbesh*, *chamcham* and *sandesh*, and as many varieties as purse and position would allow.

The serving of sweets was always accompanied by good natured bantering among guests and often between guest and host as well. The etiquette observed was that if you wanted a second helping, you never asked for it. You requested the server to put two sweets on the plate of your neighbour, who would protest violently, eat them both and repay the compliment. Thus it would go on. Needless to say, all second helpings were vehemently refused at first and accepted graciously later since no one was meant to take such refusals seriously. The repast was washed down with cool water scented with *kewra*.

Replete with good food and burping discreetly, guests would amble out of the dining area for the last item. The ritual was completed by serving of *paans* by the young, unmarried girls of the family. This way, the eligible males and their respective elders could view what was on offer for the next season. Many hearts were lost and many plans and dreams begun in that fleeting moment of give and take, and lo! the stage would be set for another of those feasts, come next wedding season.

Yes, I can hear the modernists protesting and I do concede that one does not have either the time or resources for such extravaganzas these days. But I write this in memory of an age when the Bengali still did things graciously, in honour of those nameless cooks who treated us to such gastronomic delights, for the benefit of my children and non-Bengali friends, who may never know what it had been like and, finally, to remind myself that there was a time like this, that once, indeed, there was Camelot!

Iti Misra

BARTER BANK

• **Camera:** I offer an Agfa Isoly 2 camera (without flash) in good condition for a quartz clock or anything of corresponding value. Contact Manoj K. Roy, 2/36, Netaji Nagar, Calcutta 92.

• **Tape recorder** and **transistor:** I offer a National Panasonic tape recorder and a Bush transistor for anything of corresponding value. Write to K.P. Bhattacharya, 132, Ramlal Agarawala Lane, Calcutta 50.

• **Football set, Bullworker, multimeter** and **electronic kit:** I offer a football set including a football, boots, jersey, shorts and socks, Bullworker 3, imported multimeter and an all-in-one electronic kit of 52 projects including quiz clock, rain and lie detector, electronic gardner, burglar alarm, automatic light switch, marine light switch and electronic dual light beacon for anything of corresponding value. Contact B. Adhya, 12, Girish Chandra Bose Road, Calcutta 14.

• **Transistor:** I offer a one-band Paman transistor radio for an Agfa camera or any other 35 mm camera with provisions for attaching an external flash. Contact Sugato Deb Gupta, M-4, Moore Avenue, Housing Estate, Calcutta 40.

• **Records** and **record player:** I offer LP and EP records and an HMV record player (Fiesta Popular), for a Hot Shot, Agfa or National camera with inbuilt flash. Write to Aniruddha Sarkar, 9/5, Central Park, Calcutta 32.

• **Study material:** I offer an entire set of text books on science of the Assam board of the higher secondary level for a tape recorder in good condition. Contact Anupam Das, c/o Children's Paradise School, Kumargaon, Tezpur, Assam 784001.

• **Scooter:** I offer a LML Vespa scooter 150 cc, 1985 model, for another scooter or motorcycle. Contact S.K. Khetan, 27, Weston Street, 5th floor, Room no. 514, Calcutta 12.

• **Study material:** I offer IMS' GMAT preparation material for US educational aids study material on GMAT. Contact Sanjay Agarwal, 12, Tivoli Court, 1A, Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta 19.

• **Moped** and **Walkman:** I offer a Hero Majestic moped for anything of corresponding value. I also offer a Unicef Walkman for a gent's bicycle or anything of corresponding value. Contact R.K. Nathany, c/o Mayur Enterprises, 10, Middleton Street, Calcutta 71.

• **Magazines:** I offer 90 issues of *Time* and *Newsweek* for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sharmila Moraes, 16, Madhuban, Worli Hill Road, Bombay 18.

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's question bank for the MBBS entrance examination, 1985, for anything of corresponding value. Contact Abhijit De, 33, Creek Lane, Calcutta 14.

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's elite course from 1986 to 1988 including the S.G. File in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact Deep Seth, 113/102, J.K. Paul Road, no. 3, Chatterjee Colony, Calcutta 38.

• **Carrom board** and **intercom:** I offer a carrom board and an intercom in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact R.K. Gupta, P-80, CIT Road, Calcutta 10.

• **Guitar:** I offer a Hawaian guitar with extra strings for a saxophone or trombone or harmonium. Write to Sunil Ranjan Pathak, 3/30, Central Avenue, Durgapur, Pin 713304.

• **Posters, stamps, coins, oil colours** and **book:** I offer 4 *Sun* and 25 *Debonair* posters, 150 Indian and foreign stamps, 6 Indian coins dating back to 1897, one box of water oil colours and a book on the Chinese revolution for anything of corresponding value. Contact G. Adhikary, 1, Nemai Dutta Lane, Mentor Street, Calcutta 14.

OUR CHILDREN NEED US

Teaching in schools has become a business much like any other. It leaves much to be desired, and the whole education system needs a thorough overhauling. Education in schools has become synonymous with book learning. It is so exam-oriented that children have neither the urge nor the energy to learn anything from their practical experience.

Gone are the days when book learning was secondary, a part of education, not education itself. The teacher was a force to reckon with, to be admired, respected and emulated. He was a walking, talking dictionary and you could depend on him to clear every doubt. He took pains to go out of his way to make the most boring lessons interesting, the driest subjects lively. Each lesson was presented in a novel way with relevant aids. Extra information outside the books, but relevant to the topics, was given as a natural course. The textbook was only used for reference, not as a crutch to cling on to.

> Because they are not being guided properly

The teacher aimed at reaching out to the average students so that he retained the interest of the more intelligent ones while arousing a response from those below average. His enthusiasm and involvement with his subjects and students inspired them to do their best.

Today teachers use a minimum amount of aids. Lessons are completed at breakneck speed without ensuring whether the students have understood them. Their purpose is limited to complete the syllabus on time. In the race, which usually picks up pace after the second term, little care is given to the havoc being wreaked on the students.

All students are simply not able to keep pace. Even those who do, finish with a superficial rote knowledge. Only with comprehension can application, experimentation, innovation and creativity be developed. Without first understanding, children learn like parrots only to climb the next rung of the school ladder. They hardly realise that they are actually unfit for the new class, for soon they have no recollection of the terms, concepts and facts taught in earlier classes.

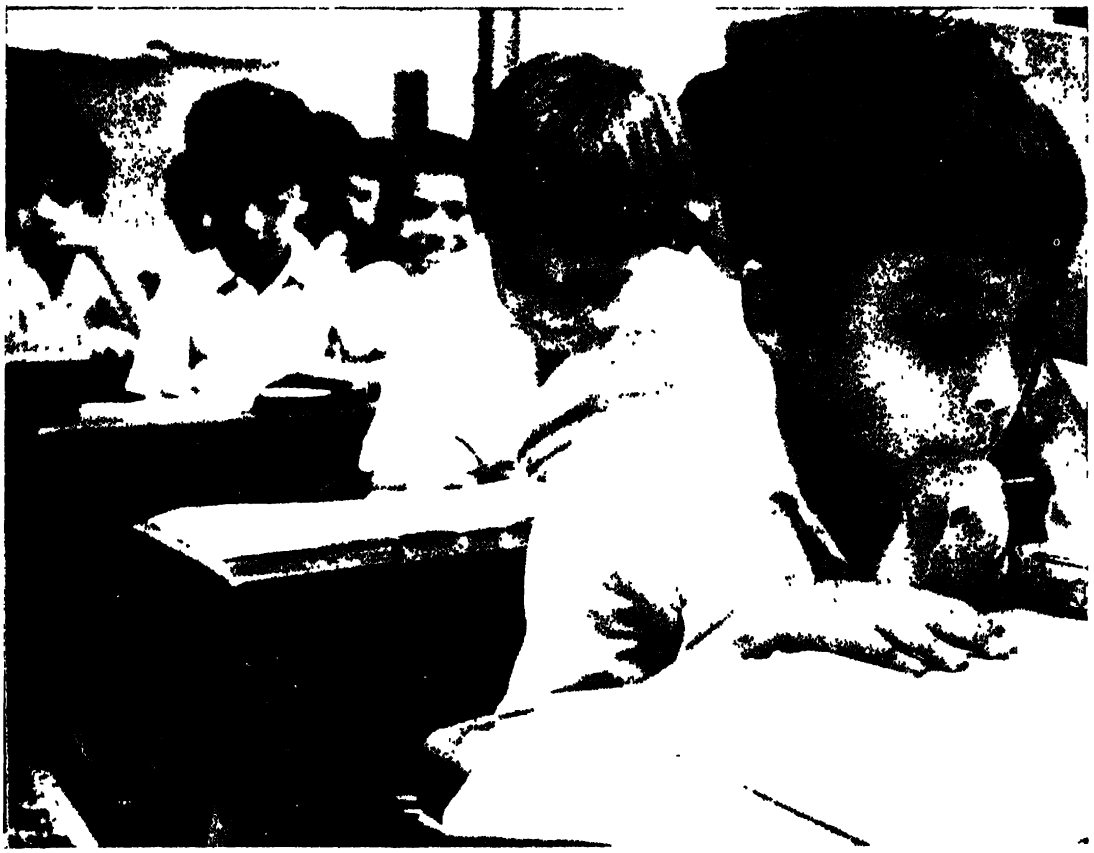
But teachers and parents must ensure that all students have understood a lesson before proceeding to the next one. The teacher must regulate the pace of his teaching according to the capability of his students. The syllabus should not be the primary obsession. It must be completed, but not by distorting the true purpose of educating a child.

The present system results in students taking tuitions just before exams in the hope of clearing their papers. Some children resort to cheating and copying, afraid to face the wrath of irate parents. Unfortunately, many of these parents do not care to know anything about the child's performance in school and the kind of teachers he has. They are satisfied with the marks he obtains. How or why he got them, does not seem to be their concern. Yes, some do give dire warnings to recalcitrant children, but that is all. This gives the children to understand that they must secure good marks by any means fair or foul.

Some concerned parents have only met with a rebuff or failure when they have approached the principal or school staff. Favouritism, leaking questions, taking revenge on children of conscious parents, and using tuitions as instruments of blackmail are all minor vices that seem to be the order of the day in many schools.

There are instances where students are assured of "promotion without pain" by teachers just because they have participated in many co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and have won laurels for the school. How can we blame such children for their lackadaisical attitude to learning when the educators themselves lead them astray? Our sympathy should lie with our children who need the right guidance in their formative years. These children are our future engineers, doctors, lawyers and teachers. They will run the society tomorrow and set the standards for our grandchildren. Imagine the kind of values they will absorb if they themselves are not properly guided now. The very thought makes one shudder. Before it is too late, let all of us, parents and teachers, wake up to the naked truth that stares us in the eye and which we refuse to see or accept: our children need us.

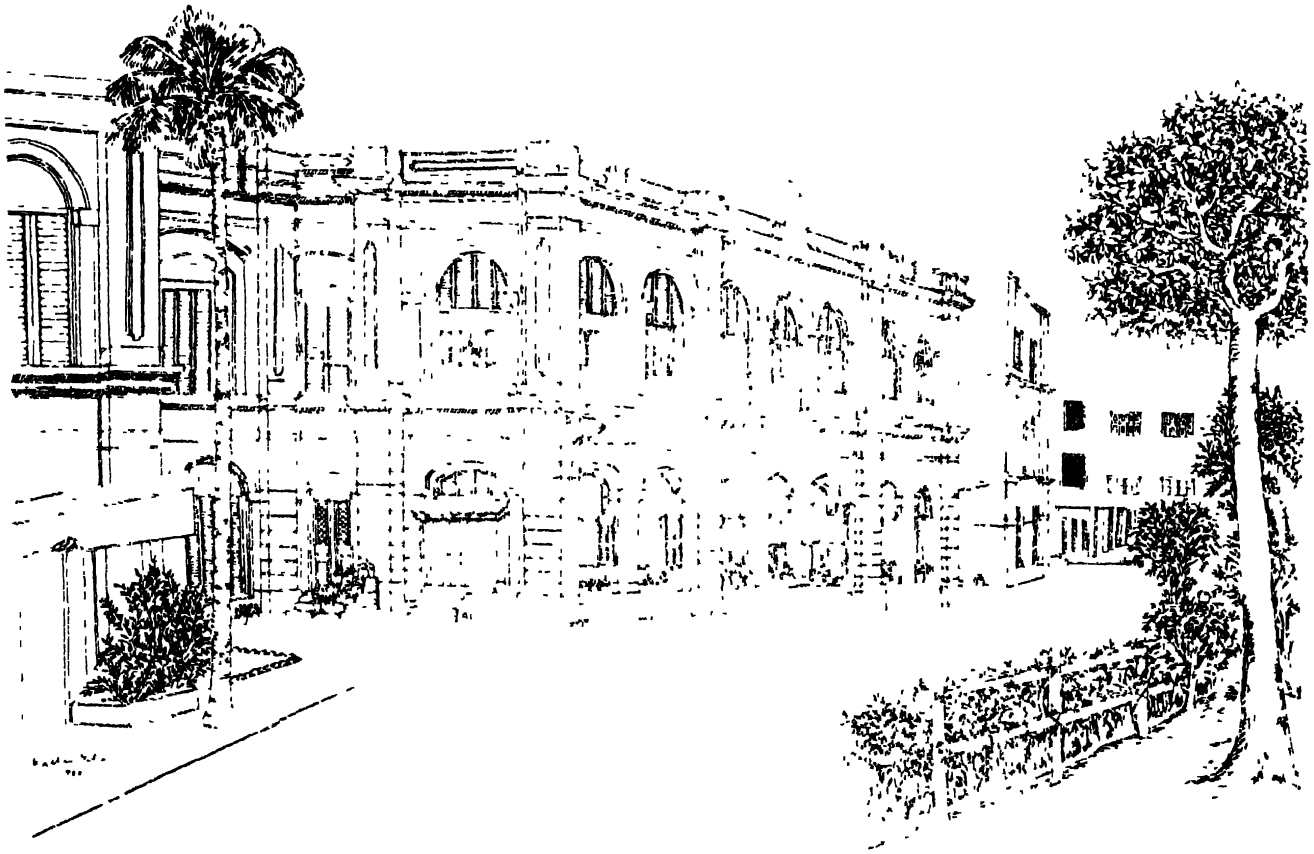
Sharada Venkatraman



Gautam Roy



ST JAMES' SCHOOL



Originally called the Calcutta Boys' School, St James was established in 1864. The church dedicated to St James the Great, adjoining the school was consecrated around the same time. The next 50 years or so were difficult times for the institution, till it was reopened for the second time in 1924 under the rectorship of Rev. Thomas H. Cashmore. Rev. Cashmore, who was also the vicar of St James' Church, was responsible for a sort of renaissance both in the church and the school. St James gradually grew into a flourishing co-educational Intermediate college.

For Rev. Cashmore each child was an individual and he organised an exceedingly wide curriculum to cater to a variety of abilities and talents. He raised funds for new buildings and made provision for the large playground which graces the school even today. By 1930, largely due to the vision and zeal of Rev. Cashmore, the school was well established with 673 pupils of whom 180 were boarders.

Over the years there has been a change in the cultural composition of the teachers and students at St James' and in keeping with the times there has been a growing emphasis on the teaching of science. New laboratories and classrooms have been built and except during the disruption of World War II, St James' School continued to burgeon and grow. It is now a high school for boys with 1,800 students on its roll and in the near 130 years of its existence it has made its mark on Calcutta's educational map.

FAILING THE STUDENTS

Only one-third of the students who appeared this year for the Madhyamik examination passed. Who is at fault? Ebashis Aikat finds out

More than four lakh students appeared for the Madhyamik examination this year. Less than one-and-a-half lakh passed. In a country where millions upon millions of children face cut-throat competition for college seats and ultimately for lucrative jobs, the alarmingly low percentage of successful students (50 per cent this year, 58.02 per cent last year) is cause for anger and anguish for the students most of whom now face an uncertain future.

Only 6.27 per cent of the 4.31 lakh students who appeared for the examination this year secured a first division, 21.43 per cent were placed in the second division and 21.73 per cent scraped through with a bare third. As a result most of the students have marks well below that required by the higher secondary departments of schools and colleges for admission. Parents and students are spending hours together running from one institution to another collecting admission forms and paying exorbitant registration fees.

The Madhyamik students have clearly lost out to their counterparts from the other education boards this time. Students belonging to the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) have secured much higher grades and this gives them a headstart in the rat race for the top engineering colleges, the best economics schools or the jetset corporate job.

Just three years ago, in 1985, nearly 61.65 per cent of the candidates passed the Madhyamik examination. In 1982, the percentage of successful candidates was 62.68 per cent. With a lower percentage of students managing to get through each year, the current belief is that the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) has been neglecting the interest of its students by encouraging undermarking of answer scripts. Even those who have passed feel the examiners have given them far less marks than they deserve. This has been a common complaint for years now, but this year parents and teachers have finally united to voice their protest.

What reasons do the teachers, who are largely responsible for coaching the students, setting questions and correcting answer scripts, give for the abysmal results this year? They say:

- A record number of students appeared for the examination this year without the usual screening in which ill-prepared students are weeded out. This was because students who were kept back would have to appear for an entirely new English and Bengali syllabus next year. But this move dragged down the percentage of successful students.
- The WBBSE was unable to cope with the record number of candidates. Examiners had to rush through the papers and they often undermarked. The mismanagement was exposed by the blank marksheets and other innumerous errors that cropped up after the results were published.
- The question papers themselves posed problems for the students. Almost every one of the nine papers had questions either out of syllabus or had printing mistakes. The board made no allowances for these during paper correction.
- The controversy over the "politically-motivated" guidelines for the Bengali essay question did not help either.

Mr Ranjugopal Mukherjee, WBBSE president, does not agree with all the above reasons, but he does admit that the unprecedented 20 per cent rise in the number of candidates did bring down the percentage of success. He said the board would look into the reasons for the abysmal results, but the general consensus is that it is the WBBSE which is largely responsible for the students' plight.

Father Camille Bouche, headmaster of St Xavier's School, points out, "If the answer scripts of my students are corrected by teachers who are themselves



Tapan Das

Madhyamik students waiting anxiously for their results

weak in English, then there is every chance of undermarking." He gave an example to prove his point. "Before the Madhyamik examinations I coached two boys from Beniapukur who did not know how to write a sentence correctly and they secured 72 per cent in English, while St Xavier's best student got only 65 per cent." The over-all results of the school has shocked both teachers and parents and they are complaining of "academic injustice."

Mr A.K. Samajpati, Bengali teacher, feels there is little to choose between this year's batch and that of last year.

"The students who have appeared for the ICSE from our school this year have done quite well," he points out. Sixty-five of 84 boys from St Xavier's had secured a distinction for work education in the Madhyamik last year. This year only three have managed to get the honour. In the physical sciences 27 have secured distinctions compared to 54 last year. Is there any ongoing attempt to redress grievances? "We can do nothing," said Father Bouche, "but we do hope that next year the board will appoint better examiners who will devote more time to assessing the answer scripts and not leave everything for the last moment."

The guardians and students of Hindu School have taken a more belligerent attitude and are planning to move court on the issue. Hindu School students who have maintained consistent marks throughout their school days were shocked last fortnight when they learnt they had secured on an average a paltry 35 to 45 per cent in history, 50 to 55 in geography and 60 to 65 in work education. Teachers suspect answer scripts may have been lost or other such irregularities taken place and the headmaster, Mr Paresh Chandra Chakrabarty, has complained to the WBBSE but has not received an explanation yet.

While some of the reputed schools remain baffled by the downslide in their academic performances, the 10-year-old BD Government School at Salt Lake has shown remarkable progress. The school's headmaster, Dr Murari Mohan Bhattacharya, beams with pride when he says all of his 94 candidates have fared well and 74 of them have secured first division marks. The school's topper, Arpita Basu, secured 808 marks (89 per cent)—the girl student with the highest Madhyamik marks. Apart from excelling in academics, Arpita is proficient in Indian dance, creative writing and fine arts.

Dr Bhattacharya says the secret of the school's success is that teachers have motivated the students ignoring environmental difficulties. "Our teachers provide each student with individual care and the wayward student is tackled with iron discipline. We also have constant interaction with parents." But even with the good results, some students will have to leave the school because of the restricted number of seats.

Calcutta's schools and colleges have more seats than applicants at higher secondary level, and yet there is a mad scramble for seats mainly because of the imbalance in favour of the science stream. Prof. Kalyan Chunder Dutt, principal of Scottish Church College, feels this is because "the parents want their children to be either doctors or engineers with no regard for their aptitude for the subject."

With the poor results this year, the city's reputed schools and colleges have lowered their otherwise rigorous standards for admissions. Said one parent, "I strongly feel that all higher secondary institutions in Calcutta should take their own admission tests and not judge exclusively by the marks given by the board. This will give the candidate another chance to prove himself. With the board's lopsided markings the very efficacy of the examination system is put to question. Some must be done immediately so that batches of students do not suffer the fate." ■

EXCELLENCE DESPITE IT ALL



Ashoke Chakrabarty

Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur

In spite of the all round poor results in the Madhyamik examination this year the three Ramakrishna Mission schools at Narendrapur, Rahara and Purulia have maintained their standards of excellence. Students of these three schools have secured the highest marks in the examination. The official merit list is not out yet, but a comparative study of marksheets allows us to conclude that Abhirup Mukherjee of the Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home who has secured 817 out of 900 will top the list.

Mr Tuhin Sen, a former student of Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur feels it is the commitment of the teachers of these schools which bring about such a high percentage of success. "Teachers at other schools neglect their classes in favour of private tuitions. At the Ramakrishna Mission schools not a day's class is missed and the syllabus is completed ahead of time." He also feels the teachers prepare their students scientifically for the examination.

- they repeatedly answer old question papers which the teachers painstakingly correct. They give tactical tips on tackling questions—like underlining salient points in red, being brief, drawing relevant diagrams,
- the students are constantly motivated to strive for excellence and examples of former students who topped the examinations are set before them,
- being a residential school the hostelites get guidance from teachers and senior students outside the classroom. No time is wasted in commuting to and from school and the library on the premises is useful,
- students follow a spartan schedule. They can study up to 18 hours a day without being disturbed like they may be at home. And, of course, there are no diversions like television.



QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

Ashin Kr Sarkar, Asansol, writes "Pursuant to question number 3 (obstruct ing the field and given out) that appeared in this column dated 19 June 1988 I have the following to add

"On November 20 1987 at Karachi in the second one-day international Pakistan s Rameez Raja batting on 98, hit the final ball of their innings from English medium pacer David Capel to square leg and easily completed the first run He then attempted the second run in a bid to reach the coveted three figure mark but was halfway down the pitch with non striker Zahid Ahmed backing up when keeper Bruch French threw the ball towards the bowler Rameez deliberately obstructed the ball with his bat A vociferous appeal followed, chorused by the close in fielders, and umpire Khizar Hyat had no hesitation in giving him out obstructing the field Thus he made history becoming the first batsman ever to be given out in this manner in a one day international

The law of cricket says that either batsman on appeal shall be out obstructing the field if he wilfully obstructs the opposite side by word or action The striker shall be out should wilful obstruction by either batsman prevent a catch being made The latter shall apply even though the striker causes obstruction in lawfully guarding his wicket under the provisions of Law 34 (out hit the ball twice)

Cricket is a gentlemen s game and such instances seldom occur So far there have been 17 such incidents including the latest one All but one that of Len Hutton (vs South Africa at The Oval in 1951) happened in first class matches other than a Test

"At Sydney last year, West Indian Anthony Gray was given out 'obstructing the field' after he deflected a drive by Winston Benjamin out of reach of bowler Peter Taylor Australian skipper Allan Border showing a fine sporting gesture withdrew the appeal and recalled the batsman

'Once in a first class match, a batsman skied the ball in the air while two fielders were converging on it Seeing that, the batsman called out loudly leave it, it s mine Both the fielders mistook the shout as coming from his colleague and withdrew thinking the other was going to make the catch Obviously the ball fell between them Realising the trick, the fielding side appealed and the batsman was given out under this law Even if the batsman at the non-striking end interferes with the catch, it is the striker who is given out because had the catch been successful the striker would have been out Interestingly, in all such cases the bowlers do not get credit for the wicket '

CBS

11th Question: **What is "High-jive" in sports? (Raja Biswas, Green View (IINE), 119, Southern Avenue, Calcutta 700 029)**
Ans: **Have you seen the West Indian cricketers jump up and slap each other's hands, after taking a wicket? Well, that's High jive. The term actually comes from American basketball.**

QUESTIONS

1. Which soccer coach is fondly called, "The General"? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
2 What is the collective noun for dolphins? (Ranjit Kumar Jain, Calcutta 20)
3 Which was the first country to win the Uber Cup? (Sanjeev Chandra, BCE, Bhagalpur)
4. What does the term "disguised employment" refer to? (Somdeep Kr Singh, BIT, Sindri)
5. Which country carried two different national flags during the opening and closing ceremonies in the Olympics? (Sudip Roy, Calcutta 29)
6. From which year in India, has Sunday become a holiday? (Rajesh Sinha, Ranchi 2)
7. Where is the game of broomball played? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)
8. Who said, "I do not believe in God or religion that cannot wipe out a widow's tears or bring a piece of bread to an orphan's mouth"? (Manohar Mandal, Nabadwip)
9. Name the countries comprising the Holy Alliance, formed in 1816 (Nirmalya Kr Sarkar, Asansol 1)
10 Which is the longest "palindromic" word in English? (Sunil Khaitan, Guwahati 1)

ANSWERS

1. Rimus Michel of Holland.
2. School.
3. England
4. More persons employed for a job which few- er can perform
5. Zambia During the Rome Olympics, 1964, Northern Rhodesia gained freedom and became Zambia The flags were of these two countries
6. 1843.
7. The game of broomball was developed by the staff of Western embassies in Moscow, and is a kind of field hockey on ice No skates are worn by players—and the "hockey sticks" are short Russian brooms
8. Swami Vivekananda
9. Russia, Austria and Prussia.
10. Redivider (9 letters)

Thank you, Ashin, for the interesting variations on this law of cricket!

"I've enjoyed reading your explanations on the origin of the names of Asia and Canada Could you please try an unusual one—Guatemala?" This is an extract from a letter by Dilip Sinha, Calcutta 34

Gautemala has the honour of a full linguistic explanation in the work of an early chronicler, Lopez de Gomara "Cuahtemallan," commonly called Guatemala, means "rotten tree," for *cuauh* is "tree,' and *temali* means "rotten " As if not wishing to sponsor this uncomplimentary rendering, he added an alternative, that it might mean "place of trees ' The second possibility, however, does not fit the etymology as well as the first one does, nor does it give an apt semantic interpretation, since in a generally wood country "place of trees" is not distinctive In addition, the somewhat later historian Herrera, who displays much interest in names, presents only the meaning 'rotten tree " Some later commentators have rendered this as "woodpile," thus trying to make sense, as if it were a lumbering operation, such as the Spaniards themselves sometimes indicated as Corte Madera

The name is of interest in its later history It was first applied to the capital city, founded in 1524, and then to the province In 1541, however, a cataclysmic flood of water from a near-by volcano almost wholly destroyed the city The dangerous site was thereupon abandoned and a new capital founded, about 20 miles away The curious feature is that the name, detached from its true site, was applied to the new foundation, where it still remains The ruined city, partially rebuilt, came to be known as Old Guatemala, but exists now merely as Antigua

FREEDOM AGAIN

An account of how a straying Sundarbans tiger was rehabilitated recently

Text and photographs by Arin Ghosh

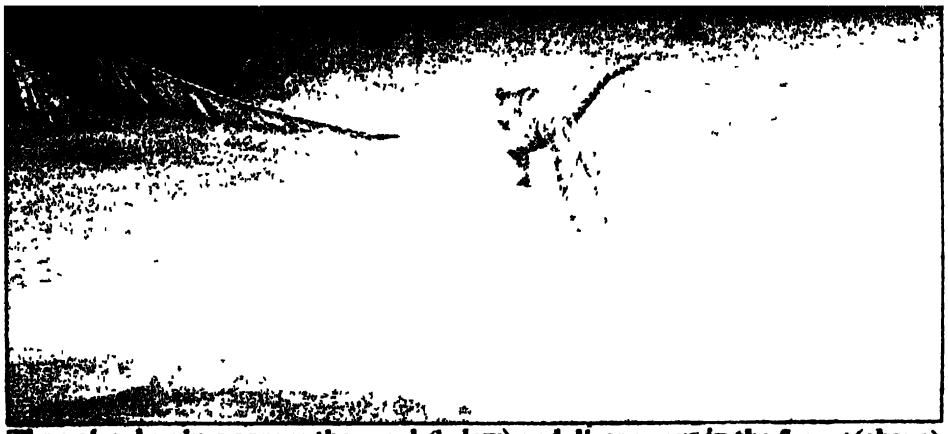


Trapped in the baited cage

The northern boundary of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve is dotted with small villages. Often, tigers from the fringe forests steal into the villages and kill cattle and sheep. Last month, one such errant tiger entered the villages surrounding Sajnakhali and killed a cow and a goat.

All attempts to drive it away proved unsuccessful. Finally, the authorities decided to trap the animal and a baited cage was laid out at Sajnakhali on May 18. The tiger, however, refused to enter the cage. On June 21 and again on June 25 it strayed into the villages and killed two goats and a sheep.

Finally, on June 26, the baited cage was shifted by about 50 metres and the tiger was fooled into entering it in the early hours of June 28. The tiger in all its fury, tried to break out but failed. Instead, it



The animal swims across the creek (below) and disappears in the forest (above)

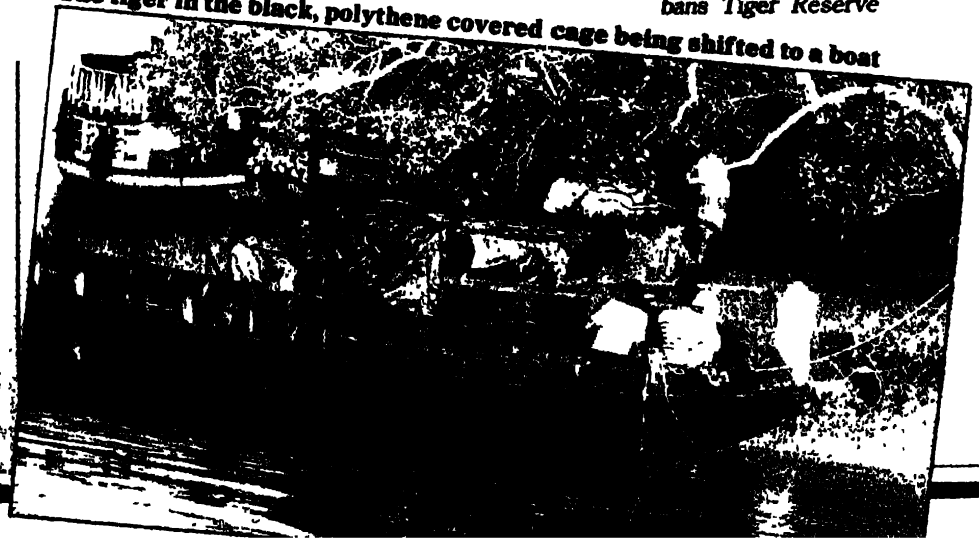


was shifted to a smaller "transportation" cage and loaded onto a boat. The "transportation" cage was covered with black polythene to calm the enraged animal. By noon the same day, the tiger was on its way to its new home.

At 6 am the next morning, the cage was unloaded on the banks of a creek in the Chamta-7 compartment of the project area. As the cage door was pulled open, the tiger jumped into the creek only to swim across it and disappear into the adjoining mangrove forests. It was 6.15 am.

The author is a field director, Project Tiger, in the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve

The tiger in the black, polythene covered cage being shifted to a boat



POLITICIANS ON



Farooq Abdullah

AS in any society you find people who are responsible, who are ethical, who realise the needs of the nation, in the journalistic community, too, there are those who, before they put down anything on paper, think twice as to what the repercussions would be on the nation And there are others who, without thinking, take decisions or write things which are in the end very harmful to the very society that they live in.

The ones who are unethical, irresponsible, they are in a minority, thank God But they cause a lot of damage.

(Then, turning to the news item published in a Pakistani daily saying that Dr Abdullah had entered into wedlock with film actress Rekha) Imagine And they must be waiting for the fourth one. This is what is known as sensational journalism, where they create stories which have no truth. This is where they are irresponsible I am very happily married, I have a wife, I have four children, I think I am very happy Yet, they spread rumours about my so-called second and third marriages and they must be waiting for the fourth one

Ajit Singh

WHAT should I say about journalists? Most of the time, they are saying things about us *(laughs)* But seriously, I would say that during that last few years there has been a tremendous increase in the number of newspapers and magazines and this has meant that there are also a lot many journalists now than there used to be I am afraid this has created a situation in which standards have fallen There is very little attempt to maintain standards of fairness. Newspapers are free to express their views on the editorial pages, but many journalists are beginning to give their opinions in news items and these partisan views appear on the news pages This is unfortunate

But, then, if you read a good number of newspapers, you get to know the truth, anyway So it does not matter for someone like me I would say that newsmen are as good or as bad as any section of society There are some rotten apples but, by and large, journalism is still healthy What I would like to see them do is realise their importance and be more objective because they do play a part in formulating opinions





Jayalalitha

IT depends on the journals whether journalists are reponsible In all the prestigious journals, mostly at the national level, we find that the reporters and correspondents are of a very high standard They're definitely trained for the job, experienced and most of them are quite suave They know how to elicit information But, at the same time, there are also many journalists who ought not to be in the job at all So one cannot generalise about this sort of thing Many of the Tamil journals hardly have any trained journalists at all There are all kinds in the field just like there are good doctors and bad doctors There are good politicians and bad journalists also That applies to any field There are many callow, inexperienced journalists and I find this specially true of women correspondents They come with a preconceived, predetermined idea to irritate the person they interview They ask all sorts of nasty questions despite being women That's why I am very wary of women correspondents. Generally, I find the men are far more fair and balanced But the ultimate result depends on the attitude and stand that the owner or the editor takes. Many times, I find the correspondent who is interviewing me is a very nice person and the interview has come out very well But the result that is published in the journal is absolutely different So, probably, that is due to the interference of the editor.

I have bad experiences with English journals, too. Some of them It all depends on what stand they want to take at that time. If they want to be nice to me, they're very nice. If they want to take a stand against me, then no matter what I say, they'll write nasty things about me

JOURNALISTS



Chandrika Kenia

JOURNALISTS should state facts and give news, but not impose views. What has been happening is that they take sides. If not, they write critically. I have a lot of affinity for journalists, who I find are generally on the younger side nowadays. This being the case, I have some friendly advice — adhere to facts, and write only after verifying. In the Western countries, the press is held in high esteem because they investigate and write only after verification.

Here, I find nobody is interested in verifying. I say something, they write it. If someone else says something, they write it. Before it comes out in black and white, they should be sure it is factually correct. I will not say that they misquote — not all of them at least. There are a few who indulge in sensationalism, too. They are waiting for an opportunity to sensationalise, twist something to give it a better, spicier effect. But this is politics, we are not filmstars who live in fantasy worlds. They live in ivory towers, but we are in touch with reality, we meet people everyday.

K. K. Tewari



FREEDOM of the press is nowhere specifically mentioned in the Constitution but it is as important a component of our political system as Parliament. But I have one or two questions to raise. Parliament is accountable to the people, it has a fixed term. But who is the press accountable to? You are the superguardians of the conscience of the nation, but on what authority do you exercise that right? On whose behalf? With what legitimacy?

The press in India is owned by a predatory class with strong socio-economic prejudices. You sit in judgement and you take the authority to speak on behalf of the people. But I am anguished to say that while you act in the name of democracy, you are so hidebound that anyone who speaks against you is immediately labelled a sycophant. This is partly the fault of your enormous egos and the policy of the press barons towards a government or a party. You are intolerant of others' views. This will ultimately lead to a fascist dispensation. Because, basically, you are not impartial and objective about things.



A. R. Antulay

THE respect with which journalists are held by politicians is more genuine than the other way round. The reason is very simple. Politicians, who are an important section of society, by the very nature of their calling, have to take that very section of society with them, not only to do their duty but also to ensure their survival in politics. What can journalists — I don't paint them all with the same brush — have only to take their paymasters with them. This is irrespective of the fact whether the common man at large likes or dislikes what they write.

It is wrong to say that the survival of journalists depends on what they dish out to people through their writing. In this world of cruel competition, with the monopoly press on one side and the lone journalist crusader on the other, the latter is bound to be vanquished. And the people are left with no option but to digest what is offered on a platter to them.

It is here that my idea of the government or a government trust running a journal was relevant. The competition would not be too unequal. And there could be no criticism that the government shirks competition on an even plane. I wanted a government owned or aided organ to stand competition, survive, and if supported by the people, come up on its own merit. This did not pre-suppose the monopoly of government advertisements. It only meant an equitable distribution, which I tried anyway, by increasing the quota to small newspapers.



Subramaniam Swamy

MY relations with the press began in 1970, so I have the benefit of an 18-year experience I would basically divide journalists into three categories: (a) those who are politically committed. People in this category belong generally to the RSS or the Left parties, (b) those journalists who are amenable to favours; and (c) those whom I call proper journalists. They are neither politically committed nor susceptible to money or other such enticements They are only interested in being journalists.

I find that only 25 per cent of the journalists belong to the first two categories The rest are professionals. I do regard the Indian press as free, specially when compared to the situation in the rest of Asia and even the West In view of their payscales and the facilities they get, most journalists are not able to do their investigative work properly, so the tendency is to weave stories around thin leads This naturally results in a bias in favour of their sources.

I do find that the most despicable lot are the politically committed ones They deliberately tell lies and maintain that lies told in favour of a political organisation are justifiable I think independent newspapers should begin to purge such journalists They are only fit for party journals.

Another point I would like to make is that the younger lot of journalists is much more committed to the profession Earlier, journalists tended to develop all kinds of personal loyalities, specially with political figures, and that clouded their perceptions Now the loyalty is more to news and to the profession

Jaswant Singh

TO start with, I would say that this is a relationship of some intimacy, but there is an element of love-hate between journalists and politicians The other major component is the unavoidability, the fact of one not being able to do without the other. The major source for news reporters is the politician Journalists have to interact very closely with politicians and this also means that politicians are dependent on journalists. One is looking for a story, the other for an expose This near incestuous relationship is full of pitfalls and perils

The sadder aspect of public life today is the predominance of politics—it creates an illusion in the minds of the politicians and, in turn, in the minds of the journalists Both think that the world will grind to a halt without them And this creates a sense of pompous self-importance in both The English press particularly suffers from a delusion—sheer statistics can establish how wrong that is The regional press has a much wider base

There has been some amount of controversy about 'investigative journalism ' As is our wont, we have turned it into a cliche. There are those who revile it and those who think that without it journalism will not serve its purpose Another aspect is the decline of the editorial. Editors believe that their editorials form the most important part of the paper. I am not so sure their thinking is shared by the readers Apart from academics, serious students of public affairs, a few politicians and a few journalists, hardly anyone reads editorials. So there has to be a degree of reassessment of the importance of the editorial.





Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee

I do have the very best of relationship with the members of the Fourth Estate And it is a welcome thought that, by and large, the city reporters have kept alive the traditions of objective and responsible writing that has been a hallmark of the print medium of the city

However, occasional lapses do occur in distorting the factual coverage Sometimes, the newsmen get associated -consciously and otherwise—with the attempt of vested interests to try and slander the elected Left Front government However, we do look forward to the flourishing of a meaningful relationship between the press and the Left Front government— a relationship of equanimity and harmony



R. Gundu Rao

STANDARDS of journalism have gradually gone downhill since Independence, at least in the last 25 years. No longer are journalists impartial and fair. There is partiality at one level or the other - the management, the editor or the reporter. The press is controlled by a few individual monopolists and their political affiliations matter. Some editors and journalists have been bold enough to withstand interference from the management, but not for a long time. Most newspapers, magazines and journalists have taken sides. And readers of today's papers recognise what the paper or the journalist is trying to do. The proprietor, sub-editor, chief reporter or reporter mixes up his individual likings, affiliations and associations with his journalism. So how can you expect fair reporting?

When I was chief minister, every other day newspapers carried an expose. After Hegde took over, I don't see any such reports at all. The failures of the government are not highlighted as they were in Urs' time or my time except in stray cases. This is because the paper's proprietor, editor or reporter has somehow aligned with the particular individual. I feel that newspapers blew up Gundu Rao's wrongs, but if Hegde did more wrong, they don't write about it.

Today's newspapers and journalists lack credibility. People still read newspapers because they have no alternative. But, I can tell you, at least 75 per cent of the readers know whether the news is patched up or factual.

They are all polarised one way or the other. And if a paper takes one stand, reporters all over the country are expected to toe the line. If not...

Jagannath Mishra

THERE has been a sharp deterioration in the standard of journalism in the last 15 years or so. I have a feeling that journalists these days spare little time for reading, at least serious reading. And the result is there for everyone to see. I also find that earlier journalists had more honesty and commitment to their profession.

The national press is perhaps slightly more objective and incisive than the provincial press in Bihar which, by and large, functions as a wing of the government. It is influenced by local factors and hence there is greater distortion and subjectivity to be seen here. But, then, the national press, too, has been largely unfair to Bihar, both coverage-wise and in picking up the negative aspects.

I find it maddening the way statements of politicians are covered by the press without any application of mind. Public memory is said to be short, but I find the memory of the press even shorter. It should be the job of the press to refresh public memory, but what is the remedy if newsmen themselves fail to recall the past and lack a sense of history.

I myself have been a victim of the recklessness of the press. I have been described as the most corrupt chief minister of Bihar. I have been implicated in the Patna Urban Cooperative Bank case. I was dubbed a casteist and a section of the press even described me as having blood baths as part of some Tantric ritual. It pained me to find the press falling a prey to hearsay and the tendency has certainly grown since then. The press is a hallowed institution and must verify facts before maligning a person instead of depending on some irresponsible statements of some public figure.





Devi Lal

OH, the press is very good, very good. And journalists are very good too. They play a great role, particularly in public affairs. Like, during the Haryana elections last year, which I won. Now, they are doing a great job bringing to us all these revelations about the Bofors *ghotala* (scandal). I have just one little complaint. The press should look more towards the villages and villagers. It should develop a slight, just a slight rural bias.

J. B. Patnaik



(As he does not give interviews to our correspondent below are his known views.)

HE often describes as drain inspectors the journalists who regularly expose corruption nepotism and inefficiency in his government through investigative reports He first made the remark in the wake of reports about the plight of the people of Kalahandi and has since been repeating it whenever he thinks it necessary to attack the journalists he dislikes His argument is that some journalists are presenting Orissa in a poor light by not highlighting his government's achievements

Last year addressing a party workers meeting in Cuttack he expressed his ire against these journalists in the crudest language Giving statistics of his government's achievements he suddenly went into a rage warning the journalists that if they were critical of his government their teeth will be broken Always reminding people of his own past journalistic career (he was editor of the Oriya daily *Prajatantra* and the English daily *Eastern Times*, for many years) he often regrets that some journalists nowadays are deviating from the old professional ethics The last occasion on which he made the observation was at the inauguration of his son in law Soumya Ranjan Patnaik's English daily *Sun Times* in early April this year



F. M. Khan

WHAT is missing in today's journalism is factual reporting Some have gone out of the way to harass the government and the government has gone out of its way to harass them Where is the factual reporting? I am one of those people who say exactly what they think I am not afraid to be frank if I am convinced about something I have criticised the press and they have misrepresented me I know the weakness of the press Here we have the monopoly press so we can't blame only journalists The powerful people who run the medium keep their business interests first and journalists have to act according to their whims and fancies Top journalists get tossed around excellent reporters are thrown out so you cannot say that the entire press is corrupt

Newspapers can say what they like in their editorials and nobody can question them, but not in the news columns And investigative reporting is good only if the reporter has the full facts It's no use writing an investigative report full of speculations that confuse people That is what is happening now Even scandal mongering has become competitive The more rumours, the more journalists think the paper will sell

Standards are sadly lacking among today's journalists For example when my garden in Delhi won the best garden prize the papers said Notorious MP wins best garden prize Tell me what does notorious have to do with gardens? And do you still want me to say journalists are fair? This example shows how biased they are It is a fit case for a defamation suit but who's got the time to go to the courts?

A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury



THE credibility of journalists has gone down When I say this I should not be misunderstood There are some very good honest and informed journalists There are others who have been politicised in the very narrow sense There are still others—not the journalists but the journalistic houses—serving their own interest forcing their interest on people through their journalists

Sometimes, we are also very unsympathetic towards newspapers whenever some criticism appears It is not correct but if journalists try to depict certain personalities wrongly and deliberately, it is objectionable and this trend is on the rise The pen is mightier than the sword and the owners of the pen in a way are the rulers as well

Ramakrishna Hegde



THERE are journalists and journalists Like there are politicians and politicians The natural tendency is to regard a journalist as a means of contact with the people at large through the media Actually in a democracy a politician and a journalist play roles that are complementary As long as the collusion between these two does not degenerate into collusion —in the sense that both are not motivated by selfish ends such cooperation is desirable and necessary A politician is a person who tries to bring about socio economic changes and a journalist is a person who has to inform the people and educate them of what goes wrong in the process of change that the politician is trying to bring about

By and large journalists in our country are intelligent inquisitive and capable of fulfilling the role expected of them But there are also examples of journalists straying from this path They indulge in either sensationalism or even blackmail politicians who are not to their liking and who refuse to fulfill their demands The tendency now showing here and there is of a politician trying to defend a journalist and vice versa which is not desirable Friendship between the two *ipso facto* is not bad But if it becomes a means for using each other it is bad



Jatin Chakraborty

TODAY S journalists are on the verge of losing moral values and professional ethics and some of them have become prejudiced biased motivated and blackmailers That is the difference between the journalists of the thirties and today For those serving this profession before the second world war journalism was a mission They earned a meagre sum of Rs 30 to 40 and at times they starved as the profession was not paying Yet they were honest sincere ethical and had strong convictions I have been a witness to this change Today the media has become an industry and the journalists have turned into mercenaries They draw huge salaries and work as the stooge of their employers who have a set policy While the journalists of the thirties dedicated themselves to the noble cause I have seen today s journalists ruining themselves and their families just by drinking Today age is no bar for journalists who take to alcohol I have stopped going to the Press Club of Calcutta which I once did frequently You know why? Because the atmosphere in the Press Club has become polluted Throughout the day these journalists are drinking and squabbling Even if there is a press conference at the club you can hear shouts and the tinkle of wine glasses The atmosphere has become absolutely contaminated Why do they have to drink so much why should there be a bar at all in the Press Club?

Today s journalists have forgotten that reporting should be objective And I don t see much of investigative journalism these day Day to day reporting is no journalism I feel sad when the reporters come to my room and ask for some news *Didi ajke kichchu nei charte line din* (no news today sir give us at least four lines)" the reporters come to my room and say This is no journalism Investigative journalism on the other hand has been reduced either to take a dig at ministers or pitch one against another

P. C. Sethi

NEWSPAPERS are full of commonsense and are doing their duty towards the nation and the people Occasionally here and there there are exceptions but I would not like to talk about them *Bas* (that s all)



Interviews by Sankarshan Thakur, Saritha Rai, Lekha Dhar, Yusuf Jameel, Ranjit Roy, Sanjoy Basak, Yubaraj Ghimire, G C Shekhar, Uttam Sengupta and S.P. Nanda

Illustrations by Anup Ray

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Arzoo:** Crown (Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Road 241822) Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road 27727.3), New Royal, Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753)- noon, Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 473462) noon

A re-release of this old Rajendra Kumar hit, the film also stars Sadhana and Feroz Khan Direction Ramanand Sagar

• **Charanon Ki Saugandh:** Ranaghat Talkies Shyama Incc (Radhamoni, Laxmi (Chakdah) and Nadia (Nabadwip)

Staring Mithun Chakraborty Amrita Singh, Prem Chopra and Shakti Kapoor the film is directed by K Bapaiah

• **Commando:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828) Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)

Directed by B Subhash and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film star Mithun Chakraborty, Mandakini and Hemant Birje

• **Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272173) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 254956), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551143), Chava, Jaya (Laketown), Sonali (Dunlop), Bangabasi (Howrah) and Piccadilly (Salkia)

The film stars Rishi Kapoor, Jayaprada, Govinda, Farha, Kader Khan, Shashikala, Aruna Irani and Anita Raj The music is by Bappi Lahiri and it is directed by Kalptaru

• **Hamara Khandan:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Indira (Indira Roy Road 471757), Grace and Khanna

Directed by Tahir Hussain the film stars Rishi Kapoor, Farha, Asha Parekh, Alok Nath and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 892250) 4 shows Uttara (Bidhan Sarani 552200), Bina Bidhan Sarani 311522) Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141) 4 shows

Govinda Neelam and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film directed by Kiran Kumar. The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138) 4 shows, Khatoon Mahal (3 shows)

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film directed by I Prakash Rao The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Kabrastan:** Society (Corporation Place, 241002) 12 30, 3 15 6 15, 9 Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road 892250)

A film by Mohan Bhakri



Duleep Tahil in Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak

• **Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917) Manjushree

Directed by I Rama Rao the film stars Dharmendra, Sanjay Dutt, Chunkey Pandey Neelam Mehra Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amrapurkar The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Mere Baad:** Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 892250) noon, Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 249828) 4 shows

Raakhee and Amrish Puri play the lead in this film directed by Vishwamitra and music by Usha Khanna

• **Pyar Mohabat.** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147) noon Binapani (Bankura) Aurora (Khargpur) Hari (Vaishali)

This M M C Cooper film which is directed by Ajay Kashyap stars Govinda, Mandakini Raakhee and Kader Khan The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak.** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285142) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 178808) Purnasree (Raja Raj Krissan Street 55403) 4 shows Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 251956) noon

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road 242664), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515) 4 shows

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor

• **Saazish:** Metro (Chowringhee, 280141), Society, Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Ganesh, Kalika

The film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Anita Raj, Kader Khan and Dimple Directed by Rajkumar Kohli, the music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Waqt Ki Awaz:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Majestic, Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 891090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Priya Malancha, Vaishali,



A scene from *Surer Sathi*

7 DAYS

Ananya India Chaitra Roy Road 4717 67)

Bengali Films

• **Choto Bou** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 55 Cornelis Bioscope P Mukherjee Road 1 4 Chitrabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 52 400

The film star Pinaki Sandhya Roy Kali Mrenal In Debaki and Prasanna The screenplay dialogue and direction are Arjun Chowdhuri

• **Surer Sathi** Deepak (Bidhan Sarani 8080 Alochhaya Pradip Abedkar Jhumpa Hiranmoy Chatterjee

Tapas Sen Sandhya Roy Dipankar Roy and Subhendu Chatterjee Music by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Tumi Kato Sundar.** Radha (Bidhan Sarani 3 Bhanu Banerjee Pradip Adhikary Dipali Chakraborty Bose Tarun Kumar Mitra

Tapas Paul and Moon Moon Sen are the new pairs with Mahua Ghosh Dipankar Dey and Chaitali Chatterjee Tarun Kumar Mitra has composed the music

Special Events

24 July 10 am

Lecture demonstration on Kathakali dance drama traditions by Gopi Govindan Kutty salient features of Mohiniattam as compared with Bharata Natyam by Bharati Shivaji and interrelationship between Odissi and sculpture with audio visual by Protima Bedi and Dr Sunil Kothari

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

24 July 5 30 pm

Sattriya presents a magic show of D Pasupati and party

At Kala Mandir

24 July 6 15 pm

The concluding evening of Durbar's Golden Greats festival features Manipuri dance by Priti Patel and Sruti Banerjee and Odissi by Protima Bedi

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

24 July 6 30 pm

Kamakarmee presents its award winner *Lokkatha* Direction by Usha Ganguli

At Kala Mandir (basement) Theatre Road

25 July 6 pm

Rohini Music Circle presents an evening of Indian classical music and dance, featuring Sushmita Banerjee (Kathak), Ajoy Sen and Partha Bhattacharya (sitar and flute duet) Abhiravoti Roy (sitar) and Suven Chatterjee (tabla solo) Accompanists: Subhas Dutta and Bireswar Bhowmik

At St Xavier's College Auditorium (30 Park Street)

26 July: 6.30 pm

Moscow New Club presents a Kathak dance recital by Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya with vocals by Pandit Sagiruddin Khan and accompanied by Rai Kumar Mista on the tabla

At Gorky Sadan

26,27,29 July 7 pm

Scene Stealers present John Chapman and Michael Pertwee's comedy *Look No Hans!* The cast includes Semira Khaleeli Shonali Ghosh Vivek Mansukhani and Sandip Patel Directed by Farkondeh Khaleeli

At Gyan Manch 11, Pretoria Street

30 July: 6 pm

Rhythm presents a classical music programme featuring Pandit V G Jog and Nanda Bandopadhyay among others

At Birla Academy Hall 108 109 Southern Avenue Calcutta 29

30 July: 6 pm

SKM presents an evening of dance by Mahendra of Sweden and Sandhya Rao

At Kala Mandir (Theatre Road)

30 July 6 30 pm

SKM presents *Mritak Bhoj* by Munshi Premchand on the occasion of the writer's birth anniversary

At Kala Kunj

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) AI 103 at 0035

London-Rome-Delhi Calcutta: Arr (1) AI-132A at 1905

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5) AI-306 at 1830, Dep (5) AI 306 at 1930

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6). AI-315 at 1855 Dep (6) AI-315 at 1955

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt) Arr (6) AI-455A at 2335

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI 115 for London and New York) Dep (7) AI-115A at 0145

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2) SU-542 at 1700 and Dep (2). SU-542 at 1810 Arr (4) SU-537 at 1555, Dep (4) SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing. Arr (1) JU 492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU 493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU 493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 116 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ 116 at 1530 Arr (2) SQ 116 at 10 and Arr (4) SQ 114 at 0940

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA 214 at 1110 Dep (2 4) IC 24 at 1740 Dep (3 6, 7) IC-24 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA 213 at 1010 Arr (2 3 4 6, 7) IC 248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta Dhaka Arr (7) IC 443 at 1040 Dep (7) IC-443 at 1430

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi Arr (7) IC 444 at 1240 Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1145 Dep (1 2 4, 6) BG 694 at 1215 and IC 223 at 1340 Dep (5) IC 443 at 1430 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1015 Arr (1, 2 4 5, 6) BG 693 at 1615 and IC 224 at 1540 Arr (3) IC 444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (2 4 7) IC 232 at 1640 Arr (1, 3 6) IC 318 at 1240 Dep (2 4 7) IC 231 at 1050 Dep (1 3 6) IC 317 at 1350

Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 3 5) GQ 103 at 0930 Arr (1 3 5) GQ-101 at 1130 and Arr (2 4 6) GQ 101 at 1210

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC 403 at 1110 Dep (7) IC 443 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210 Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC 475 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0 and IC 274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur Delhi Dep (1 6, 7) IC 475 at 1045 Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC 476 at 1005

Calcutta Kanpur-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 293 at 1400 Arr (1, 3 5) IC 296 at 1635

Calcutta-Patna-Ahmedabad-Bombay Dep (2, 4 6) IC-295 at 1640 Arr (2 4, 6) IC-296 at 2100

Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2, 4, 6) IC 286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC 287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (1 3 5 7) IC 410 at 1110 (2 4) at 0545 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1100

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (2, 3 4 5 6 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4, 5 6 7) IC 541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2245

Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 27 at 1445 Dep (3 5) IC 277 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC 27 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (1) IC 270 at 2145

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad. Dep (1 3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (1, 3 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay Dep (1 3 6) IC-269 at 1800 Arr (1 3 6) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5 6) IC 281 at 1305 Arr (1, 3 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-729 at 1320 Dep (1, 2, 3, 4 5 6) IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 240 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC-240 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 4 5 6) IC 203 at 1225 Arr (3) IC 730 at 0045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (daily) IC 713 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC 713 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) IC 701 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC 702 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC 259 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC 260 at 1000

Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405

Calcutta Agartala Dep (daily) IC 411 at 0610 Dep IC 411 at 1110 Arr (1 3 5) IC 411 at 1030 Arr (2 4 6) IC 411 at 1040

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 23 at 0930 Arr (1, 3 5) IC 23 at 1205

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (1 3, 5) IC 201 at 0610 Arr (1 3 5) IC 202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati Dimapur Dep (7) IC 219 at 0625 Arr IC 220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily) PF-701 at 0930, Arr (daily) PF 702 at 1300

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep (daily) PF-705 at 1030, Arr (daily) PF 706 at 1525

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2 4 6) PF-705A at 1300, Arr (2 4, 6) PF-706A at 1625

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-707 at 0610, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF 708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi Ranchi Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 0555, Arr (2 4 6) PF 1010

Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep

7 DAYS

(2, 4, 6) PF-717 at 0600 Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0600 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta Dep (1, 3 5) PF 729 at 1130 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF 730 at 1610

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight) Dep (2, 4 6 7) PF 729A at 0630, Arr (2 4 6 7) PF 730A at 0850

Calcutta-Imphal Dimapur Dep (2 4 6 7) PF 727 at 0940 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF 728 at 1610

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat Dep (1 3 5) PF 731 at 0555 Arr (1 3 5) PF 732 at 1000

Calcutta Dhanbad Patna Gaya Dep (2 4 6) PF 737 at 0630 Arr (2 4 6) PF 738 at 1235

Calcutta Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5) PF 721/722 at 0630 Arr (1 3 5) PF 723/724 at 1915

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) PF 709 at 1800 Arr (daily) PF 710 at 1935

Guwahati-Silchar Guwahati Dep (daily) PF 701 at 0700 Ar (daily) PF-702 at 0900

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back Dep (1, 3 5, 7) PF 735 at 0930 Arr (1, 3 5 7) PF 736 at 1610

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back* Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 735 at 0930 Arr (2 4 6) PF 736 at 1620

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19 00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8 30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8 05	6
3	20 00	**Bombay Mail** v a Allahabad	12 55	4
81	8 45	**Air Cond Express** Tr Wkly via Gaya Dep — Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep Sat up to Amritsar Arri Tues Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8 45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delh Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon & Fr	18 20	104
101	16 00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Thurs Fr & Sun Arr —Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10 55	102
173	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri Wkly Dep —Tues Fr & Sat Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	10 40	174
947	13 15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep Mon & Thurs Arr Thurs & Mon	4 15	948
9	20 05	**Doon Express** v a Grand Chord	7 10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 30	8
49	3 05	**Amritsar Express**	15 45	50
11	20 45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6 05	12
39	21 10	**Delhi Janata Express** v a Main Line	5 20	40
19	22 00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 45	20
21	16 05	**Mithila Express**	6 45	22
57	5 45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 50	58
59	17 35	**Kamrup Express**	6 30	60
307	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	308
309	17 15	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	310
305	18 15	**Asansol Express**	8 45	306
31	21 00	**Danapur Express**	6 35	32
105	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4 15	106
171	22 30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon Thurs & Sat	6 00	172
15	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 45	16
959	15 25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7 30	960

SEALDAH

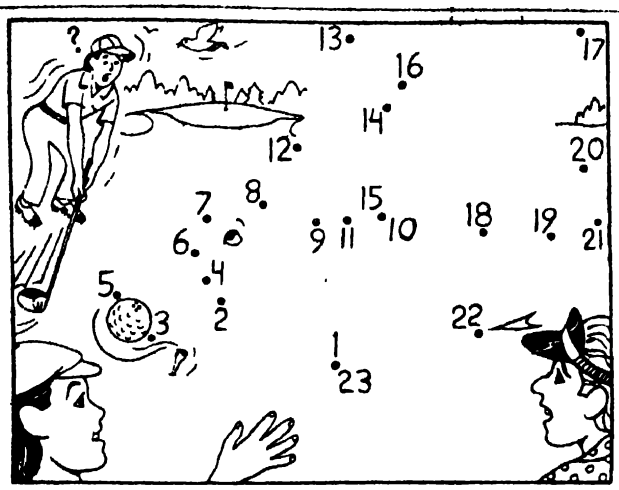
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19 00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	44
53	20 10	**Gaur Express**	6 15	54
51	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16 10	52
33	20 45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 50	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

3	20 15	**Madras Mail**	6 00	4
2	20 30	**Bombay Mail** v a Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13 50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Wed Fr & Sat Arr —Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sat	14 15	59
134	1 00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4 10	133
30	12 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15 15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11 15	142
37	23 15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4 3	38
13	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	14
11	6 20	**Ispat Express**	21 50	12
5	21 50	**Sambalpur Express**	5	6
15	21 30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 30	16
	22 45	**Puri Express**	5 45	8
9	19 10	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7 15	10
45	10 00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14 15	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11 30	318
902	22 35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
—	14 10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	901
939	11 10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13 45	
—	22 35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22 15	940
952	22 35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13 45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 290370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



TEE'D OFF! Add lines from dot 1 to dot 2, etc to see what's causing a flap on the golf course above What can you draw?

• **MURKY MATH! Solve this poser in your head in 60 seconds or less One-fourth of this number is two less than half What is the number?**

The number is eight

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

SUM NUMBERS TO PONDER!

Jot down on a sheet of paper any one of the 16 numbers shown in the diagram at right Then strike out your selected number in the diagram and with it all other numbers in the same vertical and horizontal rows (say chosen number is 8—cross out 8 4 12 16 7 6 and 5)

Now select a second number Jot it down Cross it out with other numbers vertically and horizontally as before

Do this a third time whereupon one number will remain Add this to the three selected and the sum will be 34

• **WORD PLAY! Rearrange letters in the diagram, below, to form a word square. That is to say, form words that read alike across and down.**

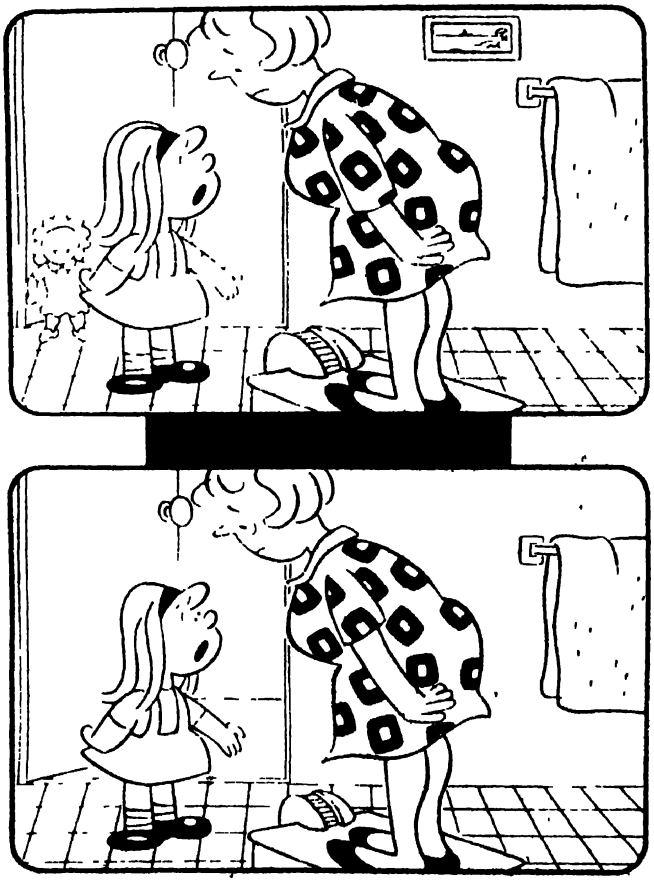
Definitions include. A soft drink, an ellipse, a sharp-pointed missile, and a choir voice.

Letter S at top left remains in place. All other letters are scrambled.

Words top down are soda oval dart and

S	L	O	T
L	A	R	O
O	V	O	A
T	A	A	D

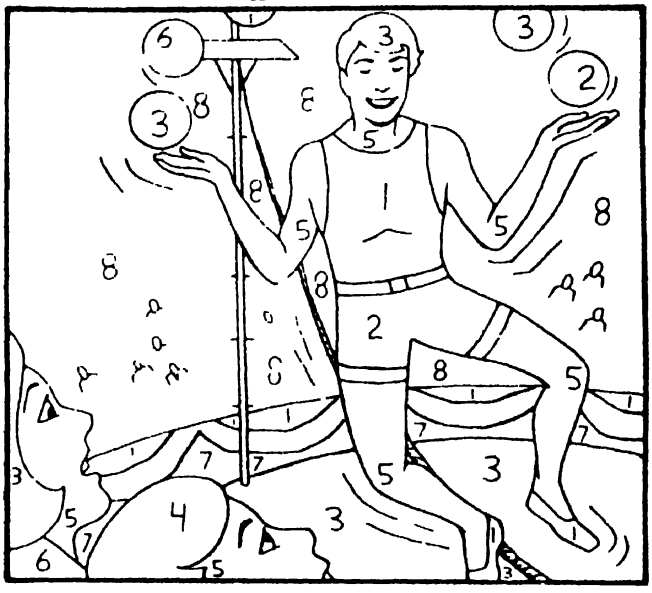
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Doll is missing 2 Hair is different 3 Scale dial is different 4 Sleeve is shorter 5 Picture is missing 6 Towel is smaller

FUNSPOT



BIG TOPPER! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments of this high-wire scene 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Green 7—Dk blue 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SEDIMENT

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Send time

INNER EYE □ Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Creativity hobbies socialising entertaining are highlighted Children's affairs will demand attention Those in education and the entertainment business will do well Your health may however need extra attention so go for regular check ups even minor aches and pains

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 20

Financial matters home property affairs land deals renovation decoration installation of new machinery and change of residence or office Loans and funds for new projects will be available This is the time to buy new home If any of you have been planning for some

GEMINI

May 21 - Jun 20

Do not lose patience with the innumerable guests that will now pour in Learn to share your home with others A journey is on the cards and short trips and visits are also on the cards Be active to people and places through correspondence and communication Those in sales teaching and the media will do well Travel and foreign trade may have to be signed

CANCER

Jun 21 - Jul 20

Take chances and rely on your instincts Emotional ties, but do not stop to count your expenses as the effort will be well worth it In the long run you will see your investments monetary and other gains Go in for joint ventures and collaborations a good deal come your way

LEO

Jul 21 - Aug 20

You will come out of all mishaps and trials with flying colours Be gentle and understanding with enemies and be nice with friends If you have recently started a new business venture rest assured that it will work out well However if someone has done you a wrong do not hesitate in seeking redressal

VIRGO

Aug 21 - Sept 20

Physical activity is pronounced this week You will make spiritual progress as well Collaborations affairs and joint ventures will



stimulate you Give in to your feelings Do not **overspend** and maintain a tight control on your purse strings You will receive important news before the week is out

LIBRA

Sept 21 - Oct 20

Solve all personal equations now Do unto others as you would have them do to you Mercury sextiles Pluto and you will finally be able to give direction to your life Those in editing publishing trade communication public relations research and science and sports will do well Use the time at hand to do some introspection and meditation

SCORPIO

Oct 21 - Nov 20

Moon trines sun and do not hesitate to learning from other people's mistakes Be gracious in all your dealings and do not be rude or intimidating with near ones You may meet someone with whom there are chances of forging a close friendship You will move in influential circles Friends and relatives will recognise your worth now Do not neglect your health Family members will demand attention

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 21 - Dec 20

You will meet influential people now However learn to coordinate your efforts with others The time is ideal to open a new branch to your business or enter into collaborations or joint ventures A journey is on the cards There may be an open confrontation with a long-time enemy Legal issues may demand attention Creativity and hobbies will gain prominence

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 20

Moon conjuncts Neptune signifying to money and financial matters Long-term rituals partnerships and deals are signified Take health precautions and go in for regular checkups Home and property affairs will demand attention Your wife may have a will of her own Friends and relatives will come forward to help you in whatever you do

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 19

Sun trines Neptune and there will be opposition to your plans from friends and relatives However you will hold your own and come out with flying colours Legal issues deeds and documents romance business transactions and joint ventures are well signified Get set to travel and reorganise your life Do not take people at face value and learn to look below appearances

PISCES

Feb 19 - March 20

You will show an extraordinarily keen interest in music sports philosophy the arts and anthropology Moon conjuncts Neptune,so get ready for an extra round of hard work Health safeguards are essential and take care not to overtrain yourself Slow your pace and take other people's feelings into consideration Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible

BIRTHDAYS

July 24

Moon trine sun-Mars Good news journeys contacts and collaborations are signified **Your** work will get done This is a good time to publicise the name of your company Go in for expansion and installation of new machinery on your office premises

July 25

Moon semi-sextile Pluto Reach out to people and places Those in the arts and science will do well Despite delays your plans will work out eventually Children and creative pursuits will keep you busy Entertainment and socialising are signified

July 26

Moon conjunction Saturn-**Uranus Expect the unusual and** strange to happen this year There could be a parting of ways However there could also be new links and collaborations Yoga prayers and meditation will help you to get through the trials and tribulations of the year ahead Promotions are in the offing

July 27

Moon conjunction Neptune An accent on finance and health is signified Domestic affairs will gain prominence Teachers and writers will do well Take time off to relax

July 28

Moon opposition Mercury Pay attention to other people's point of view Take care of your health Trust people blindly and do what your heart tells you to

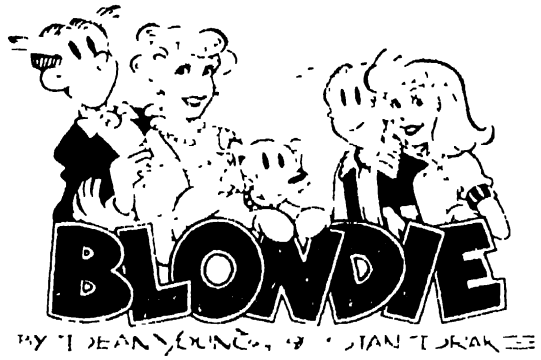
July 29

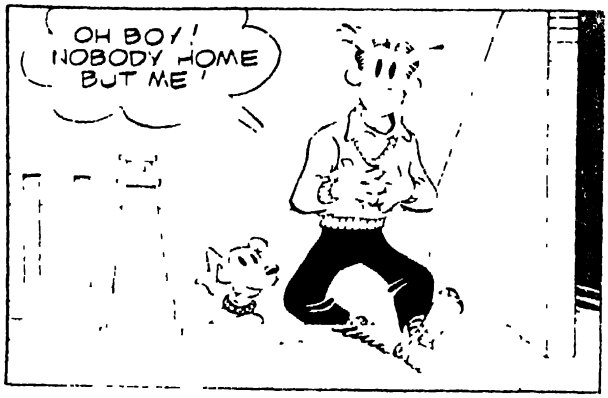
Mercury sextile Jupiter A year for wish fulfilment marriage an official engagement collaborations and a partnership Immigration is a strong likelihood A year to reach out to people and places Actors teachers and politicians will do well

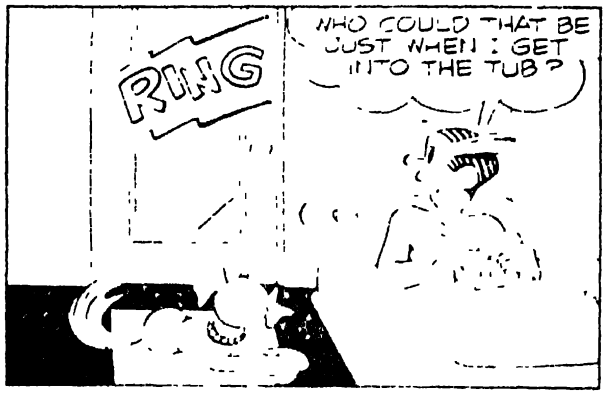
July 30

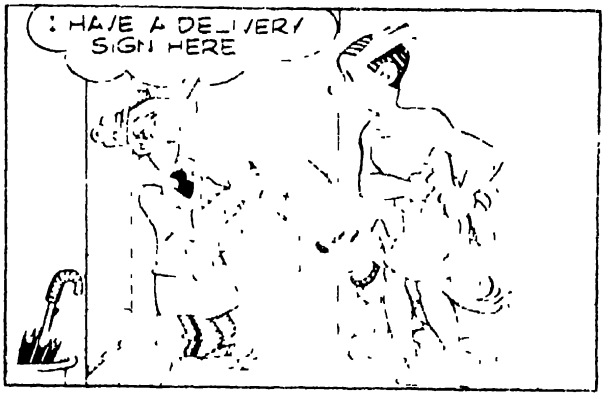
Moon trino Venus sextile Saturn Consolidate your position Expansion is on the cards Collaborations, ventures and weddings are foretold This is the time to enlist in clubs and socialise A year for progress and power

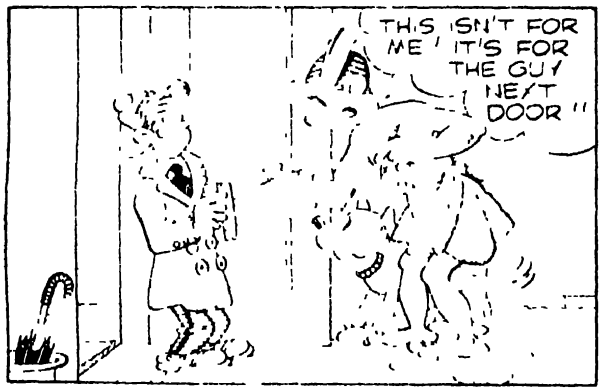
COMICS

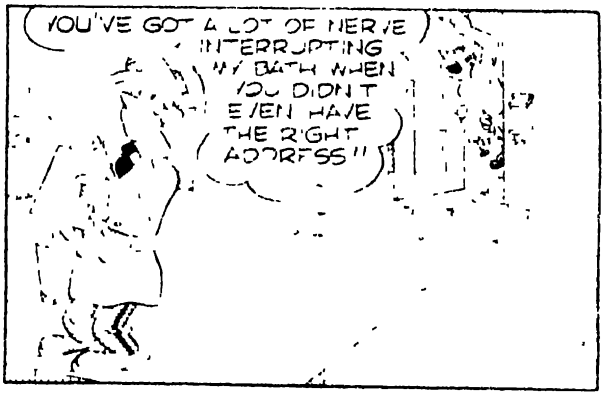

BLONDIE

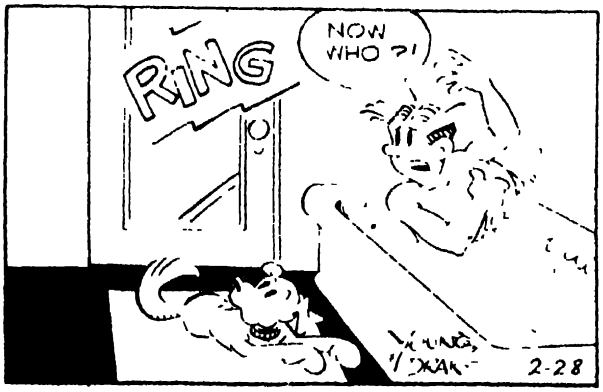

OH BOY! NOBODY HOME BUT ME!

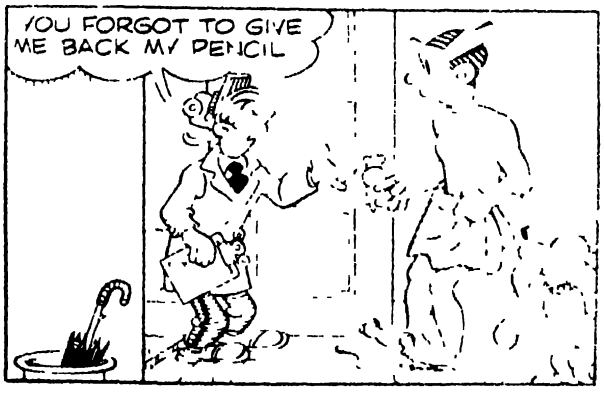

RING
WHO COULD THAT BE JUST WHEN I GET INTO THE TUB?


I HAVE A DELIVERY SIGN HERE

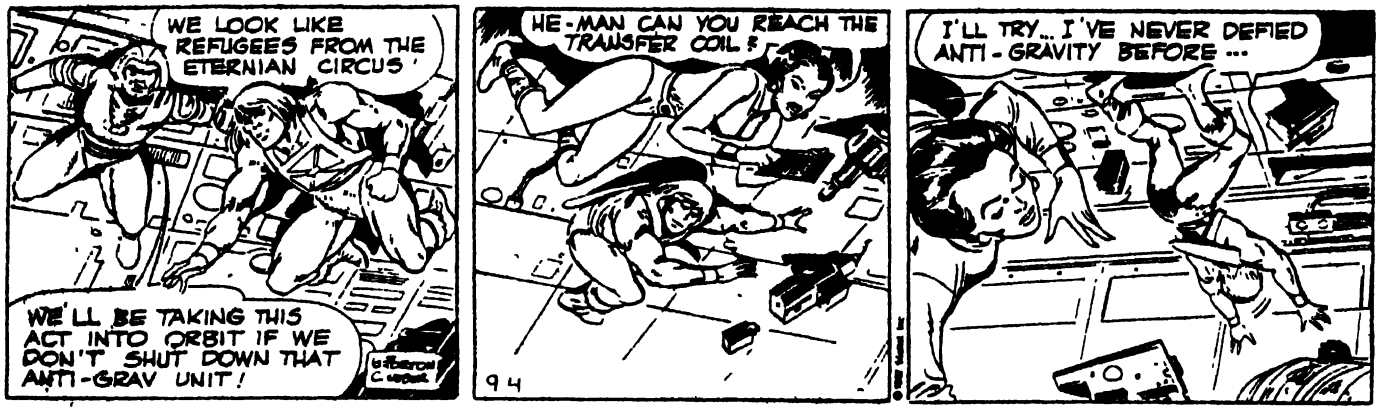

THIS ISN'T FOR ME! IT'S FOR THE GUY NEXT DOOR!!

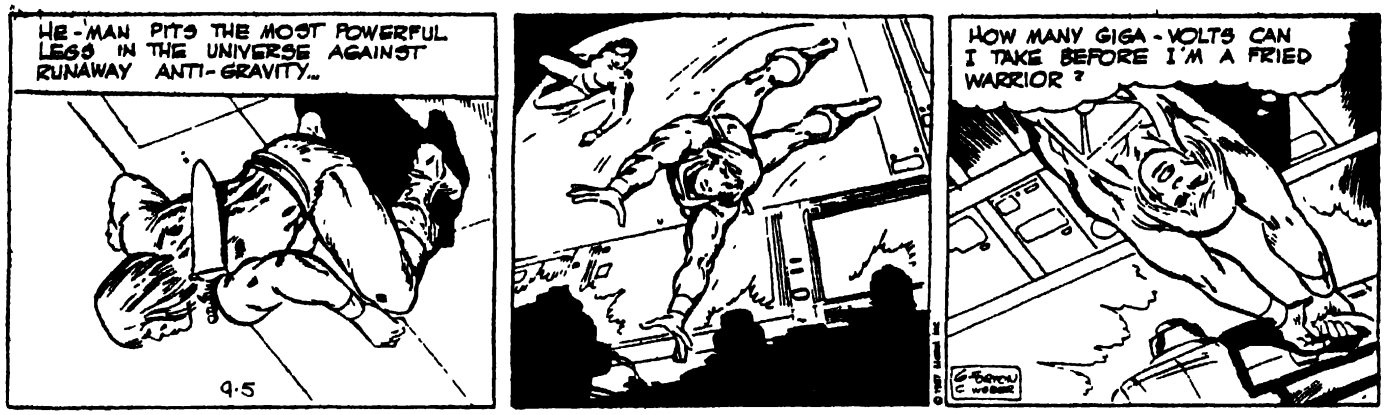

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE INTERRUPTING MY BATH WHEN YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT ADDRESS!!


RING
NOW WHO?!
2-28

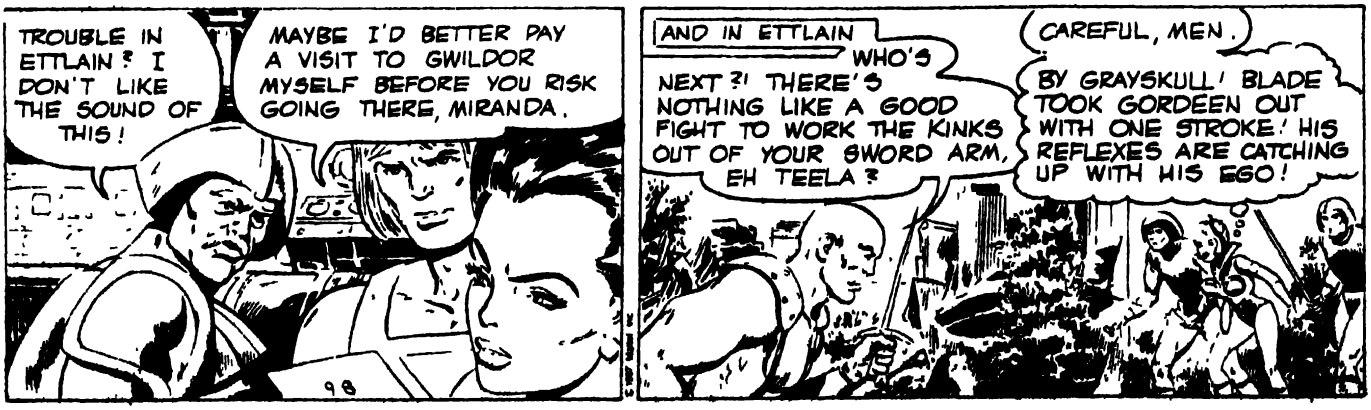

YOU FORGOT TO GIVE ME BACK MY PENCIL

HE-MAN By G. Fortenberry / Shu

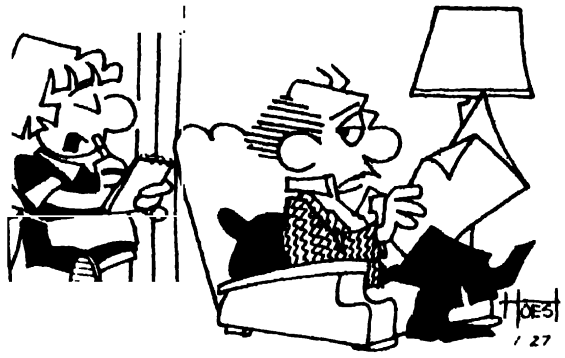




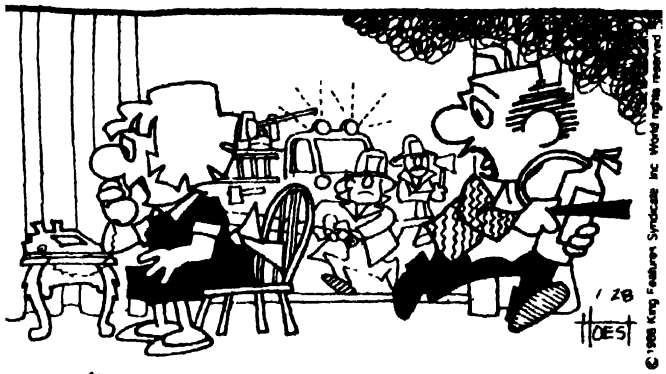




LOCKHORNS



"I FIGURE THAT EVEN AT THE MINIMUM WAGE YOU OWE ME $426,922."

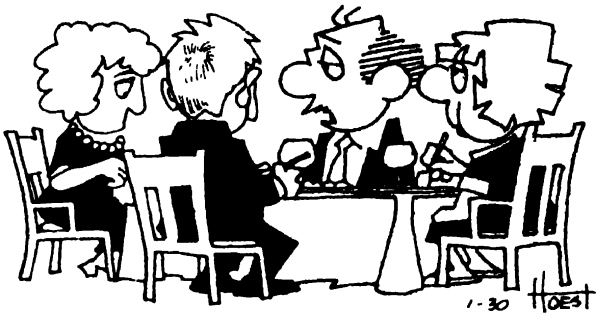


"CAN'T YOU TELL HELEN YOU'LL CALL HER BACK?"

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"SHE ONCE ENTERTAINED THE TROOPS WITH HER SINGING THOUGH, AT THE TIME, SHE DIDN'T REALIZE IT."

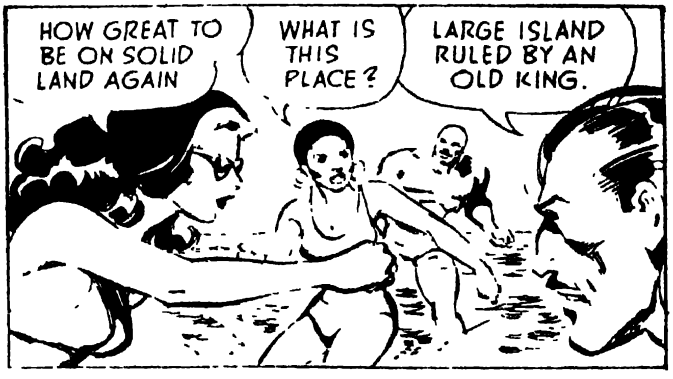


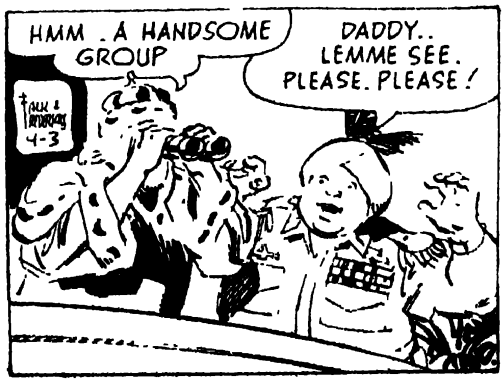
"THERE'S A LOT MEDICAL SCIENCE STILL DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT MEAT LOAF."

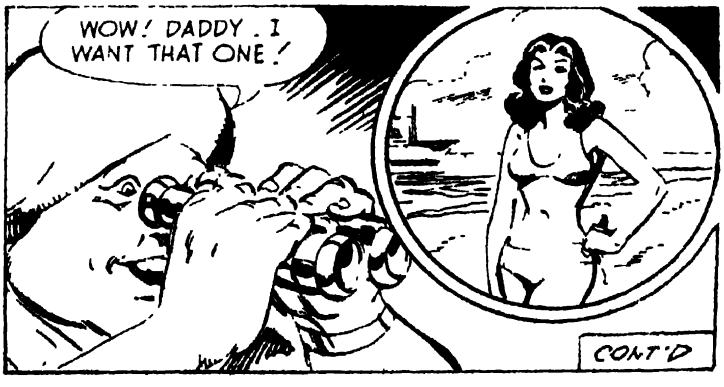
© 1988 King

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk









THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP




WHEN IT COMES TO SOME COLD WARS...
...SUNSHINE BRINGS MANDATORY DISARMAMENT!
HEY! A SNOWBALL FIGHT IS FUN! RIGHT, BETTY?
BUILDING AN IGLOO IS A HOWL!
1-17
AND MAKING A SNOWMAN IS ALWAYS LOTS OF LAUGHS!
I'M SORRY, ARCHIE! I STILL SAY...
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..COMING TO THE BEACH IN THE WINTER JUST ISN'T FUN!

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Chairman : Ramesh Gelli

POST MORTEM

Was That Poetry?

Was it poetry that you published in your May 29 issue? More aptly, it should have been carried under the heading of 'Trash'. Did we really produce poets like Rabindranath Tagore, Madhusudan Dutt and Sarojini Naidu? The standard seems to have fallen so much now.

Arindam,
Calcutta

Misleading

In the article on Lord Byron, 'Lover of Liberty' (April 3), one of the illustrations carried a misleading caption. Byron was looked upon as a "delivering Angel" as the author, Apurba Chakraborty, had pointed out in the article. So he could not have arrived at Missolonghi in January 1824 surrounded by liquor and women.

Amit Paul,
Calcutta

The illustration was of Byron setting from Ravenna on April 23, 1816 for his self-imposed exile. The caption is regretted.

Fine Model Girl

[illegible]

Das,
Kulti (Burdwan)

■ Children and fathers-in-law ought to be kept away from such issues!

The magazine has to be diverse in presentation though all subjects may not have a universal appeal. One would rather plead with you to maintain the maturity of the magazine.

Jayanta Biswas,
Calcutta

■ I could not believe that such a photograph as that of sex symbol Urmilla Deshpande could be used.

Jyotsna Datta,
Jalpaiguri

Anu Kottoor



CONTENTS

The Telegraph
31 JULY 1988



12 The city which was the pioneer in fast foods had fallen behind times. But Calcutta is now catching up with the stuff again

16 Monsoon is a many splendoured thing. If you have the eye for it. A photofeature

18 Puri's Ratha Yatra is world famous for its beautiful chariots. But what goes into the making of those huge cars?

SECTIONS

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Cover Arun Banerjee

STILL IN THE RACE

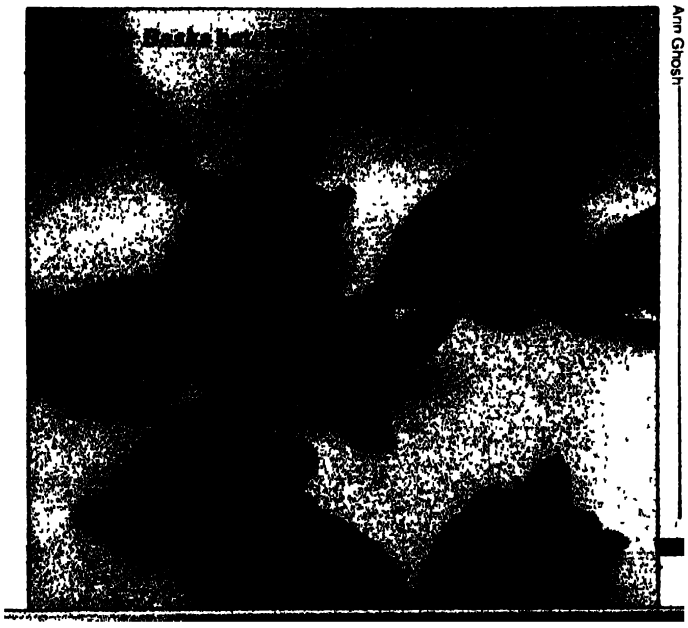


Arin Ghosh



Arin Ghosh

Turtles, one of nature's most effective scavenging mechanisms, are today an endangered species. These clumsy, marine reptiles are known to travel upto 90 kms a day and migrate for 3,500 kms for nesting. The Project Tiger authorities of the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve have been actively engaged in rehabilitating two important species, OliveRidley and *Batagur Baska*, once abundant in the Sundarbans.



Arin Ghosh

***Olive Ridley* eggs being prepared for incubation**

The nesting period of *Olive Ridleys* is between January and March. They lay eggs on sea-beaches at night. The successful hatching of eggs under natural conditions is low because of predators like water monitors and wild boars. The egg clutches are located by following the flipper marks. The reserve authorities collect eggs from nests and bring them to the Pakhiralaya artificial hatching center. The incubation period is for 55 to 60 days. The hatchlings are reared in pools where they are fed egg-yolk, mashed fish and vegetables. When they are about a month-and-half-old, they are released in small creeks of the sea face. Since 1983, 1,850 hatchlings have been released.

Batagur Baska is a fresh water terrapin but nests in the estuarine beaches. There have been no reports of its nesting in its erstwhile natural habitat the Sundarbans. Its eggs were first located on the sea-beaches of the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve in March, 1988 by the Project Tiger authorities. The eggs were hatched artificially at Pakhiralaya for the first time in India. The incubation period was 60 to 65 days. Presently 29 hatchlings are being reared at the Sajnakhali Research Complex to study its various biological aspects.

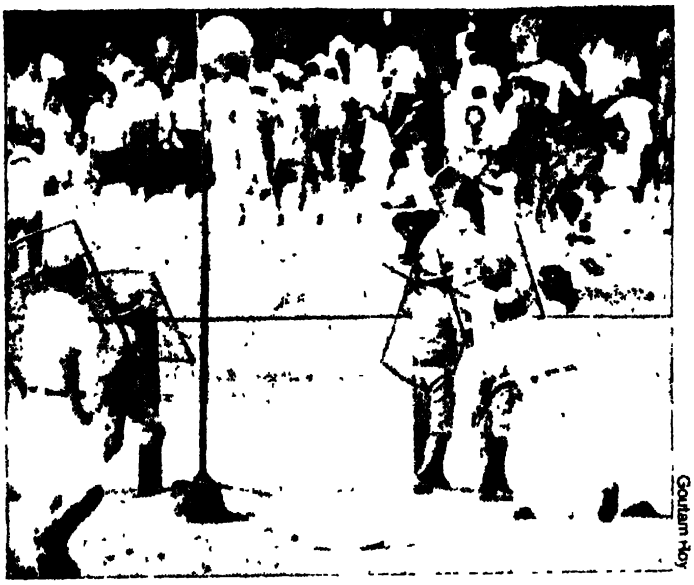
With keen vigilance along the shores to prevent illegal netting coupled with the augmentation of their number by artificial hatching, the Project Tiger authorities are trying to revive the fast diminishing population of these sloth, prehistoric but beautiful animals.

Arin Ghosh

(The author is the field director, Project Tiger, Sunderbans Tiger Reserve)

IN THE LAND OF GANDHI

Is non-violence a way of life with Indians? The recent football match between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal does not indicate that



Goutam Roy

There it was, that familiar sight on television. The mob rising up in collective fury, their eyes glazed with the lust for destruction, hurling stones and ripping off the costly plastic seats of the Salt Lake Stadium and throwing it towards the ground Only this time, the distance between the football ground and the galleries was considerable, and the debris, especially the plastic seats, fell on the expensive Rekotran track. The match between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal was held up. The referee and the players looked furtively at the galleries, not knowing what was going to happen. They were so young, one thought, and yet they had such an intense desire to destroy. The crescendo of noise was unnerving and frightening. Salt Lake Stadium was in turmoil and once again, soccer violence had disrupted a match

Soccer violence. What a common thing this is becoming all over the world! It erupts on the playing fields of Britain, Germany, Holland, Italy, the countries of Latin America, in Singapore and right here in Calcutta. The culture may be different, the economic standards even more disparate and yet there is the common denominator of violence.

Violence is always a symptom of a deeper malaise in society, especially in a poor country like India.

"Violence," states Rollo May, "gives one a sense of counting, of mattering, of power." Violence has something delicious about it. It gives a sexual thrill, a feeling of satisfaction, a feeling of telling the world, "Hey look, pay attention to me, I am an important guy"

One of the primary reasons for violence is unemployment. There are too many people and too few jobs. The result is that people, especially the young, get frustrated They feel that they are not productive members of society. We in India do not respect the dignity of labour Therefore, we will respect an officer who works in a bank but we will not respect a newspaper vendor The result is that everybody wants white collar jobs even if he doesn't have the aptitude or talent for it. For example, a man may have the talent to be a carpenter but he will still want to work in an office.

Laments Pushpender Singh Rashtrawar, an officer in the Bank of Baroda, "It seems as if the whole world is divided into commerce, science and arts graduates. Is there no other way to live?"

It is time we changed our attitude towards labour of any type. The US became the greatest nation on earth because it recognised the dignity of labour. It realised that talent is the most important thing, and when a man works at a job for which he has the talent, the country benefits as a result.

Think of this: We Indians are among the most talented people on earth And yet, how many people are employed in jobs which they have a talent for? Very few, probably Indians who go abroad do brilliantly because they have found the environment helpful, healthy and conducive to the development of their talents

So much for the theoretical part What then is the reality?

The responsibility of creating a growth-oriented environment rests on the politicians. Unfortunately, the Indian politicians are the worst animals on earth. They suffer from a 'moral burnout.' Long ago, they had killed their conscience and buried their principles They possess very little desire for social service. Says Madhu Limaye: "It seems that everything is wrong with men and women who fill our major institutions Their conscience is dead, their ethical impulses have dried up."

The result is that we have politicians with a 'looter' mentality. They will grab as quickly as they can because they are not sure when they will be driven out of power or when the leader of the party will be displeased with their performance. So their aim is to get rich quickly and let the poor be damned They lack education, a sense of vision. .we have no Nehru among the present generation of politicians. All this leads to unplanned economic development. There are no schemes to uplift the rural sectors. The village people starve and are finally forced to migrate to the cities They come in thousands and set up makeshift shelters which soon turn to slums and to unimaginable overcrowding. Some 10 persons may have to share a small room. There is no proper sanitation facilities. Every human being needs space to live and when he is denied that, it leads to inner tension and its invariable off-shoot is violence Like what happened at the Salt Lake Stadium.

There is a collapse of values everywhere and we have only ourselves to blame for having elected the amoral politician to a position of power. The corruption at the top has had a trickle-down effect and now we are slowly turning into a nation of crooks. The violent youth at a soccer stadium is only a symptom—everyone is to blame, right from the top echelons of the political hierarchy to the man on the street. It is time to point the finger at our own souls and do a little bit of introspection

Here's a scene: It is a hot summer night and the open air theatre near the Lakes was filled with young people, dressed in T-shirts and jeans and boots. They were listening to a man on the stage, strumming a guitar. He was tall and slim and had shoulder length hair. There was a smile on his face and he looked contented, as his fingers moved skilfully over the strings He broke into a song The crowd cheered lustily and he began to sing with greater passion, relishing this free play of his talent And the question is this: Can there be a more healthy and productive human being than one who is performing at the peak of his talents?

Shevlin Sebastian

'Abdul Qadir, I Presume?'

Not quite. Soumitra Sinha discovers that remembering faces is not that simple

Are you like one of those superhumans, gifted with a memory machine, who appears at the end of every whodunit film, chewing a pipe at the corner of his mouth, and proudly proclaiming, "I never forget a face, or sight or sound?" Well, I am not, nor are most people on earth I know.

Despite a good number of faces slipping out of memory with the passage of time, I have not fared too badly, though, when it comes to remembering faces. In fact, I secretly believe a good number of people have a far worse memory of faces than mine.

The number of times I have been recognised by people, at all conceivable places, throughout my life, as somebody else and look-alikes of so many different persons, has made my faith in human memory decline progressively.

Only the other day, I was coming down the elevator of a highrise, when a completely unknown youth, who appeared to know me for ages, asked when I had returned from Bombay. I could not disappoint him by saying it had been a good 10 years now. He provided the answer himself and said it could not have been more than a week because exactly nine days ago we had met at the Calcutta Race Course.

Alipore Central Jail and Calcutta Turf Club are the other two places which never feature in my itinerary even in the wildest trip of imagination. I took the cue and raced for a minibus to carry me off to safety, taking no notice of the direction it was heading for.

I admit, at times, I too come across faces which strike me as familiar. But, I never take such courageous steps as many others do. Like my friend who almost broke the shoulder of a chap with a "friendly pat," whose profile reminded him of a long lost pal.

One of my school friends, who had suddenly reappeared on the Calcutta scene after a long lapse of 12 years, started doing the rounds at his previous haunts in the south of the city, blissfully unaware of the fact that a generous volumetric change, loss of vegetation on the top and a beard had completely metamorphosed him beyond human recognition. Soon word was passed around in the inner circle, to avoid embarrassment either way, of his arrival, biodata and favourite pastime of literally catching hold of old pals on the footpaths of Gariahat and testing their memory

But the inevitable could not be avoided An unsuspecting friend fell into his trap one evening. "If you remember me, tell me my name and where we last met," was the routine query made The friend promptly identified him as a cousin of his wife whom he had met at a wedding a couple of months ago That was the last we ever heard of our friend.

As you advance in age, you learn to accept the fact that your face has disappeared from the memory of others specially of those who have made it in life If you are an average guy like me and are still invited to social gatherings, dinners and weddings in posh hotels and affluent households, you get used to the fact that the welcome smile of the hostess and the "hello" are never directed at you, but to the fellow behind.

A distant compensation perhaps comes in the form of recognition from people of your own breed and social stratum picking you up for their friend or relative during the mad rush and travel in buses, minis, local trains and on the pastures of Dalhousie Square. I sometimes wonder how my looks alone could entitle me to such a varied range of professions--smalltime businessman, bank employee, doctor, sales representative and even an actor in group theatre. But it is always the males among the faceless multitudes, the shoving and jostling band of wage-earners, who identify me as one of their own. But never a woman. No damsel ever stopped me in the blazing sun down the footpath of Chowringhee Road to say, "Hello, what has happened to you? You no longer show up these days!" Perhaps, it is not a feminine failing to forget the right face



This reminds me of a lone incident of childhood I have dearly cherished in memory. One winter afternoon, I was heading homewards alone, savouring *alur dam* (boiled potato). Three little girls suddenly came running to me and the oldest one, about eight years, smiling and panting, held my hand and said, "You're eating alone, Babluda!"

She was quick to realise the mistaken identity and the three girls vanished as quickly as they came, leaving the moon-struck eleven-year-old dazed by his first taste of romance. My secret longing for feminine recognition has since remained a pet obsession.

Years later in my college days, I was standing on the first floor landing of the College Street coffee house when I noticed three pretty Presidency College girls rushing in excitedly repeating my first name, incidentally the same as that of a matinee idol of those days. Though a bit perplexed, I was about to flash my best smile at the girls who stormed past without noticing me. Dejected, I peeped through the entrance of Albert Hall and found the celebrity dressed in impeccable *dhoti* and *kurta*, sipping coffee and the three ladies giggling and ogling.

Exceptional people are often known to possess exceptional memories. Pandit Ravi Shankar is known to have recognised an unknown person whom he had seen for a few seconds only, 12 years earlier, backstage of Rabindra Sadan. Among the lesser mortals, I know one who recognised an elderly woman, who had 14 years earlier, swindled him of some money on the pretext of her daughter's marriage. On being questioned how long she would carry on the trade, since even after 14 years she was collecting money for the daughter's wedding, the lady quipped, "You must be talking about my first daughter, sir. She had been married off long ago and the second one, too. Now I am collecting funds for the third, my last one."

A lot of people, specially young boys and girls, have a penchant for spotting celebrity faces, specially of filmstars. Even those fleeting moments, when they zoom past places the commoners frequent, are long enough for their ecstatic fans to wave at them. Being a bit of a sports fan, myself, I have often rightly spotted my favourite players here and there.

Three years ago while holidaying in Srinagar, I was strolling along Dal Lake with my family one morning. I quickly spotted Pakistani cricketer, Abdul Qadir, jogging past in an expensive blue and white track suit. Pointing at him, I whispered the wily spinner's name to my wife who was equally thrilled. As I was about to step him for an autograph, a couple of friendly looking *shikarawalas* who had been watching us for some time said, "*Saab*, this man stays here, you could not have seen him in Calcutta either." The look-alike of Abdul Qadir jogged past us with a benign smile and my wife gave me a high-voltage glare. I was shocked to have failed in star identification for the first time in life.

Next morning, on our way to Gulmarg, when the cars stopped at the checkpost uphill, I noticed a familiar figure from my early youth, dressed in trendy jeans and jacket, enjoying a view of the the hills yonder. The identity of a cricketing celebrity flashed instantaneously in my mind and I jumped out of my car to reach him. We exchanged a few words and shook hands, agreeing mutually to discuss the game once we reached the top.

I got back into my car and proudly declared, "That was Ajit Wadekar, the luckiest Indian skipper ever!"

"Don't try your handshaking trick on me. It is a poor cover-up for the Abdul Qadir incident of yesterday," retorted my wife. "This man could, at best, be a distant cousin of Madan Lal twice removed." Maybe, she was right again. ■

BARTER BANK

• **Bicycle gear set, Walkman, invertor, clock, gas stove** and **sewing machine motor:** I offer an imported 5-speed bicycle gear set, a Sanyo Walkman, a DC to AC 10-watt invertor, an alarm clock, new single burner gas stove and Tullu sewing machine motor for a child's bicycle and anything of corresponding value. Contact Robert D'Gama, 20, Canal Street, Calcutta 14.

• **Calculator, magazines, stamps** and **cricket bat:** I offer a Casio pocket calculator, 150 issues of *Anandamela*, *Sportstar* and the *Telegraph* Colour Magazine, 400 stamps and a cricket bat for a Walkman or anything of value. Write to Sajal Kumar Mandal, 174/N, Kalipada Mukherjee Road, Calcutta 8.

• **Novels:** I offer *A Very Cagey Lady* by Joyce Elbert, *The Storyteller* by Harold Robbins, *Shalimar* by Krishna Shah and *Thy Neighbour's Wife* by Gay Talese for an AC to DC convertor or anything of corresponding value. Contact Pradeep K. Jhunjhunwala, Halwasia Hostel, 2/1, Brajo Dulal Street, Calcutta 6.

• **Video game** and **novels:** I offer a double screen video game, *Oil Panic*, Sydney Sheldon's *Master of the Game* and Irving Wallace's *The R Document* for any other double screen video game and Sydney Sheldon's *The Naked Face* and *If Tomorrow Comes*. Contact Manisha Agarwal, 8, Durga Charan Mukherjee Street, Calcutta 3.

• **Magazines, records** and **movie stills:** I offer *Time* issues from 1980 to 1985, 20 issues of *Newsweek*, LPs of *Umnagumma*, Cole Porter-Gerswin and Charlie Saviers, and an album containing 30 stills of English films of the 1940s for anything of corresponding value. Contact Othello Mazoomdaar, 137, A.B. Nagar, Calcutta 61.

• **Video game:** I offer a double screen video game for a Walkman in good condition. Write to Saifee Rangoonwala, 1, Chandni Chowk Street, Calcutta 72.

• **Battery lamp** and **magazines:** I offer a battery lamp for anything of corresponding value. I also offer 13 issues of the *Readers' Digest* of June, 1987, and July, 1988, for two novels by Harold Robbins. Contact Mohuna Banerjee, 49/1M, Anath Nath Deb Lane, Calcutta 37.

• **Record player:** I offer a Philips portable record player for any of the following. English or Bengali novels, records, a calculator, study material on banking and management or anything of corresponding value. Contact Debashis Dam, 13, Gopal Chatterjee Road, Calcutta 2.

• **Novels:** I offer several novels of the Nancy Drew series and thrillers by Alfred Hitchcock for other Nancy Drew novels. Contact Sreeparna Banerjee, 8, Jessore Road, Dum Dum, Calcutta 28.

• **Record player:** I offer a Philips stereo record player with a pair of Sonodyne speakers and an amplifier for anything of corresponding value. Write to Sanwar Singhania, C/o Naveen Enterprises, 55 Ezra Street, Calcutta 1.

• **Stamps:** I offer 25 stamps of Canada, Italy, Japan, Czekoslovakia, the US, Austria, Belgium and Singapore for an equal number of stamps of other foreign countries. Contact S. Biswas, C/o Prof. B N Biswas, H-6 Tarabag, Burdwan 713104.

• **Tape recorder:** I would like to exchange a National tape recorder for a harmonium or a ladies bicycle. Write to Renu Goel, J-5, Cluster X, Purbachal Housing Estate, Salt Lake, Calcutta 700091.

• **Textbooks:** I offer textbooks for classes XI and XII of CBSE Board (science stream) for anything of corresponding value. Write to Niraj K. Balasaria, 3 Wood Street, 7th floor, Flat 1, Calcutta 700016.



I received this letter from Dipankar Paul, Calcutta. He writes "Neil O'Brien's quiz column (July 3) furnishes us with some little-known details regarding Abraham Lincoln's assassination There are, however, one or two minor inaccuracies in the facts provided.

"First, the comedy that Lincoln went to watch on the fateful night of April 14, 1865, was entitled *Our American Cousin*, and not *Our American Cousins*.

"Secondly, John Wilkes Booth's fellow plotters, who were rounded up and given a military trial, numbered seven in all, and not six as Mr O'Brien seems to suggest Of the seven tried, four were condemned to death, the others received life imprisonment The condemned were, besides Mrs Mary Surratt, who kept the boarding-house where Booth's men met, Lewis Powell alias Paine, who tried to kill the Secretary of State, Seward, as part of Booth's wholesale assassination plot, David Herold, who helped Booth escape, and George Atzerodt, a German-born confederate spy who was assigned to kill Vice-President Johnson, but lost his nerve

"Finally, it was not at Stanton's behest alone that Mrs Surratt was hanged It seems that it was the President himself (Andrew Johnson) who insisted on Mrs Surratt's execution. The charge he levelled against her was that she kept the nest where the egg was hatched "

Let me elaborate. Assassin John Wilkes Booth planned to kill the President as he attended Ford's Theatre. His accomplice, Lewis Paine, was to murder Secretary of State William Seward as he lay in his sickbed George Atzerodt would take care of Vice-President Andrew Johnson.

Paine had attacked Seward in the sick man's home across town. Although the secretary received several deep knife wounds in the face and neck, these did not prove fatal Paine was able to escape temporarily. Atzerodt decided not to kill Vice-President Johnson; he got drunk instead.

Traditionally it has been said that Booth masterminded the plot to kidnap Lincoln in 1865, perhaps under orders from the Confederacy. He planned to smuggle the President to Richmond, where he would trade him for an advantageous armistice or a large number of rebel prisoners.

In *The Lincoln Conspiracy* (1977), a highly controversial work, the authors assert that Booth, a fanatic Lincoln hater, was not only working for the Confederacy, but was hired by a coterie of northern cotton and gold speculators and a group of radical Republicans, including Secretary of War Stanton, who were determined to prevent Lincoln from carrying out his moderate programme of reconstruction for the south. These men ordered Booth to kidnap Vice-President John-

son and Secretary of State Seward as well as Lincoln. The conspirators planned to discredit the Lincoln administration while its top men were held out of sight and then to seize control of the government.

Some 2,000 people were arrested in connection with the Lincoln assassination. Most were quickly released but eight accused 'conspirators' were hastily brought to trial before a military court. They included. Paine; Atzerodt; Edward; Spangler, a stagehand at the Ford Theatre, David Herold, Samuel Arnold, and Michael O'Laughlin, all known companions of Booth; Dr Samuel Mudd, a physician who had aided Booth after his escape from the theatre; and Mary Surratt, the owner of the Washington boarding house where the plot was allegedly hatched

All the defendants were convicted and, on July 6, sentenced Dr Mudd, Arnold, and O'Laughlin got life terms President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis, tried in absentia as a co-conspirator, was to remain in prison. Herold, Paine, Atzerodt, and Mrs Surratt were to hang The sentence was carried out the next day

In 1867 Col. Lafayette C Baker, former head of the secret service, revealed that he had handed over a diary kept by Booth to Secretary Stanton, who hid it. When the diary was subsequently found in a war department file, 18 pages of it were mysteriously missing. Over a century later, in 1977, the authors of *The Lincoln Conspiracy*, claimed to have discovered the missing 18 pages and other documents that prove highly placed government officials not only conspired to kidnap Lincoln, but covered up many details of the assassination in order to keep their plot from being discovered.

Finally, *Our American Cousin* was the play. They don't make typewriters as they used to, Dipankar!

CBS

***11th Question*: In the US medical profession, what is "ash cash"? (Srikant Rai, P-87 New CIT Road, Calcutta 700014).**
***Ans*: Fees charged by a doctor for signing a death certificate.**

QUESTIONS

1. To which famous book is *Talking Straight* the sequel? (Aruna Chandraraju, Calcutta 29)
2. Brazileiro Sampaio Sonzo de Oliveiara is the real name of which footballer? (Manish Tripathy, Rourkela 3)
3. Who said, "To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe "? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)
4. What name has been given to the totally indigenous Jaguar aircraft? (Sandeep Kr Singh, BIT Sindri)
5. During the premiere of which famous opera did a cat walk across the stage? (Sriram Parthasarathy, Calcutta 29)
6. Who was the first hero of Indian screen? (K. [illegible], Rourkela 3)
7. For what, in India, is the title Gopal Ratna given? (N. Ravi, Calcutta 32)
8. What is coroner to [illegible] other than that? [illegible] famous Indian? (C.V. Raman, Hamid J. Bhabha and Meghnad Saha?)
9. How did Pearl Harbour get its name? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
10. What is common to Raj Kapoor, Asrani and Jeevan? (S.K. Roy, Dhanbad)

(Shailesh, BIT Sindri)

ANSWERS

[illegible]
1. Lee Iacocca's [illegible]
2. Socrates of Brazil
3. Aristotle Onassis
4. Shantaram
5. Rossini's *The Barber of [illegible]*
6. Dadasaheb Phalke
Deolee in the film *Raja [illegible]*
7. The title is given to the owner of the highest milk-yielding cows and buffaloes of [illegible] breeds.
8. They are all craters on the far side of the moon.
9. The harbour takes its name from the Hawaiian *Wai Momi* meaning "pearl waters" because pearl oysters were once found there.
10. All acted as *Narada Munis*—Jeevan in many movies, Asrani in the TV serial, Raj Kapoor in the film *Valmiki*.

AGE

PRIYANATH SEN (1854-1916)



Born at 8 Mathur Sen Garden Lane (sketched above) in Calcutta s Nimtolla area on November 10 1854, Priyanath Sen was an outstanding figure in Bengali literature His house was virtually a place of pilgrimage for litterateurs and was frequented by renowned personalities like Beharilal Chakraborty, Pramatha Choudhury and even Rabindranath Tagore, who was his great friend

Priyanath was a staunch supporter of Tagore s works and remained thus throughout even at times when others would not stand by the poet His literary work mainly concentrated on analysing Tagore s writings, specially his verses

His writings on Maupassant and Ruskin also deserve mention After his death, a collection of his prose was published in *Priyanath*

Pushpanjali

Priyanath had built a long standing association with Tagore He was in fact instrumental in getting the poet s daughter Bela married to Beharilal s son Barrister Sarat Chandra Chakraborty

Priyanath was also a poet in his own right and one of his English poems attracted the attention of Edmund Gosse He died on October 25 1916

TO HELL AND

Samaren Roy on how the political prisoners in the Andamans braved the dark days and nights

The Andaman Islands were not planned as a place to segregate political prisoners, but functioned as such for most of the 87 years the jails around Port Blair existed. The first lot were those convicted for offences relating to the 1857 Mutiny —"Mutineers, Deserters and Rebels."

British policy with regard to political prisoners being vindictive, it was naturally not consistent Mutineers and, after them, Wahabis were sent to the Andamans. Then, there was a long period during which only those convicted for criminal offences were taken to the islands. The interregnum is possibly due to the murder of Lord Mayo in 1869 by Sher Ali, a Wahabi prisoner, while the viceroy was on a visit to the penal settlement.

Between 1910 and 1920, several people planning and conspiring to overthrow British rule in India, like the Jugantar group in Bengal and the Ghadr Party in the USA, were imprisoned there. Unofficial estimates are that 3,000 prisoners were sent to the Andamans after the Mutiny; between 1910 and 1920 as many as 133 and between 1932 and 1938 the number going up to 366, as many as 322 among them from Bengal alone.

Transportation to the Andamans was intended to isolate political prisoners from the general population In 1909, the Governor of Punjab asked for Hotilal Verma, a journalist working for a Calcutta daily, and another person convicted for sedition, to be sent to the Andamans, "as it was desirable to get these people out of the country." The director of criminal intelligence and the home secretary agreed to the proposal, but viceroy Lord Minto, a Liberal, thought it "difficult to defend exceptional treatment."

The issue came up soon after with regard to those convicted in the Alipore Conspiracy (popularly known as Maniktala Bomb) case. Sir Herbert Risley, home secretary, noted on December 6, 1910 on the relevant file that "the real ground for transporting them is that which was recognised as valid after the Mutiny—the desirability of getting them out of India." So, Upendranath Banerjee, Barindra Kumar Ghose, Hemchandra Kanungo, Ullaskar Dutt, all lifers, and six others, the latter group being term convicts, were sent to the Andamans.

There were also others including Sachin Sanyal, Pulin Das (of Dacca Anushilan Samiti) and Ram Charan Lal, the last named being the printer of *Jugantar* who subsequently attracted attention as R. C. L. Sharma in Pondicherry, as a collaborator of M. N Roy; they were all sent to the Andamans. From United Provinces Hotilal Verma, Lodha Ram and Nand Gopal were sent and from Maharashtra, the Savarkar brothers.

Upen Banerjee, Barin Ghose, Ullaskar Dutt and Hemchandra Kanungo were sentenced to transportation for life which meant at least 25 years in jail on the island, without any provision for remission on good conduct. Others were term convicts who could expect to be free after serving their 10 or seven years.

Another vindictive feature of the punishment given to political prisoners in the Andamans was that the entire period of the sentence had to be served in hard labour whereas those convicted for murder or dacoity were promoted after six or seven years to supervisory posts of four grades—jamadar, tindal, petty officer and warder. Those who could read or write among the latter category were allotted clerical jobs, and these did not demand hard labour. Each of the politicals was educated but denied such respite. Instead, they had to perform their allotted tasks under the direction of criminal convict supervisors.

Oil pressing and fibre pounding were the most exacting labour performed by these political prisoners. In oil pressing, the prisoner used to substitute for oxen. Outdoor duties in the jungle involved a daily walk of 15 miles

When Upen Banerjee and others were in the Andamans, their lives were rendered still more arduous because most of the supervisory staff consisted of Pathans and Baluchis who had been convicted for violent crimes originating in religious fanaticism.

Apart from the harsh treatment to which political prisoners were subjected during the 11 years that Upen Banerjee spent in the Andamans, he and other prisoners were exposed at the same time to British retaliation and frontier fanaticism. Neither was capable of understanding the idealism of the political prisoners however.

Reginald Craddock, the home secretary in 1913, lamented the fact that the politicals had not resorted to the pursuits of the ordinary prisoners, that is, "drink, drugs and women." His disappointment was so deep that he believed the concocted story of the prison authorities that the politicals had "amused themselves by a fresh bomb conspiracy" in the island.

An increase in the number of elected legislators at the national and provincial levels, and the vigilance of newspapers like *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Bengalee* and the *Tribune* led to the inspection visit of Craddock in 1913. Craddock proposed reductions in the period of imprisonment, which enabled R. C. Sharma to settle at Pondicherry in 1917, and Avinash Chandra Bhattacharya and Nanigopal Mukherjee to be freed in 1915.

Craddock recommended the release of Upen Banerjee, Barin Ghose and Hemchandra Kanungo in 1927, but a general amnesty at the conclusion of the first world war on Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms becoming statutorily operative, set them free earlier. Towards the end of their stay there, that is, after having served nine years, the politicals were allowed to cook their own food, a right the ordinary convict enjoyed after five years. Barin Ghose writes that Upen Banerjee and Kanungo were star performers in this activity.

The Maniktala group we are concerned with in this piece were intermediate between feudal nationalists of the Mutiny and the later modern nationalists. This stage was religious, drawing inspiration from Bankimchandra Chatterjee and Swami Vivekananda, and was led by Aurobindo Ghose, himself religiously oriented. Some of the Alipore Conspiracy case prisoners did go to Pondicherry to reside near. Sri Aurobindo and Upen Banerjee also visited him.

Following the publication of the revolutionary newspaper, *Jugantar*, Upen Banerjee wrote: "There was a spate of

Portraits of freedom fighters on a wall



BACK



A file picture of Upendranath Banerjee taken on May 6, 1908, four days after the arrest of his group in the Alipore Conspiracy case

sedition cases... One after another a number of young people went to jail. Then, one day, Barin said, 'It's no use wasting energy like this. There was no possibility of removing the government by merely using strong words against it. We now have to do what we have been preaching so long.' From this resolve the Maniktala garden conspiracy began."

Upen Banerjee's account of the revolutionary movement in Bengal in his memoirs, *Nirbasiter Atmakatha*, is of of great literary merit apart from the dispassionate manner in which he has described the movement, its preparation, their trial and their life in the Andamans, devoid of sentimentality. It is also a human interest story. I quote below the concluding portion of his memoirs which, in Bengali, has since run into 13 editions:

"Twenty-six of us left the jail compound. Even the fetters on the feet of many of us were still jingling. Immediately after coming out of the jail compound, the Sikhs began to shout at the top of their voices, 'Hail to Guruji' and started singing.

"We too danced in joy in tune with their songs Then we boarded the ship and took a last look at Port Blair Wordsworth's line came to my mind, 'What man has made of man.'

"The ship went on for three days I could see from the distance the lights on the Sagar island, then the estuary of the river Rupnarain So the ship was not sunk. It in fact touched the docks at Kidderpore.

"Back to the Alipore jail again, the jail looked so different! The news of our arrival had already reached the Superintendent...After about an hour the Superintendent came. That was a Saturday We thought we may have to spend the night and the next day, being Sunday, in the jail.

But after a while, the Superintendent asked us, 'You probably want to leave tonight? Do you have places to stay in Calcutta? We literally jumped on our feet and said, 'There are plenty of places to go to' but thought, 'Even if we don't get any place we shall just sleep on the road Just release us.'

"Hemchandra (Kanungo), Barin and I were released that night But where to go? We went to Chittaranjan Das's house but found he was not home So from there we went to the house of Hemchandra's friend, Satcoripati Roy Hemchandra stayed there for the night, but I decided to go home to Chandernagore. I thought of taking the train from Howrah station leaving at 10.30 pm.

"As I came out of the house, I realised that I have forgotten the road map of Calcutta When I reached Howrah station, the train had already left I did not like the idea of returning to Bhowanipore again My in-laws lived in Shyambazar, and I thought of spending the night there When I reached Shyambazar it was past midnight. The door was closed I knocked at the door a few times but there was no response Then I thought, 'Don't care, tonight I will just roam about on the streets of Calcutta.' I felt a kind of new joy. After 12 years I have become free and am now on open roads. There was no jailor with me nor any petty officer, not even a warder. The chains of the past have gone by, there was no new commitment. Today, I am really free, all by myself in the world. But there was no stigma, no sadness nor any blemish in this feeling of being alone; on the other hand, a quiet pleasantness had blossomed out of all this.

I took the Circular Road from Shyambazar towards the Sealdah station. For 12 years I have been unused to wearing shoes. So the new shoes wounded my feet severely. I took off my shoes, put them in the bundle and carried it under my armpit, and began to walk barefoot. Looking at the bundle under my armpit, a policeman caught me and asked where I was coming from, where I was going and all sorts of questions. Once, I thought I would tell him the truth that I am a released prisoner from the Andamans; in that case I will at least have some rest at the police station. Then I thought it was no use telling such things. Once was enough. For telling the truth I had to spend 12 years in the Andamans. So I said, 'I am coming from Kalighat and am going to Sealdah station'

"The constable examined my luggage thoroughly, then looked at my face and asked, 'Are you an Oriya?'

"Checking my laughter with great effort, I replied, 'Yes.'

"Then, he let me go. I gave the policeman a big salute and started walking again That night when I reached Shyamnagar station it was past 2 am. Crossing the river by boat, when I reached my neighbourhood, it was about 3 am. The roads were all empty; a few kerosene lamps lit up the street corners. When I reached my house I found it had changed, too. I knocked at the doors and windows, and called my brothers by their names One window opened and a familiar female voice asked, 'Who are you?' Another window opened almost simultaneously. This time it was my mother. She asked the same question.

"The man about whom everybody had given up all hopes that he would ever come back was in front of them all—this was too much to believe nor did anybody dare to believe.

"There was commotion inside A number of boys, waking up from their sleep and rubbing their eyes, gathered round me. Who were they? I didn't know any of them. One small boy stood at a distance and looked blankly at my face My nephew introduced him to me and said, 'This is your son.' He was one and a half years old when I left, now he is 13."■

he Cellular Jail





The Original Fast Food

...is Calcutta's *kathi* roll. Where does the city stand today on the fast food track? A progress report

by **Shoma Bhowmik** and **Madhavi Bali**

The inviting aroma of biryani and rogan josh blends with the smell of sweat surrounding the waiter who serves you. And, therein lies the reason for the decay of Nizam, once the undisputed king of rolls and all Mughlai delicacies.

Located in the bustling Corporation Place that remains crowded from dawn to dusk, Nizam has not aged gracefully. The interiors are shabby, the pretty mosaic tiles are barely visible through the coating of oil and dust and the cooking area is covered by a thick pall of smoke. Flies buzz over the kabab skewers in their dirty bamboo *jhuris* (baskets). "Most of our customers take away the rolls to eat in the privacy of their cars," says the bleary-eyed owner, Ershad Alam, grandson of the founder, Sheikh Hasan Raza.

When Raza retired from the Corporation in 1933 he set about ensuring for his son, S K. Nizamuddin, an assured source of income. It was the same year that he set up Nizam's. Fifty-five years later it remains a landmark in the city's culinary landscape, soot-blackened walls notwithstanding. Sheikh Hasan Raza has been relegated to a sepia-tinged photograph in an innocuous corner of the shop, but the quick cuisine culture that he introduced still endures.

The 'roll original' as it was and is still made in Nizam, is marinated meat skewered on *seekhs* and grilled in a traditional coal oven. The parathas in which they are later rolled are usually slapped into shape and cooked on top of the same oven. The flour, too, like the meat, is kneaded into soft dough and kept ready. So, you walk into the shop, order your rolls, the skewer is stuck into a heated oven, the parathas briskly rolled out, the meat rolled in—presto, you have a meal ready in front of you in minutes.

The roll was, or rather, is a runaway hit in Calcutta. But like all things good and all things in demand, it, too, went in for some amount of adaptation. Nizam's Ershad Alam complains that pavement hawkers and handcarts "have taken away our business." And it is these countless roll shops that have sprouted up on Chowringhee and Gariahat that are the most evident sign of the fast food culture in Calcutta.

The shops are really little more than carts and they mainly cater to peckish passersby and shoppers. The menu is painted on the oily glass panel that encloses the cook and his implements. As the stove bursts to life and the aroma of sizzling parathas and meat wafts up to your nostrils, you cannot but admire the *joie de vivre* and entrepreneurial spirit of these youngsters.

Alok Kumar, who peddles his wares near the Gariahat crossing, says college students prefer his egg rolls. "My chicken and mutton rolls are mainly bought by bustee people on holidays or servants sent from the highrises." Alok has no concept of a kabab. He pressure-cooks the meat and sautes it with onion, garlic and ginger. The only concession he makes is grinding the seasoning in vinegar instead of water for that slightly different taste.

The garnishing is important. One very popular roll shop on Park Street adds chopped capsicum lightly sauted in oil to its chicken rolls and boasts of record sales of the item. Tomato, chilli and mustard sauces are standard additions in most shops. A mixture of *dhania* and *pudina* chutney is used effectively by several hand-cart owners in the Chowringhee area.

But these are the aberrations and the original can still be tasted at Nizam's or Badshah's on Lindsay Street. Nizam today has sales worth at least Rs 15,000 per day. And if the turnover is any indication of success Nizam today should have been nothing less than the first shop of a chain of fast food centres akin to McDonalds' or Kentucky Fried Chicken Inc. But Alam, the owner, while he tries to give the impression of activity and progress, prefers to live on past glories. He tells us about the time he turned down an offer from UK's Golden Group or when he "refused a post in Sharjah." Alam feels the primary reason for the decline in Nizam's popularity has been the deterioration in hygiene standards. "We don't have an attractive get-up and are plagued by labour problems," he says. He adds that Royal in Chitpur has a bigger clientele "probably because it does not sell beef." Alam plans to diversify by the Pujas this year. "I intend to start a vegetarian fast food counter with dosas, idlis and icecreams." This, he feels, will widen the range of his customers.

Sadhan Dey, manager of Lindsay Street's Badshah, says the shop was started in 1969 to "offer finicky Bengalis the option of buying rolls from a shop that did not sell beef." With a turnover of Rs 8,000 per day, he discounts the view that the fast food culture is just a passing fancy because "the level and number of people



The chrome and glass interior of Vrindavan on Theatre Road

who can afford fast foods has increased in the last 10 years."

An interesting offshoot of this new trend has been the emergence of "pure vegetarian" shops that have significantly sprung up in affluent localities like Theatre Road and Alipore where the clientele is mainly vegetarian. In February last year, three friends, Praveen, Suresh and Sanjeev Agarwal set up Vrindavan, the proverbial chrome and glass snack bar,on Theatre Road after "seeing the craze for fast foods in Bombay and Delhi." They were also possibly inspired by the runaway success of Super Snackbar, another vegetarian fast food centre in New Alipore. Says P. Chatterjee of Super Snack Bar, "We prefer to keep our customers standing in order to achieve maximum time efficiency. This way, we cater to many more people."

The innumerable eateries that have sprung up on almost every street kerb in office areas are an expression of Calcutta's spirit of innovation. Come lunch time and pavements of Calcutta are transformed into a gastronomer's delight. Chow mein, mixed fried rice, egg, chicken and mutton curry, ghugni, cutlets, parathas, and even the staid alu-puri are there for the asking—clean and piping hot. And it is here that Calcutta's pioneering spirit comes through.

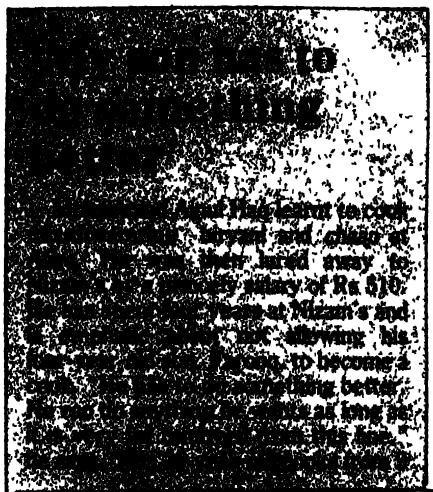
Narul Islam, a 17-year-old earnest-faced youth, stirs up carrot-and-bean garnished chow mein in a huge cauldron on the footpath adjoining the LIC building off Central Avenue with the dexterity of a master chef. "I learnt how to make chow mein from friends in Tangra," he says nonchalantly. He nets about Rs 40 per day, most of which goes back home to his parents in Midnapore. He employs a young boy, no older than 10 to wash the dishes. "Business isn't bad," he admits, "but the fear of the *halla gadi* is always there." So far, Aslam has rebuilt his shop thrice after the police demolished it.

Basant Adak is another of the 10,000 pavement food sellers. He hawks alu, puri and egg curry on Chowringhee. His clients, roughly 400 a day, mainly comprise officegoers and people from the business areas. He worked for a restaurant in Madan Street before starting his own business. Working conditions are pathetic, unclean and often hazardous. Yet, these unlettered and underprivileged roadside hawkers are a shining example of Calcutta's irrepressible zest.

A unique concept in the fast food culture, peculiar to Calcutta among the major metropolises, are the counters serving food at busy petrol pumps. **Sandip Navlakha** says with a trace of self-righteousness, "I opened Corner Cafe and Garden

Inside RB's







[illegible] to support aged [illegible] sisters, a wife and two [illegible]. They live in the family house [illegible] which Ainul manages to visit [illegible] in six months. He buys his family [illegible] to last till his next visit. And every month Ainul sends about Rs 450 [illegible]. "We have no *bapti kamai*," says Ainul. "The waiters make a substantial sum from tips. We have to [illegible] on the salary we get." Ainul [illegible] in the shop. He gets his meals [illegible] no vices. He is, however, very fond of Hindi movies. Ticket prices allow him to see a movie twice a month as he puts away what little he can towards making his son "somebody better than me."

THE 'AUTHENTIC' FAST FOOD JOINTS



Tarun Baidya, puri-bhaji seller

From Firpo's to curry combinations

Forty-year-old Tarun Baidya was lost when Firpo's folded up. With parents, a wife, two children and three sisters to support, Tarun did not have a minute to waste. He cleared a space in his already cramped home in Jan Bazar and drafted his sisters and wife to cook quantities of rice, egg, potato and chicken curry, which he hawked alternately on Park Street and behind the LIC Building off Chittaranjan Avenue. Tarun shops for his ingredients at New Market and has cultivated a rapport with the sellers who often let him have second-rate wares at throw-away prices. Tarun's rice-potato curry combination costs Rs 1.25, rice-egg curry Rs 2.50 and rice-chicken curry Rs 4. He makes about Rs 75 daily after deducting costs and the family has to get by on this. Tarun would like to expand his business to inflate earnings. But "I can't be at five places at the same time and that is what is required. People will only eat rice at lunch time and that is where I lose out." Tarun is thinking of diversifying into selling other eatables. He has grandoise plans and enough grit to see them through.

Ad-libbing with capsicum

Poised and self-assured, Bibi Sarkar divides her time between managing the kitchen and classes for the very pre-occupied family executive. Taaja and organising and cooking for posh little dinner parties for individual clients. Taaja is situated in the Sarkar flat off Golpark and everyone in the family chips in to make it tick along. Bibi's brother-in-law has just thrown up an advertising job to lend a helping hand. In her 36 years Bibi has worked with spastic children, taught in a school, worked for an advertising agency and lived in Ahmedabad, Guwahati and Shillong, besides Calcutta. She now lives and breathes Taaja. Full of expansion plans, Bibi, who did not know how to cook before marriage, does so now with surprising flair. She is specially interested in continental risottos, paellas and tortillas and happily ad-libs with capsicum, fried tuteats, rice and sauces. Taaja also caters for *mukhebhats* and the like.

Future plans include an air-conditioned restaurant for the "expense account" types," introducing more Capsicum-like tongue-tickiers in the menu and developing a clientele.



Bibi Sarkar of Taaja



Rakesh Sharma of Big Max

'I want to do a Nirula's in the city'

Rakesh Sharma has left behind those days when he used to push personnel department files and draft letters to the

He now runs Calcutta's "first authentic fast food joint," Big Max. After learning the tricks of the trade from a leading Park Street restaurant, Rakesh switched to Astor. It was invaluable experience. A year before Rakesh set up Big Max, he shuttled between Calcutta and Delhi. He went over each item for the shop with a toothcomb and then supervised their installation. In his chaotic office, where even the airconditioning does not work, Rakesh says he does not leave anything to chance. Flipping through the suggestion book one can only find two real complaints—no mustard sauce and no music. Rakesh has, of course, remedied both. Rakesh, who studied in Mussoorie and is getting married next month, is a bit tired of his job. He does not want to leave Calcutta and has plans of doing a Nirula's in the city with Big Max. He realises all Indian chains copying the western fast food culture. "It first came to Delhi and then we brought it here," he says.

Cafe out of a sense of social responsibility. Responsibilities apart, such locations are ideal for fast food centres, admits Naresh Kumar Mandal, manager of Garden Cafe in Alipore. "People who come to this petrol station invariably stop to have a cold drink or dosa. Another advantage is the availability of parking space," he adds. An important consideration this, taking into account that strategically located and fashionable centres like Pizza Hut, Chatter Box and '18' have not turned out to be success stories for want of parking space.

Navlakha, who besides the two petrol pump counters also owns a restaurant on Netaji Subhas Road named Navlakhas' that serves a daily clientele of 2,000, says, "In India we have not yet imbibed the true fast food culture. Even though the potential of the Calcutta market is unlimited, we have been unable to evolve a workable marketing strategy and identify the market." Navlakha, who worked with the Pepsi Cola group before returning to India, blames the sluggish growth of fast food centres and the total absence of food chains on the government's lackadaisical attitude.

"In Delhi or Bombay, you need only a single license to start a fast food centre while here you need no less than nine licenses. The food and adulteration coffee, machine, milk, trade, shop and establishment and gas licences are only part of the headache. One has to run around for months on end to an endless number of officers in the Corporation besides dealing with countless queries from the police. This suffocating red tapism is the reason why we never manage to get bright, enthusiastic Institute of Hotel Management graduates to work for us."

About three years ago, Nirula's of Delhi had come to Calcutta with the intention of extending their fast food chain. However, the results of the preliminary market research they conducted were so discouraging that they opted out. Were they correct in their assessment of Calcutta's market? Dey of Badshah claims, "Nirula's was wrong. Over the last few years, food habits have changed here." Rajesh Mahtani of RB's Cafetaria on Little Russel Street agrees with Dey, but Navlakha points out that had Nirula's finally set up shop here they would have needed an initial investment of at least Rs 50 to Rs 60 lakhs to maintain the image they project. "Such an investment would not be a viable proposition in Calcutta where the return on investment is much lower than in Delhi or Bombay," he says.

Biswajeet Sarkar, who runs a restaurant from his home in Gariahat—Taaja—shares Navlakha's view. "The Calcuttan's palate is just not attuned to fast food. Come to think of it, even I would not be able to eat a burger or pizza for lunch every day." Then what about rolls? "They are an entirely different proposition," he laughs.

The latest entrant in the fast food arena is Big Max (Sub Zero Ice Cream Parlour) on Russell Street. It is run on the all-American self-service style, and you can dig into pizzas, hot dogs and matterhorn sundaes besides typically Indian fare like tandoori chicken, paneer butter masala, mutton korma and urad dal with rajma. "Calcutta is not yet ready for the fast food revolution," says the assistant manager, Suvro Dasgupta. "At present, we have to serve Indian food as well but hopefully before the year is out, we will be able to drop it from our menu. But it would be asking for a bit too much to expect a fast food chain like McDonalds here." And as Navlakha adds, "It is a question of psyching the Calcutta consumer. When we first started serving food on paper plates, there was that slight consumer resistance. But now they are accustomed to it. Tastes have to be developed."

What most fast food centres can today truly boast of, says Dasgupta of Big Max is that they serve "food fast." But, there is no doubt that such centres are doing well. What remains to be seen is whether the boom will sustain. Mahtani of RB's, (the outfit looks like something straight out of an Archie comic) points out, "Most of us manage to meet our targetted sales. We serve 300-odd people daily and ever since we started in 1986, sales have shown an upward trend."

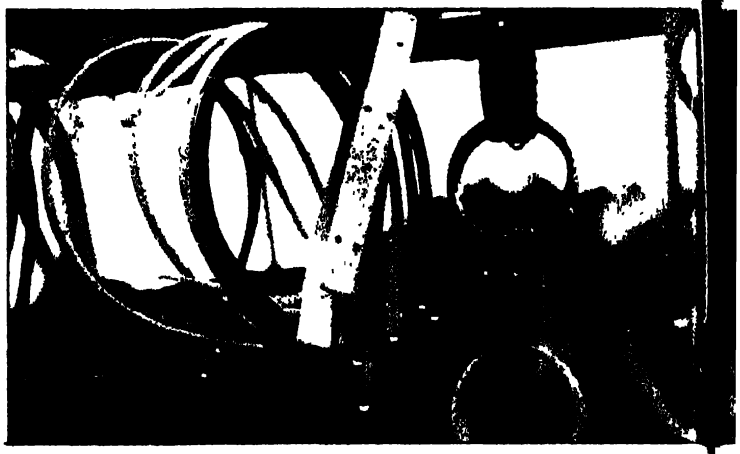
But an undeniable fact is that most of these centres—be it Upavan, RB's, Vrindavan or Jyoti Vihar—cater to the upper crust. Even though Mahtani justifies the prices saying "One can have a burger at only Rs 12" and Dasgupta claims, 'A mini meal that is quite substantial, costs only Rs 20," it remains to be seen how many officegoers can afford a "fast" lunch on a daily basis.

The initial enthusiasm apart, it is anybody's guess whether the fast food boom is here to stay or whether it is just another example of fickle and everchanging consumer tastes. However, fast food protagonists can take heart from the fact that even the very traditional Calcutta Club has decided to open a fast food counter soon. ■



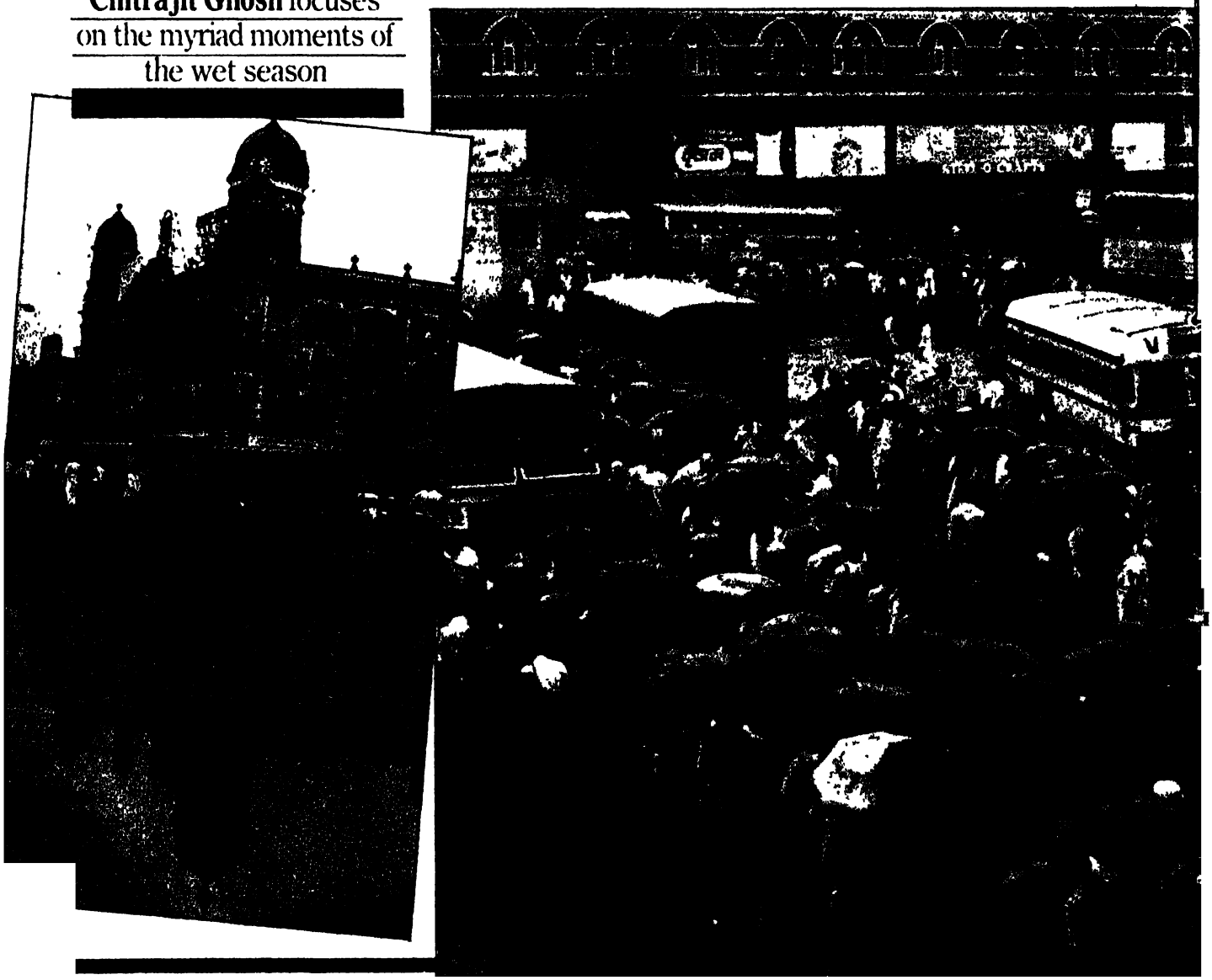
Badshah on Lindsay Street

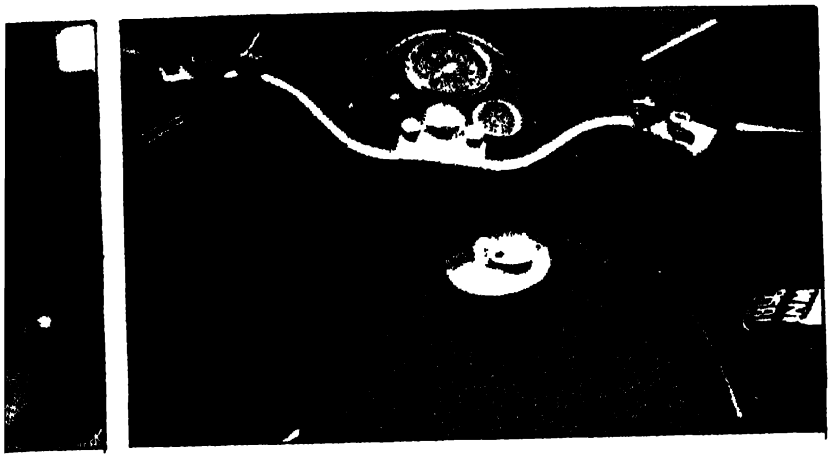




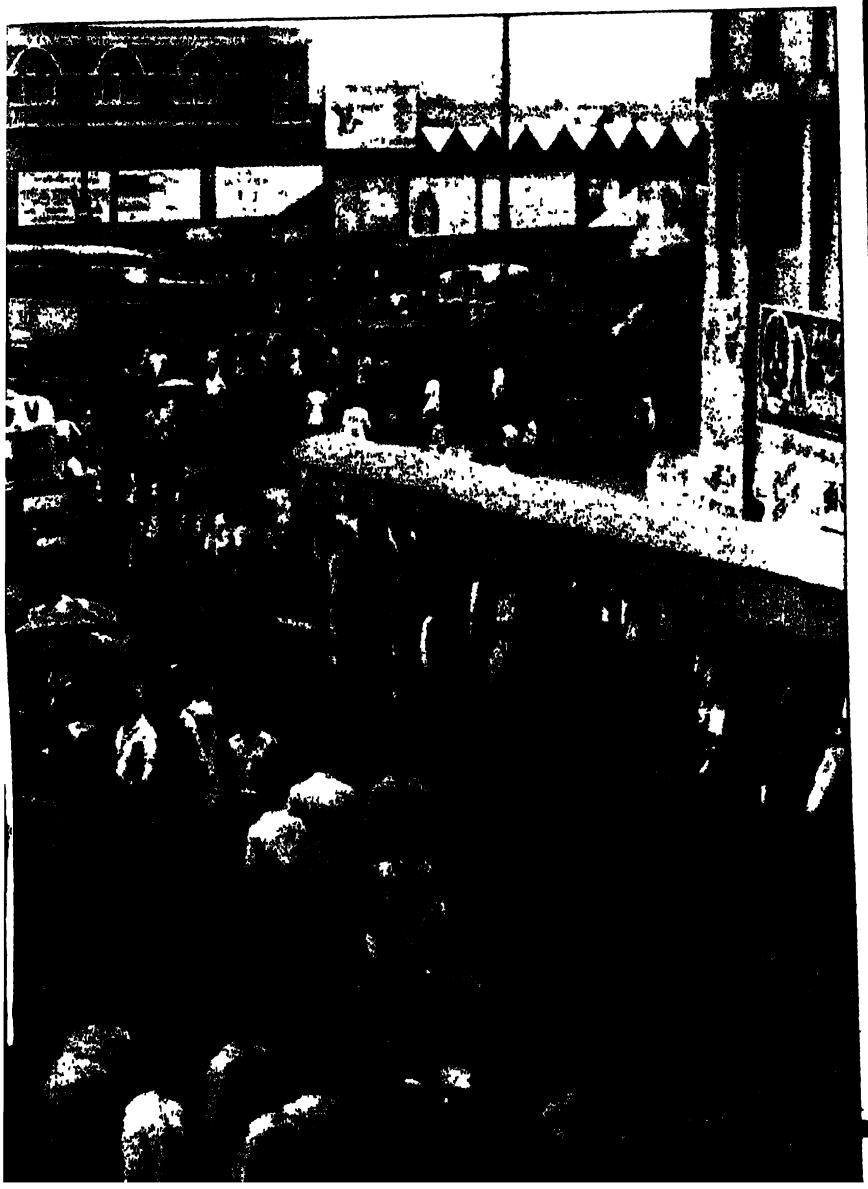
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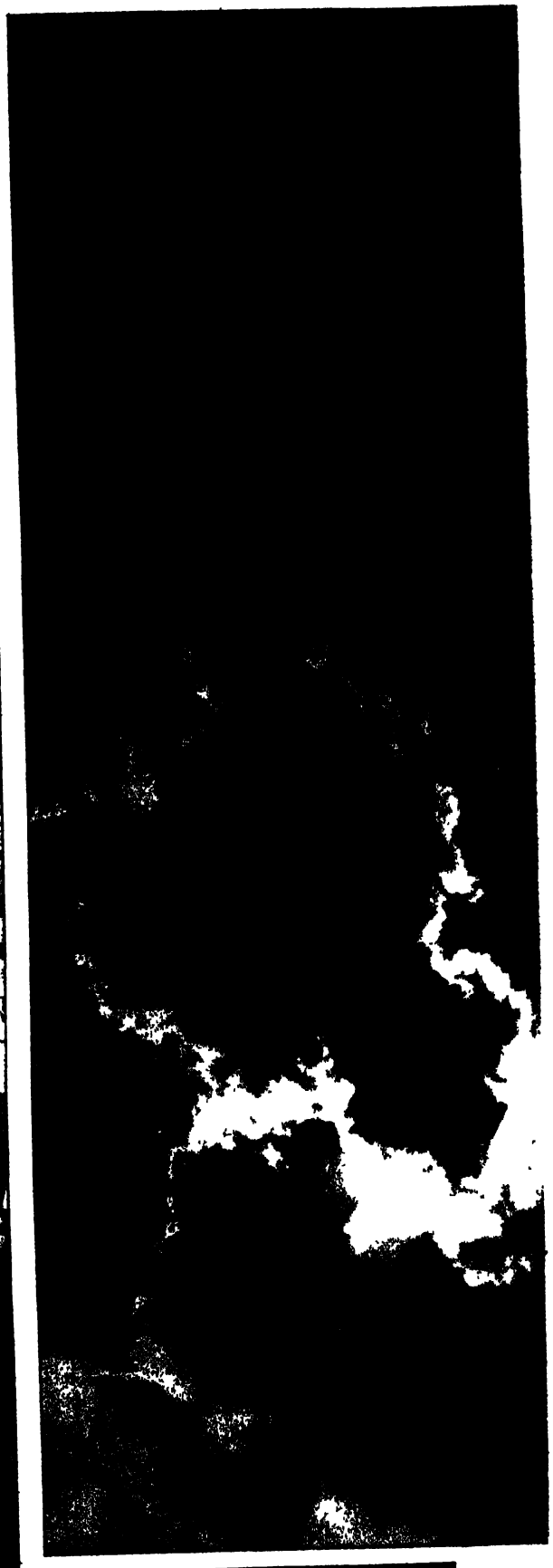
In Calcutta, it never rains; it pours. And waterlogs. **Chitrajit Ghosh** focuses on the myriad moments of the wet season





MONSOON





The Chariots

The Ratha Yatra of Puri is known the world over for its magnificent cars. **Sarat Chandra** on what goes into their making

He traverses just a three kilometre route and comes back But imagine a budget of about a million rupees for that!

Which king or emperor can afford such a luxury? This is the amount (in cash and kind) set apart for Lord Jagannath of Puri every year At the time of the car festival Lord Jagannath and his two companion deities Balabhadra and Subhadra travel in newly built chariots from the Puri temple to Gundicha Mandira which is three kilometres away

Jagannath with elder brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra sets out on a once a year trip in the month of Asadha (which coincides with July), the Ratha Yatra Two days after the new moon day in that month the wooden idols of the three deities are mounted on their respective chariots but exactly two months before that the construction of the massive cars starts On that day in the Jagannath temple new clothes are presented to the head carpenters who are traditionally in charge of the construction

Even those who weave these tri coloured clothes of red yellow and blue must live on a strict vegetarian diet during the period of weaving They come from a particular village of Cuttack district named Nuapatna and have been doing the task over the centuries The carpenters are offered these cloth pieces by the Mandira Karana an important temple official The carpenters wear these as turbans in front of the three deities and set out on their Herculean task

Their 59 day assignment is truly gigantic These ten men clad in turbans are Sadhi bandha Maharana or the principal carpenters and among them there is a head carpenter who is in overall charge One each is in charge of the three cars The services of more than a hundred other carpenters and artisans are utilised for the purpose and they are engaged full time for 59 days in an eight hour shift The tools they use are all new supplied by the temple authorities

The construction of the three chariots starts at a particular place known as Maha Khala which is about a 100 yards away from the temple gate Altogether 1 072 pieces of wood neither more nor less are brought from two jungles, of Dasapalla and Banapur for the purpose Previously these jungles belonged to the kings of these particular estates but now they belong to the forest department The felling of trees starts in these two jungles five months before the commencement of the car festival, on Saraswati Puja day

The 1 072 pieces of logs are not of equal size, but among them, 40 pieces are about 40 long and are used without reducing their size The rest are cut and shaped according to requirement

Everything in building the chariots is predetermined For Jagannath's chariot altogether 836 pieces of wood are used While the cars of Balabhadra and Subhadra require 763 and 593 pieces respectively Certain parts of the chariots are constructed only with soft and not so dry wood which is procured from the Banapur jungle

There was a time when the logs reached Puri in the sea bound current of a river known as Danda Bhanga At the north west corner of Puri there is a spot known as Katha Polo on the bank of this river and the entire lot of logs would reach this destination in seven clusters (each cluster came floating in the stream) At the Katha Polo the entire lot was collected and taken to the Maha Khala to build the chariots But now the logs are brought by road

What could be the total cost of the logs used in the three chariots? The bulk is not of a costly variety and good enough only for fuel but many pieces are good enough for house construction Previously, a few weeks after the Ratha Yatra the chariots were put up for auction without dismantling, and were sold to the highest bidder But during the past few years, the temple administration has been using the bulk of the wood as fuel in the temple kitchen There are 752 ovens in the temple kitchen and lots of firewood is burnt here everyday for cooking About Rs 1,00,000 is saved by the Jagannath temple administration on the firewood count by using logs of the chariots.

The better variety of logs, however, is used differently Some *sevayats* (who traditionally serve the temple deities) get these better pieces of wood as their wages

Not only does each chariot have a specific name, many objects attached to the chariots also have specific names Jagannath's chariot is known as Nandighosha The car that Balabhadra mounts is known as Taladhwaja And Subhadra has for Herself the chariot called Darpadalana

The cars that the three deities mount are huge The tallest among the three is Lord Jagannath's which rises to a height of slightly more than 44 In fact the blueprints of the chariots are closely guarded secrets The measurements mentioned in some printed books appeared incorrect as this writer set out on the task of verifying those The unit of measurement the carpenters use is neither foot nor metre their unit of measurement is *hata* a wooden scale which is 20 long They say that the chariot of Jagannath is 24 *hata* high that of Balabhandra 22 *hata* high and that of Subhadra 20 *hata* high But these measurements are not from the ground level these are from the axle to the top of the cars (the flags are not included) The height of the axle from the ground level is not the same for each chariot it varies After taking into account



of the Gods

all these factors, we arrive at the following figures: Lord Jagannath's chariot is 44'3" high, Lord Balabhadra's chariot is 39'4" high and Goddess Subhadra's chariot is 37'6" high Lord Jagannath's chariot measures the same in length, breadth and height But the other two chariots measure more height-wise

The number of wheels of each chariot is also not the same. Nandighosha has 16 wheels, Taladhwaja has 14 and Darpadalana 12 But the radius of all the wheels is the same: 3'4"

As the work of the chariots progresses, the services of a variety of artisans are required— the blacksmith, the sculptor, the painter, the tailor, the embroidery worker and others

There are some blacksmiths at Puri who have links with the Puri temple service and supply all the required tools (only new tools are used by the carpenters) The blacksmiths are also included among the *sevayats.*

Though massive in size, the three chariots are well adorned with a variety of designs and sculptures. On the wooden planks of the chariots, the sculptors (known as *rupakara* in temple parlance) sculpt the various motifs whereas the painters (known as *chitrakara)* paint the sculptures. The painters also paint designs on surfaces of wood. The top parts of the chariots are covered with decorative cloth Nandighosha usually has red and yellow coverings, Taladhwaja has red and green and Darpadalana has red and black coverings The persons who tie these coverings on the chariots also are among the *sevayats*· they are known as Kotha Suansia. These linen coverings have designs of birds and flowers embroidered on them

On all four sides of the chariots are adorned wooden sculptures of various protective deities. In fact, each chariot has three parts (from the ground level to the axle is the first part, from there to the pedestal level is the second part, and from the pedestal floor to the top is the third part) and these deities (nine for each chariot) adorn the first part of the chariot

Other adornments for each chariot include four horses made of wood and set on Nandighosha, which are named as Sankha, Balahaka, Sweta and Hanteswa. The charioteer of this car is known as Daruka. Its two guards are known as Jaya and Bijaya The flag at the top of the chariot is named as Trailokya Mohini.

Taladhwaja has four wooden horses named Tibra, Ghora, Deerghashrama and Swarnanabha. Its charioteer is called Matali and the two guards are Nanda and Sunanda. The flag at its top is known as Unnani

Darpadalana has Rochika, Mochika, Jeeta and Aparajeeta in the form of wooden horses. Ganga and Jamuna are the two guards on this chariot and the flag at the top of this car is known as Nandambika

After the car festival, all the three chariots are demolished But these various wooden sculptures— the protective deities, horses, guards and charioteers—are not destroyed These alone are preserved within the temple complex, to be used during the festival the following year But when the year of Nava Katebara arrives, the year when Lord Jagannath and his companion deities take new bodies, all these wooden images are given a ceremonial burial in an area within the temple complex known as the Koili Baikuntha Thereafter, fresh images are sculpted

On the day of the Ratha Yatra, all the three chariots, which get ready at the Maha Khala, are taken in front of the main gate (the Singhadwara) of the temple And the ropes used to pull the chariots also have remarkable qualities

Four lengths of rope for each chariot are used. Each is of 8" diameter and 250' long Every year a Calcutta-based company supplies these 12 ropes made of jute The cost this year was about Rs 75,000 The ropes of Nandighosha are known as Sankhachuda, whereas that of Taladhwaja and Darpadalana are called Basuki and Swarnachuda, respectively

The three chariots stand in front of the Singhadwara, facing the north (the Gundicha Mandira is situated to the north, three kilometres away) On the following day (*dwitiya* in the month of Asadha), the three deities of the temple are brought to their respective chariots with great pomp and ceremony Then, the king of Puri, the Gajapati, sweeps the floors of the chariots After this unique ritual, the teeming masses, who flood the festival, line up holding the ropes and apply all their collective strength in pulling the chariots

To see the juggernaut moving is a sight for the gods—but what has gone behind it is worth remembering, too.



Anil Grover

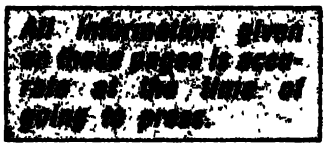


The three huge vehicles of Balabhadra, Subhadra and Jagannath and (inset) a closeup view of a wheel.

P C Di



Tapas Paul and Moon Moon Sen in *Tumi Kato Sundar*



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

●**Commando:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515) Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680)

Directed by B Subhas and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Mandakini and Hemant Birje

●**Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Java (Lake Town), Sonali (Dunlop), Bangabasi (Howrah) and Piccadilly (Salkia)

The film stars Rishi Kapoor, Jaya Prada, Govinda, Farha, Kader Khan, Shashi Kala, Aruna Irani and Anita Raaj The music is by Bappi Lahiri and it is directed by Kalpataru

●**Hamara Khandan:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757)

Directed by Anwar Pasha the film stars Rishi Kapoor, Farha, Asha Parekh, Alok Nath, and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

●**Hatya:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250)—3 shows, Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)—4 shows

Govinda, Neelam, and Anupam Kher play the lead in this film, directed by Kirti Kumar The music is by Bappi Lahiri

●**Kabrastan:** Society (Corporation Place; 241002)—12.30, 3.15, 6.15, 9; Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250).

A film by Mohan Bhakri.

●**Kab Tak Chup Rahungi (A):** Roxy (Cowringhee Place; 284138)—4 shows.

Aditya Pancholi and Amala are the lead pair in this film, directed by T Prakesh Rao. The music is by Bappi Lahiri

●**Khatron Ke Khiladi:** Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917).

Directed by T. Rama Rao, the film stars Dharmendra, Sunjay Dutt, Chunkey Panday, Neelam Mehra, Madhuri Dixit, Shakti Kapoor and Sadashiv Amrapurkar. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

●**Mahaveera:** Elite (S.N Banerjee Road, 241383), Orient (Bentinck Street 281917), Gem (Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Raod, 249828)

Directed by Naresh Saigal and with music by Kalyanji Anandji, the film stars Raj Kumar, Dharmendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Raj Babbar, Dimple Kapadia and Salma Agha

●**Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows, Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956)—noon

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

●**Ram Avtar:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515)—4 shows.

Directed by Sunil Hingorani and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol and Shakti Kapoor.

●**Saazish:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Krishna (T C Dutta Street; 250437)

The film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Kader Khan, Anita Raaj and Dimple. It is directed by Rajkumar Kholi and the music is by Kalyanji Anandji

●**Waqt Ki Awaz:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757).

The film stars Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi It is directed by K. Bapaiah and the music is by Bappi Lahiri.

Aamir Khan in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*



Bengali Films

●**Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740).

The film stars Ranjit, Sandhya

•**Surer Sathi:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080)—2.45, 5.30, 8.15, Jogmaya(Howrah).

Tapan Saha directs this film that stars Tapas, Debashree and Subhendu. The music is by Hemant Mukherjee.

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• **Hum To Chale Pardes:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138) & Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133)—4 shows; Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753) & Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462)—noon.

Directed by Ravindra Peepat, the film stars Shashi Kapoor, Rajeev Kapoor, Mandakini, Anjana Mumtaz, Sharmila Tagore and Kulbhushan Kharbanda. The music is by Vijay Singh.

• **Kanwarlal:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue; 553046) Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Madhuban (Regent Park), Alochhaya (Bellaghata Main Road; 355059).

Jeetendra, Raj Babbar and Sujata Mehta play the lead in this Ravi Chandra film.

Bengali Films

• **Aaghaat:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282), Purna (S.P Mukherjee Road, 474567) –3 shows.

Directed by Deb Sinha and with music by Mrinal Banerjee, the cast includes Prasenjit, Satabdi Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Chiranjeet and Sukhen Das.

• **Pathe Jete Jete:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

Directed by Umanath Bhattacharya and with music by Dilip Dilip, the film stars Tapas Paul, Papia Adhikari, Sumitra Mukherjee, Lily Chakraborty and Dilip Roy

Special Events

31 July and 1 August

Debesh Das and others will hold their exhibition of photography in the West Gallery.

An exhibition of photography by the Centre for People's Photography in the New South Gallery.

Mitra Roy and others will hold their exhibition of paintings in the North Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts



Sridevi in *Waqt Ki Awaz*

(Cathedral Road; 444205).

31 July-3 August

An exhibition of paintings by the students of Shri Daulatram Nopany Vidyalaya in the South and New galleries.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 444205).

1 August: 6.30 pm

Theatron presents the Bengali play, *Sada Ghora*, an Ibsen adaptation. Direction. Salil Badyopadhyay.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

6 August: 6.30 pm

Rangakarmee will stage its award-winning play, *Lok-katha*. Direction. Usha Ganguli.

At Ganbhavan (Uttarpara).

TRAVEL

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A at 1905.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830, Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1855; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt): Arr. (6): AI-455A at 2338.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York): Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145.

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1700 and Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1810; Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555, Dep. (4): SU-538 JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1530, Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4). SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4): IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6, 7): IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6, 7): IC-248 at 1425.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily): BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715 and IC 223 at 1340, Dep. (7). IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily): BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6). TG-313 at 1240; Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6). GQ-102 at 0730; Arr (1, 2, 5). GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000; Arr. (daily). IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1540

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945; Arr. (daily). IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-265 at 1730 Arr. (daily): IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-478 at 1045; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-477 at 1005.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (1,3 5 6 7): IC-410 at 1110, (2 4) at 0850. Arr (daily): IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3) IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2). IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7). IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (2): IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2): IC-270 at 2155.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep. (1, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800; Arr. (1, 4, 6): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 1305; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 1850.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0625, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC 213 at 1130, Arr. (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily). IC-201 at 0540; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily): IC-255 at 0530; Arr (daily): IC-256 at 1000.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (1 3 5 6 7) IC-244 at 10.30; (2,4) at 0810 and IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650, Arr. (1, 3, 5). IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-201 at 0540; Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7) IC-219 at 0625; Arr (7). IC-220 at 1105

Air-cum-Road

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

* **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0655; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep.—Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep.—Sat up to Amritsar Arri.—Tues, Wed. & Sat.	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep.—Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Fnday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat. Arri —Mon., Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep.—Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

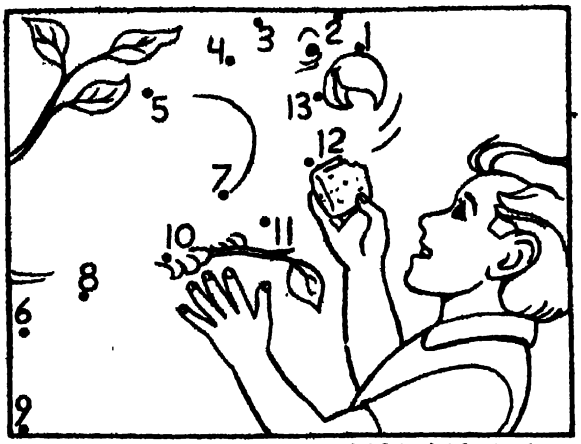
SEALDAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4 10	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4 30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5 55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

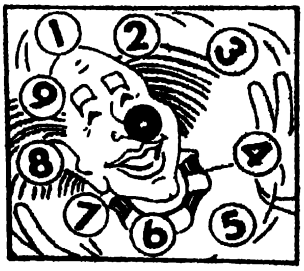
ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



WHAT SAY! Add lines from dot 1 to dot 2 to dot 3, etc., to see what's missing from the scene above. What can you draw?

• **O FUDGE!** If six pieces of fudge may be cut from a pan 10 inches square, how many pieces of similar size may be cut from a pan 20 inches square?

Twenty-four pieces



MAGIC NUMBER! PUZZLEMENT

Ask someone to pick a number between 1 and 9. Have him or her multiply the number by 3, add 1, multiply by 3 again, and finally, add the chosen number.

Once you know the total, the original number will be apparent– it is always the lefthand digit of the ensuing sum.

For example, let's say the number chosen is 7. Seven times 3 is 21, plus 1 is 22, multiplied by 3 is 66, plus 7, gives a total of 73, the lefthand digit of which is 7, the original number.

• **IRE WORKS!** Five words below contain letters IRE in positions shown. You are asked to complete these words in accordance with these definitions:

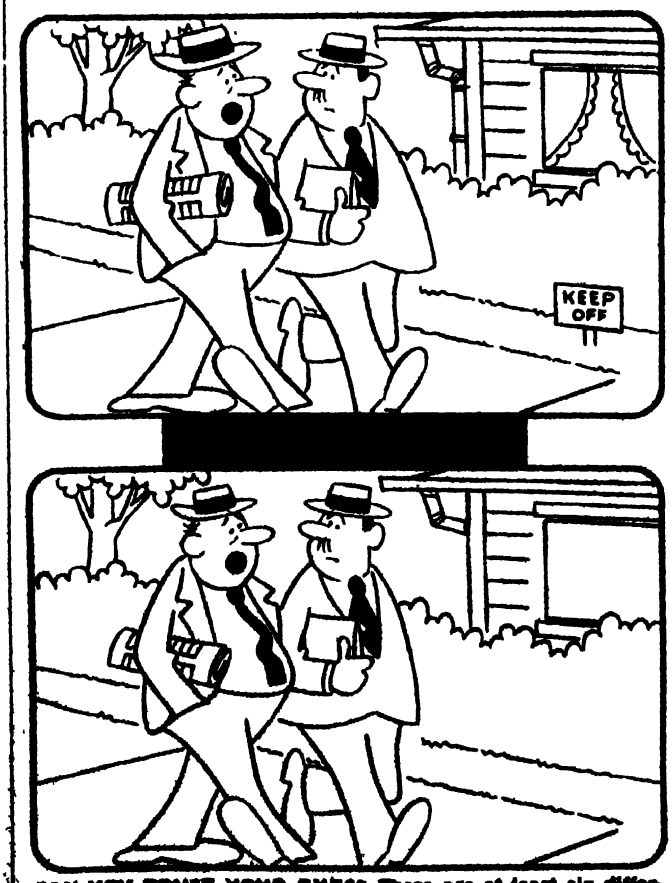
1. Colour this country green. 2. Lightning bug. 3. Most impartial. 4. Departed from the rat race. 5. Football rally blaze.

Time limit: Two minutes.

1 Ireland 2 Firefly 3 Fairest 4 Retired 5 Bonfire

1	I R E _ _ _ _
2	_ I R E _ _ _
3	_ _ I R E _ _
4	_ _ _ I R E _
5	_ _ _ _ I R E

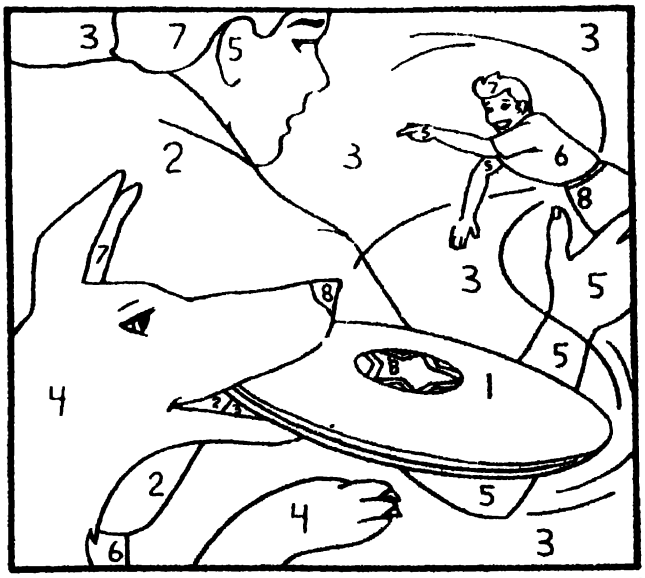
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Hat is smaller. 2. Paper is moved. 3. Jacket is wider. 4. Chimney section is missing. 5. Curtains are missing. 6. Sign is missing.

FUNSPOT



DOG STAR! Rover has made a nice catch of the flying disc above. Add the following colors neatly: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

ESPECIAL

- - - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible answers: Easel, up

YOUR PERSONAL COSMIC FORECAST

ARIES

March 21—April 20

A favourable week for endeavours and enterprises including sales, distribution, manufacturing, management, takeovers and investments A stroke of luck likely around August 2, with a deal coming through Lady Luck will favour you with money. Social gatherings and functions on the cards. It is time to be active

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

A sun-mercury union indicates a flurry of activity for those in business, trade, commerce and industry. The right time to start a factory if you are so inclined. A period of slight stress because there is too much to fit into 24 hours You could end up neglecting your wife and family.

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

You shall cut a wide swathe in terms of publicity, ceremony, travel and collaborations. For some, a wish fulfilment Tuesday and Wednesday show the way the wind will blow for you Those in advertising, writing, teaching, research, travel and entertainment will win laurels.

CANCER

June 21—July 20

Money, passion and investments for you this week You have to stay on your toes and dance around a bit The trick is to move fast, take chances, shift if you have to and forsake the new for the old, and that, to you is always a painful wrench Joint finances are likely.

LEO

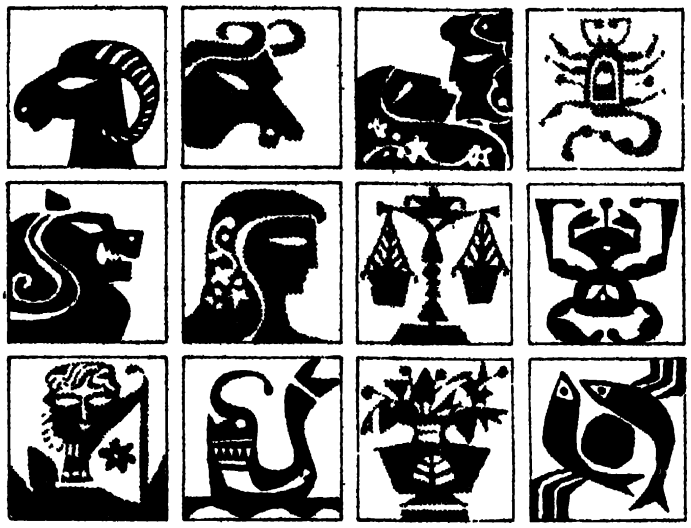
July 21—August 21

It is the right time to meet, to stretch yourself out to accommodate Only then will money, love, friendship, gifts and contracts come your way Wedding bells may ring for the fancyfree and eligible.

VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

You may be in for a bit of physical labour. It is time to concentrate on the job at hand, but keep your eye open for a promotion or a switch Finances may trouble you. Stomach and nerve ailments predicted



LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

Varied entertainment on the cards and you will possibly meet a host of people You will experience the extreme satisfaction of creation, be it a recipe, an article, a child, a collaboration, a work of art or a business deal Those in research, sports, calligraphy, telecommunication, modelling and designing, acting and direction will strike it lucky

BIRTHDAYS

July 31

Moon trine Pluto: Journeys, collaborations and a change of house are on the cards. Loans and funds will be available. Transactions and sales and gains to go with it.

August 1

Sun square Pluto, Mercury trine Mars: Pressures and pulls are bound to affect you this week. Investments and loans will take up your time. There is a slight danger of ill-health and accidents, but you will tide it over. A change in the work front likely. Your parents' and in-laws' health may cause anxiety.

August 2

Moon trine Sun, conjunction Mars: Collaborations, links and ties likely. You may have to participate in ceremonies and marriages. A journey and progress are on the cards. Children will bring you joy. You should socialise more and reach out to people and places.

August 3

Sun conjunction Mercury: Those in sales, teaching, industry, arts, crafts, electronics, publishing, writing and sports will score This is the week to try and achieve your goal. Definitely, the year to look forward to pleasant surprises and to give your best.

August 4

Moon's last quarter, Taurus. A phase of completely new activity is not ruled out for Leons. You may get involved in a power struggle Be wary. Health and the home front are both suspect. But with persistence you should come out strong and confident.

August 5

Taurus moon, no strong aspect: The no-aspect syndrome gives you a comparatively free hand, specially in matters relating to work, money and family affairs As Neptune is slightly involved and retrograde avoid overindulgence of any sort. Periodic rest from strenuous activity is a must.

August 6

Moon conjunction Jupiter. A good birth year. You will realise a dream.. An expansion, or rather, a positive attitude, will make you a winner. Contacts and communication lead to contracts and concepts. This is the year to push ahead, to make a mighty six. In short, it is an year of honey and money and harmony.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

The emphasis this week will be on home, property and the family. Property includes vehicles, jewellery, shop, godown, warehouses, land, antiques, and furniture. Buying, selling and investment are salient features of the fortnight and not just the week. Entertainment and amusement are also on the cards.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

Moon conjuncts Mars to give you an edge on rivals and enemies. Glamour awaits you Children, sweethearts, friends and supporters give you the encouragement and help you in need A journey may have to be undertaken.

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

The stress this week is on legacy, property and alimony The focus is again on finances Business may require a chartered flight or even a chartered accountant, or perhaps, both The time is ripe to start a business policy, whittle away expenses and do away with unnecessary clutter and wastage. Taxes and transactions will come your way

AQUARIUS

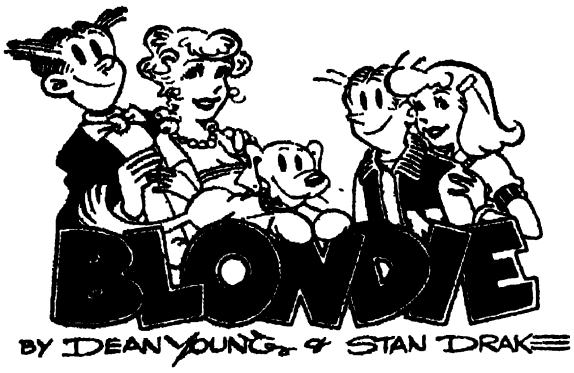
Jan 20—Feb 18

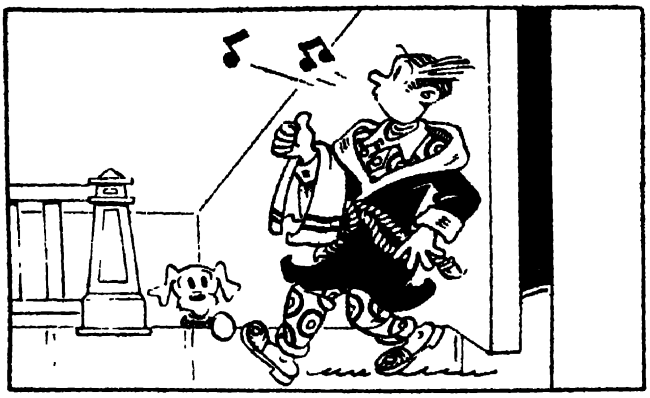
A partnership is in the offing this week. Some health posers will plague you A change in plans and a very special relationship could lead to a different set of values. Perhaps there will be a maturing brought about by circumstances beyond your control. Once again it is a make or break week depending on your ability to accept changes.

PISCES

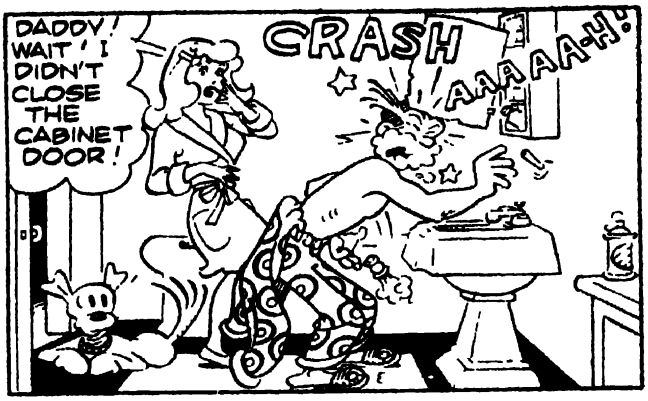
Feb 19—March 20

It is a week for expenses, journeys and collaborations. There will also be some amount of tying up of loose ends. Take safeguards for your health. Those in teaching, editing, psychic phenomena, astrology, healing, seances, necromancy and spiritualism will come out with something unusual and commendable. Dreams may prove prophetic. There may be some hard work awaiting you.

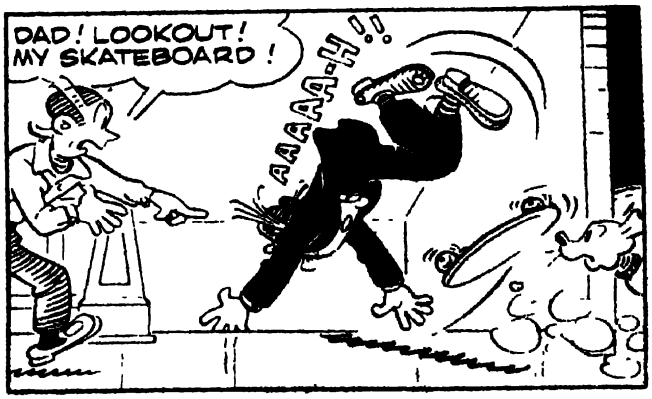


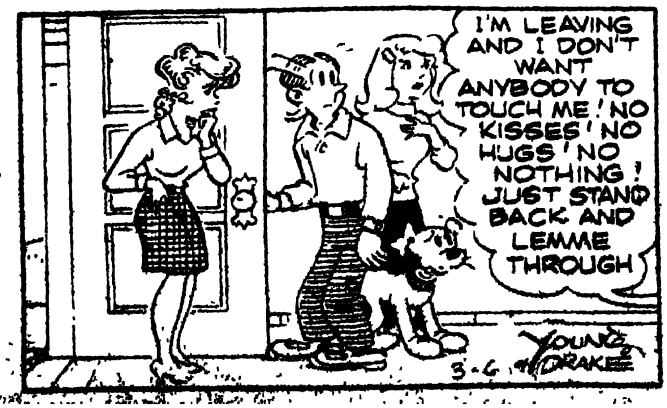




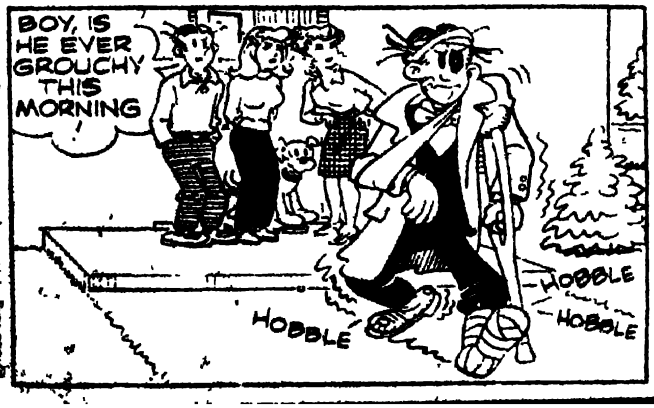


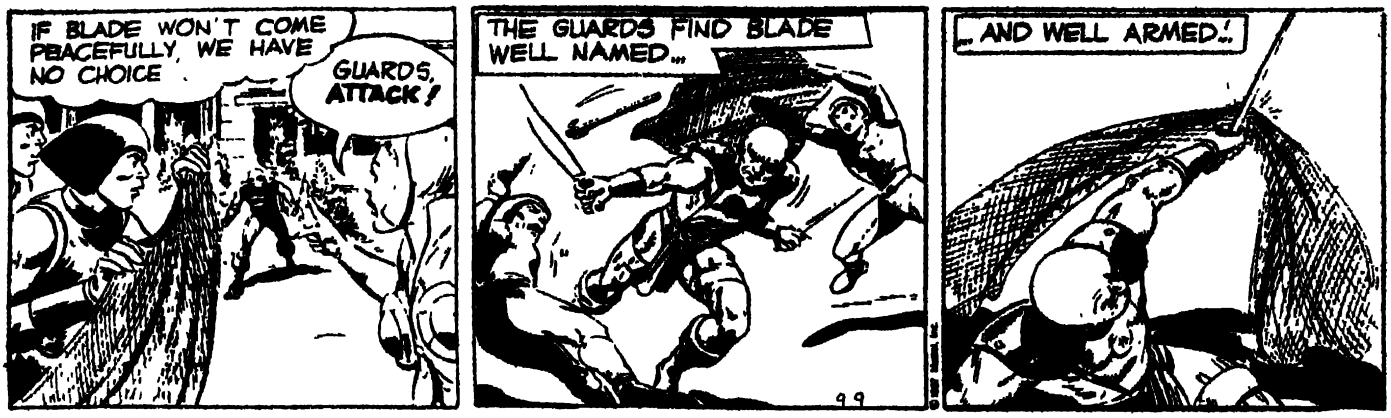


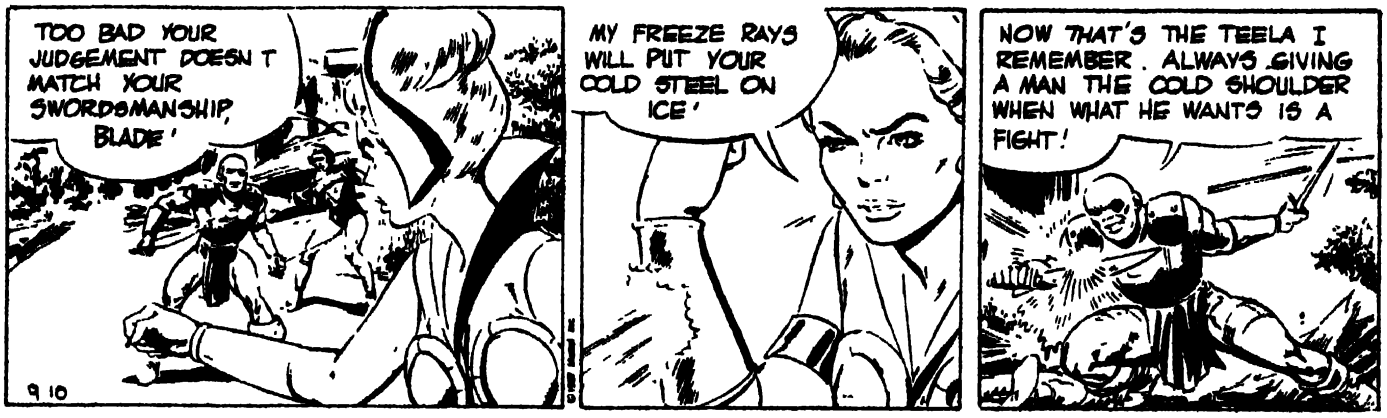


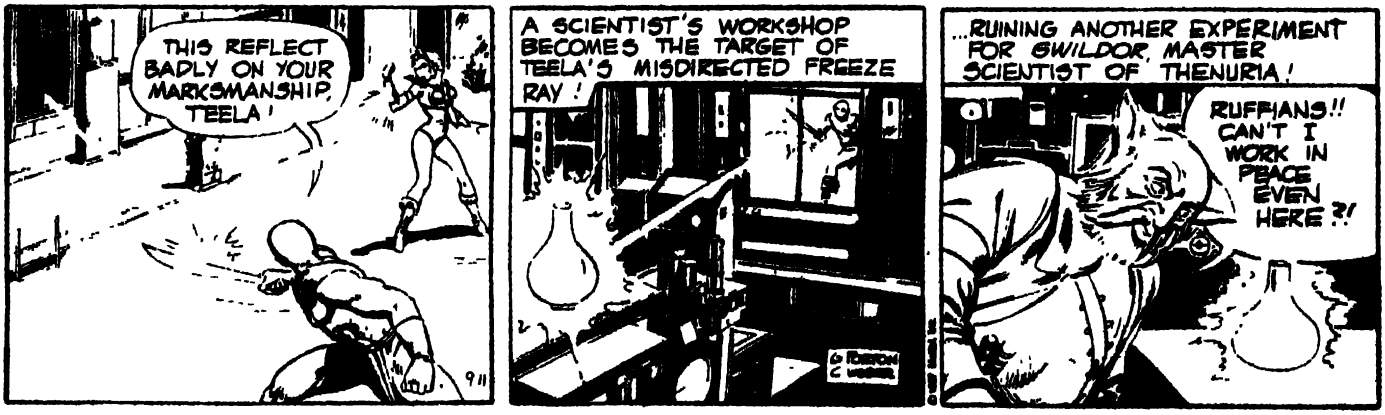


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IF BLADE WON'T COME PEACEFULLY, WE HAVE NO CHOICE
GUARDS, ATTACK!
THE GUARDS FIND BLADE WELL NAMED...
...AND WELL ARMED!
99

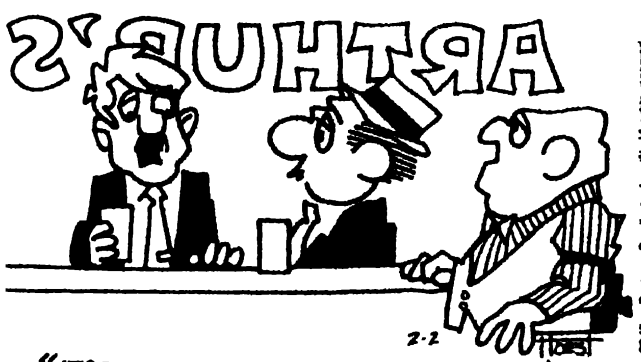

TOO BAD YOUR JUDGEMENT DOESN'T MATCH YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP, BLADE!
MY FREEZE RAYS WILL PUT YOUR COLD STEEL ON ICE!
NOW THAT'S THE TEELA I REMEMBER. ALWAYS GIVING A MAN THE COLD SHOULDER WHEN WHAT HE WANTS IS A FIGHT!
9 10


THIS REFLECT BADLY ON YOUR MARKSMANSHIP, TEELA!
A SCIENTIST'S WORKSHOP BECOMES THE TARGET OF TEELA'S MISDIRECTED FREEZE RAY!
...RUINING ANOTHER EXPERIMENT FOR GWILDOR, MASTER SCIENTIST OF THENURIA!
RUFFIANS!! CAN'T I WORK IN PEACE EVEN HERE?!
9 11

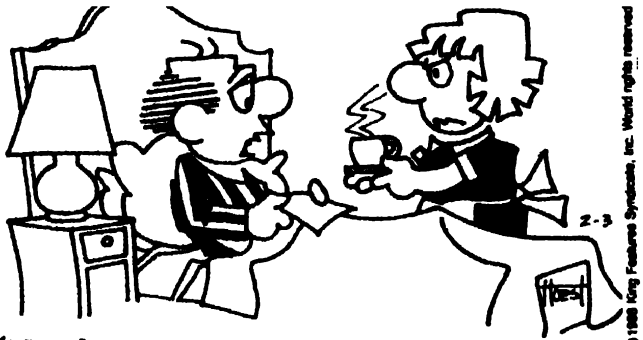

I COME TO ETTLAIN FOR A LITTLE UNDISTURBED PEACE AND QUIET, AND WHAT DO I FIND?! A WAR IN MY OWN FRONT YARD!
A NOISE BETRAYS THE PRESENCE OF AN UNINVITED GUEST IN GWILDOR'S HOUSE_
HELLO? WHO'S OUT THERE?
GOT TO PUT UP A BRAVE FRONT!
I'M WARNING YOU, I HAVE NO PATIENCE WITH TRESPASSERS...
9-15



"I COMPARE LORETTA TO THE BEST CHEFS IN EUROPE·····VERY UNFAVORABLY."



"IT'S SORT OF A TRIAL MARRIAGE···· SHE SUBPOENAED ME."



"I DON'T MEAN TO COMPLAIN, LORETTA, BUT YOU FORGOT THE ORANGE JUICE, SCRAMBLED EGGS, BACON, TOAST AND HASH BROWNS.

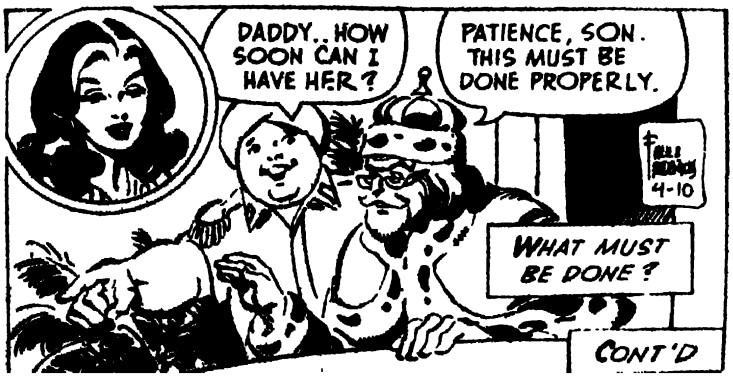


"IF I HAD WANTED SOMETHING CRISP, I WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE SALAD BAR."









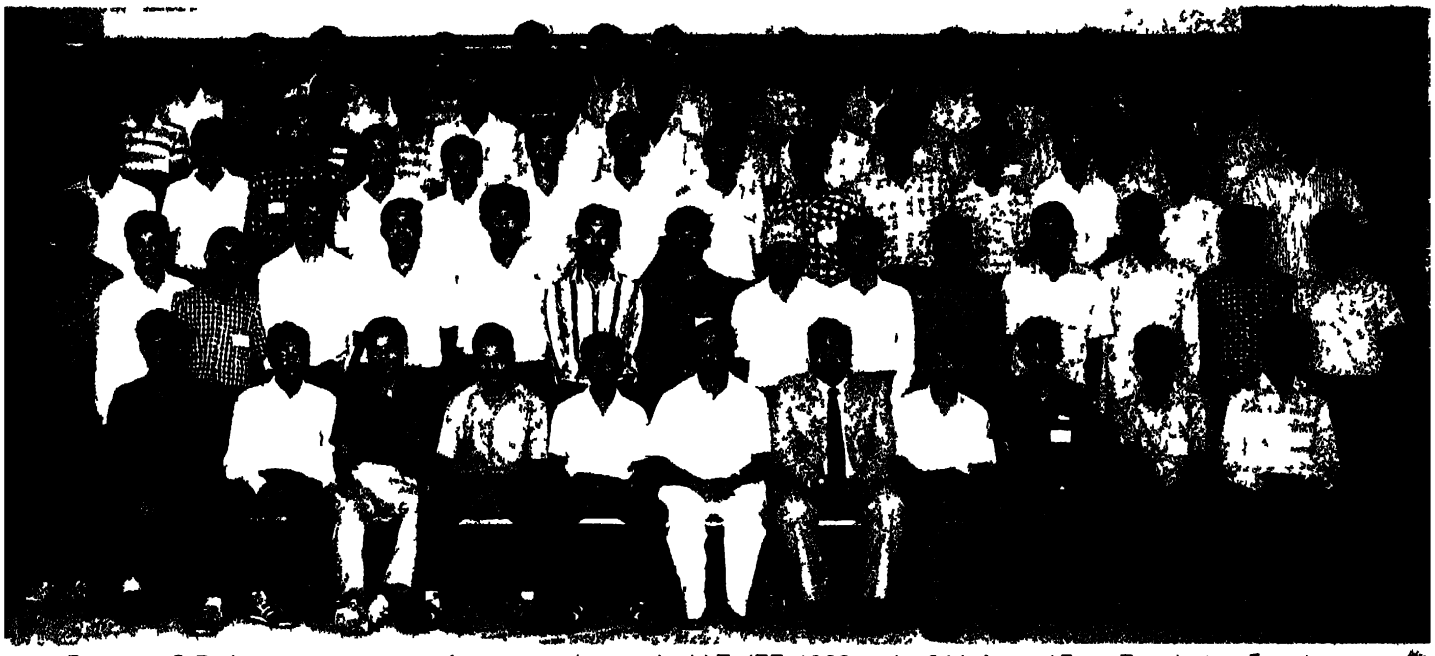

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET A FREE DRINK. NO BADMAN CAN RESIST A CHALLENGE
THERE ARE THREE CARDS BEFORE YOU, SIR. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE ACE!
RIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO POLISH UP OUR UNARMED COMBAT
PEEP! I'M A FIERCE TUAREG I'M GOING TO STAB YOU WITH THIS KNIFE WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
BLEED PROFUSELY
UNARMED COMBAT IS ALL ABOUT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE
IF AN ARMED TUAREG ATTACKS AN UNARMED MAN HE EXPECTS TO WIN. HENCE, THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS OURS AND THAT IS, PEEP?
ME, FAINTING?
I'M A FIERCE TUAREG WITH A KNIFE
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE IT OFF ME?
LET ME SEE, WOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS A FAIR OFFER?
RIGHT PEEP TAKE THIS KNIFE
I WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW TO DISARM SOMEONE WITH A KNIFE. READY?
SHOULDN'T I HAVE A FORK OR SOMETHING IN MY LEFT HAND?

ARCHIE


MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS!
HOWEVER, IT DOES ENABLE YOU TO AFFORD LOTS OF GOOD TIMES!
GEE, MOM, IT MUST BE GREAT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UPPER CLASS LIKE VERONICA!
'BYE, ARCHIE!
SHE HAS A CHEF TO COOK MEALS!
A MAID TO CLEAN HER HOUSE!
A BUTLER TAKES PHONE MESSAGES!
HAVE HIM CALL LULU? OKAY!
1-24
DON'T BE SO ENVIOUS, ARCHIE! MIDDLE-CLASS FOLKS HAVE ALL THAT, TOO!
EXCEPT WE DISPENSE WITH FANCY TITLES, COMBINE THE JOBS...
... AND CALL IT BEING A MOM!
16

Agrawal Classes

A Picture of Success



Principal G D Agrawal with some of our top rankers in the I I T JEE 1988 at the 34th Annual Prize Distribution Function

Sitting (Left to Right)

A Raghava Chari	**1st**
Bhaskar Himatsingka	**3rd**
Ashvin Goel	**4th**
Sudeep Gupta	**5th**
Sanjay Nayak	**7th**
G D Agrawal (Principal)	
P G Agrawal (Director)	
Sudesh Kamath	**8th**
C R Satyan	**9th**
V Bhargavan	**10th**
Navin G Kabra	**14th**

Standing (1st Row)

Venkat Krishnamurthy	**15th**
Rizwan R Kolta	**16th**
K Srikanth	**17th**
Rajeev Barua	**18th**
Karl F Dias	**20th**
Manohar Moorthy	**21st**
Rakesh Garg	**22nd**
Sujoy Basu	**23rd**
Avnish Singh Bajaj	**24th**
Tushar S Desai	**25th**
Pandurang Katti	**26th**
C Sridhar	**27th**
Amol S Dighe	**28th**
Ankur Agarwal	**29th**
Manoj K Das	**30th**

Standing (2nd Row)

Vikas Vats	**31st**
M Kannan	**32nd**
Ruchir Godura	**33rd**
Rajesh Kamath	**34th**
Alok Goyal	**35th**
Lacky V Shah	**36th**
P Srinath	**37th**
Rajiv Chopra	**38th**
L B Hari Krishna	**40th**
Ajay Subramanian	**41st**
V Srinivasan	**43rd**
Ajit Bhave	**44th**
S Narasimhan	**47th**
Neil S Thombre	**48th**
R Rajesh	**50th**

Standing (3rd Row)

Roshan B Yadav	**51st**
R Prashanth	**52nd**
R Ramachandran	**53rd**
R Gopalakrishnan	**54th**
K N Ravi	**56th**
Shantanu S Tarafdar	**58th**
Udar Mittal	**59th**
Dhritiman Banerjee	**60th**
Manish Singhal	**61st**
Manish Khettry	**62nd**
Neeraj Aggarwal	**63rd**
V Venkatesh	**65th**
Arun Rangaraju	**66th**
Shyam Kapoor	**69th**

Standing (Top Row)

Sanjay S Singal	**71st**
Sandipan Basu	**72nd**
R Rajesh	**75th**
V Ramasubramaniam	**77th**
Shishir Tyagi	**78th**
Pradeep Gupta	**79th**
Shashidhar Gundurao	**80th**
Arpan P Mahorowala	**83rd**
S Narayanan	**85th**
B Venkata Vasu	**87th**
M S Jayashankar	**92nd**
Anand Kishor	**94th**
S Srikant	**95th**
V G Prem Kumar	**96th**
B Srihari	**97th**
Shailesh Kumar	**99th**
Saurabh Tewari	**100th**

Absentees

Neeraj Sinha	**12th**
S Ramesh	**39th**
Rakesh Verma	**67th**
S Manoj Kumar	**68th**
R Srikrishna	**70th**
Manish Rastogi	**73rd**
L Srinivas	**74th**
Vibhuti Nath Mishra	**81st**
Abhijit Belapurkar	**82nd**
Pinaki Ghosh	**88th**
Anshuman Goyal	**89th**
M Sridhar	**90th**
R Kumaresan	**93rd**

Heartiest congratulations to our high-scorers in the I.I.T. JEE,1988.

Once again we've honoured the trust placed in us by our students. This year the All India First is our scholar and eighty-three of our students have ranked within the first hundred in the General Category. Infact, today 55% of the candidates selected by the I I T s benefit from our comprehensive coaching. Which explains our reputation for ensuring excellent results.

Top-ranking students almost always come from Agrawal Classes!

Agrawal Classes

Wallace Apts. 3, N. Bharucha Marg, Bombay 400 007

- For admission to our correspondence course for the I I T JEE, 1990, contact us in December, 1989, with a xerox copy of your Std. X marksheet.
- Now, we also coach for CBSE's All-India PMT/PD Entrance Examination.

The *Puchka* and the Police

I lost respect for the Calcutta Police after reading about the *puchkawalas* (July 10). If the police takes its cut everyday and lets them sell *puchkas* with drugs in them, it is a shame. Don't they all realise that one of the innocent victims could be their own child?

Tarannum Jahan,
Calcutta

Going a Long Way

Cancer is one of the deadliest diseases and it needs the attention of all concerned to combat the menace. Your effort ('Stop Now Before it Kills,' July 17) in this direction will go a long way.

Another fact that has been emphasised is the effect of smoking on non-smokers. In this connection, we refer to children. Our efforts should be directed towards preventing them from becoming a generation of passive smokers.

B.P. Sethi,
Hony secy, Indian Cancer Society,
Calcutta

■ I object to the use of the crab to symbolise the disease, cancer. The crab represents one of the zodiac signs and this is a piece of cheap journalism.

Mahrouk Vevaina,
Calcutta

■ Your cover story says, "Stop Now Before it Kills". The full page colour advertisement of a cigarette in the same issue says, "Luxury like this, cannot be explained. Only experienced."

Himangshu Dutta,
Burdwan

■ Had I not stopped smoking before reading the spine-chilling article all my remaining hair would have fallen off.

Since smoking leads to deadly diseases, cannot smokers be punished for attempting suicide? Besides, they are also causing untold harm to non-smokers around. They could also be charged with an attempt to murder.

Sabyasachi Mukherjee,
Calcutta

■ Your headline, cover design, layout, captions and story all went up in smoke when we reached the back cover carrying a cigarette advertisement. How contradictory can you get?

S. Venkatesh,
Calcutta

Smoking, Generally

The writeup on Lt-Gen. R.M. Vohra ('Soldier's Soldier, July 10) was interesting, but some pictures of his gave one an impression that it was a cigarette advertisement. The photographs showing the general in uniform smoking is objectionable in the modern context of bans on smoking in offices.

Iboyaima Meetei,
Imphal

Model Issue

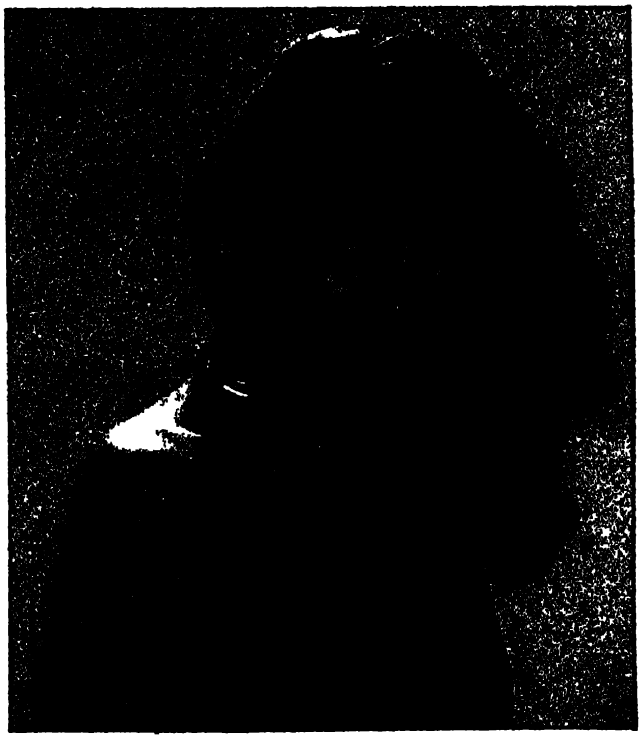
The bold comments of Urmilla Deshpande ('Summer Morality,' June 12) testify to her honesty and conviction. It was uncharitable of Arpita Mukherjee to make such unpalatable remarks about her (July 3). It amounts to tarnishing the image of an art, a profession and those related to it. Such readers are the ones who vitiate the atmosphere by making abusive comments about people and their profession.

Partha M.,
Santhia (Birbhum)

■ The article and photographs made the day for your intelligent readers. It would have been more appealing if you had published the pictures of the gorgeous Kittu Gidwani.

Debu Maitra,
Calcutta

Vivek Das



Kittu Gidwani

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The Telegraph
7 AUGUST 1988



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14 If you think Calcutta is bad, you don't know what you are missing in other cities. An essay

16 St James' School, Calcutta, celebrates 125 years. A feature on the tough times the school has weathered

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Cover: Mark Homan

A Joy Forever

Song and dance, gymnastics and fancy dress. INTACH, EZCC and the Victoria Memorial held a programme at the Durbar Hall recently where they put smiles on the faces of the bustee children who participated

Photographs: Rashbehari Das

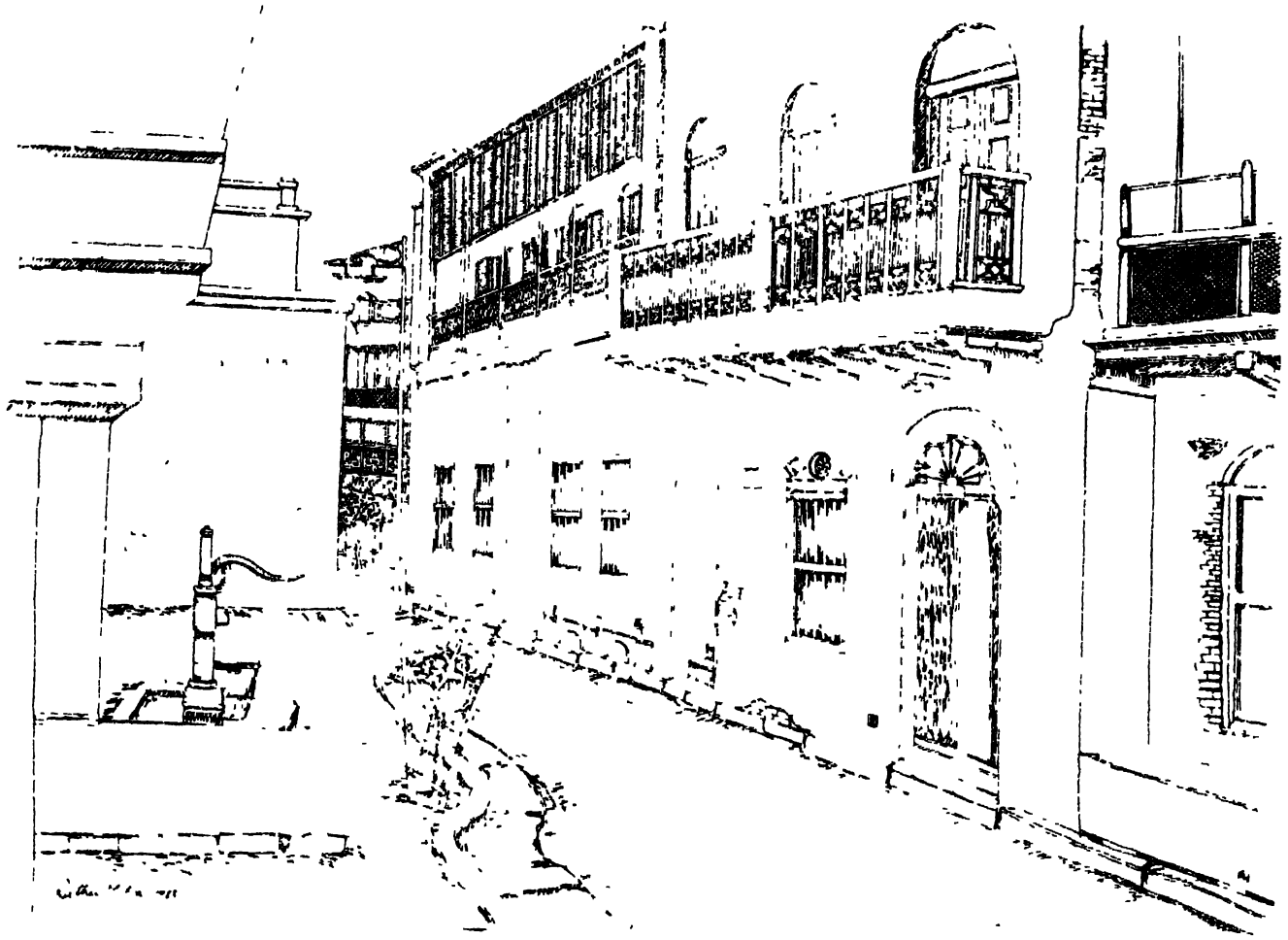






HERITAGE □ Rathin Mitra

GAURI SHANKAR DEY (1845-1914)



Born on February 11, 1845, in north Calcutta's Darjeepara area, Gauri Shankar Dey grew up to be a renowned educationist of his time. In 1866 he stood third in the BA examination and later won a gold medal for securing a first class first in his post-graduation.

After doing his BL, he enrolled himself as a lawyer at the high court, but the pursuance of knowledge continued to be his chief passion.

In 1870 he was awarded the Premchand-Roychand scholarship. He refused a government job with the education department, preferring to teach at the General Assemblies Institution (Scottish Church College) for a meagre salary; a profession which he continued for 46 years.

Gauri Shankar was nominated a fellow of the university in 1884. He was the head-examiner for various university examinations in mathematics. He also had a number of school and college textbooks in arithmetic, algebra and geometry to his credit. These books were extremely popular during those days. He also took active interest in the affairs of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad.

The house sketched above shows his residence on Nilmani Mitra Street in north Calcutta.

THE NEW

A lot has happened to Lee Iacocca and the world in the four years since he wrote his bestseller autobiography. In his new book, *Talking Straight*, written with Sonny Kleinfield, a reporter for *The New York Times* and author of six books, Iacocca provides fresh answers to very tough questions. In this extract, he analyses why American business is getting a beating at the hands of the Japanese

If you're wondering what I've been doing in the four years since I last wrote to you about the trade mess, the answer is *worry*. Because things have gone right down the tubes.

In a nutshell, here's what's happened. The war with Japan is four years older now, but the Japanese have won every skirmish and every battle. All we've been doing is waving a white flag.

And that's not all. Now the rest of the world is saying, if it worked for Japan, why won't it work for us? So you've got South Korea flooding our markets. Taiwan is going like gangbusters. Brazil is banging on the door. Even Rumania is shipping cars over here. Then there's the Yugo from Yugoslavia. And the Proton just coming in from Malaysia. If you had told me four years ago that Yugoslavia and Malaysia would be shipping cars here, I'd have said you were nuts. Hell, now even Russia wants in.

The whole world wants to come to America. Of our twenty largest trading partners, we now have huge deficits with seventeen. So this has become ye olde dumping ground. This is the big Turkish bazaar. Set up a stand here, sell your wares, and cart the money home.

You would think that by now we would have figured out a simple plan to compete in the world. But we haven't. We didn't have one four years ago, and we still don't. Every other country has a plan to manage its trade, we're the only dinosaurs left who maintain the myth that "free trade" really exists. We hope that somehow things will just automatically straighten themselves out, that some invisible hand will wave the magic wand of the free market. Talk about innocents abroad! When it comes to trade, we have become the patsies of all time.

And here's why I don't understand it. Not long ago our own government published a book listing only those "significant" trade barriers we face around the world—and it was 240 pages long! Some of them make me want to laugh, but most of them make me want to cry.

In South Korea, for example, a citizen can get arrested for smoking an American cigarette. We can sell American apples in Sweden, but only after the Swedish crop is gone—and by that time ours is a little mushy. Spain discriminates against our squid, Portugal against our soybeans, and Taiwan has an outright ban on "edible offal," whatever the hell that is!

We aren't as pure as we proclaim, either. We have by far the most open market in the world but we, too, have restrictions on dozens of imports, from sugar to motorcycles. We even have a ban on avocados, but only if they have pits in them. (As far as I know, every single one of them still comes with a pit.)

But the heavyweight champion of the world when it comes to regulating trade is still Japan. Japan's list of restrictions is dazzling, and it covers everything from walnuts to frozen herring. The Japanese game plan is simple: take in American raw materials but not finished goods, because that would cost them jobs. So they import American lumber, but not plywood, animal hides, but not leather goods; potatoes, but not French fries, tomatoes, but not tomato puree.

Since I'm of Italian extraction and pasta and pizza have always been staples, the tomato battle caught my eye. But now the Japanese are cracking down on ravioli. We can send them all the ravioli we want as long as they're filled with cheese. But if they're filled with meat, there's a quota. That's because the Japanese restrict US beef, and I guess they're scared we'll smuggle it in in all those little raviolis. These guys just don't miss a trick.

You know, I hate to pick on the Japanese—but they give me such great material to work with, I just can't help myself!

Sometime in 1993 the new Kansai International Airport will open near Osaka. It will cost as much as $8 billion, which is a mouthwatering number if you happen to be in the construction business. So when the airport was announced, a number of American construction companies went after a piece of that $8 billion, only to be told that, sorry, they couldn't bid.

The reason given: "Only a Japanese construction company understands Japanese soil conditions."

When I heard that, I said to myself: *These guys must be kidding.* We've got a sense of humour, but this is taking things a little too far. Because at exactly that time Japanese construction companies were doing almost $2 billion in business in the United States. They were building everything from auto plants to hydroelectric facilities, while American construction work in Japan was limited to an occasional hamburger stand.

A week or so later, our ski guys were told that they can't sell skis in Japan. Reason: "Our snow conditions are so different from American snow conditions that American manufacturers could not meet our specifications on safety."

One week it's soil. The following week it's snow. Next week they'll find something in the air or the water. One thing's for sure: They're making fools of us.

Foreign cosmetics companies must test their products in Japan before actually selling there because the government insists that Japanese skin is different. The government also maintains that Japanese stomachs are so petite that they have enough room for only the local tangerine. That's their imaginative excuse for why US orange imports are limited.

When an American retailer tried to export first-quality towels to Japan, the infamous customs inspectors turned them down. It seems the towels were so fluffy that when you twisted the corner to dry the ear, it was too bulky for the delicate ear canal of the Japanese.

While the Japanese keep slamming doors in our faces, they keep barging in on our markets. Everything is fair game. The Iwo Jima Memorial, commemorating one of the great battles against Japan in World War II, is now being pictured on postcards sold in the Senate gift shop. You guessed it—the postcards are stamped MADE IN JAPAN on the back.

And the symbol of US citizenship, the

Extracted from *Talking Straight* by Lee Iacocca with Sonny Kleinfield; Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, London; distributed in India by Rupa & Co., £9.95

US-JAPAN WAR

passport, is now "made in Japan"—or at least "made by Japan." The new American passports are being put together by a Japanese machine and assembled by a team of Japanese sent to Washington by the manufacturer, Uno Seisakusho Co. Ltd.

I do have to admit that personally I have had some good news on the trade front. I'm happy to report that Chrysler's sales in Japan rose 272 per cent in the first four months of 1987. That meant our sales shot up to forty-nine cars from eighteen. Who says we're not trying?

And Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry has come up with a novel way to reduce its trade surplus: some day it plans to export its old people overseas into Japanese financed retirement villages in America. Japan figures that the building and maintenance costs, plus the money the senior set will spend in their new country, will help knock down our deficit.

One last bit of good news. The tourist business here ran a surplus with Japan of $1 billion last year. So while Japan was selling us cars, TVs, and cameras, we were selling them beanies, pennants, and cotton candy.

We've been fighting for years over baseball bats and walnuts. Meanwhile, in just over five years, we've gone from a trade surplus of $40 billion with the rest of the world to a deficit of $170 billion. Our $60 billion deficit with Japan alone is higher than any country in its right mind would have thought was a tolerable worldwide deficit—and double what it was in 1984, when I was yelling about it.

Some of the other numbers are pretty scary too. The South Koreans have gotten up to around $8 billion. They were at only half that in 1985. Today they're playing a great exporting game, just the way Japan did in the early days.

Some people say: Well, they're our allies, aren't they? Korea is split down the middle, so we've got to let South Korea prove that our system is better than the North Korean system. It's like East and West Berlin. We've got to be tolerant of friends, because we don't have that many friends in the world.

Well, just take a look at which countries we have a trade surplus with. We have a small surplus with Holland, Belgium, and Australia, but after those countries we have to rely for our exports on such lush and lucrative markets as Paraguay, Greenland, and the Falkland Islands. We do all right in Tanzania and Pakistan, too, in case you're interested. And here's the ultimate irony: We even have surpluses with Russia, Vietnam, and Libya, believe it or not.

We can have a trade relationship with our enemies, as long as we're careful not to sell them any defense-related products. Maybe that's why it's our friends who are laughing at us.

Let's face it. We're out of step with the rest of the world. And when you're out of step with the world, you don't say the rest of world is wrong and you're right.

It reminds me of the British driving on the left-hand side of the road. They think the whole world is out of step for driving on the wrong side. And we think they're the dotty ones.

You know: tape is not known among porcupines. But if you're the only porcupine without quills in a field, watch out. When it comes to trade, we've lost our quills (and our wills, too).

As ridiculous as our trade deficit has gotten, our legislators sit around and suck their thumbs. Whenever anyone suggests they do something, they worry about retaliation. In trade, the guy getting mugged is supposed to retaliate. But in Washington a legislator would rather be called a pervert than a protectionist.

You see, even though the rest of the world can get along—and they can without our steel, and our cars, and our grain, and even our high technology now, we've got a hole card that tops anything the others can lay out on the table.

It's called the American market. That's our ace of spades. None of the major trading nations of the world today can survive without the American market. More than 40 per cent of Japan's exports come to this market. We take 48 per cent of Taiwan's, 40 per cent of South Korea's, and 32 per cent of the exports of the entire Third World.

The profit figures get even higher. The largest maker of cars and trucks in the world is no longer the United States—it's Japan. But for years now, the Japanese have gotten almost 100 per cent of their total worldwide automotive profits from just one single market—ours. So what are we afraid of?

We can't afford this trade imbalance any longer. Because the price is Americans thrown out of work. The numbers are depressing: 237,000 of those who worked in steel just six years ago have lost their jobs, 182,000 in fabricated metals, 434,000 in heavy machinery, 300,000 in textiles and apparel. The list goes on and on. If you want to know what the trade deficit means, just take a look around you. I know, I know, these are "mature" industries that are dying. Our future supposedly lies in retraining those workers for all those burgeoning service industries. After all, who needs to make cars when you can do just as well washing them and gassing them?

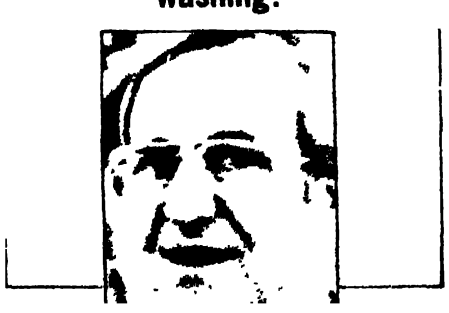
Our friends overseas can't afford this imbalance any longer either. See, the Japanese don't sell us anything we can't do without. We don't buy their food or natural resources. We like their cameras, TVs, cars, and stereos—but we don't need them. Japan is betting that America will continue soaking up most of its excess industrial capacity, and it's becoming a bad, bad bet, because America simply can't afford to.

The two best ways I know to ruin a friendship are to go into debt to a friend or to become too dependent on him. And that's what Japan and the United States are doing to each other.

We're unfair to ourselves, and we're unfair to Japan in allowing the United States to become the world's shopping mall. It's really time to start charging admission, and the price of a ticket has to be a little reciprocity.

Last year, when the Japanese reneged

Ninety per cent of all the new jobs in the last sixteen years have been service jobs; but watch out, because pretty soon there won't be anybody left to service. If the industrial sector goes down the tubes, who's going to buy the hamburgers? Whose laundry is going to need washing?



on our agreement with them limiting the amount of microchips they could ship here, our government decided to play tough guy and hit them with $300 million in countervailing duties. But look at what that really amounted to—a chip shot. That $300 million represented all of three tenths of one per cent of the United States' trade deficit with Japan—equivalent to a lousy seven boatloads of cars.

Not only that. After our government finally took some action, the American press made it look as if we were the bad guys. We were going to start a trade war. But no one seemed to remember that it was the Japanese who broke an agreement. The reporters' conclusion was that we'd fired the first shot in a war we can't win.

The truth is, we didn't do enough. We fired a shot with a peashooter when we needed a cannon.

I'm glad America has such a strong service economy, but there is such a thing as an economic food chain, just like the one in nature. And it starts at the bottom with people growing things and building things. Somebody in the pond has to produce something or pretty soon everybody in the pond dies. And right now in America, the people who produce things are in deep trouble.

With the shrinkage in manufacturing, 76 per cent of our labour force is now in the service sector. Now, that 76 per cent may work pretty hard, but they don't do much toward solving our trade problem, of course, because services are a little tough to export. On the other hand, the service sector is a whole lot safer place to be these days, because there's virtually no foreign competition. (Banks are the big exception, and you see what's happening to them.) The fact is, there's just not much incentive to improve our productivity if we concentrate on service industries, because nobody from Japan or Korea is breathing down our necks.

We don't send our laundry to the Far East yet. We can't call up Swissair and fly to Chicago. *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* can write editorials all day long telling people like me how to handle foreign competition—but they've never in their lives faced any foreign competition.

Eventually—mark my words—even the service industries will be lining up in Washington along with everybody else, looking for help. Ninety per cent of all the new jobs in the last sixteen years have been service jobs, but watch out, because pretty soon there won't be anybody left to service. If the industrial sector goes down the tubes, who's going to buy the hamburgers? Whose laundry is going to need washing?

I hate to admit it but I have no idea what our trade policy is. There are eight different entities in Washington creating trade policy—different trade policy! As a result, America has the full attention of its trading partners in much the same way that the cross-eyed javelin thrower has the attention of the spectators in the stands. They are a little bit apprehensive, because they aren't sure what the hell is going to happen.

My industry and its workers have been hurt more than anybody by Japan's strong trade policies and our weak ones, so I've screamed louder than anybody that we need to level the playing field. I've gotten a reputation as a "Japan basher." It's a bum rap, though. I'm not as mad at Tokyo as I am at Washington, and nobody has ever accused me of being an "America basher."

In March 1981, at the depth of the recession and with the US auto industry showing record losses, the Reagan administration asked Japan to agree to a voluntary import quota of 1.68 million cars. The number increased to 2.3 million by 1985. By then, the Big Three were getting healthy again, but the Japanese cars coming in still had a $2,500 cost advantage over ours, mostly because of tax rebates by the Japanese government, and because the yen was a whopping 260 to the dollar.

With that kind of advantage, the Japanese could have flooded our market with new cars if the quotas were removed. We were already almost $4 billion in the hole each month to Japan, and $1.6 billion of that was in motor vehicles alone. So when the people in the administration started hinting that they would not ask Japan to continue the car quotas, I couldn't believe they were serious.

But sure enough, in February 1985 the President's Cabinet Council voted 12-0 to let the quotas die. In effect, they would let Japan determine how many cars it would ship to America each year. The country was already drowning in red ink, and our government was leaving the floodgates wide open.

Every other country has a plan to manage its trade; we're the only dinosaurs left who maintain the myth that 'free trade' really exists....When it comes to trade, we have become the patsies of all time



I knew that the Japanese would exercise some restraint. They wouldn't be dumb enough to overplay their hand and risk a backlash. But they would send in all the cars they could get away with. They'd set a number that would be just one car short of the straw that breaks the camel's back. In effect, the Japanese would be unilaterally writing America's trade policy on cars, and here, all these years, I had this dumb notion that our trade policies should be written in Washington, not Tokyo.

I sent Ben Bidwell, our vice-president for sales and marketing, to Washington, just to be sure the administration understood the consequences. He told trade representative William Brock and his staff that this meant Chrysler would have no choice but to follow General Motors to the Far East for more cars and parts, and that we were going to make the trade deficit even worse. They just nodded and said, "Now, you've got it right!"

So when the quotas were taken off—on April Fool's Day—I was packing my bags for Japan and Korea. All I can say is, "The Devil made me do it." If the government was going to engineer a big jump in the trade deficit, I owed it to Chrysler to get my fair share of it. In fact, I had absolutely no choice. We looked at the numbers. We saw what unrestricted Japanese imports would do to us. And we had all the evidence we needed that the administration would do nothing to stem the tide.

Maybe what bothered me most of all was that the administration gave Japan open season on the American auto market and got absolutely nothing in return. The bilateral trade deficit was on its way to another record of $148.5 billion that year. Citrus growers, beef growers, and other farmers were all pleading with the government to break down Japan's trade barriers against their products. The cigarette companies wanted help. The high-tech people wanted help. Just about every American industry that could have competed effectively in the Japanese home market was being systematically excluded, and their lobbyists were running all over Washington pleading with our government to give them a fair shot over there.

The administration would never have a better chance to open the Japanese market. Autos were their ace in the hole, and they threw it away. Apparently these guys had never played a hand of serious poker in their lives. That's when I finally, and sadly, concluded that not only did the Reagan administration lack a sensible pol-

cy to handle the growing trade tension between America and Japan, but it also had no intention at all of formulating one. I had a gut feeling that tensions would get even worse—and I was right.

I saw those tensions in Japan. I also saw confusion. Most Japanese were happy about the President's action, of course, but they also noticed that only a few days afterward the United States Senate voted 92-0 to tell the President to retaliate against Japan for its closed-door trade practices. Talk about yin and yang. The President tells Japan, "Send us all the exports you want," and the Senate, controlled by his own party, votes unanimously to slam the door.

I spoke to a lot of wise heads in Tokyo who understood clearly that reducing our trade imbalance was essential so that Japan and the United States could maintain their close and special relationship. They seemed as worried as I was. But what were they to make of the mixed signals coming out of Washington? Just a few days before I got there, Prime Minister Nakasone went on national TV and told every Japanese to go out and buy $100 worth of imported American goods. It was hard to imagine, but it was true. An American President was sitting on his hands doing nothing and a Japanese Prime Minister was taking a big political risk by appealing to his people to "Buy American."

I've never liked the tone of most "Buy American" appeals in this country. Somehow, they sound like American business and American workers need charity, when all they really want is a chance to compete. But when I heard it coming from the head of a foreign country that had been cleaning our clocks, I really got embarrassed.

Despite Prime Minister Nakasone's heartfelt appeal, the trade imbalance kept getting worse by the month. Japan's export and protectionist lobbies are stronger than any of the special interests we have in this country. When I went there I was warned: Whatever you do, don't bring up rice. If we really had free trade, most Japanese farmers simply couldn't compete with lower-cost U.S. rice. But rice is sacred there, and so are the farmers. There is nothing sacred here, of course, about an American auto worker, or even American rice farmer. But a Japanese rice farmer is sacred. And every Japanese politician knows that.

While I was in Japan, I spoke before the American Chamber of Commerce. It was a large, mostly American group, but there were a lot of Japanese businessmen and politicians there too. I guess they came to see the great Japan basher in action.

A funny thing happened. I made all the same points I'd made to the American politicians, with Ambassador Mike Mansfield sitting right next to me, but when I made them in Tokyo, smack in the lion's den, the roof didn't fall in. I recited the trade numbers and said America wouldn't stand for it much longer. I brought up the citrus fruit problem, the beef problem, and all the other barriers the Japanese had erected. (I did chicken out on rice, however. Even I know when to quit.)

I pointed out that part of the problem was America's, because of our huge budget deficits that overvalued the dollar, but I said that Japan couldn't use that as an excuse as long as its markets were virtually closed and its trade practices looked predatory to the average American.

Then I hit them with the zinger. I could see all the Japanese in the audience stiffen up. "If Japan is protectionist, then I think it's protecting the wrong market. It's protecting its market in Japan, when it ought to be protecting its market in America. That's the one that's really in danger, and that's where Japan stands to take its biggest loss."

I had a press conference afterward with more reporters and more cameras clicking at me than I'd ever seen before. For over an hour they bombarded me with questions. When the stories were printed and the TV clips aired, nobody called me a "basher" or anything else. A week later, Ambassador Mansfield cited my speech at length to the Japanese Diet.

I felt encouraged coming home from that trip to Japan, not because anything I said was going to change things, but because I sensed from the Japanese leaders that they understood the problem and what had to be done to solve it.

But nothing changed. Every month America's trade deficit got worse, and every month Japan accounted for a bigger chunk of it. For each trade barrier the Japanese took down, another one seemed to pop up.

I'd hoped the Japanese were going to start breaking their dependence on us in the fall of 1985, when their government went along with Secretary James Baker's effort to bring down the value of the dollar and increase the value of the yen. After all, the currency imbalance was a major reason why the U.S.-Japanese trade deficit had skyrocketed during the early eighties. But the currency fix turned out not to be the trade fix. A year later, while everybody waited for the famous J-curve to start upward, America's trade deficit with Japan was $10 billion worse. The dollar cost of the yen increased by 50 per cent, and yet the prices of Japanese goods in the United States had gone up only about 10 to 15 per cent.

The Japanese took the loss right out of their own hides. Honda, probably the best company in Japan today, dropped $110 million in one quarter, leaving only another $110 million for profit. Their profits got cut in half, because they swallowed most of the currency change and raised their dollar prices only slightly.

Why? Their beachhead in this market is too strong, and they're determined not to give it up.

If the Japanese are tenacious about keeping their export markets, they're just as stubborn about resisting changes at home. Japanese don't buy much, and when they do it's Japanese. They're also the world's greatest savers, they stock money away better than Jack Benny did. Their trade partners and their own government have tried to get them to loosen up, but it hasn't worked. I guess it's hard to criticize their values. Work hard, save, and if you have to buy something, give your business to somebody you know. That sounds like what my parents taught me. But it's a big problem for a country that lives on exports and is getting pressure from the rest of the world to balance its trade.

The Japanese government even went so far as to create something called the "Leisure Development Center." The whole purpose of this institution was to get people to take time off and enjoy themselves, to spend some Saturdays riding motorcycles instead of building them, maybe even just to catch up on some sleep. It was such a serious effort that the people in charge worked night and day—six days a week and sometimes seven—to persuade other people to stay home and relax. They wrote a report complaining that Japanese workers were taking only 60 per cent of their vacation time. But it turned out that the people running the leisure center took only 40 per cent. ■

We're unfair to ourselves, and we're unfair to Japan in allowing the United States to become the world's shopping mall. It's really time to start charging admission, and the price of a ticket has to be a little reciprocity



THE FATE OF THE EIGHTS

Tomorrow is a unique date: 8-8-88. Will it be the luckiest day of the century? Not quite, predicts
Bejan Daruwalla

Hong Kong textile tycoon Law Ting Pong, reported a newspaper paid a record price of Rs 50 lakhs for a car numberplate with the single digit '8'. Eight for the Chinese is the luckiest of numbers as it sounds like the Chinese word for prosperity. And in Hong Kong, one of the most materialistic cities in the world the word is associated with riches and good luck. So much so that Hong Kong is looking forward to a flurry of commercial activity on the "luckiest" day of the century—8.8.1988. And, to top it all, the day falls in the year of the Dragon, the most powerful of Chinese birth signs.

The 8.8.88 combination comes just once in a century and it is as fascinating for numerologists as for astrologers. For the moment we will fuse astrology with numerology and come up with some startling results.

In the Hebrew *kabala* of numbers, eight represents the stern taskmaster Saturn. Saturn insists: "Spare the rod and spoil the child," and it does not care that the child may or may not be a child but an old man or woman of a hundred summers. It is the *dharma* of Saturn to smite and thus teach on the physical, material and spiritual levels.

And now from the day to the month. In western astrology, August, the eighth month of the year, comes under the royal sign of Leo and the ruling luminary for Leo is the sun, traditionally an enemy of Saturn. And here we meet with a discordant note, a clash of wills if you want to put it that way. There is battle royal between Saturn and the sun.

It is possible that this battle will strengthen the resolution of an individual and forge his or her character but at an exorbitant price. I am not saying that it will always be at a monstrous cost but only that on most occasions it will be so. The qualification is necessary because if the personal horoscope of an individual born on August 8 is very powerful, the effects of the sun-Saturn confrontation may not be felt. I am not a prophet of doom and I really do believe that by prayers, good acts and proper use of imagination and the will events can be altered, at least partially.

But often an inexorable chain of circumstances is at work beyond the immediate or the complete control of the August 8 individual. But these are my predictions and I am open to correction. This numero-astrologist does not wear blinkers.

We come next to the year 1988. The year adds up to 1+9+8+8 = 26 = 2+6 = 8. Thus again the year 1988 stands for '8' or Saturn. It is a year of fatality, death or at least drastic changes. A case in point would be Mikhail Gorbachev's attempts to shred the woof and warp of Stalinist-Brezhnevite Soviet Russia. Lessons have to be unlearnt and corrective measures taken undoubtedly under the influence of Saturn, the teacher, the *guru*.

And finally the sum of the complete date: 8+8+1+9+8+8 = 42 = 4+2 = 6. The final digit '6' is ruled by the planet Venus. Venus symbolises harmony, freedom, the arts, love, festivals, fun and happiness. Therefore, the final deduction is, that despite tensions and tribulations, the August 8 individual will find love and laughter in the end. But how does that make it the luckiest day of the century? I find the idea quaint or even quixotic.

Now, to digress. Nelson Mandela, the jailed African freedom fighter, was born on July 17 and this makes him a number 8 person (1+7 = 8). And with 1988, too, revolving around number 8, it can only mean that Mandela and South Africa have a date with destiny this year. Mandela will not fail. There will be a change in Africa yet. ■

BARTER BANK

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MOTIVE AGAINST A MENACE

'Motivation' is a group of Calcutta collegians who have got together to rescue their friends caught in the drugs trap. A report on their latest activities

Four years ago, a small group of students from St Xavier's College got together to help two friends kick the habit of drug-taking it was a successful experiment. The result The Anti-Drug Abuse and Addiction Campaign (Adaac) was launched and the group "motivated" itself to fight the drug menace. And for continuous inspiration, its members called themselves "Motivation".

The Adaac took the unpleasant facts of the drug abuse and addiction to teachers and students, schools and colleges, and parents at home The response was predictable during a recent door-to-door awareness campaign, when doors were not slammed on the volunteers faces, the contrast between the open attitude of young persons in discussing the problem and the cynicism and ignorance of the older generation was quite apparent Some adults callously remarked, "My sons are in school," or "My kids are young, come back after three or four years and we will hear you," or "Why are you making such a big noise? Your friends are the ones at fault, why don't you teach them something?"

These examples are cited by Motivation members as clear proof that the basic need is to educate people around us. As the Adaac coordinator, Sanjiv Lamba, put it, "We got together because we felt the situation was getting desperately out of hand and needed immediate attention." He elaborated, "Attention does not simply mean money but also care, love and understanding—all three seem to be lacking in us We are all vulnerable to drugs whether it is alcohol, heroin or cannabis We believe it is a 'no blame' illness and should be treated as such."

The group feels that its approach to the problem is "unique" in the sense that it is by the young people for the young people. "We try to be as positive and non-judgemental as we can and strive to eradicate fear and sensationalism from the subject Simply preaching the rights and wrongs of taking drugs is not our style, the subject and its problems are far too complex. We only hope to reach out to people with our programmes so as to clarify some thoughts or answer some questions," emphasise group members

With this aim, Motivation will launch a week-long Save Calcutta Campaign from tomorrow which comprises a series of technical and non-technical (school-based) programmes

Under non technical programmes, Motivation proposes to cover 100 schools in and around the city through a series of interesting and thought-provoking sessions," and seeks to get a feedback from the students both in terms of their perception of the problem and their view towards its solutions

This programme has been formulated with the help of psychiatrists It also includes two sessions where a series of interactive games would be played to explain to the students the significance of "trust, denial and confrontation." This would help them as well as others to tackle the problem. There would be poster, collage and hoarding design competitions to encourage the students to think and visually portray their perceptions on "How to say no to drugs," "Drugs: broken myth—stark reality," and "Shock issue—the living dead" The students will also be encouraged to make a scrap book on "Drug dilemma—the critical issues"

According to the project coordinator, the object of these non-technical programmes is simply 'to let the student tell us what he knows and feels about the growing incidence of drug-related problems rather than dictating to him what he should do"

The technical programmes would be launched with a workshop on 'Role of the government, media and parents,' followed by a technical review of the available preventive, detoxification and rehabilitation programmes in Calcutta, and another workshop for psychiatrists and general practitioners It will also include an orientation programme for parents and teachers which aims at preparing them with a survival kit in terms of spotting the problem, confronting "denial" and helping the affected towards recovery

The Motivation members admit that the Save campaign is an ambitious project And if successful, "would be a boost to the student resistance movement against drugs"

Although Adaac forms their major field of activity, Motivation members have also undertaken an urban slum development project in the Park Circus area and a "share and care" programme under which they visit orphanages, homes for the aged and mentally retarded

The Motivation members eagerly look forward to set up similar units in other institutions as well They can be contacted on any Saturday at St Xavier's College

Monimoy Dasgupta





QUIZ □ Neil O'Brien

The next quiz on the AQUO circuit is the Argus Plate Here are the details

- The quiz will be held on September 9 and 10 at 5 30 pm at the Dalhousie Institute.
- Teams that have participated in at least five AQUO quizzes in the last three years and have not won any AQUO quiz in the last five years are eligible Individuals who have been on a winning team are not eligible
- There are no entry forms but please send in writing the following details

Name of the team, names of the team members, address, telephone no of the contact person in the team, and name the five contests the team has participated in during the last three years

- Deposit this information and an entry fee of Rs 30 per team on any working day at the Dalhousie Institute to Mr T McDermott between 2 and 9 pm
- Entries close on August 22, 1988
- Quizmasters Arpan Guha & G Kashinath

Debnath Dutta, Calcutta 40, asks "Please write something about the Alaska Gold Rush "

On August 17, 1896, George Carmack and his two Red Indian brothers-in-law, Skookum Jim and Tagish Charlie, dipped their pans into the shallow waters of Rabbit (now Bonanza) Creek, south of the Klondike River in the Yukon, and came up with gold When news of the strike hit the United States the following year, the great Klondike gold rush was on By 1898 some 18,000 prospectors clogged the Klondike to stake their claims, and more than 1,00,000 would pass through before century s end, despite near-famine conditions in the remote region In 1897 the first ships from the area docked at San Francisco, and dozens of scruffy miners marched onto the pier toting sackfuls of nuggets and dust

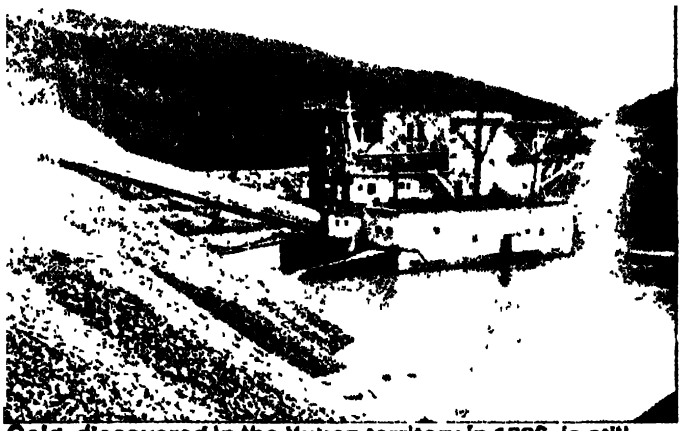
Klondike fever proved irresistible to many The city of Seattle lost half its police and firemen to the Yukon. Fathers abandoned their families, soldiers deserted their units, shopkeepers left their counters Each one, it seemed, was heading north to Alaska Whether one struck it rich or returned south hungry often depended more on luck than on skill Charlie Anderson, later known as Lucky Swede, bought Claim 29 for $800 while drunk Later, sober and pressed for cash, he tried to sell it off but found no takers. So he went ahead and worked the mine In four years he carried out $1 2 million in gold Alec McDonald of Nova Scotia gave a hungry Russian prospector a sack of flour in return for Claim 30. McDonald hit pay dirt and parlayed his load into $20 million to earn the nickname 'King of the Klondike But most were not so lucky Barely four per cent of those who survived the regions of the north actually struck gold

Postscript: In the issue of July 24 the 11th Question should have read 'High Fives' and not 'High Jive My apologies

CBS

11th Question: **One of the favourite slang terms in Western films is "son of a gun." How did this originate? (Shameek Ray, S W Bidhan Nibas, 4 Bidhan Sishu Sarani, Calcutta 700054)**

Ans: **In the days of wooden ships, sometimes ladies of pleasure became pregnant during their stay on ships. The babies were born on the gundeck and recorded officially in the log book as "son of a gun."**



Gold, discovered in the Yukon territory in 1896, is still dredged from gravel beds outside Dawson

QUESTIONS

1. Qutbuddin Aibak started the construction of the Qutab Minar, but which Sultan completed it? (Shankar Sharan, BIT Sindri)

2. Which bird was held sacred in ancient Egypt? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)

3. Name the first nuclear powered submarine of the Indian Navy. (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)

4. What is common to Schafer, Sylvester and Holger-Nielsen? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)

5. Johan Cryuff clung to a "lucky shirt" once worn successfully while he was a substitute. What was the number of the shirt? (Tanmoy Dutta, Calcutta)

6. How does our national emblem differ from the original lion capital of Sarnath? (Sumeet Budhraja, Chandigarh 22)

7. Who said, "I hope you have missed the woman in me. I believe, I know your sex and your needs better than you do I have always counted myself as a woman "? (Shakil Kamran Siddiqui, Calcutta 16)

8. I was born in Bengal, died in Bihar and on my death, a state holiday was declared in Punjab; I was a famous freedom fighter of India; I, along with Bhagat Singh, had hurled a bomb at the Assembly on April 8, 1929 Who am I? (Suptendra Nath Sarbadhikari, Calcutta 45)

9. What was 'Operation Fluency ? (Sutanu Mukherjee, Calcutta 47)

10. What is the significance of the sentence "Krakatoa Positively Casts Off Fumes Generating Sulphurous Vapours"? (Suptatim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)

ANSWERS

10. For the order of taxonomic classification Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species, Variety.

9. A British intelligence operation to flush out its spy*catcher* (name) as its head.

8. Balukeshwar Dutta.

7. Gandhiji to Sarojini Naidu.

6. There used to be a dharma-chakra atop the lions of the Sarnath pillar.

5. No. 14.

4. They are all methods of artificial respiration.

3. INS Chakra

2. The ibis, belonging to a family of birds related to the stork. Though now extinct in Egypt, it is found in the lakes and swamps of Sudan, near the Upper Nile.

1. Iltutmish



RAMAYANA AND AFTER

HAH! CALCUTTA

What's so bad about this city? Janey P. Sinha says their slum is worse than our slum

We visited the slum about a couple of months ago And when we visited the slum we realised our slum wasn t anything less than their slum I mean they ve got rubbish on their roads we ve got rubbish on our roads They ve got rusty tins with sleepy frogs in them in the r parking areas we ve got rusty tins with sleepy frogs in them in our parking ar as They ve got open drainage systems we ve got open drainage sys tems So they ve got nothing to swank about re ally

Except the Metro But come to think of it we ve got an underground tunnel too near the third pole at the turning that s got a toy training in it that can run if you kick it We *can* call it a sort of Metro you know if we use ur imagination

Actually we weren t meaning to go to Calcutta at all We were just going to our village in Baruipur fr m Patna and on our way we found Calcutta so we thought well why not? There were three of us in our red Maruti me my uncle and a friend of his Mr Mukherjee who had never been to Calcutta except once seven and a half years ago

It was about half past 11 in the morn ing—taking the average of all our watch es—and we had been going around Calcut ta for about 10 minutes now Personally I wasn t very impressed with the place I d heard so much about its rubbish dumps and I hadn t even crossed one yet that was worth mentioning I looked at one of them at the side of the road and sniffed Not even a metre high!

This place isn t what I thought it was I said nose slightly up in the air We have better heaps than that at h me

And then we went over a speedbreak er without noticing it I nearly broke three ribs but didn t

It s nothing compared t the ones we ve got at home I said holding my sides and trying to impress Mr Mukherjee in front of me But he wasn t impressed He knew his speed bumpers were the best in the world

We came to a junction We looked blankly at each other and wondered whether to go right or left Toss I said but nobody had a coin I was just going to suggest taking the organge peel and tos sing with that—outside of the peel, right inside left or vice versa when my uncle stopped the nearest pedestrian in on the road and asked him which way to the cinema hall? Which cinema hall he en quired and uncle said oh well then which way to the cricket stadium?

Go straight left the man said point ing to the right

We tossed the orange peel Left We unanimously decided to turn right We did that And as we went through the roads of Calcutta with huge old houses on both sides there are a few things that I still remember quite distinctly about the place Like that board on top of the shop which said Scooter motorcycle reepair done here by washing machine And then the man with the black moustache at the side of the road who tried to convince me his shaving cream was just the thing I needed for my cheeks and no it didn t





matter that I was a girl Shaving cream in his shop was for everybody, he said generously.

A quarter to 12 it was when we got into trouble I mean, what can we do if we can't see the dim red lights or the policeman at the side of the road, leaning on the lamp-post? We were just whizzing across to the other side when a fat man in white came out of nowhere and stopped us and asked us what exactly did we think we were doing, moving when he hadn't whistled? Bossy, that I'd read somewhere that if you get into a tight spot with a policeman, make him laugh and he'll let you go So, I made some joke about his moustache. He went pink How we managed to persuade him not to take us to the police station, I don't know, but we did it

"Crazy policeman," Uncle said, when we were finally moving again

"But we've got crazier ones at home," I piped up, untruthfully, not to be undone Mr Mukherjee smiled

Our next stop was the planetarium as we found we were right near it We got our tickets and walked in. We were just admiring the stars on the ceiling when I discovered my hand was stuck in the chair I had a bit of a time getting it out quietly and inconspicuously, and the chair creaked a bit—quite a bit A lot, in fact I held my swollen hand and said we'd better be going—I could feel everybody glaring at me in the dark So, we went to the shops and admired the paintings and my uncle's friend who'd never been to Calcutta except once, seven and a half years ago, commented the painter had done a good job with the horses and the shopman said in an offended voice that they weren't horses, they were cows

"Now where do we go?" I asked, when we'd hurried out of the shop "Better paintings at our place," I added "Can tell the cows apart from the horses"

Mr Mukherjee looked at his watch and said he'd got a bit of xeroxing to do, so we went to a xerox shop The man there was a cheerful optimist He (Mr Mukherjee) gave him (the shopman) a couple of sheets with small writing all over them and said he (Mr Mukherjee) wanted two copies each and he (the shopman) said he'd do them in a jiffy He put one of the papers in and the copy that came out at the other end was black with carbon from top to bottom

"No problem," he said, smiling, and opening the machine up, "no problem"

He took out all the screws he could see and peered at them and then he screwed them back in again and this time the xerox copy didn't come out all black - it came out all blank My uncle asked him if it would take a long time to get it right

"Yes, yes, yes, yes," he said, though what he meant was no, no, no "One minute, no problem, no problem"

He opened another part of the machine and nodded and smiled He gave it a bit of a dust and put it back in again This time the copy wouldn't come out of the machine and the time after that, it leaked and he got a shock from it "No problem," said the shopman in a good natured way "New machine One minute"

I nearly said we'd got newer machines at home, but then decided I wouldn't We were glad when his "one minute" came which was after about half an hour

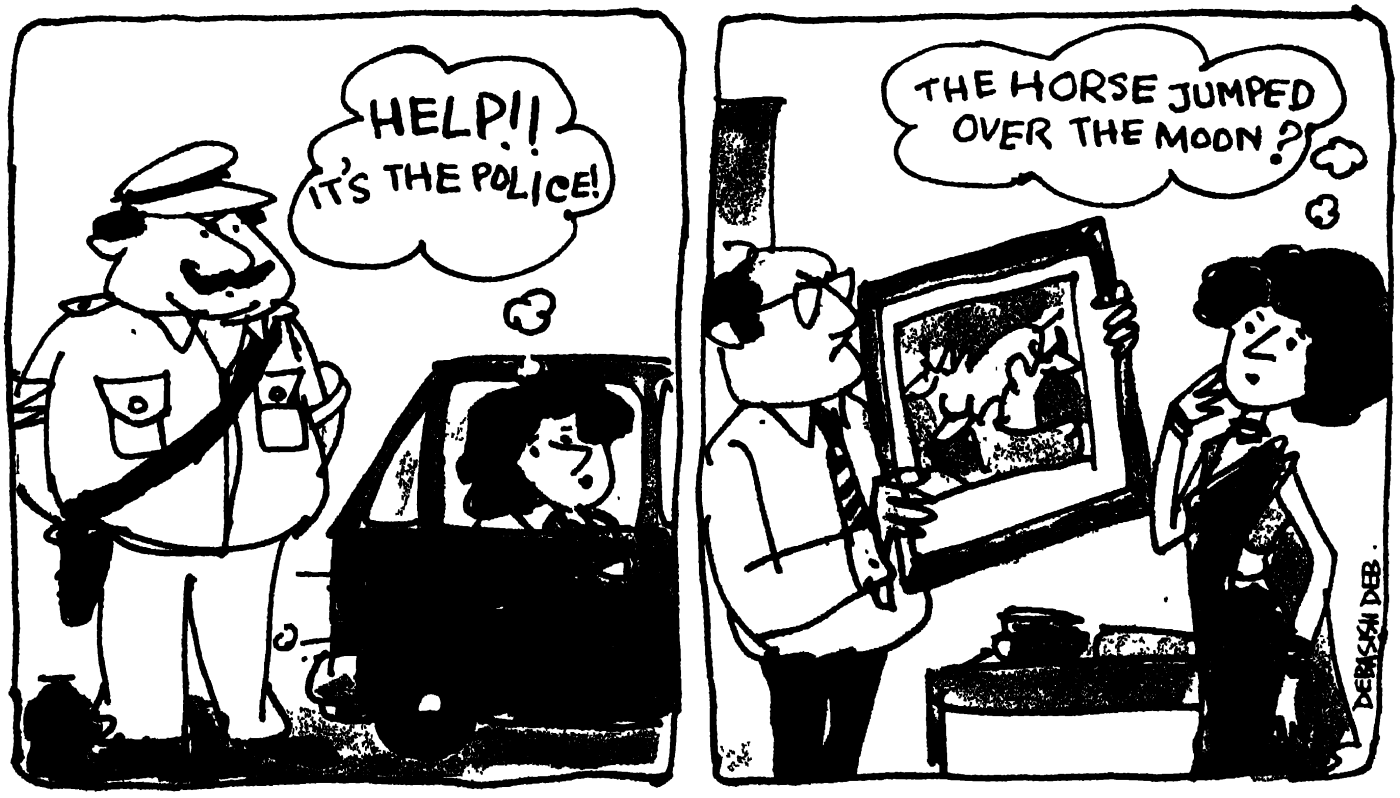
'Now it's time we got on again," Uncle said, as we got into the car "We don't want to get there too late"

'But what about the Metro?" I asked "Aren't we going to see it? I mean, not that it's anything great, of course We've got a much better well, if we would have had a Metro at home, I'm sure it would've been much better than the one they have here But still, we should know how awful it is"

Mr Mukherjee found it a great joke, I don't know why and he roared with laughter and said we could see it when we came back There was nothing I could do except agree I agreed

And as we drove out of Calcutta, I saw what I'd been looking for all along--a rubbish heap, about a couple of metres high and three metres wide

Calcutta hadn disappointed me, after



AND STILL IT



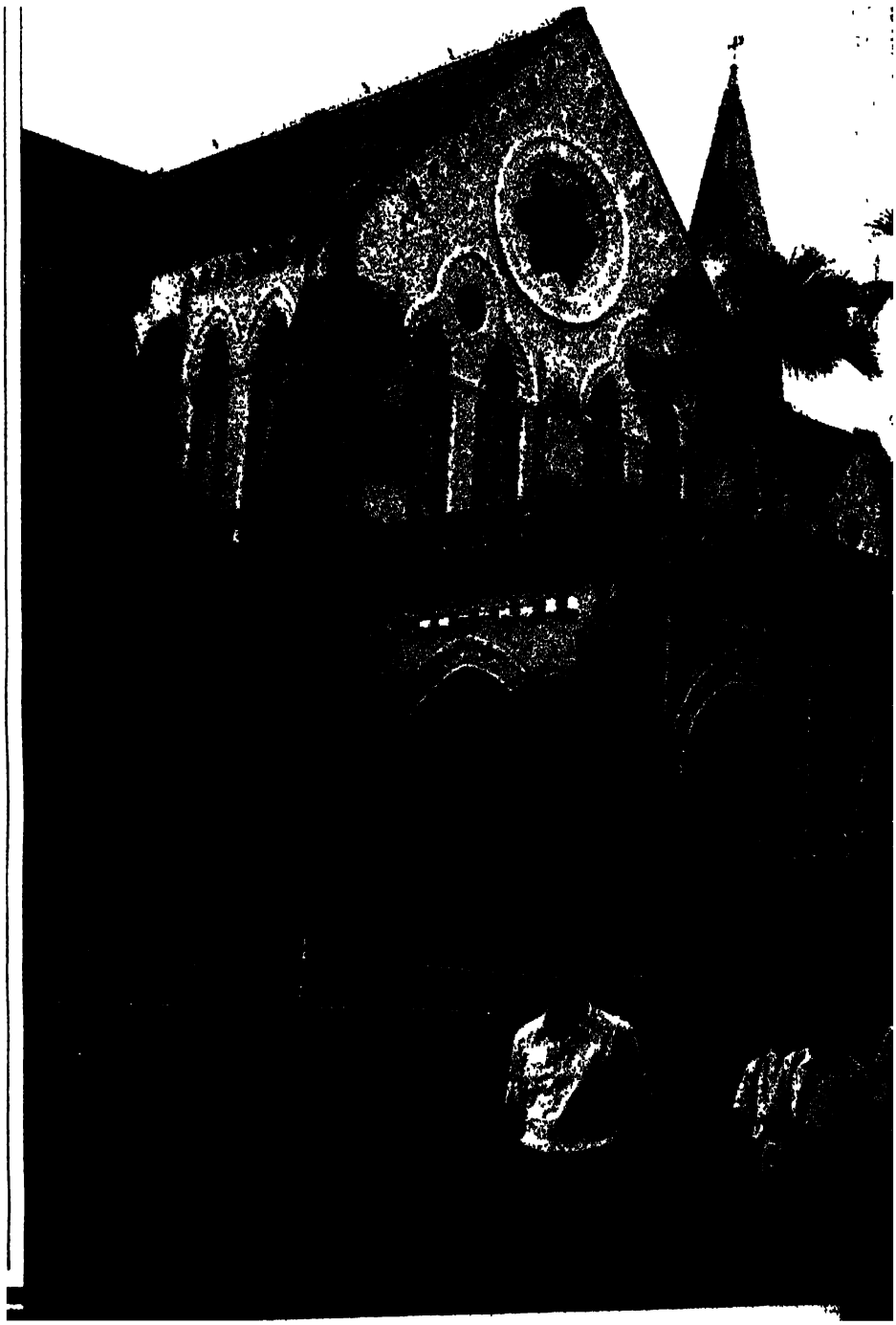
Craft class

St James' School, Calcutta, has stood the test of time for 125 years. **Shaadaab S. Bakht** narrates the tale of resilience and how it adapted itself into a leading educational institution

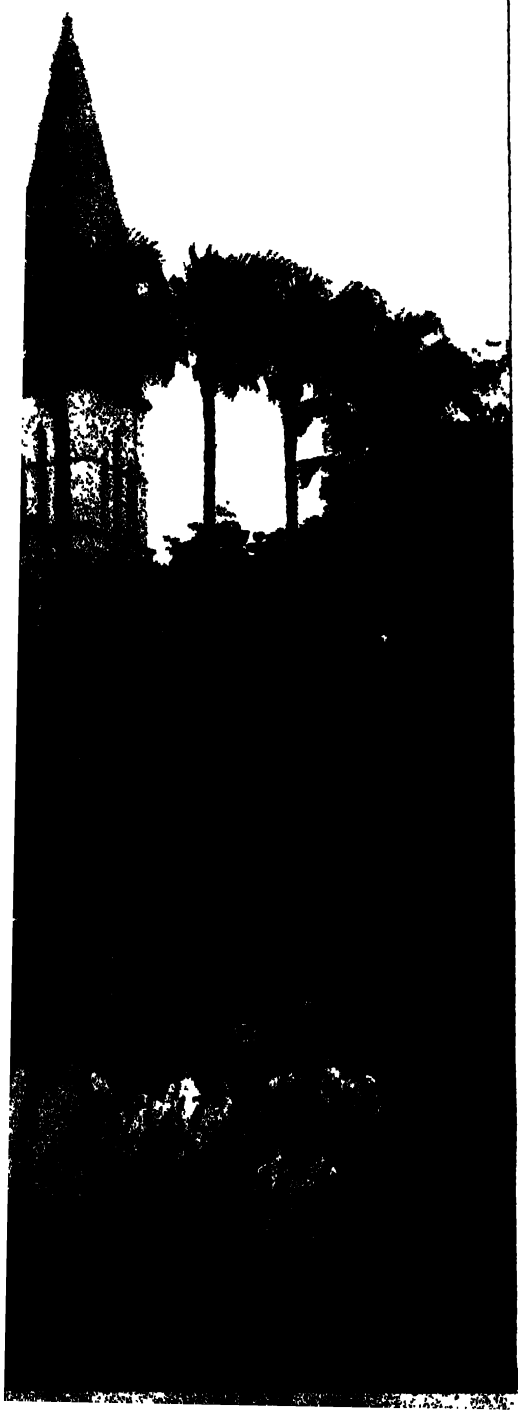
Photographs: Kishor RoyChowdhury

In the affairs of institutions, as in matters of the elements, winds shift, tides ebb and flow, the boat rocks. Luckily for St James' School the anchor has held It has survived 125 years as a successful institution—a historic achievement. And an achievement made possible by men who have themselves become part of the institution's history

Mr A.K Dutt, who has taught at least two generations at St James' is such a man. Short, frail, myopic, you would never suspect him to be what he is—a nation-builder. Hundreds of former students who possibly remember very little of their books nevertheless retain vivid memories of the now-retired Mr Dutt. A simple,



STOOD



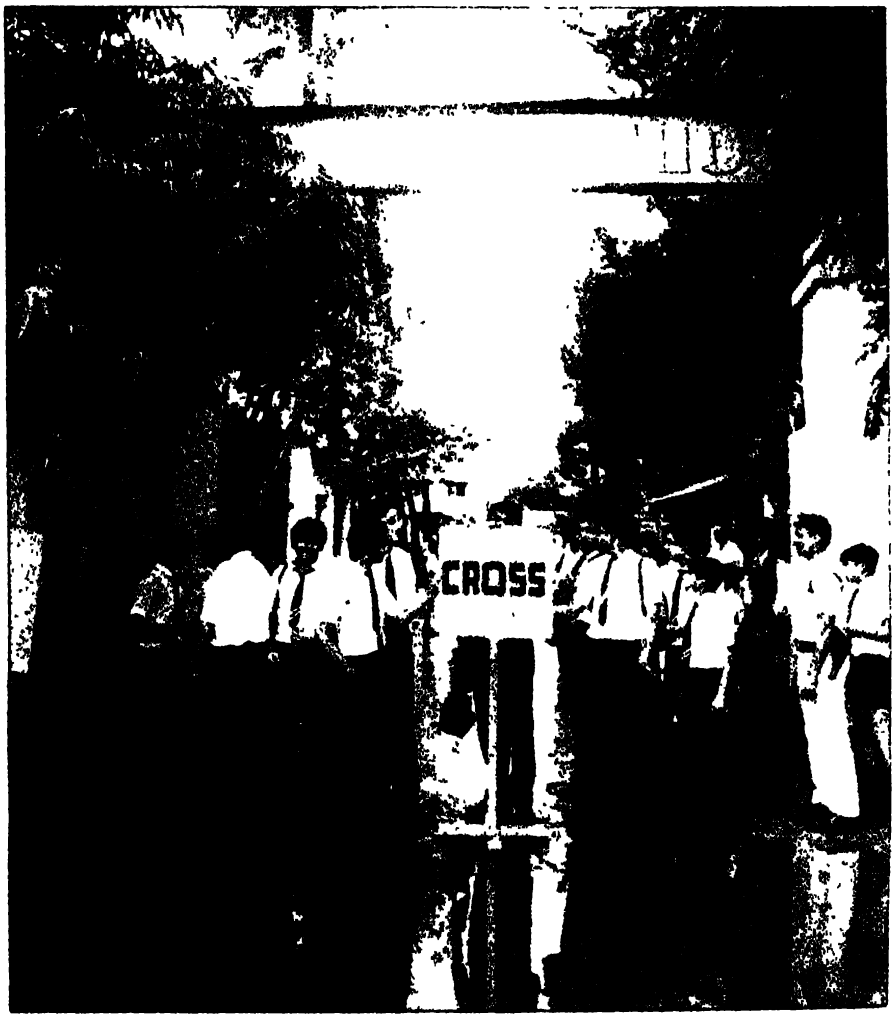
lovable man, who always delivered—a lesson, never a lecture.

The present principal of St James' School, Mr John A. Mason, believes "teaching is the ultimate act of creation. Creation through expression and influence." In his classes, Mr Dutt would create the severe winter of 1788 which preceded the French Revolution of 1789, or the shower which led to the American Revolution. Empires would crash before one's eyes as the First World War neared

Mr Dutt used to "charm" his studen.s And that is the tradition of teaching followed at St James'. "A teacher is a charmer. He has to charm his students more than anything else," said Mr Mason

St James' School (originally called Calcutta Boys' School) was established in 1864 at the same time as the consecration of the beautiful church dedicated to St James the Great, that was built alongside The years between 1864 and 1904 were full of stress and struggle. The rise in debts forced the school's closure in December 1904. It was arranged that La Martiniere for Boys, Calcutta, would admit the St James' pupils, boarders and day scholars on application by their parents.

In 1907, with financial assistance from the Church Education League, the school was reopened but it again ran into difficulties and closed in 1918 According to some reports, the school was yet again opened in 1924 under the rectorship of Rev Thomas H Cashmore, also vicar of St James' Church. He had a strong feeling for the tradition the school had established in the half century of its existence, particularly in the field of sport harking back to the school's triumphant victory in the Beighton Cup hockey tournament in 1900 Entering a team for the Beighton Cup in 1929, he wrote, "To me it is symbolic of the bridging of that long breach of years between 1904 and 1918 At times it had seemed to be almost impossible that the school tradition can ever be knit to the present, but I think now that the past has been knit to the present and that it is the



The entrance to the school

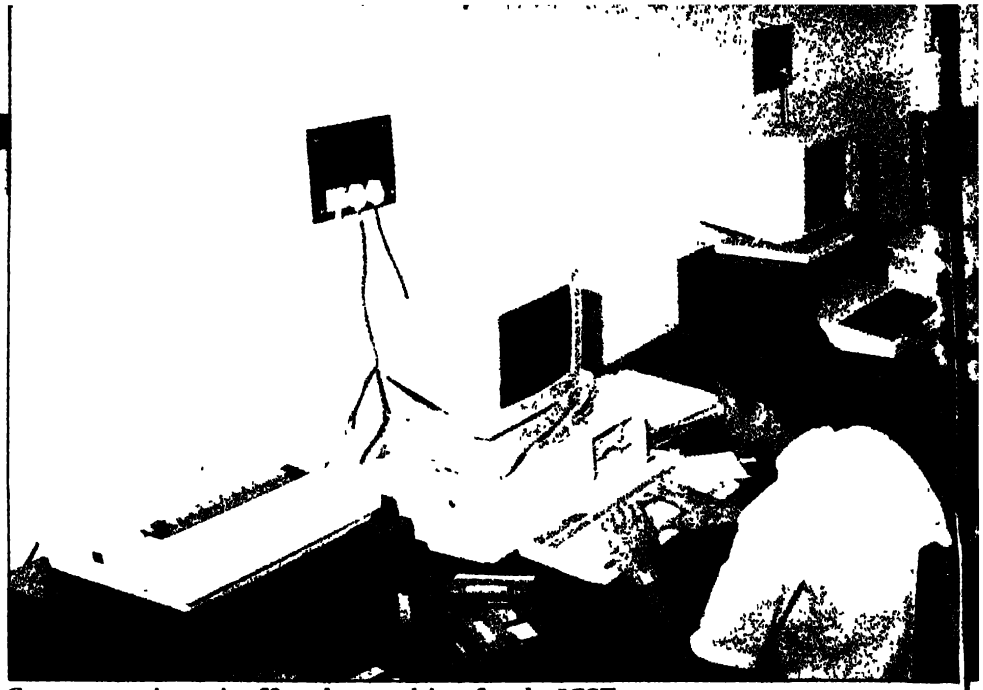
old school in younger bodies that is turning out in contests on the Maidan "

Jacobeans (students of St James') born in independent India missed most of the fun that the school's British set-up offered Under Rev Cashmore the institution flourished as a co-educational intermediate college The system was abolished in 1946. His faith in the vitality of his pupils and his humanism indemnified the morale and reputation of the school and in just seven years he raised a fund of Rs four lakhs His reconstruction programme utilised space sensibly and made provision for a large playground which is the pride of the institution even today Sport was greatly encouraged as essential to character development and his pupils excelled in hockey, cricket, football, boxing and swimming The school burgeoned as these figures indicate in 1924 there were 71 students but by 1930 there were 673 Rev Cashmore returned to England in 1933 and was succeeded by Mr I M Vallentine who contributed much to the consolidation of his predecessor's work during his tenure from 1933 to 1950

"To my teachers in St James', to their love and care and guidance, I owe a debt which can never be repaid From them I learnt that all the loveliness in the world lies in human relationships," said Mohammad Salim the owner of Popular Video, a well-stocked cassette library Mr Salim is an "old boy " Mr Sunil Anand and Syed Bedar, also "old boys" said, "The school has definitely improved under the present set of teachers and the principal St James' has no doubt made a name for itself "

The present administration proudly claimed that Rajesh Gopakumar secured the first place in the IIT entrance examination in 1987 and Ranjan Roychowdhury was placed third in the Joint Entrance Examination for medical colleges in West Bengal The St James' drama group won the British Council interschool drama contest held last year

Mr Mason took over from Mr F P Pakianathan in 1978 Under Mr Pakianathan, who succeeded the late L N Bird, the number of pupils increased to 1,200 from 640 in 1971 The scope of cultural and extra-curricular activities was also widened by Mr Pakianathan The expansion programme initiated before Mr Mason required additional accommodation which was provided in December 1979 with the opening of the Schunker Block consisting of 14 large and airy classrooms to accommodate the junior school There are now 1,800 pupils, 10 per cent of whom are on concessions or freeships There is a staff of well qualified teachers numbering over 60. Out of them Mrs Bose, Mr M. Rodrick, Mr Jordan John, Mr D. Mukherjee, Mr Keith Naser and Mr R Pathak have been with the school for more than



Computer science is offered as a subject for the ICSE

THE CELEBRATION

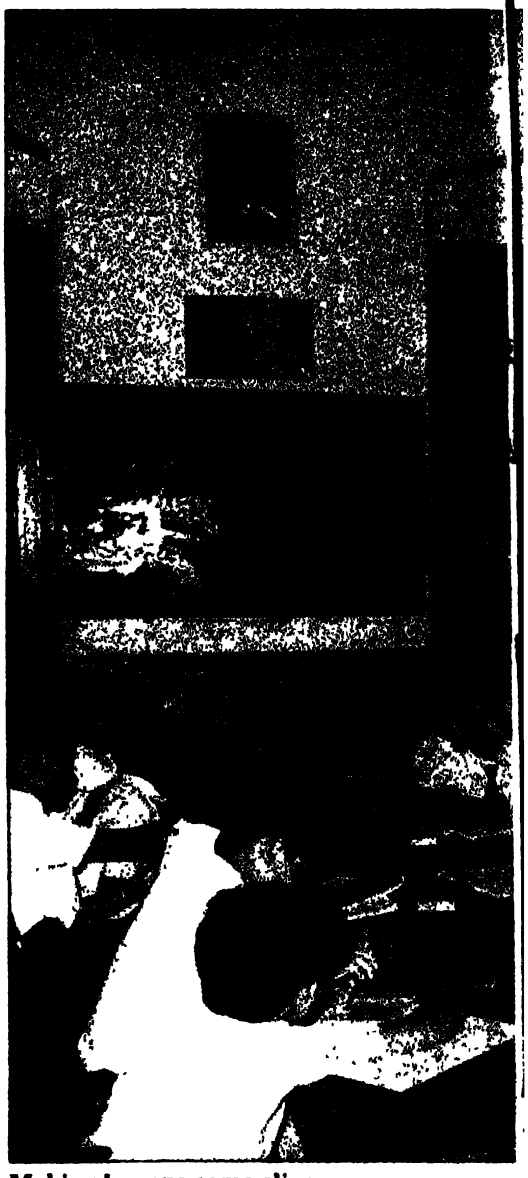
The kaleidoscope of events planned over the next year to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of St James' School, Calcutta, has brought into focus the chequered history of this now reputed educational institution. Today St James' is poised at the threshold of an ambitious expansion programme to follow in the wake of the jubilee celebrations.

The anniversary functions will have been officially launched on Monday, July 25 with a church service followed by a reunion of old boys on 26th. On July 28 and 29 the school will have held its annual exhibition with a number of schools participating. July 30 will see another get-together of friends and alumni of the school.

The next major event is scheduled for November when the students will present a musical based on Charles Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby*, directed by the venerable Phyllis Bose. The first two months of the jubilee year itself will see a festival cricket match between the talented students and some Ranji players. The celebrations will be rounded off with another exhibition next July. Also on the anvil are cultural programmes.

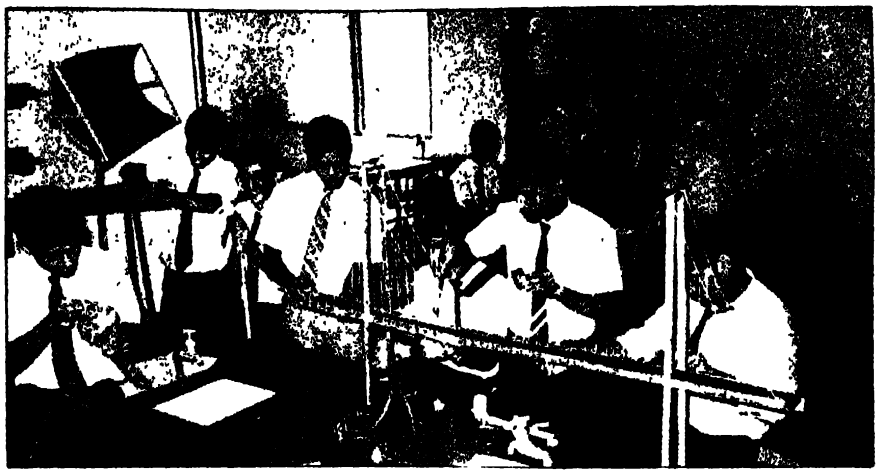
"Let us say we have a few [illegible] in store," says Mr John Mason, the principal of St James', "for the high point of these celebrations is not the wealth of events but the enthusiasm that marks the preparations. With their morale unsullied by the rest, surely the pride and devotion the students have for their school will be reciprocated in [illegible] years to come.

Sudipta Bhattacharya



Making lessons come alive





Practical physics for future engineers



25 years "But the most hated invigilator till date is Mr M Vincent," said an ex-student, Mr A Alam Another old boy, Mr M Ather, countered, "But Mr Vincent is also the most loved "

St James' is one of the first to introduce the computer among schools, according to Mr Rodrick The computer centre is in the charge of Mr Abhijit Sircar Forty-five students have taken up computer science as a subject for the ICSE examination The school now has five SCL Unicorn computers and has received a gift from Dunlop of two IBM PCs The VCR and television installed in the school library are well-used by teachers and pupils to support classes in science, social studies and English. Literary expression is encouraged through a number of sprightly school journals such as the junior school *Jingles*, the Bengali *Lamra*, the Hindi *Aalok*, and the English *School Scroll*

The 125th anniversary celebration will open with the founder's day service at the St James' Church on July 25 and continue for a year The celebration committee's secretary, Mr Ismail Nehal, said, We are determined to make this a grand success"

The highlights of the celebration are the staging of a musical play *Smoke* at Gyan Manch, the junior school concert at Kala Mandir, an Indian musical concert at Gyan Manch and an inter-school cultural festival. "The task ahead is stupendous but to work for your old school is a rare pleasure," said an enthusiastic Mr Nehal

"We constantly try and see that the image of the institution does not become bigger than the institution itself," said Mr Mason when asked what steps the administration was taking to maintain its hard-earned reputation "In the 125 years of its existence, this institution has shown remarkable resilience in meeting the vicissitudes of changing times with courage It has the character to continue to do so, I added. ■



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473)—4 shows

Directed by Kalpataru and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Rishi Kapoor, Jaya Prada, Govinda, Farha and Kader Khan

• **Hum To Chale Pardes:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138) & Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133) - 4 shows, Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462) noon

This film is directed by Ravindra Peepat and the music is by Vijay Singh

• **Hamara Khandan:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664) - 4 shows

Rishi Kapoor, Farha, Asha Parekh and Amrish Puri comprise the cast of this Anwar Pasha film The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Kanwarlal:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Madhuban (Regent Park), Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road, 355059)

Jeetendra, Raj Babbar and Sujata Mehta are in the lead.

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442) & Basusree (S.P Mukherjee Road, 478808)—4 shows

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Saazish:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Society (Corporation Place, 241002), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403), Kahka (Sadananda Road, 478141)

A film by Rajkumar Kohli, starring Raj Kumar, Mithun Chakraborty, Raj Babbar, Anita Raaj, Kader Khan, Amrish Puri and Dimple Kapadia The music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Waqt Ki Awaz:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440)—4 shows.

Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi play the lead in this film, directed by K. Bapaiah The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

Bengali Films

• **Aaghaat:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—3 shows

Directed by Deb Sinha and with music by Mrinal Banerjee, the cast includes Prasenjit, Satabdi Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Chiranjeet and Sukhen Das

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)— 3, 5.45, 8.30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakhsi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

• **Pathe Jete Jete:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

Directed by Umanath Bhattacharya and with music by Dilip Dilip, the film stars Tapas Paul, Papia Adhikari, Sumitra Mukherjee, Lily Chakraborty and Dilip Roy

• **Surer Sathi:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080)—2 45, 5 30, 8.15

A film by Tapan Saha, whose cast includes Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Subhendu Chatterjee, Anil Chatterjee and Santu Mukherjee The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee



A scene from *Police Academy 2*

7 DAYS

Foreign Films

• **Gymkata** Lighthouse (Humayun Place 291299) 12 3 6 8.30

• **Life Line (A)** Elite (S N Banerjee Road 241383) 4 shows

• **Police Academy 2** New Empire (Humayun Pl e 29910 1) 12 3 6 8.30

• **Revenge of the Nerds** Jumna (Marquis Street 243 15) 4 shows

• **Silver Bullet (A)** Metro (Chowringhee Road 280141) 4 shows

Special Events

7 August onwards 4.30 pm to 8 pm

A week long (except Monday) exhibition of paintings on human emotions entitled *Theatre* by Indra Puri Mistry

At Birla Academy of Art and Culture 108 109 Southern Avenue)

7 August 6 pm

Swar Vandana presents Rajendra and Neena Mehta in an evening of ghazals

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani 449086)

7 August 6.30 pm

Sangit Kala Mandir presents the comedy play *Kunwara Pati*

At Kala Kunj

7 August 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory will stage the play *Salim Sherwani Ki Shadi* The cast includes Vinay Sharma Shakil Khan Arun Sharma Ashok Walia Sanchaita Bhattacharya Nitu Khilnani Manisha Chaturvedi B M Hada Pradip Roy Semi Ahmed and Naseem Ali

At Padatik Little Theatre (6 7 Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 446087)

7 August 6.45 pm

Natasena will stage the Bengali comedy *Gorurgaru Headlight* Drama and direction Saroj Ray

At Girish Mancha (Bagbazar)

7-9 August 6.30 pm

The state information and cultural department and Rabindra Sadan present *Barshe Shravan* featuring Hemanta Mukherjee Ashoketaru Banerjee Sailen Das Purabi Mukherjee Sumitra Sen Geeta Ghatak Purba Dam Partha and Gouri Ghosh and Pranati Mitra Mustafi on 7th *Varsha Utsav* with Ramkumar Chatterjee Satinath Mukherjee Dwijen Mukherjee Dilip Kumar Roy Sushil Chatterjee Amal Nag Chhabi Banerjee Utpala Sen Purabi Dutta Kalyani Chakraborty and Shyamali Sen on 8th and a solo recital of Tagore songs by Suchitra Mitra and a music-dance feature *Shravan Gatha* on 9th

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937)

8 August 6.30 pm

A homage to Rabindranath Tagore and an evening of Kathak dance with Tagore's *Kshudhita Pashan* being the special attraction in a programme organised by Padatik

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani 449086)

9 August 6 pm

A sitar recital by Budhaditya Mukherjee with Anindo Chatterjee on the tabla

At Vivekananda Hall (Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture Gol Park)

10 August 5.30 pm

A programme to celebrate the birth anniversary of Late Pandit Ramnarayan Misra features *Sri Ramcharit Gat Bhav* and other choreographies of Pandit Bachanlal Mishra

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

10 August 6.30 pm

SRA Music Circle presents a sitar recital by Budhaditya Mukherjee

At Aldeen (1 NSC Bose Road Tollygunge)

11 13 August 6 pm

Stagecraft presents *Sing a Song of Six Pence* – a pantomime by children from various schools Direction Pratip Mazumdar

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York Dep (2) AI 103 at 0035

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta Arr (1) AI 132A at 1905

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (5) AI 306 at 1830 Dep (5) AI 306 at 1930

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok Calcutta-Bombay Arr (6) AI 315 at 1855 Dep (6) AI 315 at 1955

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI 108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt) Arr (6) AI 455A at 2335

Calcutta Delhi (connects AI 115 for London and New York) Dep (7) AI-115A at 0145

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow Arr (2) SU 542 at 1700 and Dep (2) SU 542 at 1810 Arr (4) SU 537 at 1555 Dep (4) SU 538 at 1855

Belgrade Calcutta-Beijing Arr (1) JU 492 at 0955 Dep (1) JU 492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade Arr (1) JU 493 at 2325 Dep (2) JU 493 at 0025

Calcutta Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 11 and Dep (7) SQ 413 at 1 Arr (2) SQ 416 at 10 and Arr 4) SQ 414 at 00

Calcutta Kathmandu Dep (1 3 7) RA 214 at 1110 Dep (2 4) IC 247 at 1740 Dep (3 6 7) IC 247 at 1510 Arr (1 3 7) RA 213 at 1010 Arr (2 3 4 6 7) IC 248 at 1425

Delhi Calcutta Dhaka Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640 Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta Delhi Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920 Dep (7) IC 444 at 2000

Calcutta Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1145 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG 694 at 171 and IC 223 at 1340 Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 104 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1615 and IC 224 at 1540 Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920

Calcutta Bangkok Arr (2 4 7) IC 232 at 1640 Arr (1 3 6) TG 313 at 1240 Dep (2 4 7) IC 231 at 1050 Dep (1 3 6) TG 314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro Dep (1 2 3 5 6) GQ 102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ 101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC 402 at 1710 Dep (7) IC 444 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210 Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640

Calcutta Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 07 and IC 274 at 18

Calcutta Madras Dep (daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Raipur Delhi Dep (1 3 5 6 7) IC 478 at 104 Arr (1 3 5 6 7) IC 477 at 1005

Calcutta Patna-Lucknow Ahmedabad Bombay Dep (1 3 5) IC 295 at 1400 Arr (1 3 5) IC 296 at 1725

Calcutta Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015

Calcutta Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC 287 at 054 Arr (1) IC 288 at 123

Calcutta Ranchi Patna Lucknow Delhi Dep (1 3 IC 410 at 1110 (2 4) at 08 0 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1100

Calcutta-Vizag Madras Dep (2 3 4 5 6 7) IC 542 at 0620 Arr (2 3 4 6 7) IC 41 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC 271 at 1720 Arr (daily) IC 272 at 2235

Calcutta Hyderabad Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 277 at 1445 Dep (3) IC 27 at 0630 Arr (1 2) IC 278 at 2215 Arr (4 6) IC 278 at 1915 Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1845 Arr (2) IC 270 at 2155

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Nagpur Hyderabad Dep (3 5 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta Bhubaneswar Nagpur Bombay Dep 4) IC 269 at 1800 Arr (1 IC 270 at 213

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1305 Arr (3 5 6) IC 281 at 1850

Calcutta Guwahati Dep (daily) IC 229 at 1320 Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC 203 at 0625 Dep (1 3 5) IC 249 at 1810 Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610 Arr (1 2 3 4 5 6) IC 204 at 1235 Arr (1 3 5) IC 250 at 2045

Calcutta Guwahati Tezpur-Jorhat Guwahati Calcutta Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705

Calcutta Guwahati-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) IC 201 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1040

Calcutta Silchar Imphal Dep 1 IC at 0 30 Dep (1 3 6 IC at 0 1 Arr (2 4 IC 6 t 1000 Arr 1 3 IC t at 124

Calcutta Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145 Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405

Calcutta Agartala Dep 1 IC 1 at 0610 1 IC 11 1140 Arr 1 IC 11 at 1 0 4 at 0810 1 IC 1 t 1040

Calcutta Agartala Silchar Dep (1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5) IC 238 at 1105

Calcutta Dibrugarh Dep (1 3 5) IC 201 at 0540 Arr 1 3 5) IC 202 at 0910

Calcutta Guwahati Dimapur Dep (7) IC 219 at 0625 Arr ( ) IC 220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong Dep (daily) PF 701 at 0930 Arr (daily) PF 702 at 1300

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar Dep (daily) PF 705 at 1030 Arr (daily) PF 706 at 1525

*** Calcutta-Aizawl** Dep (2 4 6) PF 705A at 1300 Arr (2 4 6) PF 706A at 1625

Calcutta Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5 7) PF 707 at 0610 Arr (1 3 5 7) PF 708 at 0910

Calcutta Rourkela Ranchi Ranchi Dep (2 4 6) PF 715 at 0555 Arr 2 4 6) PF 716 1010

Calcutta Jamshedpur D t

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600, Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-738 at 1235.
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5). PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-723/724 at 1915
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily). PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily)· PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily). PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues., Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon., & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon., Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues., Wed., Thurs Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues., Fri & Sat Arri —Tues., Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues., Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon., Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

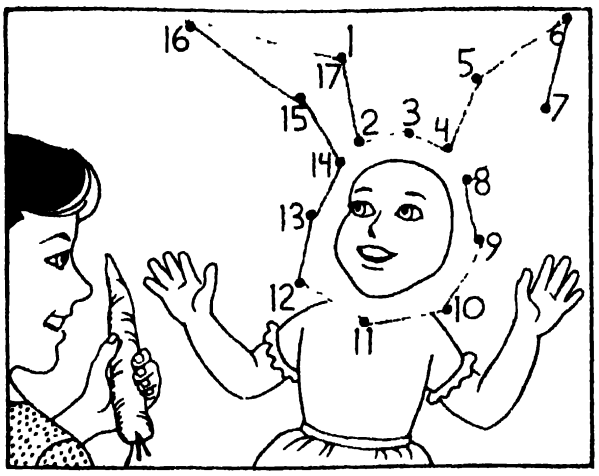
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12 50	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY — HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri & Sat Arri —Mon Tues Thurs Fri., & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
30	12 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21 50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
४52	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



GUESS WHO! Who would be interested in eating a carrot? Add lines from dot 1 to 2, to 3, etc., to complete scene.

• **CRACK CODE!** Decode this secret message, if you can PBMFE AAAAX CGKSI KSETT Clue Initial letters form word PACK Now go on.



PUZZLE OUT A POSY

Solve this verse riddle by puzzling out the name of an early spring flower letter by letter if you can

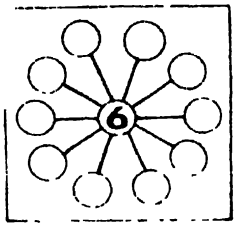
My first is in dog, but not in cat
My second's in coat, and also in hat
My third's in fall, but not in rise
My fourth's in fool, but not in wise
My fifth's in wrong, but not in right
My sixth's in day, but not in night
My seventh's in pig, but not in ham
My eighth's in jelly, but not in jam
What flower am I?

• **ELEVEN UP!** Challenge Insert missing numbers 1—11 in circles of the diagram below so that each row of three numbers in a straight line through centre totals 18

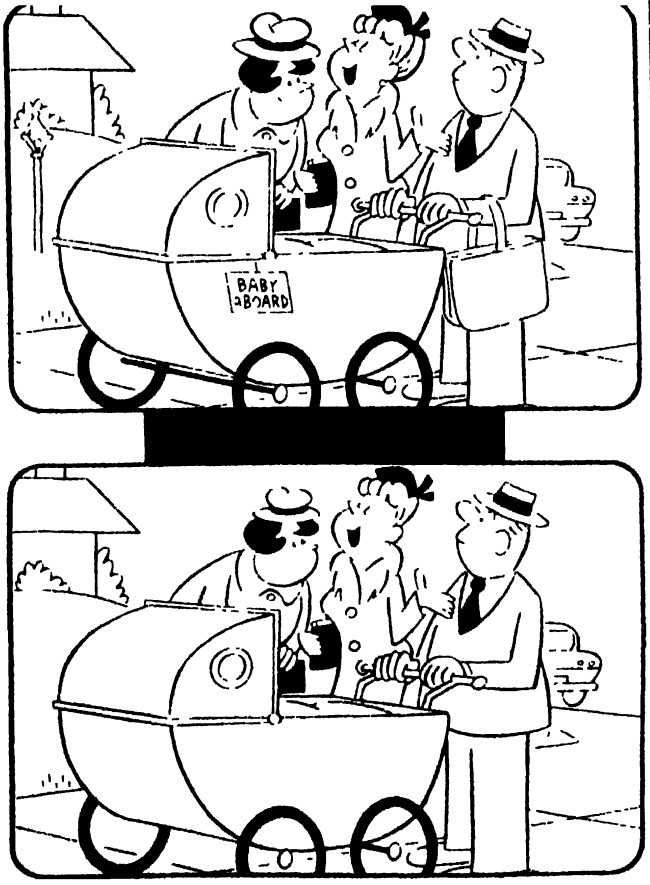
Six is already in place, so that adding the rest should be easy

Remember, object is for rows of three to total 18

Time limit One minute



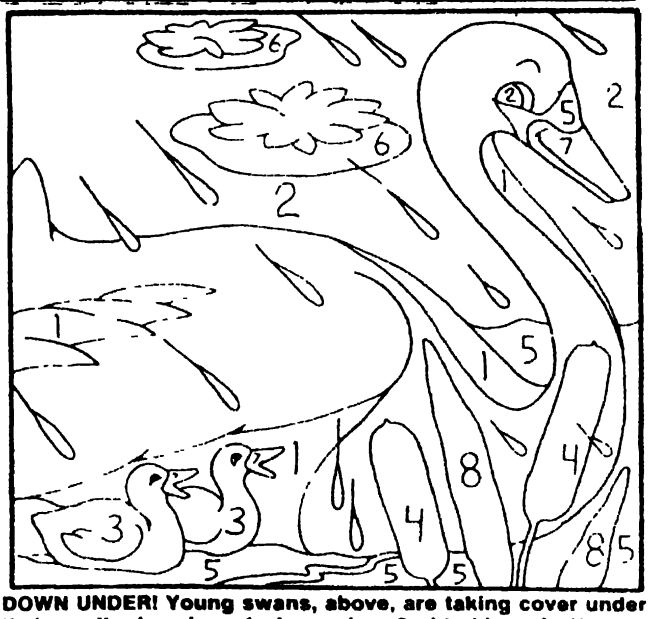
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Lamppost is missing 2 Axle is missing 3 Hat is different 4 Sign is missing 5 Hair is different 6 Diaper bag is missing

FUNSPOT



DOWN UNDER! Young swans, above, are taking cover under their mother's wing. 1—Lavender. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown. 5—Dk. blue. 6—Lt. Green. 7—Orange. 8—Dk green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

PROBABLE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Pole bare

From August 7 to August 13

INNER EYE □ Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES

March 21 — April 20

Money-power and consequently fire-power for you this week because of the moon s last quarter in your angle of family and finance Friends, wellwishers, your sweetheart and the boss will cheer and motivate you all the way, and very specially on Wednesday and Thursday This is the right week to buy and sell and get things done Go in for deals and transactions — and good food

TAURUS

April 21 — May 20

You could face health problems this week with the moon s last quarter in your sign A medical check-up is advisable It is time for you to start building your own house The emphasis on finances from last week carries over to this week

GEMINI

May 21 — June 20

A week of welcome contacts useful communication and travel You will be lucky on the draw Move fast, circulate, make calls, invite people over if possible and make sure to be a good listener Get set for an important journey either on or after the fourth Help money and guidance will easily come your way

CANCER

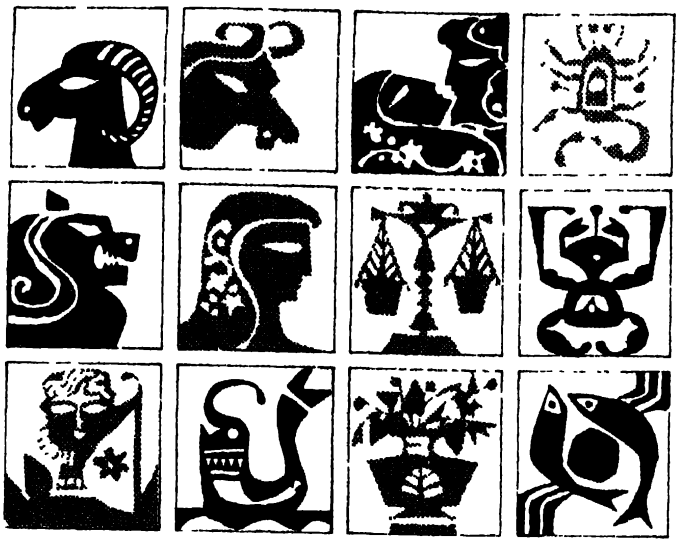
June 21 — July 20

Venus moves into your sign signifying luxury and comfort in plentitude Social meetings and get-togethers are also on the cards and with it, success Artists actors, traders, astrologers writers musicians, entrepreneurs and socialites get extra mileage A lucky break could be expected on Thursday Businessmen are in for important deals

LEO

July 21 — August 21

Mercury trine Saturn indicates more power to your elbow this week and success in ventures A tremendous inner drive will bring you triumph—and added responsibilities Elders, parents and in-laws, however may give you an awkward time on account of their health, viewpoints and obstinacy There may be wedding bells for the fancyfree or at least an engagement



VIRGO

August 22 - Sept 22

Journeys and ceremonies and publicity for you this week as moon sextiles sun Once again you will have to work very very hard The end of the week will be crucial for personal affairs and the beginning for the family and friendships Travel and communication are slated for mid-week

BIRTHDAYS

August 7

Moon trine sun Success and popularity will come your way. Help and guidance will be forthcoming as well You will be able to resolve disputes Children will give satisfaction Time to launch new ventures A good phase for those in sales, communication, management and teaching

August 8

Moon opposition, later conjunction Venus· You may have to struggle against odds but success is possible in the end You will require grit and imagination Your children and your hobbies will give you joy and sorrow

August 9

Moon trine Pluto, opposition Neptune Expenses will bore holes in your purse It may be due to the family or property. Buying and selling is a salient feature of this birth-year A change in the nature or the scope of your work likely

August 10

Mercury trine Uranus: Housewives, chefs and hoteliers will be in their element. A shift or a transfer is possible. Journeys and ceremonies will eat into your time and your funds this year Parents and elders will play an important part in your life Hopes may well be realised

August 11

Mercury trine Uranus Sudden good fortune, romance, new contacts in store for you Personal posers and relationships will have to be resolved, but you will definitely succeed Journeys and collaborations on the cards But with persistence you should come out strong and confident

August 12

New moon in Leo The new moon signifies new and happy ventures It is also a time to begin afresh Those in travel, trade, acting, dancing, management and science will be in the limelight Friends will give you much-needed support Children will bring you joy You should socialise more and reach out to people and places

August 13

Moon trine Saturn-Uranus. Triumph is certain for you this birth-year You will entertain, socialise, win laurels and be kind to others, too Hobbies, teaching, the arts, children and grandchildren will be sources of delight Travel will have its attractions and advantages as well.

LIBRA

Sept 23 -- Oct 22

Financial matters and investments compete for your time with travel and education That means it's a busy schedule Thursday and Friday are the crucial days—for making transactions, asking for favours, promotions or rewards Entertainment and amusement are also on the cards

SCORPIO

Oct 23 - Nov 22

Will it be love or property? You spend the week vacillating between the two A legal confrontation is not ruled out Mars and Pluto, your main planets help you to go in for a change of job or a promotion

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 — Dec 20

Concentrate on your work, but do not neglect the claims of your family members rituals or necessary travel Thursday and Friday are red-letter days But there is a good chance of your achieving quite a bit Take care of your health

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 19

You can look forward to an enjoyable mix of fun and finance this week Romancing, public relations, socials and meetings on the cards The rest of the week will focus on money-making — funds, investments, loans and the like Dreams may prove prophetic There may be some hard work awaiting you

AQUARIUS

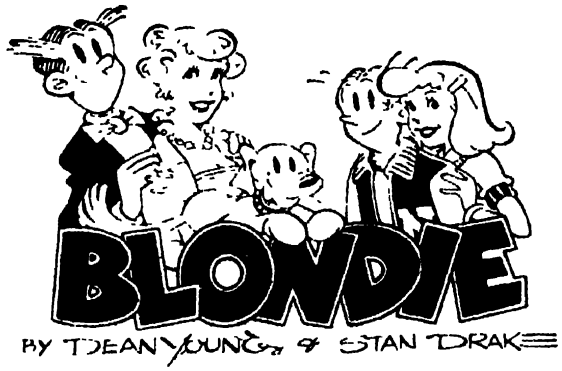
Jan 20 -- Feb 18

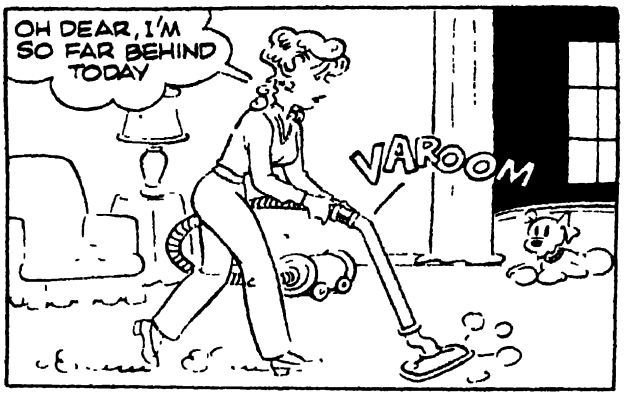
Personal problems, home and property affairs and overvaulting ambition may all preoccupy you this week A job switch is likely There may be significant collaborations or partnerships.

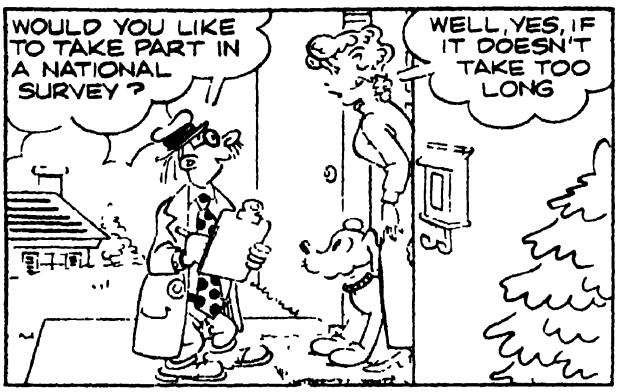
PISCES

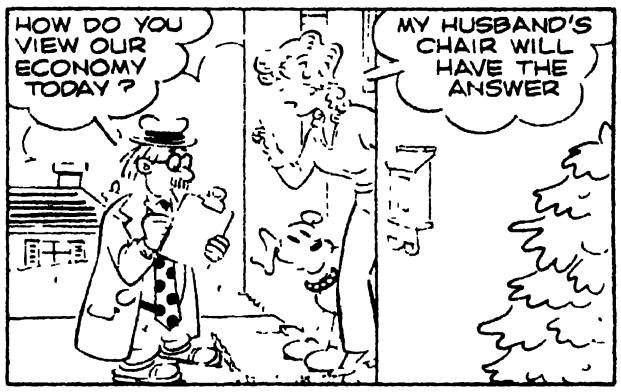
Feb 19 -- March 20

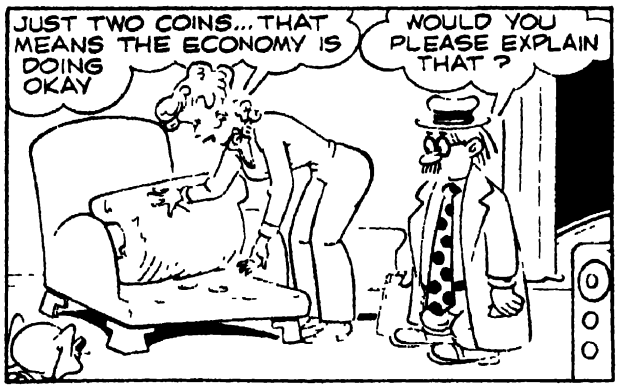
Expense and health problems will continue to plague you But you will succeed in an enterprise You will be communicating and corresponding this week with great imaginative brilliance as well as pragmatism, and thus you can be sure of success. You may take off to a flamboyant start in the beginning of the week but later on,the pressures may prove a bit too much.

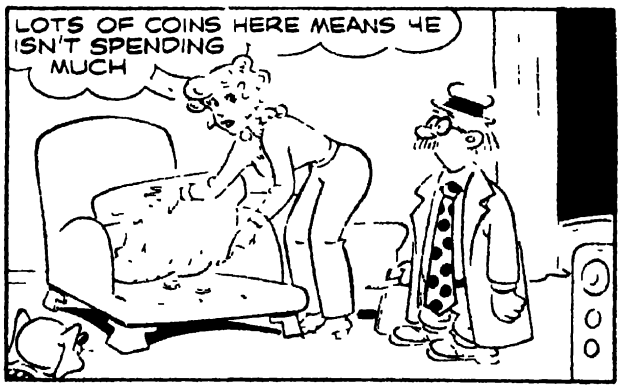


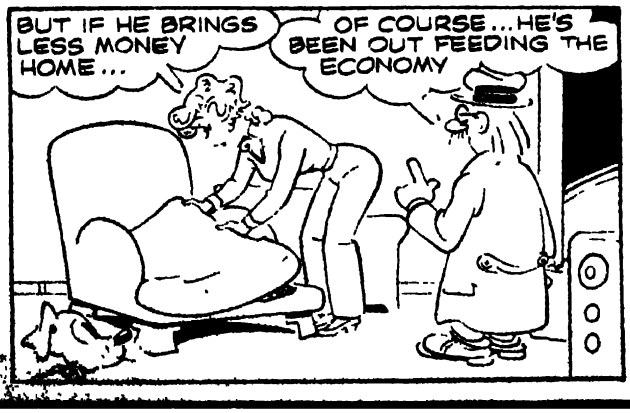




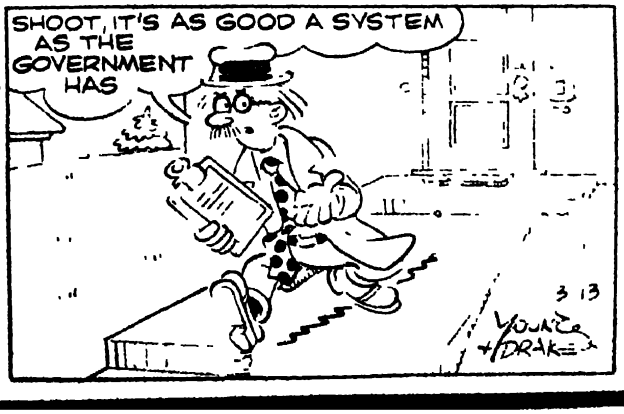








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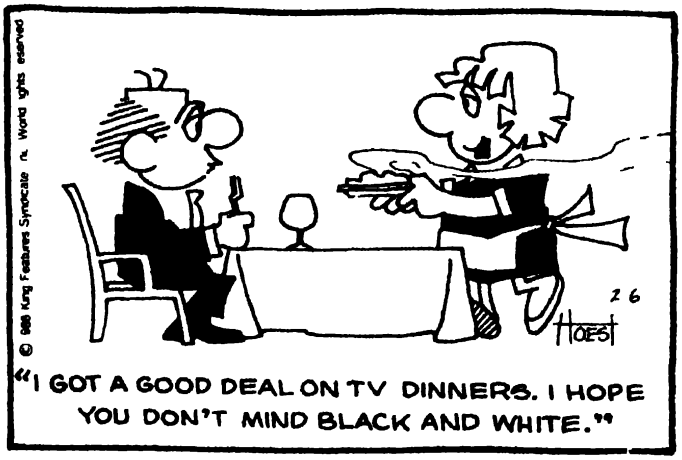


HE-MAN By G. Forton and J. Shull

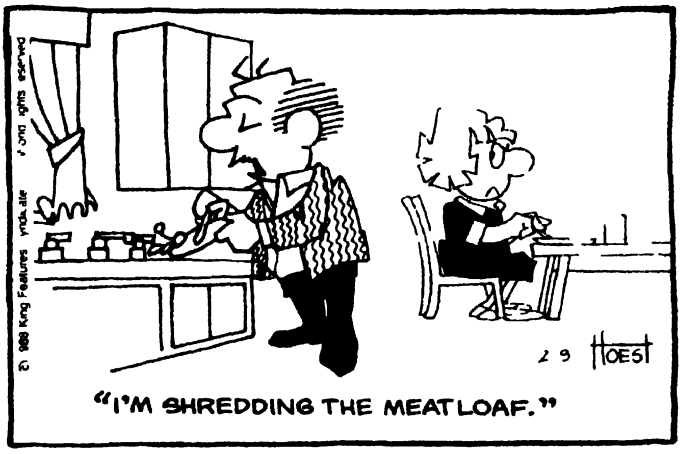


THE LOCKHORNS

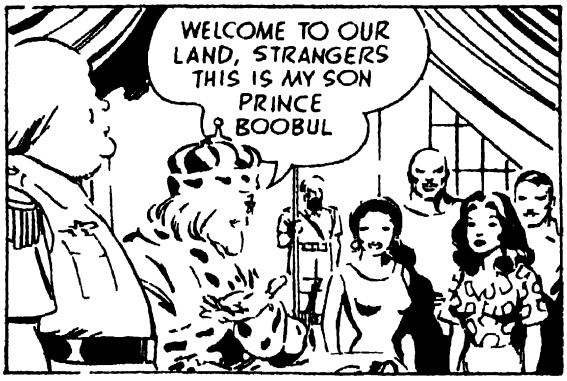






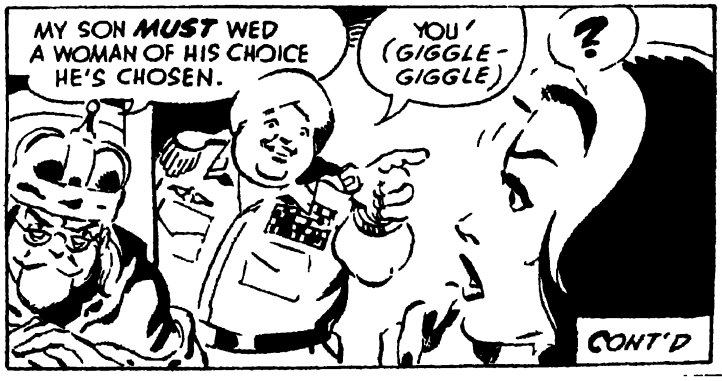


MANDRAKE By Lee Falk

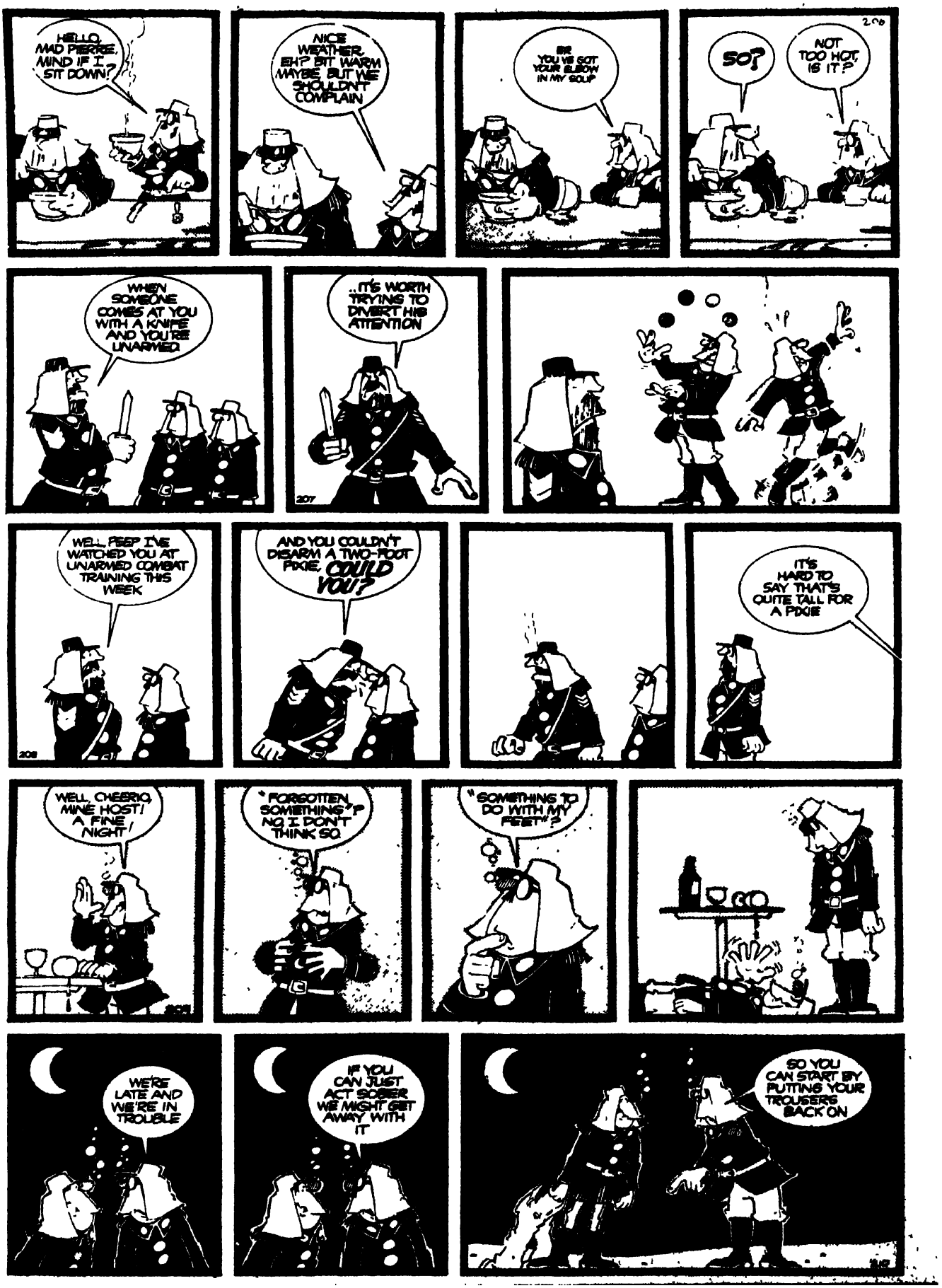








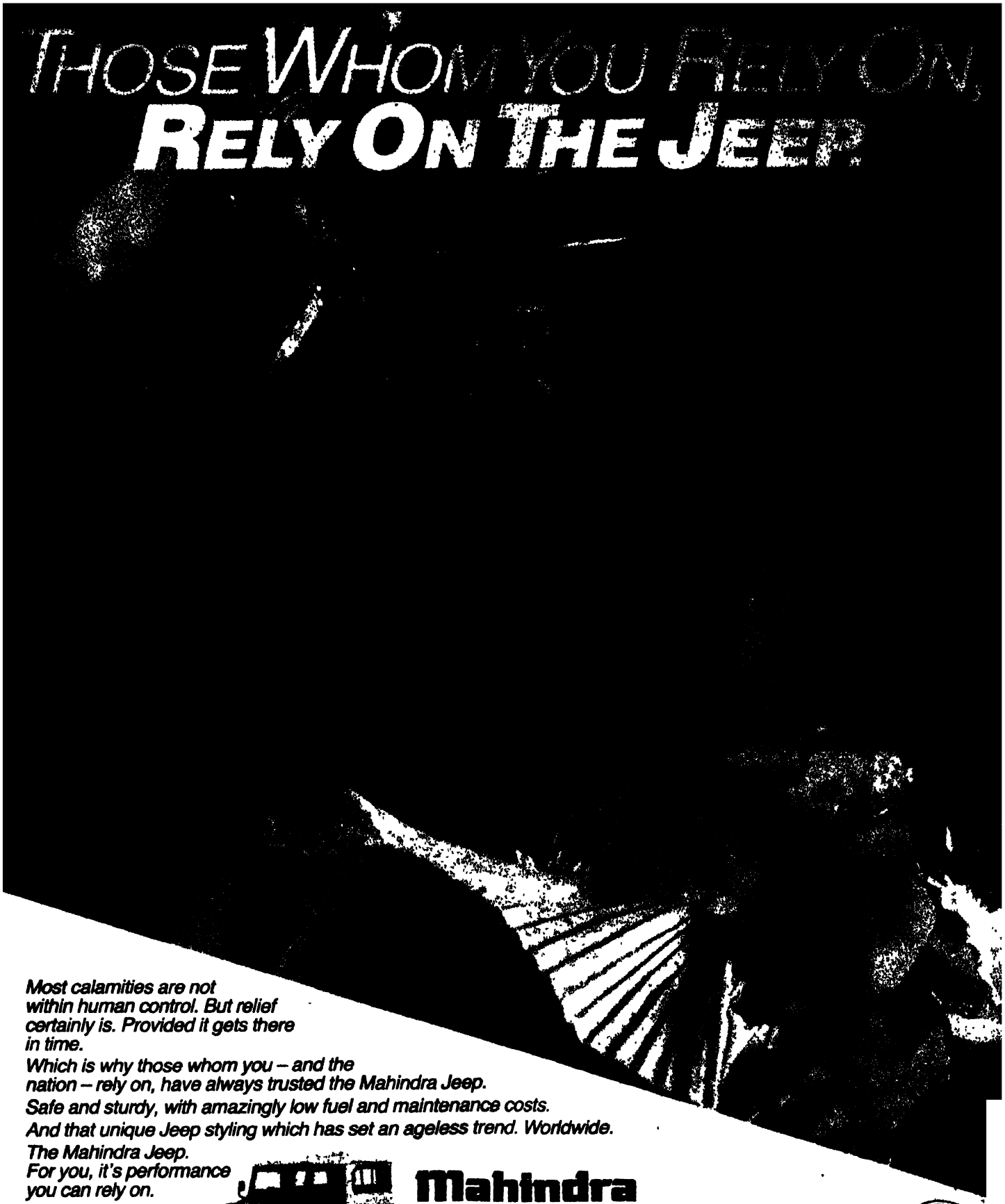
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


GOING WINTER FISHING WAS A GOOD IDEA, ARCHIE!
BUT BRINGING THE CANOE WASN'T!
WHAT'S THAT, POP?
A PHOTO OF A FISH VIC SMITH CAUGHT IN FLORIDA!
R
HE SENDS ME PICTURES OF HIS BIG CATCHES JUST TO IRK ME!
LEMME SEE!
WOW! WHAT A WHOPPER! ALL YOU CAN SEE IS ITS EYE!
HOW VICTOR DOES IT I DON'T KNOW!
BOB'S BOAT RENTALS
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PHOTOGRAPH THAT FISH, MR SMITH?
1-31
YUP! IT'LL REALLY BUG FRED ANDREWS! BRING THE CAMERA IN REAL CLOSE!
CLOSER, CLOSER, CLOSER! GOOD! NOW SNAP IT!
WAIT TILL FRED SEES THIS ONE!
CLICK!
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THOSE WHOM YOU RELY ON, RELY ON THE JEEP.



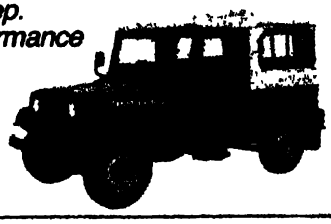
Most calamities are not within human control. But relief certainly is. Provided it gets there in time.

Which is why those whom you – and the nation – rely on, have always trusted the Mahindra Jeep.

Safe and sturdy, with amazingly low fuel and maintenance costs.

And that unique Jeep styling which has set an ageless trend. Worldwide.

The Mahindra Jeep.
For you, it's performance you can rely on.



Mahindra Jeep®

Performance you can rely on.

THERE IS NO OTHER JEEP MADE IN INDIA

Others, Too

If the intention of the writer of 'Future Tense' (May 29) was only to project the image of IIM, Calcutta, somehow, I have nothing to say. If it was to point out its role in the developing economy of the country, then it can fairly be said that it is virtually a superfluous institute. If the MBAs of IIM(C) have introduced professionalism in the industry, then it can be presumed that products of the cost institute, the institute of chartered accountants and company secretaries and various engineering colleges have played no role in the many decades that have gone by.

One of the oldest institutes of management is Sanval's in Calcutta, now known as IISWBM. Products of this institute are holding top ranking posts in many industries at present. How could the writer forget them?

Also, most of the IIM(C) graduates are already professionally qualified (engineers or accountants) and as such its role in rearing professional managers is negligible. These brilliant boys would have done equally well if provided with books on modern management.

T.K. Das,
Calcutta.

■ Did you not find it necessary or worthwhile to write about the opinions or position of any female IIM(C) graduate?

K. Rukmani,
Calcutta

The Cancer Stick

'Stop Now Before it Kills' (July 17) had a tremendous impact on my elder brother, a prodigious smoker. He took an oath to give up smoking. Till he arrived at the last page, carrying the photograph of a smart young man enjoying a good smoke in an advertisement. He lit a cigarette immediately.

Sumit Kumar Dutta,
Calcutta

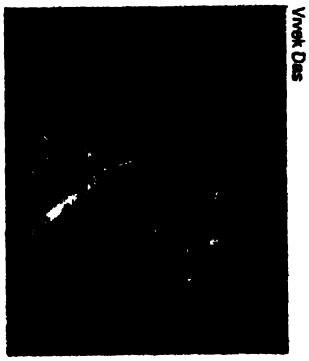
■ It is a noble gesture that the *Reader's Digest* refuses to print tobacco related advertisements. Other media should follow the example

Javed Nishat,
Calcutta

■ The censor board should ban films showing anyone smoking on the screen, even the villain.

Sunil Singhania,
Calcutta

■ Your cover could be used as an advertisement against smoking. Readers should cut out the page and



Vivek Das

paste it outside their homes and clubs

Faiz Anwar,
Calcutta

■ The government should extend the statutory warning to *bidis* and *zarda*. But I don't think a ban on smoking will be successful.

Pradeep Kumar Padhi,
Berhampur (Orissa)

■ I am a high school student and 90 per cent of my friends smoke. They know the risks and yet place the cancer stick between their lips. West Bengal should follow the example of Maharashtra and take strong steps to curb smoking.

Arijit Roy Choudhury,
Calcutta

■ Smokers never realise the discomfort they cause to non-smokers when they smoke in a public place. They never bother to listen to requests not to smoke and when I have made such a request, I have been asked to go elsewhere. This has happened even in local trains and minibuses.

K.K. Chakraborty,
Calcutta

Food in Calcutta

After having a delicious meal in a Calcutta restaurant, out of curiosity I took a look at the water tank, hidden from general view. I found that the plates in which we had our meals were being washed in the water entering the tank from the basin—this was being done under the excuse of water scarcity. I believe all food in Calcutta is unhygienic; so why blame the *puchkawalas* alone ('Delicious Dirt', July 10)?

Subhrajit De,
Chandannagar (W.B.)

Touching

Hemlata Thawani's short story (July 10) was touching. I hope you publish more such stories

Babita Saraf,
Calcutta

Art and the Family

With reference to the extracts from *Essence of Indian Art* (July 3), please avoid printing such pictures that cannot be seen with family members.

(Illegible),
Jharia (Dhanbad)

Unsporting?

The Colour Magazine covers everything but sports. If you can give two pages of cinema news (7 Days) and five pages of comics, why can't you give one page of sports regularly? It is very unsporting of you.

P. Pradhan,
Burnpur

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14 AUGUST 1988



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'IT'S BEST TO WIPE THE TEARS'

Begum Abdullah remembers the Kashmir of 1947



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follow

Her marriage with Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was "arranged", she says. But given Akbar Jehan's background there can be no doubt that the marriage was not without her consent Harry Nedou, like many outsiders, fell in love with the magic mountains of Kashmir and a pretty Kashmiri girl, Mirjan He converted to Islam, took the name of Sheikh Ahmed Hussain, and settled down in the valley Their daughter Akbar Jehan studied at an English school in Murree, and at home her mother, a pious lady, gave her lessons from the Koran and the Hadith A Muslim saint from Kabul, Mohiuddin Sahib became her spiritual leader In short Akbar Jehan was very different from the women of her times

And it was this difference perhaps, that attracted her to the work the Sheikh had dedicated his life to At their first meeting at Nedou's house in Srinagar, she remembers the young Abdullah warning her of the consequences of marrying someone who had chosen a life where sometimes one can have the comforts of a throne and sometimes one has to face even the gallows She had told him then, You are fighting for the cause of Islam and I am prepared for every kind of sacrifice to help you in your struggle ' And she kept her word

It was the mid-1940s Troubled times Soon after the meeting at Nedou's house Sheikh Abdullah was arrested The reason raising a revolt against the Dogra Maharaja of Kashmir The autocratic Dogra Hindu rulers led a repressive regime and the Sheikh and his National Conference (NC) were fighting for the people's rights against injustice and discrimination, specially against the Muslims

Sheikh Abdullah spent more than six months in jail on this occasion Akbar Jehan wrote to him regularly They were married at Gulmarg soon after his release After World War II things moved at a faster pace, the Begum recalls. The NC members grew restive The Cabinet Mission came to India in 1946 with a view to working out a plan for independence. But the secular states were to have restricted freedom and the voice of Kashmir, it was clear, would not reach the British ear The NC launched a "Quit Kashmir" campaign directed against the Dogra Maharaja and his hated prime minister. But Maharaja Hari Singh not only refused to leave Kashmir but put all the NC leaders including Sheikh Abdullah, behind bars Begum Abdullah walked out of the security of her house and moved from village to village to "light the candle of hope."

'In the light of Kashmir's history of intolerance and autocratic rule right up to the country's independence, it is only natural that its freedom movement would stress democratic and secular ideals in its politics'

And she was the light of hope not only for her people but for her husband, too "My wife proved herself a true and dedicated life partner, both at home and outside it she tried to put my tumultuous and uproarious life in order She was wholly responsible for the upkeep of the house. During my trial times her steadfastness became a fountainhead of power and a source of inspiration for me," the Sheikh wrote in his autobiography *Aatish-e-Chinar*

The Congress leaders visited Kashmir



Jawaharlal Nehru with Sheikh Abdullah

'WHOEVER TALKED OF FREEDOM WAS

Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah speaks to Yusuf Jameel

What was it about Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah that you found most attractive? His personality or his political views?

Both his personality and his political views impressed me.

Would his political activity ever come in the way of his family life?

He was an ideal husband, but his absence from home and his political activities did create a vacuum for us. My children were small and we had no house to live in. A teacher, a Mr Madan of the Tyndale Biscoe Memorial School in Srinagar where my children were admitted, helped me a lot. He rented a house at Gagribal in Srinagar for us. I also faced difficulties in feeding my children during Bakshi's (prime minister Bakshi Gulam Muhammad) Pretoria-like regime when all kinds of atrocities were being inflicted on the people, and whoever talked of freedom was being victimised.

But it is said Bakshi Sahib helped you a lot and even extended financial assistance to your children to study in Jaipur and abroad while your husband was in jail.

They got the educational loans from the state government like other boys. We had to refund the money later. They received no special treatment and Bakshi did not spend a penny from his own pocket.

Was it glamorous to be the prime minister's wife? (Before 1953 the head of government in Jammu and Kashmir was called prime minister).

In the era you are referring to, the situation in and around the subcontinent was so fluid and unstable that being the prime minister's wife was a demanding and exacting job. There was hardly any glamour to it.

How did you feel when Sheikh Sahib was dismissed from prime ministership and detained on August 9, 1953?

Utterly disillusioned by colleagues and betrayed by a trusted friend.

Who was this trusted friend?

Panditji.

Whom do you hold responsible for the 1953 coup—Sheikh Sahib himself, his colleagues within the National Conference and the government or the central leaders?

Some of his colleagues like Bakshi Gulam Muhammad and Shyam Lal Saraf in collusion with the central leadership hatched the conspiracy.

Was Jawaharlal Nehru among them?

Some of the people who were near to him put things to him which were absolutely baseless but this made him approve the coup. Personally he is not much to be blamed.

Did you complain to Jawaharlal Nehru when you met him after the 1953 incident? What was his feeling about the dismissal and detention?

I never complained to him personally. But I did visit him much later in 1964. Earlier Panditji told me that Sheikh Sahib would soon be coming home. But when Sheikh Sahib himself was asked to go to Pakistan to talk to that country's leadership soon after his release in 1964, Panditji told him that



Akbar Jehan Abdullah, 1959

he was sorry for what had happened and that he had no knowledge of the real thing.

Was he asked to take a special formula to the Pakistani leaders?

He had gone to Pakistan to see how tension between the two countries could be eased. Sheikh Sahib was a trustworthy person and Panditji felt he could deliver the goods But, unfortunately, he passed away while Sheikh Sahib was still in Pakistan.

What do you feel about the political stand taken by Sheikh Sahib between the 1953 coup and the early seventies?

Later events have vindicated his stand in 1953. It was only a reminder to the central leadership of the promises they had made earlier. There was no question of his shifting from the stand he had taken in 1939 or 1947. You know it was due to his personal friendship with Gandhiji and Panditji that Sheikh Sahib had Article 370 incorporated in the Indian Constitution which guards the interests of the Kashmiris to this date.

Did Sheikh Sahib's patch-up with the Centre, which ultimately led to his return to power in 1975, amount to his surrendering to the Centre as is felt by many people here?

Change of political strategy does not mean surrender. The outcome of the 1971 war did dictate a change in political strategy in Kashmir.

Had the Pakistani authorities or someone on their behalf consulted you or informed you about the 1965 infiltration as claimed by certain people on both sides of the border?

At the time of infiltration we were living in exile in Kodaikanal. So the question of the Pakistanis consulting us does not arise at all.

Would the Pakistani operation have succeeded if the local leadership in Kashmir had cooperated with them?

I do not think the Pakistanis asked for the cooperation of the local leadership and as a result their operation failed and the move proved stupid.

Many people feel the National Conference won the 1977 Assembly elections as a result of its "playing up" Sheikh Sahib's illness....

Illness is not a thing to be played up. In fact, the news of Sheikh Sahib's illness was supressed. Free elections were a condition of his accord with Mrs Gandhi. It was for his popular political and economic beliefs that the people gave him a two-third majority in 1977. You do not get that kind of a majority by playing up this or that emotion. After all, voters are no fools.

It is said the Sheikh Sahib of 1975 was not the Sheikh Sahib of 1931 or 1947. What do you feel?

Yes, of course, he was not the same. In 1975 he was a far more matured and experienced politician than he was in 1931 or 1947.

Was it a right move to choose Dr Farooq Abdullah as Sheikh Sahib's successor? Mr Ghulam Muhammad Shah says the late leader had only regrets about his identifying Farooq Sahib as his successor and as the

VICTIMISED'

National Conference president. It is also alleged that he had once said, "He (Farooq Abdullah) refuses to grow."

Farooq was elected the party president at a three-day National Conference convention in Iqbal Park, Srinagar, and Mr Shah himself joined the procession with Farooq as party president at the end of the convention Of course, Sheikh Sahib did not live long enough to judge Farooq.

Was his dismissal on July 2, 1984,a result of a family feud?

The Centre unfortunately succeeded in using the family to remove him, but for his political views. You see it is only a question of what kind of a person you use at what time. Earlier in 1953 they used Bakshi, this time Shah was used for the same purpose.

Shah used to hold you in high esteem. Did you not attempt to stop him from ousting Farooq Abdullah?

Shah used clandestine methods and I was caught unawares.

Was his dismissal in 1986 arbitrary or did he deserve it?

He was removed the way he came in. You must have a political record to stay somewhere.

Is he still at a distance?

Yes, but Khalida (*his wife and the Begum's daughter*) came to see me when I fell ill last year. She tried to explain her viewpoint.

It is believed you played a role in bridging the gulf created between Farooq Abdullah and Rajiv Gandhi. Was that out of a mother's affection or did you want to safeguard the party's interests?

Both of them are like my sons, and if a mother's affection could bring the two together in the interests of the state and the country, I am happy for my role.

Should not Farooq Abdullah have asked for fresh elections instead of accepting a return to power at the head of the National Conference-Congress(I) coalition government in November 1986?

The elections held soon after the accord were a part of it and the National Conference and Congress(I) coalition was devised keeping in view that the past bickerings between the two parties had proved harmful both politically and economically.

Was it wise to contest the elections jointly with the Congress(I), and what about the Muslim United Front which made it a bit difficult for the National Conference to sail through on its own as in the past?

Some disgruntled elements in the state Congress(I) combined with the defectors to make things difficult for us in the name of the Muslim United Front. But we sailed smoothly through in spite of them.

Is it true that the National Conference is rife with dissension today? Is the party today different from what it was in Sheikh Sahib's time?

Not at all. There is no dissension But in a democratic set-up within the party everybody is entitled to his viewpoint. To some degree, the party today is different from the National Conference of Sheikh Sahib After all, there are a lot more younger people in it today. They are learning and stabilising and we like to encourage them.

Is it true that several pages of Sheikh Sahib's autobiography were deleted because you did not find them fit to publish while Farooq Abdullah's rapprochement talks with the Centre were still in the initial stage? When will these pages be published?

'Both of them (Rajiv and Farooq) are like my sons, and if a mother's affection could bring the two together in the interests of the state and the country I am happy for my role'

The deletion talk is not correct I have not changed an iota in his autobiography but a small portion pertaining to the post-1977 period is withheld and shall be published soon enough

Will you contest elections again and are you satisfied with your performance as an MP?

I have yet to think it over, and I am happy as an MP.

Or would you rather do social work and give up politics after your term expires?

I am doing social work even now. After all social work is a part of political life. But it is quite possible that I may contest again and simultaneously continue to do social work.

one after the other to plead on behalf of the imprisoned Sheikh The Congress president, Acharya Kripalani, who arrived in Srinagar in May 1947, even warned the Maharaja that he "would have trouble afterwards" if he did not join the Indian Union The Maharaja was reluctant He told the visiting Congress leaders that Sheikh Abdullah was a troublemaker and it was dangerous to let him loose And Hari Singh was still vacillating between joining either India or Pakistan

And then in August 1947, Gandhi came. Begum Abdullah's eyes light up at the memory The Mahatma met both the Maharaja and his prime minister and he made no political statements. But when Maharani Tara Devi offered him a cup of milk at his specially constructed ashram at Srinagar, he did not touch the golden goblet He asked what it was The Maharani told him that it was the local custom that whenever a rishi visited, the rani should walk up to him barefeet and present him a cup of milk Gandhi simply said her, "*Beti, jis raja ki praja dukhee ho, Gandhi uska doodh nahi peeta*"(Daughter, Gandhi does not drink the milk of a royal household whose people are unhappy).

With Begum Abdullah the Mahatma was very different He visited the Sheikh's house at Soura, told the Begum she was like his daughter and sympathised with the miseries of the people she recounted to him The Mahatma was successful where his Congress colleagues failed The Sheikh was released and Ramchand Kak removed as prime minister

The Begum vividly remembers the prayer meeting at which Gandhi declared "Kashmir after the end of British paramountcy will have to join either India or Pakistan" And how he had added that it was the will of the Kashmiris that was supreme when it came to choosing between the two dominions and the Maharaja

"Those were days I can never forget I made it a point to join each and every one of his prayer meetings He often asked me to recite the holy Koran There were readings from the Gita and other religious books too We felt at peace The meetings would also give us a lot of encouragement to fight evil and to fight injustice," she says

What struck the Begum most about the Mahatma was that he always meant what he said It was a time when practically the entire subcontinent was in flames and in the violence and arson in Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah held the torch of secularism high This greatly impressed Gandhi. Begum Abdullah recounts how he told the people that the Sheikh's way was the correct way- it was the politics of brotherhood, unity between Hindus and Muslims

The NC programme for a "Naya Kashmir" was underlined by a liberal-secular approach to politics -- very different from the attitude of the Muslim League and the Muslim Conference supporters who stressed the needs of Muslims alone The constitution envisaged under the Naya Kashmir programme was to grant equality to all citizens irrespective of religion, race or place of birth. "In the light of Kashmir's history of intolerance and autocratic rule right up to the country's independence, it is only natural that its freedom movement would stress liberal and secular ideals in politics," asserts Begum Abdullah

Those were difficult days, according to the Begum. "The instrument of accession had already been signed by Hari Singh on Lord Mountbatten's insistence that it be a precondition for military aid to fight any raids from Pakistan. The situation at the time was very fluid and unstable. I was deeply involved in giving what little comfort I could to the suffering Kashmiris They referred to me affectionately as *Madr-e-Mahrban* (benevolent mother) It was in this way that the whole of Kashmir and its people became my family and I have done everything possible to prove worthy of that faith "

Sheikh Adbullah was released after almost 16 months of imprisonment 'His coming home was a happy event for us and more so for the people of Kashmir " Then came the tribal raids from Pakistan "They embarked on their wanton journey of arson, pillage and plunder. When the news reached Srinagar many panicked, and not the least in the governing circles. Sheikh Sahib was asked to handle the crisis I did my part, too I organised the Red Cross movement in Kashmir and moved around helping afflicted people round the clock I had to go to Jammu later to restore to their families women who had been kidnapped by Hindu communalists That was a challenging job and I did my best to wipe the tears I remember Lady Mountbatten was highly impressed by the work I did."

'I wish the people of India would...try and revoke the spirit that was behind our freedom struggle. Unless the democratic and secular ideals of those days return to our day-to-day activity the dream of secular India which Gandhiji had seen cannot be translated into reality'

Maharaja Hari Singh, finally unnerved, fled to Jammu leaving behind his panicking people. But Sheikh Sahib remained steadfast and made sure that not a single Hindu was harmed by local communalists or by the raiders. Gandhiji saw the beacon of hope only in Kashmir—the Kashmir of Sheikh Sahib—when bloodshed and communal frenzy had enveloped the rest of the country.

"There have been many changes since then, changes that make me feel that after Gandhiji's passing away the thinking of the people at the helm of affairs in India has changed gradually The kind of spirit one would feel earlier while sitting or working with that noble soul is missing now, I wish the people in India would once again try and revoke the spirit that was behind our freedom struggle Unless we go back to those principles, which I believe is not so easy, and the secular and democratic ideals of those days return to our day-to-day activity, the dream, the dream of secular India with peace and prosperity visible in each and every part of the country which Gandhiji had seen, cannot be translated into reality The present young leadership does want peace and prosperity but a lot has to be done to achieve the aim," says Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah wistfully

Yusuf Jameel

BARTER BANK

• **Stereo system** and **wristwatch:** I offer a new BPL Sanyo two-in-one four speaker stereo system and a Sanyo quartz gold gents wristwatch for a 165 litre refrigerator or 35 mm SLR camera Write to Subrata Biswas, Works administration, Stone India Limited, 16, Taratatalla Road, Calcutta 88

• **Guitar:** I offer a Hawaiian guitar for a Spanish guitar in good condition Contact Viraj Gurwaran, 12/1, Palm Avenue, Ballygunge, Calcutta 19

• **Headphones** and **washing machine:** I offer a pair of Sonodyne headphones and a washing machine in good condition for anything of corresoponding value. Contact Ajit Bajoria, c/o Naveen Enterprises, 55, Ezra Street, Calcutta 1.

• **Video Cassettes:** I offer some original video cassettes for anything of corresponding value. Contact Moheet Gupta, HM Colony, No 130, PO Hindmotor, Pin 712233

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's elite course including the YG File for the IIT entrance examinations, 1987, for anything of corresponding value Contact Amitabha Talukdar, 21, Jatin Bagchi Road, Flat 1-D, Calcutta 29

• **Stamps, magazines** and **first day covers:** I offer 400 foreign stamps, 11 issues of *Span*, and five Indian first day covers for a Walkman or a calculator or a pair of headphones in good condition Contact Manish Shroff, 34, Bartolla Street, Calcutta 7

• **Cassette:** I offer Amrik Singh Arora's cassette on Bengali folk songs for an EMI cassette by Vilayat Khan (sitar) and Bismillah Khan (shehnai) in good condition Contact A.K Basu, 12, Swami Vivekananda Road, Howrah 1

• **Study material:** I offer ICSE text and reference books for anything of corresponding value Contact Dipesh Bhise, 28, Woodlands, 8/7, Alipore Road, Calcutta 27

• **Novel:** I offer *Hunter's Moon* by Margaret Way for any other Mills and Boon novel Write to Ritasi Mitra, Qr no G 59, Sector 2, Rourkela, Dist Sundargarh, Orissa, Pin 769006

• **Musical instrument organ** and **mouth organ:** I offer a PT-20 Casio musical instrument organ and a Chinese mouth organ for any of the following portable black and white television, Yashica electro 35 or any other SLR camera, stereo cassette or record player, video game and racing cycle with gears Contact S Sen, 75 1, S N.C. Lane, Calcutta 35

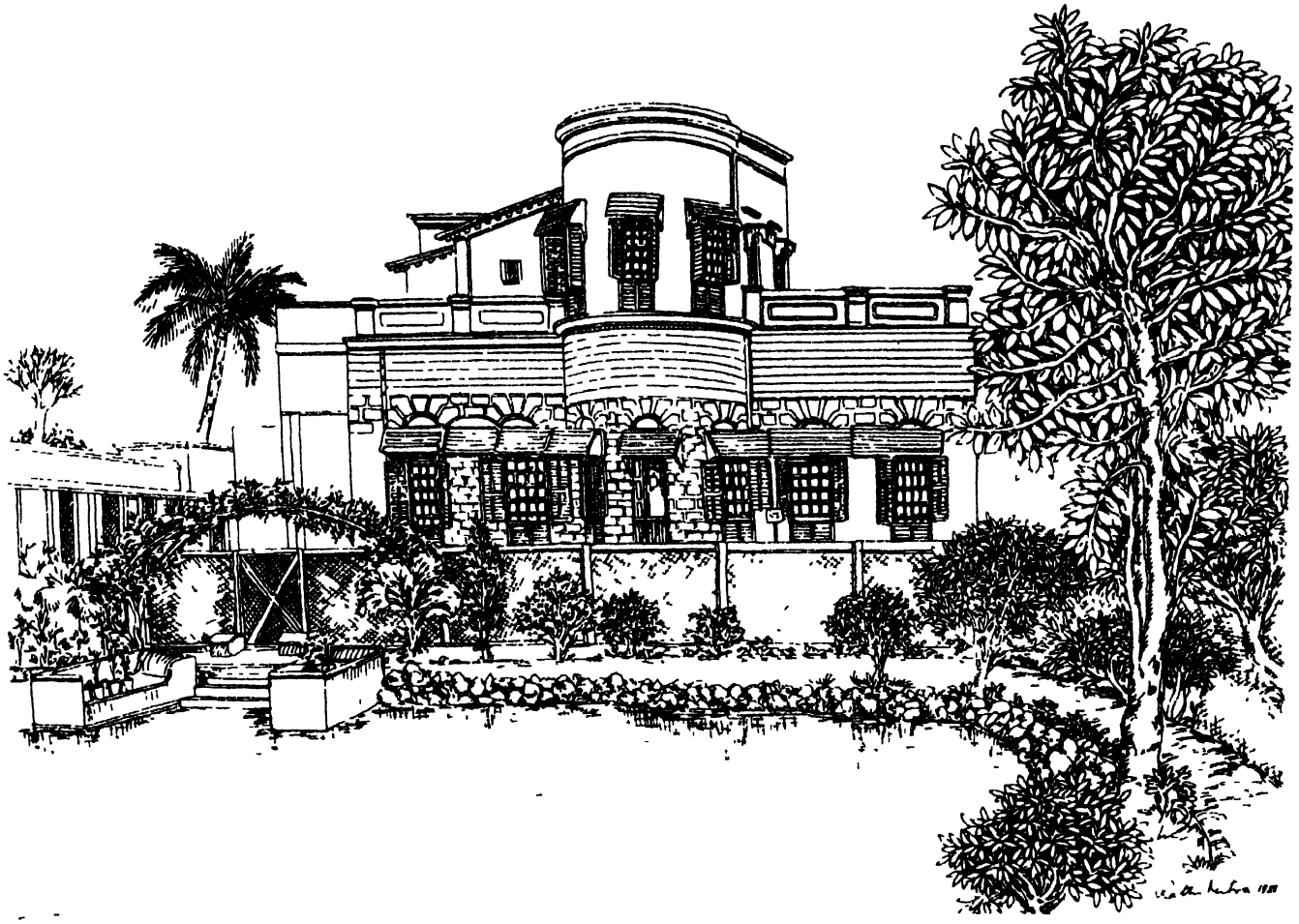
• **Walkman:** I offer a Japanese stereo Walkman with headphones for a Hot Shot camera or anything of corresponding value. Contact Pankaj Bhatia, fifth floor, 9 3, Hungerford Street, Calcutta 17

• **Movie projector, movie camera, stabiliser** and **camera:** I offer a Japanese movie projector (8 mm, fujicascope M-3), Super 8 and regular, a Japanese movie camera with flash light, a stabiliser and an Agfa camera for a VCR or VCP Write to Nawal K Saxena, Kishore Bros 23/24, Radha Bazar Street, Calcutta 1.

• **Moped:** I offer a Hero Majestic moped in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact R.K. Agarwala, c/o Interlink, 10, Middleton Street, Calcutta 71.

• **Wristwatch:** I offer a Citizen quartz wristwatch for a Sanyo Walkman with headphones or a Kodak camera with flash. Write to Praveen Jain, 64, Suburban Park Road, Howrah 711101.

COSSIPORE GARDEN HOUSE



Situated on the main road that connects Baghazar with Baranagar in north Calcutta, the Garden House (sketched above) at Cossipore was originally owned by Gopal Chandra Ghose, son-in-law of Rani Katyani. He let it to Sri Ramakrishna's devotees initially for six months at a monthly rent of Rs 80. The lease was then extended by another three months. The Garden House, which measures over 11 bighas, was acquired by the Belur Math authorities after Sri Ramakrishna's death, the northern portion was purchased on May 25, 1916 and the southern part in June 1949.

Sri Ramakrishna came to live in this Garden House on December 11, 1885. It was here that he moulded Swami Vivekananda's life, he placed the young devotees under his charge and instructed him on how to guide them. It was also here that Swamiji attained the height of spiritual refinement, and the Advaitic experience was transmitted to him by Sri Ramakrishna. He gave saffron cloth and *rudraksha* beads to some of his disciples, thus performing a special ritual of their *samnyasa*. Swamiji also attained Nirvikalpo Samadhi at this house.

In this house, Sri Ramakrishna would give long discourses on spiritual life to Vivekananda and teach him how to organise and guide the future order of his devotees and monks. The great saint gave his lifelong *sadhana* to Vivekananda to carry on with his work, and with tearful eyes commented: "Giving you everything today, I have become a pauper. By this power you shall do great work." Sri Ramakrishna breathed his last here on August 16, 1886 at 1.02 am.

IN PRISON WITH PRIDE

When the Quit India Movement started, I was in Bombay to cover the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) as representative of several newspapers. On the night of August 8, 1942, all the AICC members were arrested. The next day there were disturbances all over the country and a large number of Congressmen and their sympathisers were sent to prison. People revolted and the police resorted to firing and lathi-charges in many cities. The heroism of the unarmed Indians against the might of the British Empire was indeed remarkable. The Congress had made a final bid to liberate India from the British bondage. There was spontaneous revolt all over the country.

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive
But to be young was very Heaven"

I had dreaded going to jail, but was sure that I would not be able to evade it because of my close association with several Congress leaders. I was the Allahabad correspondent of the *National Herald*, a paper started by Jawaharlal Nehru in Lucknow. It vigorously voiced the anti-British feeling in India and stoutly supported the Congress policies. It ruthlessly exposed the misdeeds of the administration. I used to spend most of my time in Anand Bhawan and Swaraj Bhawan which were the two big centres of news for press correspondents. Congress leaders and workers were my friends and quite a few of them came to my house frequently. The CID hawks had an eye upon me, and I was sure that one day I would be thrown behind prison bars.

Often I would get into a small room, close the doors and try to stay in for a few hours. In a few minutes, I would feel suffocated and rush out. I thought that I would not be able to live in a jail and felt miserable. But imaginary fears are more terrifying than the actual danger or suffering, and it is only when it comes does one realise that it is really not so awful.

On August 11, 1942, when I was on my way back to Allahabad after attending the AICC meeting in Bombay, I was arrested at the Naini station, near my home. A huge contingent of police was waiting there to arrest Lal Bahadur Shastri, Kamlapati Tripathi and their followers because the police had prior information that they had left Bombay for Allahabad. Shastri and Tripathi along with others got down at a wayside station to sneak into the villages and carry on with their anti-Government propaganda and evade arrest as long as it was possible. While leaving, Shastri told me, "If the police ask you about us, don't tell them that we got down on the way. Just say 'They are in some other compartment.' They will search the whole train to get us and we will have enough time to walk to some distant village for tonight's shelter and then start our work."

Came Naini station. As soon as I was spotted, the police commanded me to get down. I came out with my luggage. "Where are Shastri, Tripathi, Rai Amar Nath Agarwal and other," enquired a police officer. I told them that they were in some other compartment. The train was detained for over half an hour and a vigorous search was made to trace Shastri and others. When the police could not find them they were disappointed. I was

P.D. Tandon was among those valiant Indians who were imprisoned for daring to ask for freedom. Here he recalls his days, spent in the company of eminent leaders, at the Naini Central Jail during 1942

whisked away in a police van to the Naini Central Prison. Soon the iron gates yawned and I was swallowed in.

I took some days to adjust myself to the new surroundings. For a few months we were not allowed to write or receive any letters. We were given no newspapers. We were cut off from the outside world. After a few weeks a copy of the daily newspaper, *Leader* was smuggled in everyday through the sweeper. He used to conceal it inside the thick bamboo on whose either ends hung the containers for night soil. We had to pay Re 1 for each copy when the price was only two annas. The day it did not arrive, we missed it badly. For about 500 people it was the only copy available. One day the jailor caught the sweeper with the newspaper and severely thrashed him. The thick cane whacked on his back and we felt very sad. For a couple of days there was no newspaper for us.

Our leaders, Purushottam Das Tandon, K N Katju and R S Pandit, were kept separately in a place which was popularly known as Kutta Barrack - the Dog House—where Jawaharlal Nehru was also lodged a couple of times. In his autobiography he has written: "My barrack and enclosure were popularly known throughout the jail as the Kuttaghar—the Dog House. This was an old name which had nothing to do with me. The little barrack had been built originally apart from all others for specially dangerous criminals who had to be isolated. Later, it had been used for political prisoners, detenus, and the like.

We were not allowed to meet these three leaders. However, I managed to speak to them almost every afternoon when the jail authorities would go for lunch. They would eagerly await my arrival at their barracks for news, and if on any day I did not reach there on time, they would try to find out what had happened to their "war correspondent" as they used to call me.

Prison life is hell for a sensitive and emotional person. Little things upset him and often he suffers a lot. At times he languishes in anguish and the agony seems to be unbearable. I had decided not to ask for anything from anybody outside the prison, because I dreaded that if anyone let me down I would feel greatly hurt. At the insistence of Kamlapati Tripathi I once wrote to a friend to let me know if a certain book was available at any bookshop in Allahabad. For weeks I waited to hear from him, but I got no reply. I then sent a letter to another friend about it. The moment he came to know that it had come from the jail, in sheer fright he told the jail warder who had carried it to him that he did not know me at all. Many people hesitated to associate themselves with Congressmen. When I was told about it I was shocked and deeply regretted having made an attempt to get the book. It kept me depressed for a couple of days. After that I never repeated the mistake.

Many people in prison were extremely unhappy to have been separated from their dear ones. I, too, had my moments of sadness and depression, but I was absolutely sure that it was good that I had been arrested. I felt proud that I also was a tiny twig in the storm of India's freedom struggle. This feeling sustained me in jail and kept me in high spirits. I still feel that it was great luck to be in Naini Central Prison. I come in close contact with Lal Bahadur Shastri, Kamlapati Tripathi, H N Bahuguna and many others who later occupied high positions in free India. Despite the deadening monotony of jail life, I was happy and cheerful in the company of these friends. We were attached to each other and they were my biggest asset in the jail. We would wash our clothes, sitting beside the running water in front of our cells, and discussed many things. At tea and at meal times we were excited to get together though there was hardly enough to eat. In the evenings

we walked in the prison yard and tried to keep ourselves physically fit. To be ill in jail would be a calamity. One night, Pandit Sunder Lal had a mild heart attack and we shouted from our barracks for the doctor But no one bothered about it. We felt terribly helpless and sore.

The monotonous existence in jail, at times, heavily weighs upon one's nerves The same faces, the same iron bars, the same walls and the same food give one a terrible sense of weariness and boredom I was so fed up with constantly seeing the high walls, for months together, that sometimes I found it difficult to open my eyes when I went to the yard for my evening walk

One day I covered my face with a thick handkerchief and started walking in the yard Those who saw me asked why I was doing that I told them that I was sick of



Shastri: Jail companion

seeing those walls My eyes needed some relief and rest They immediately followed suit, because their eyes too had grown weary of those walls Now a small crowd of "blinded" prisoners started walking in the small yard Off and on, they dashed against each other and fell down on the ground to the amusement of those who were watching them For about 15 minutes this game continued and it provided some diversion to most of us who were tired of the deadening routine

The food we got in jail was horrible, but we had to swallow it to sustain ourselves Sometimes, though not often, some sweets were smuggled in to a few of us One resourceful comrade in our barracks used to get a good supply of *laddoos* from his house every now and then and would quietly eat them at night when most of us were asleep. He would hardly ever share those with us and he was convinced that his need for *laddoos* was greater than that of his friends in the barracks. One day, one of us could not resist the temptation and stole all the sweets and shared it among ourselves. Nay, he did worse than that. He prepared *matti* (earth) *laddoos* of the same size and replaced them in the little can. It was about 11 on that very night when the owner quietly picked up one from it and put it in his mouth He noisily spat out almost every particle of it and ran for a glass of water to rinse his mouth. He was sore at the cruel joke played on him and for about half an-hour cursed and abused some of us We quietly lay on our beds, pretending to be asleep, when we were actually laughing inside our blankets, at times gagging our mouths with a piece of cloth so that we might not betray ourselves

In prison it is not easy to keep one's chin up Sometimes little things depress you too much The sensible amongst us had made it a point to avoid talking of sorrowful things as far as possible However, some new arrivals who were not involved in politics but arrested on mere suspicion were miserable in jail Some mournfully referred to their losses in business, some were unhappy without *paan* and cigarettes and some lamented over the fate of their relations whom they had left behind Their depression was infectious, but it had to be endured However, one person exhausted my patience and I shouted him out of my barracks He was unhappy without his two wives. He would come to us every now and then and would tell us how miserable he was without those ladies One day my frayed nerves gave way completely and I angrily said, "Who asked you to have two wives? Was one not enough? Why do you depress us by your mournful tales?" He was shocked and went away In prison one finds it difficult to carry one's own sorrows with poise and it is almost impossible to bear the load of others' misery, more so when it has its source in 'two wives'

I reproduce here a few extracts from my jail diary

17.11.42: On the Diwali night I had a peculiar dream I dreamt that I was at home and thoroughly enjoying myself in the company of friends and relations The dream lasted for quite some time I woke up in the middle of the night and rubbed my eyes to find out where I really was I looked at the roof of my barracks and I felt it was the roof of one of the rooms at home I rushed to the gate and shook it violently I found it was locked Immediately I heard the howling of the jail warders and I was kicked into the world of reality I know where I was and ve happy to have been to my home on the Diwali day even though it was no more than a dream

6.12.42: In jail we used kerosene lanterns Electricity is no more than mere fancy I have not been able to enjoy fully even the light of the moon Today the night is unbelievably lovely and the wind is full of mystic wonder I stand behind the iron bars. Their shadows fall on the earth which is covered with moonlight. It looks like a wide, spotless white sheet I envy those rods At least their shadows stretch themselves on the milky, lovely light, while my shadow falls behind my back in the barracks and is drowned in its darkness. The ghost of my dismal days here will haunt me for quite sometime when I go out

2.10.43: Two summers have passed in prison and I have not been able to sleep in the open The barracks have no electric fan or light and I often feel miserable Today I am in a mood of wistful longing. I do not know the reason why I have been thinking restlessly of my family and friends Even in the crowd of about 1,000 people I feel a little lonely It seems I have befriended loneliness I think I am getting on quite well with it, because it clings to me more tenaciously here than any other thing or person It has been

The monotonous existence in jail, at times, heavily weighs upon one's nerves. The same faces, the same iron bars, the same walls and the same food give one a terrible sense of weariness and boredom

faithful to me At times I dread it, but I cannot desert it I cannot be disloyal to it Even when I was not a prisoner, I often used to feel very lonely I am essentially a lonely person When I am in pain and sighs I live with my loneliness and I lie in its embrace and sometimes feel comforted One should not really be afraid of loneliness, however painful it may be, It often stimulates our thought processes and puts our mettle to the test

Fourteen months and more I have spent in Naini Central Prison Four hundred and thirty yesterdays of my youth lie buried here and in future I will sometimes see the ghost of these dead yesterdays that will bring forth the painful memories of my prison days However I leave the place greatly comforted by the thought that I too had participated in the freedom struggle

Before leaving this graveyard of the living I wish to see once again, to my heart's content, the high walls the barracks, the jail garden the pretty birds, the convicts and the jail officials who gave me company here

"Sing who will of dead years departed
I shroud them and bid them adieu,
And the song that I sing happy hearted
is a song of glorious news."



QUIZ ◻ Neil O'Brien

"Who is the father of Western country music?" This question comes from Rose Thomas, Calcutta 16

Jimmy (James Charles) Rodgers, destined to become the father of country music, was born in Meridian, Mississippi, on September 8, 1897. His mother died when he was four, leaving Jimmy's father, Aaron, a railroad-section foreman, to bring up the young boy Going to the sites where repairs were called for ruled out the possibility of a permanent home for the lad, so Jimmy grew up in an endless chain of boarding houses and freight yards

His Black friends taught him his first songs and how to pick a few chords on the banjo

At 12 he won an amateur talent contest, but it did nothing for him, because there was no opportunity for a "hillbilly" singer 15 years ago He became assistant foreman to his father a couple of years after the talent contest which was soon forgotten, and slowly progressed to becoming a "regular" brakeman on the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad

In 1920 he married Carrie Williamson, and the following year they had a daughter, Anita He lost a second daughter in 1923, and the very next year was stricken with tuberculosis When he recovered, he was unable to continue the strenuous work of a railroader Turning to music, he joined a road show as a "blackface" singer and instrumentalist and later promoted a short lived Hawaian road show

By 1926 he was back to his job as a brakeman, this time on the Florida East Coast Railroad A recurrence of tuberculosis made him retreat to Tucson, Arizona, where he worked for the Southern Pacific until he was told to quit by his doctor After a brief period of living with his in-laws, Jimmy moved his family to Asheville,North Carolina, where he organised the Jimmy Rodgers Entertainers In May, 1927, the group performed three nights a week on the radio station in Asheville After losingtheirsponsor, they hit the road for a string of one-night stands Just as these, too, began to run out, Jimmy heard about a recording talent audition offered by Ralph Peer of the Victor Talking Machine Company.

Rodgers and his "hillbilly ork" headed for Bristol, Tennessee,and on August 4, 1927, he cut his first singing record, *Sleep, Baby, Sleep,* with *Soldiers Sweetheart* on the side The "Singing Brakeman" received $20, but when the record released, Jimmy Rodgers was an overnight smash Though his first-quarter royalties came to only $27 43, he was soon earning $25,000 a year, then $100,000 He bought his family a $50,000 mansion, a Cadillac, and a Chrysler, and for himself a $1,500 guitar

One Rodgers hit followed another—*T for Texas, Away Out on a Mountain, Ben Dew Berry's Final Run,* and *Mother Was a Lady* In August, 1928, Jimmy headed the bill at the posh Earle Theater in Washington, and his record sales topped Victor s list of bestsellers

Until 1933, the father of country music led a glamorous whirlwind life. Then his enemy, tuberculosis, struck again Only partially recovered and against the advice of his doctors, he travelled to New York for what turned out to be his last recording session. He was too weak to sing more than one song without resting, and only 12 of the 24 scheduled sides were completed by May 24. On May 25 he had to be carried back to his room in the Taft Hotel, where, early next morning the "Singing Brakeman," idol of millions, died in his sleep

He left an enviable legacy in his 111 recorded songs, which reportedly have sold 20 million copies
In 1961 he was elected to the Country Music Association's Hall of Fame as "the man who started it all," and today reissues of his records are grabbed by another generation that idolises the ever popular and new Jimmy Rodgers

Postcript: The Maggi Whiz Quiz contest will be held at the Julien Day School, Ganganagar, on August 19 at 10.30 am. Over 17,000 children from West Bengal's district schools will participate in the quiz. Quizmaster: Derek O'Brien.

CBS

***11th Question*: Why did George Bernard Shaw spell fish as "ghoti"? (Kaizer Zakiuddin Hamid, Hamid Enterprises, 28, Strand Road, Calcutta 700001).**
***Ans*: To show the idiosyncrasies of the English language-"gh" as in "enough"; "o" as in "women" and "ti" as in "nation".**

QUESTIONS

1. Michael Jackson calls his pet chimpanzee his best friend What is the name of this chimpanzee? (Neelanshu Jamuar, Patna)
2. Which organisation advertised, "Only the umpires have a closer view."? (Manish Tripathy, Rourkela 3)
3. Name the only Bengali film produced by the late Raj Kapoor. (Jaydeep Guha Thakurta, Calcutta 59)
4. Which international soccer team is called "The Red Brazilians"? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
5. Irving Stone's novel *Depths of Glory* is about whom? (Nirmalya Sarkar, Asansol 1)
6. Who was the first hero of the Indian screen? (K Sreenivasulu, Rourkela 3)
7. Which is the only state in India which still has a pigeon post, that is, takes the help of pigeons in the transportation of letters? (Rakesh R. Sahay, BIT, Sindri)
8. Which is the world's largest employer? (Aaditya Khemka, Calcutta 40)
9. Which US President was called "His Fraudulency"? (Supratim Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)
10. (a) I've been a professional diver and served as an aquanaut for Sea Lab I also worked at Jacques Cousteau's Oceanographic Institute in south of France (b) I'm a graduate of Columbia University Medical School and later specialised in ophthalmology (c) I'm more famous for writing thrillers of which two have been successfully filmed Who am I? (Suptendra Nath Sarbadhikari, Calcutta 45)

ANSWERS

9. Rutherford B Hayes.
10. Robin Cook (*Sphinx* and *Coma*)

1. Bubbles.
2. Channel Nine Sports of Kerry Packer.
3. *Ek Din Raatre* (the Bengali version of *Jaagte Raho*).
4. The Soviet Union
5. Camille Pissarro, the painter.
6. Dattatraya Damodar Dabke in the film *Raja Harishchandra.*
7. Orissa, headquarter Cuttack. It was started in 1946 and at present has 940 pigeons at five centres—Cuttack, Chatrapur, Kendrapara, Sambalpur and Dhenkanal
8. Indian Railways It had 1,600,000 employees on its pay roll in 1984

[illegible]
[illegible] burning cigarettes, rickshaws,
[illegible] of the morning reflected on to
[illegible]ved consciousness
[illegible] factor of unique Time:
[illegible] revolving Time reflecting once
[illegible]
[illegible]ed and the days before.
Tahlah Khair

Silver Fish

1. When silver fish
   Started
   Visiting my table—
   I knew again,
   How little I'd read.
2. Growing to know
   The world,
   I become more vulnerable,
   Yet,
   Less defensive.
3. As a child
   I would build a snowman—
   A big one, each day.
   But big, white men
   Scared me.
   And I would run away.
4. Muslim lady
   Clad in a burkha...
   The little one,
   Hiding behind a tree,
   Thought you were
   An apparition.
5. Who is the artist?
   Even the sun
   can paint.
   only shadows.
6. Jhuggi's—
   raised and razed...
   What are these games
   we people play?

Sonia Radhika Bhalotra

Under the Dripping Sky of Bhimphedi

Even the oriole's swinging nest
gets wet. Natives go to the brook's bank
to watch its speeding swell.
The torrential currents carry the crumbled
hill-slides away to the Indian plains.
Passages get blocked. Clouds dome
the suffering valley. Sun's powerful face
flares in your mind, warming.
Below a leaking water-drum
under a tea-shack's rusting edifice
a deaf dumb dog-eyed old servant
splashes his spewy rotten hands. Isn't this old
servant's pus you are eating like butter
with your bread? A flare of fear flashes,
your heart throbs hysteric,
you throw your bread away which
wet chickens waddling with their woeful mothers
peck at. Then a babe bursts forth faeces
beside a cauldron full
of dead bees. The hens desert
the crumbs of bread to clean
this babe's mess up. Enraged, you kick
the foul smelling dog under your bench,
sentencing him to fester his sore ulcers
under the dripping sky of Bhimphedi.

Yuyutsu R.D.

Old Mr Rao

[illegible]
[illegible] from the crying, swimming [illegible]
outside.
[illegible] the hard gaze of waiting women.
The solitary-haired tailor,
Who last sailed on a dingy two decades
ago,
All night long had sat drinking with
strangers
And still lies huddled in the ordure
Whilst all but he have fled.

The little child, who sleeps under that
lamp-post,
Rolls up his only blanket
And hastens to work at Sardarji's hotel,
Humming "We shall live in peace..."
Somewhere a dog growls.

Old Mr Rao comes out into his patched
and peeling porch
With a brush between his toothless gums
And stands lost in memories of lost
passion.
His son, after studying till four last night,
Splutters and coughs like a goat in his
sleep.

The smog fades and the watery sun
Casts a rainbow-streak
On the slush of the overflowing nullah
outside.
My heart leaps up at the sudden blare



THE LONG VOYAGE

Imagine a ride through space to the Andromeda galaxy. Robert Page Burruss describes what this fascinating journey would be like

The Great Spiral galaxy in the constellation of Andromeda is the closest galaxy to our own, the Milky Way. Yet it is the most distant light source visible to the naked eye. When you see it, the light particles that enter your eye have been travelling through space at the speed of light for two million years. So the shortest intergalactic journey from earth will take an almost unimaginably long time. The ship required for such a journey, and the travel time, challenge our comprehension.

Intergalactic travel will require an immensely large ship, essentially a travelling artificial plane, one able to survive for millions of years without a sun. The ship will take a long time to build — thousands of years, during which time hundreds of billions of tonnes of fuel and construction materials would be ferried to a solar orbit beyond that of Pluto and assembled. The ship's starting mass would have to be on the order of one trillion tonnes (equivalent to two million supertankers).

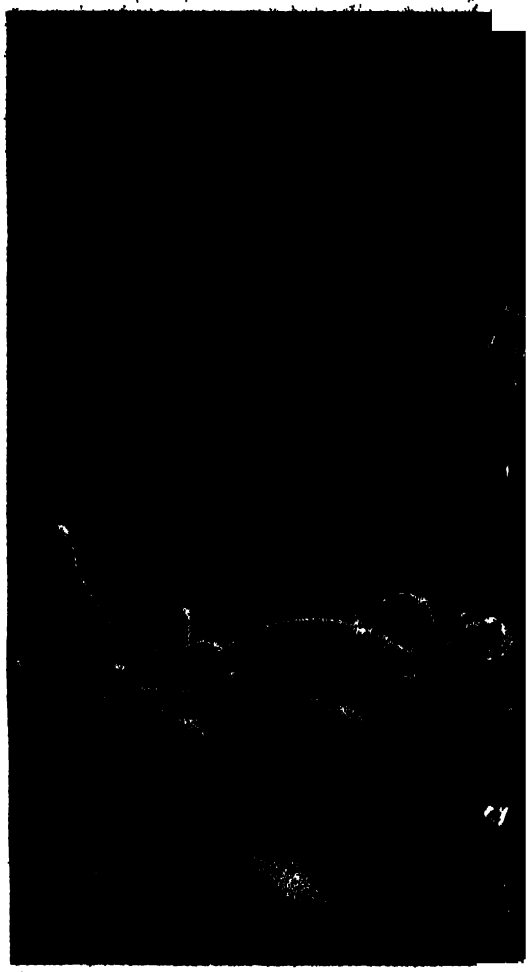
Why must the ship be so large? Because the two-million-light-year intergalactic journey is going to take between five and ten million years. The journey will last hundreds of thousands of generations, up to five times the age of our species (although only a blink in the 3.5-billion-year history of life on earth). A large population is one way to maximise genetic and cultural stability for such a long time. This hypothetical ship would carry a population of between 10 and 50 billion when it reached cruise speed.

A practical shape for an intergalactic ship might be that of a pancake or disk, one of immense size, on the order of a thousand miles in diameter. The utility of the pancake shape is to provide trillions of square feet of surface area over which to distribute thrusters and fuel and to present the maximum surface area to the direction of travel. This maximised surface area will increase the probability of impact with interstellar debris, but it will also decrease the likelihood of massive damage to the whole vehicle when collisions happen; the impact will damage only a small part of the whole ship.

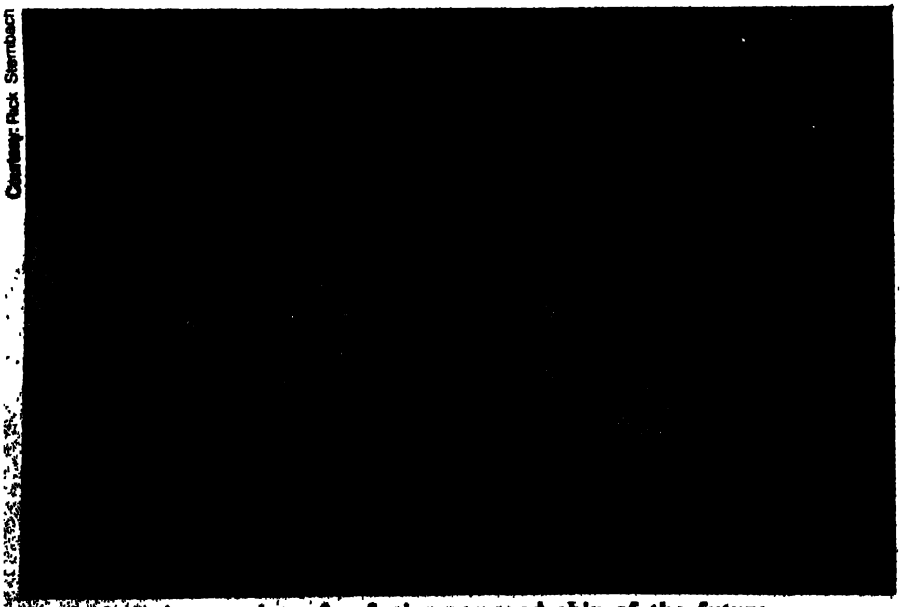
A modular/cellular design for the living quarters, factories, shops, and other amenities would minimise damage due to impacts, loss of air, and other mishaps. In fact, if the ship were able to "sense" (with radar) an impending collision early enough—say, several weeks in advance—those modules that are in the path of the collision could be detached from the rest of the ship and moved out of the way, so that the oncoming object would be able to pass right through the ship without causing any damage at all.

At the start of its journey, a trillion-tonne galaxyship would likely consist nearly half of "antimatter," which will be half of the fuel. The antimatter will be reacted slowly with the matter of the structure of the ship itself. The resultant yield of huge fluxes of energy will propel the ship, provide heat, and drive the industries and internal transportation systems. The antimatter might be in the form of anti-iron.

The backwash from such a ship's engines—a gamma-ray backwash—would



A space colony. Earlier a bizarre fantasy, now about to become a reality with Nasa's projected station of 2019



Courtesy: Rick Sternbach

An artist's impression of a fusion-powered ship of the future

FROM HOME



have a radiative energy flux equivalent to more than 100 times the rate at which solar energy strikes the earth. The energy generated by the engines during each second of operation would almost equal the total energy currently stored in all the world's nuclear arsenals. Every 10 seconds, the energy output of the engines would equal the present annual energy needs of the entire human race.

The engines, distributed over the ship's "bottom" or rear surface, will provide the 50,000 years of continuous thrust needed to get the ship up to cruise speed. If the net efficiency of the engines is on the order of 20 per cent, then the ship should be able to reach a cruise speed of about 40 per cent of the speed of light.

At that speed, the ship would be able to cross our solar system in about 30 hours, or travel to the nearest star in about 10 years, or reach the centre of the Milky Way galaxy in about 70,000 years. Andromeda will be five million years away.

Fifty thousand years of acceleration may sound like a long time but it's only one per cent of the cruise time. It is about the same as taking one minute to accelerate a car up to 60 mph for a 100-mile trip. Faster acceleration will not appreciably affect the travel time.

The galaxyship will begin its journey by rising out of the equatorial plane of our 100-billion-star Milky Way galaxy. It will rise out of our galaxy before getting up to full speed, thereby reducing the erosional effects of interstellar molecules and dust.

At the end of the first 500 years of acceleration the ship's speed will be 600,000 meters per second (about 1.2 million miles per hour), or 0.2 per cent of the speed of light. At 20,000 years, the speed will be 8.8 per cent of light speed. At 40,000 years, the speed will be 24 per cent of light speed. And just before the engines are shut down at the end of the 50,000-year acceleration, the speed will be about 40 per cent of the speed of light.

At the end of the acceleration, the ship's mass will be one-tenth of its starting mass, since 90 per cent of that mass will have been converted to the energy needed to power the flight. The ship will then be "reconformed" into a shape that will reduce its surface area in order to conserve heat during the multimillion-year cruise through cold intergalactic space. The ship might be rolled up like a giant crepe, or disassembled and then reassembled in the form of a stacked cube or sphere. The reconformation might take several thousand years—only a moment in the duration of the journey.

Many considerations will have to be taken into account in planning the social side of such a voyage. Cultural stability—the ability of the society on the galaxyship to remember where it came from and where it is going—will be crucially important.

What kinds of governments will remain stable for such a long period? How does a population of 50 billion or so entertain and occupy itself for five million years? Can culture be consciously designed for long-term stability? Will the sheer size of the population induce a kind of "cultural inertia" or resistance to change? These are some of the questions the architects of an intergalactic voyage will face.

During the acceleration phase, the ship's population will grow from a hundred million to a billion, then to 10 billion. At the end of the acceleration, the population will reshape the ship into its final cruise configuration, which will accommodate the equivalent of towns, cities, and maybe small nation-states. Communities will be reorganised within the new structure, and communications networks, electric-power networks, transportation, and heating and cooling systems will be reassembled over volumes of hundreds and thousands of cubic miles.

Radio contact might be maintained between the outward bound galaxyship and its interstellar cousins, the starships, as all travel outward from our sun. Information might be transmitted in conversations carried on initially over periods of years, then centuries, then millennia. Hundreds and even thousands of years will pass between the asking and answering of questions across the galaxy and out to the galaxyship.

For 50,000 years the ship will rise out of the dusty galactic plane accelerating, making final course adjustments before the engines are finally turned off. Then weightlessness. Five million years of coasting weightlessness. For a quarter of a million generations the ship will in a way be asleep, dormant, while its inhabitants do all the things we do here on earth—work, play, fight, gossip, ask questions, learn, build, repair, make alliances, forget, remember, plan, prepare. They will do all the things we do here now, except bask in the sun under blue skies on the shores of blue oceans.

Cultures may rise and fall despite the "cultural inertia" of the huge population. Histories may be written, refuted, debated, the ship will carry the collective dreams, longings, wonderings, and anxieties of billions of people on a mission of colonisation. It will have all the overt properties of a seed: an ejected particle of protective material encasing a core of reproductive genetic material. Or a virus, able to infect a galaxy.

When the galaxyship reaches the vicinity of its destination, the 10,000 year deceleration will begin. The ship will slow down to match speed with some lush-looking star near the edge of the disk of Andromeda—a lush looking star being one that looks like it will be stable for at least a million years and that has lots of material orbiting it. This is where the seed of life from earth will take root in a neighbouring galaxy.

Someday the earth will die, and so, eventually, will the sun die too. All species that stay on earth will eventually die. But our species—because it can leave the earth—has a chance of travelling far beyond and outliving its original home.

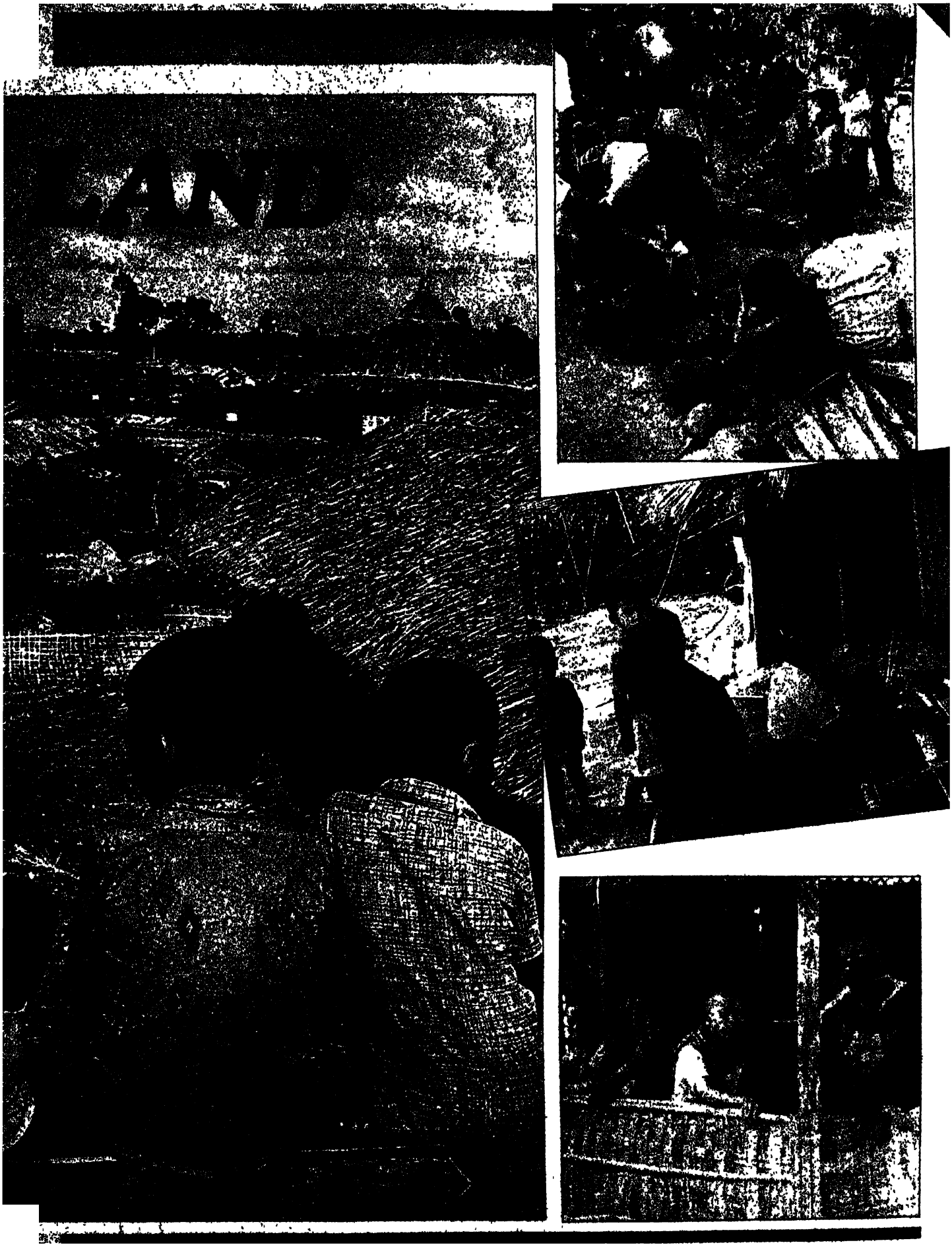
(The author worked for the US Apollo space programme)

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NOWHERE



Bangladesh is not ready for them yet. India cannot host them too long. Where do the Chakma refugees go? There are over 50,000 of them lodged in camps in Tripura, living life as it comes. **Dilip Banerjee** ca[illegible]he glimpses at [illegible]ch camp



IF TOMORROW



A career terminated by bullets

"See you tomorrow An innocuous phrase which is uttered all over the world The language might be different, but the meaning is the same It is probably the most commonly used method of temporary parting between friends, one where both people are sure that the next day will find them as hale and hearty as this one doing the same things they have just finished doing Most important, it signifies that both people are confident they will be alive the next day

Syed Modi was confident too

Even as he walked out of the K D Singh 'Babu indoor stadium Lucknow after a practice session with his friend and fellow-badminton player Neeraj Misra Modi said the same words to Misra Amita (his wife) is sick I am going to my house I will see you tomorrow " He planned spending the night looking after his ailing wife and would meet his friend the next day for their regular practice session It meant that he planned on staying alive

But it was not to be Even as he unlocked his scooter just outside the stadium a red Maruti with six passengers moved in with venom Drawing alongside the assailants opened fire on the unsuspecting Modi and sped away In their tyre screeching exhaust filled wake lay a dying man Rushed to the medical college the doctors could do nothing to save his life

Ironical because the very same K D Singh Babu—a former hockey great who represented India during our hockey hey days—after whom this stadium is named committed suicide himself because of depression

Even as the initial reports filtered through the rumours ran rife Politically

Syed Modi's untimely death makes us mourn a sporting career, cut short in its bloom. Pradeep Paul spares a thought for him and other such sportsmen with whom destiny played foul

motivated said one version Another felt it was the aftermath of a family feud Yet others were convinced that Modi was another victim of the militants There was even a love triangle story floating around Till the time of writing the police has properly confused everyone with its finding of some clues but has refused to disclose the details The initial anger and shock has begun to fade Only to be replaced by two questions who and why?

Whatever the reason sport is the loser Eight time national badminton champion and a very valuable cog in the nation's badminton machinery India mourns the loss of a human being of one of its more celebrated citizens In a country where sporting excellence doesn't surface too often, we (yes, like it or not, the assailants are also part of this country) have struck down a champion.

What did Modi do to deserve such a death? Unless proved otherwise, the 28-year old Modi we knew was an unassuming person who had devoted his life to sport Settling down to married life with fellow badminton star Amita Kulkarni he and Prakash Padukone had given our country a niche in world badminton Is it fair that a man like him should be the target of murderers?

Yet this is not the first time that Indian sport has lost to hate The painful memory of three time hockey Olympian Prithipal Singh being gunned down by unknown assailants has been jogged by Modi's death Making the Indian team to the Rome Olympics of 1960 he was there when the Olympic flame moved to Tokyo in 1964 Four years later at Mexico Prithipal was captain of the Indian hockey team Retiring from active sport Prithipal was employed as the Dean of Student Welfare at the Punjab Agricultural University when he was shot dead on May 20 1983 even as he was parking his motorcycle in the university campus He was 51

Agreed his productive days of sport were over But he was still a sportsman who had devoted his entire youth to Indian hockey and brought the country glory at three Olympic Games Surely he deserved a comfortable retired life for his selfless commitment to Indian sport?

The world of international sport too, has been struck by the hand of hate The Munich Olympics of 1972 had just got under way when a group of Palestinian guerrillas invaded the Israeli team headquarters and held them hostage Their demand 200 Arab political prisoners to be freed By the time the ensuing shootout was over the death toll read 11 Israelis five Arabs and one policeman Needless to say nothing of importance was gained But sport was a casualty

Accidents have also taken their toll The memory of a 33 year old Surjit Singh dying in a car accident is still fresh in our minds One of the greatest full backs Indian hockey has ever produced and a former skipper of the national team, Surjit was busy arranging his own benefit match between India and Pakistan to be played at Jalandhar when his car's tie-rod came loose He was returning to Jalandhar from Amritsar late on January 6 1984 night The car turned turtle and Surjit Singh and his co-passenger P Panthey died while another passenger, Ram Pratap, was

COMES

seriously injured.

There is also the sad instance of Bengal's very own Bobby Claudius. Having just made it to the Indian hockey team, this talented youngster was about to follow in his illustrious father's footsteps when an innocent evening out with his friends ended in tragedy. Speeding down the road, his scooter was involved in an accident which took Claudius Jr's life. Yet another promising sporting career had been nipped in the bud. Fate again.

Cricket has also had its share of tragedy. While one cannot recall any instances of cricketers being gunned down by unknown assailants, there have been the few who have fallen prey to the bullet of war Hedley Verity of England and Yorkshire fame was leading a regiment during World War II when he stepped into the path of a bullet. It must go down to his utmost credit that his last words were devoted to exhorting his men into action. World War I had also claimed a cricketer. Tibby Cotter of Australia was fighting at Beersheba in South Palestine when he copped a sniper's bullet and died.

There have been accidents in cricket, to be sure. Stan McCabe—of Bodyline fame—was strolling around a cliff when he slipped off the sheer edge and fell to his death. While the official verdict went down as 'accident' there are the doubting Thomases who suspect something else

The 1953 incident of the West Indian cricketer, Leslie Hylton, who was a part of the 1939 West Indian tour to England, being hanged for murdering his wife still rankles while Johnnie Douglas really tempted fate and paid the price. An Olympic middleweight boxing gold medal winner, Douglas also captained England in cricket around 1911 and was on board a ship which started floundering in troubled seas. Douglas swam to safety but seeing his father in trouble, he again dived into the choppy sea to try and rescue him. He was never seen again.

But all this doesn't match with the amazing story of Ted McDonald, an Australian Test cricketer around the mid-30s. McDonald, who also used to play for Lancashire, was driving along a cliffy road when his car swerved and went off the edge. McDonald survived, managed to clamber back to the road and was standing on the kerb trying to thumb a lift home when he was run over by a speeding car. This time it was fatal.

And one cannot forget the incident of a Roy Gilchrist express delivery felling the Indian cricket skipper, Nari Contractor. Hit on the head, Contractor collapsed on the spot. That he survived was miraculous enough; that he came back to play Ranji Trophy was sheer guts. But he was never the same batsman again.

One also laments the unfortunate incident of the Indian table tennis ace Venugopal Chandrashekhar. Troubled by his knee, he underwent surgery to set it right, but tragic side-effects left him almost paralysed. Losing almost all his faculties—sight, hearing, speech—Chandrashekhar was virtually reduced to a paralytic. It was a lamentable end to a great sporting career through no fault of his. In a heartening update, however, Chandrashekhar is said to be gradually regaining the use of his faculties and plans to attempt a comeback in the future.

Surjit Singh: A car accident, and the whistle was blown



Nikhil Bhattacharya

While there have been many soccer careers that have been prematurely terminated due to knee and ankle injuries, Calcuttans will recall the incident where a writhing Shankar Banerjee was carried off the field after a crippling Subhas Bhomick tackle. Banerjee never really recovered his normal ebullience.

More recently, there is the instance of the dashing Biswajit Bhattacharjee. Having made it to the national side, Bhattacharjee was the victim of yet another road accident. Exuberant youth and a speedy Enfield 350 combined to leave him with a horribly fractured leg. An injury that threatens to keep him off the soccer field forever.

All the instances that we have recounted don't come into the category of death that we started off with. Syed Modi's was murder...and that, too, in the prime of his career. Not only has it bereaved his family and his near ones, this

V. Chandrashekhar: Surgery and its after-effects



Nikhil Bhattacharya

death has also wounded the nation. It frighteningly reminds us that the rest of our sporting heroes could also feature in the murderers' list.

Time will weave its magic and the painful memory will eventually dull in our minds. But the question still hovers in the air: why Modi? And is it right that big names in sport are made innocent victims of some totally unconnected motive?

As we put our noses back to the grind and busy ourselves trying to eke out a living in our troubled land, we will continue to live with hope. We will continue to tell each other: "See you tomorrow."

The next time you do that, just remember: for Syed Modi, tomorrow never came. ■

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films



• **Andhaa Yudh:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403)—regular shows; Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270)—noon

Directed by Dayal Nihalani and with music by Ajit Varman, the film stars Raj Babbar, Nana Patekar, Pallavi Joshi, Divya Rana and Rohini Hattangadv

• **Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473) - 4 shows

Directed by Kalpataru and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the cast includes Rishi Kapoor, Jaya Prada, Govinda, Farha and Kader Khan

• **Halaal Ki Kamaai:** Opera (Lenin Sarani 281849), Krishna (T C. Dutta Street, 250437), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 5511.33)

Govinda, Farha, Gulshan Grover and Shakti Kapoor are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Swaroop Kumar The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Hum To Chale Pardes:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows; Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) & Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462)— noon

Directed by Ravindra Peepat, the film stars Shashi Kapoor, Rajeev Kapoor,. Mandakini, Anjana Mumtaz, Sharmila Tagore and Kulbhushan Kharbanda. The music is by Vijay Singh

• **Kanwarlal:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241142), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757)—4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Madhuban (Regent Park), Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road, 355059)—3 shows

Jeetendra, Raj Babbar and Sujata Mehta play the lead in this film, directed by Ravi Chandra. The music is by Bappi Lahiri

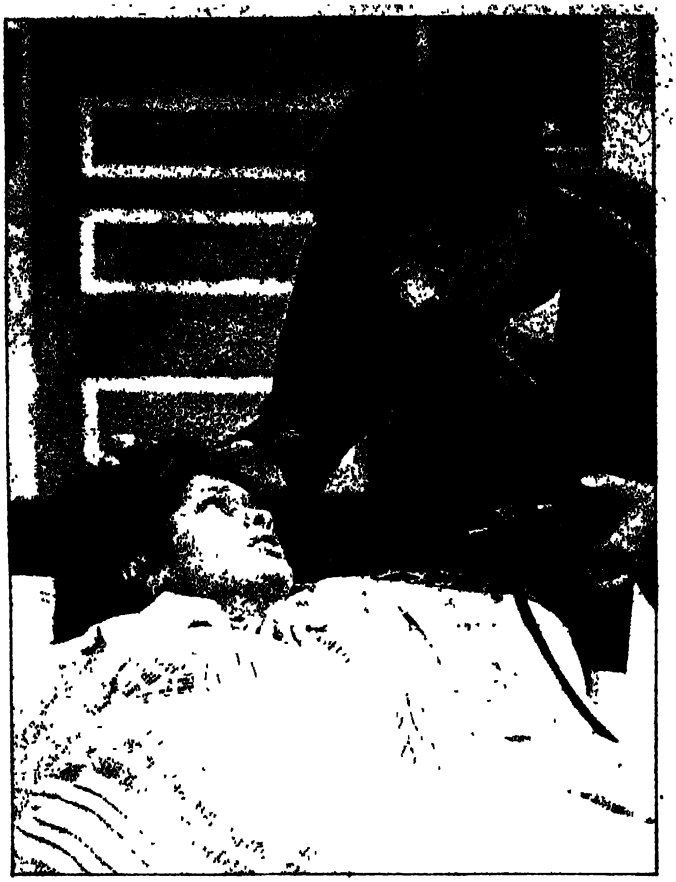
• **Mera Muqaddar (A):** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147)—4 shows

Raj Babbar and Anita Raaj play the lead The film is directed by K Pappu and the music is by Kamalkant

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442) & Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808) - 4 shows

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Saazish:** Society (Corporation Place, 241002) 4 shows, Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141) - 3 shows



Pallavi Joshi and Raj Babbar in *Andhaa Yudh*

A film by Rajkumar Kohli, starring Raaj Kumar, Mithun Chakraborty, Raj Babbar, Anita Raaj, Kader Khan, Amrish Puri and Dimple Kapadia The music is by Kalyanji Anandji

• **Waqt Ki Awaz:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 461440)—4 shows, Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270)—3 shows

Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi are the lead pair in this K. Bapaiah film The music is by Bappi Lahiri

Bengali Films

• **Aaghaat:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2.30, 5.30, 8.15, Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567) 2.30, 5.30, 8.30; Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 7.45

Directed by Deb Sinha and with music by Mrinal Banerjee, the cast includes Prasenjit, Satabdi Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Chowdhury, Chiranjeet and Sukhen Das.

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3, 5.45, 8.30.

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty

• **Debibaran:** Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—3 shows

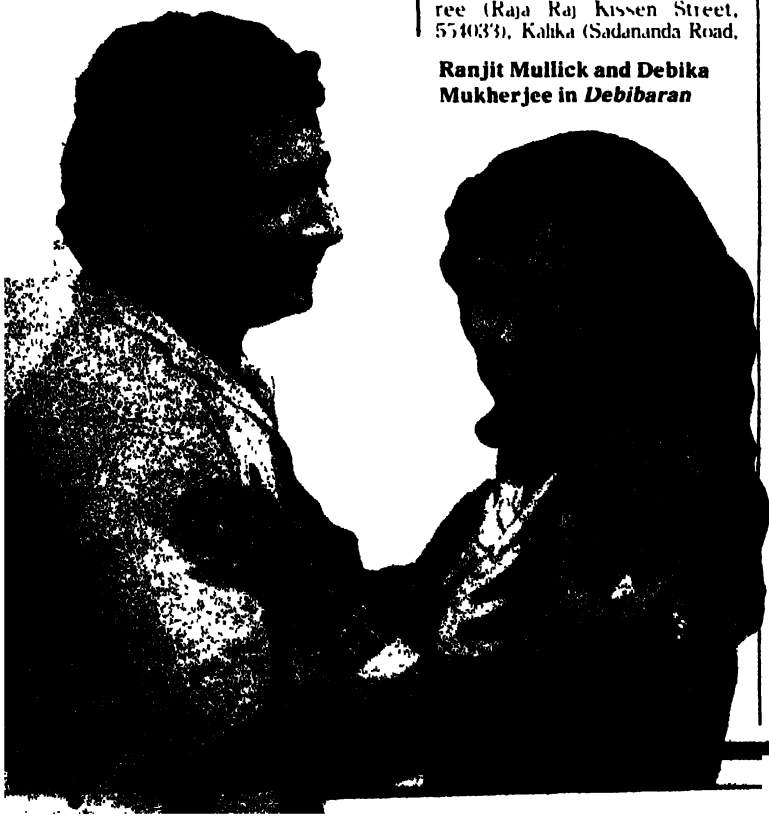
Soumitra Chatterjee, Ranjit Mullick, Deepankar De, Sumitra Mukherjee, Debika Mukherjee, Kali Banerjee, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Srikanta Guhathakurta and has music by Bappi Lahiri

• **Pathe Jete Jete:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7

Directed by Umanath Bhattacharya and with music by Dilip Dilip, the film stars Tapas Paul, Papia Adhikari, Sumitra Mukherjee, Lily Chakraborty and Dilip Roy.

• **Surer Sathi:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080)—2.45, 5.30, 8.15.

A film by Tapan Saha, whose cast includes Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Subhendu Chatterjee, Anil Chatterjee and Santu Mukherjee. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.



Ranjit Mullick and Debika Mukherjee in *Debibaran*

• **Chhadmabeshi:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553113), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road, 174686) - 1, 4, 7

A re-release of this Agradoot hit, starring Uttam Kumar and Madhabi Mukherjee along with Subhendu Chatterjee, Jahar Roy, Bikash Roy, Anuva Gupta and Jyotsna Biswas. The music is by Sudhin Dasgupta

Foreign Films

• **Hannie Caulder (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street: 24-3715) 4 shows

• **Silver Bullet (A):** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141)-4 shows

• **Stakeout:** New Empire (Humayun Place, 29-1051)—4 shows

• **The Odessa File:** Lighthouse (Humayun Place, 29-1299) 4 shows

Special Events

14-19 August

The 24th mid-summer exhibition of West Bengal artists in the West Central, North and New South galleries

14-17 August

An exhibition of paintings by the students of Bakul Art Memorial in the New Gallery

West Bengal Deaf Women's Associations will hold their exhibition of handicrafts in the South Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

14 August: 10 am

Cordelier presents *Shabdo Abrakto*, a Bengali play based on James Thurber's *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. Lights: Joy Sen. Drama/direction: Joydeep Bhattacharya

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

14 August: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play *Am Raja Mar Gaya*. Directed by Anmol Vellani the cast includes Rajaram Yagnik, Nivedita Bhattacharya, Shampa Ghosh, B.M. Hada, Vinay Sharma and Manisha Chaturvedi

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

16 August: 6 pm

A sitar recital by Pandit Ravi Shankar, assisted by Dipak Choudhry (sitar) and Kumar Bose (tabla). The programme is organised in aid of Khelaghar

At Netaji Indoor Stadium

19 August: 6.30 pm

Kingshuk's 10th annual function features Tagore's dance drama, *Shyama*, with Sanjukta Panigrahi in the title role. Others in dance are Asit Chatterjee (Vajrasen), N.K. Sivasankaran (Kotal), Rekha Mattra, Ratna Roy, Monalisa Ghosh, Sudha Dutta, Ananya Chatterjee, Sharmistha Roy and Nirmal Burman. The songs are by Hemanta Mukherjee (Vajrasen), and Kanika Banerjee (Shyama) along with Ashis Roy, Gora Saubadhikari, Rajeshwari Bhattacharya, Anushila Chatterjee, Mala Guhathakurta, Bhaswati Mukherjee and others

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road: 44-9937)

18 August onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by the students of Udeechee in South and New galleries

20 August onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Sukla Ghosh in the West Gallery

20 August onwards

Ashis Kabasi and Debashis Kabasi will hold their exhibition of paintings in the North Gallery till August 28

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road: 444205)

20 August: 6.30 pm

Sabuj Sporting Club, Behala presents an evening of Bengali songs featuring Hemanta Mukherjee, and solos and duets by Satinath Mukherjee and Utpala Sen

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road: 44-9937)

***Pathe Jete Jete* and *Surer Sathi* have been withdrawn**

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A at 1905

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5): AI-306 at 1830, Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1855; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt): Arr. (6): AI-455A at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York): Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145.

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1700 and Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1810; Arr (4): SU-537 at 1555. Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1): JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1) JU-493 at 2325; Dep (2): JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-116 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ-116 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7), RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4) IC-247 at 1710 Dep (3, 6, 7)· IC-247 at 1510; Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6, 7)· IC-248 at 1425.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7): IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7), IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7), GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1545, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045 Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1725

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-410 at 1110, (2, 4) at 0850 Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6)· IC 277 at 0445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC 278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1845, Arr (2) IC-270 at 2155

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (4) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (4) IC-270 at 2135

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1305; Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1850.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily)· IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC 203 at 0625, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily): IC 230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-255 at 0815, Arr (2, 4, 7) IC 256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC 256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1140, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC 244 at 1030 (2, 4) at 0810 and IC 242 at 1610

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650; Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (1, 3, 5), IC-201 at 0540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-202 at 0910

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625; Arr (7)· IC-220 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6)· PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6). PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5) PF-732 at 1000
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri Wkly via Gaya Dep - Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep - Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep — Thurs up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri - Mon , & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri & Sun Arri —Tues , Wed , Thurs , Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues , Fri & Sat Arri - Tues , Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	14 15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep - Mon & Thurs Arri - Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5 45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues , Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon , Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday Arri —Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

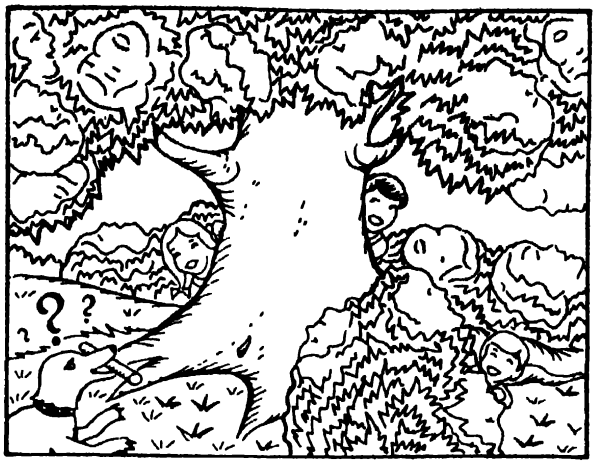
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Wed , Fri & Sat Arri —Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri , & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
52	22-35	**Bangalore Super Fast Express** Dep & Arri —Wed & Sun	13-45	51
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



FACE VALUE! How many children's faces can you find in the picture above? Our artist says there are 18 in all



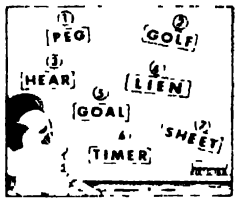
SUM NUMBER MAGIC!
Write the eight digits 1, 2 3, 4 5, 6 7 and 9 (note the eight is missing) on a sheet of paper Now, pick a number from 1 to 9, multiply your selected number by 9 and then multiply result by the eight numbers noted

Example If seven is chosen, multiply by 9, result 63, times 12345679 Alakazam the number selected will be repeated in answer nine times—777777777

• WORD SAFARI! Feel free to join our young friend below in an animal hunt. He has been challenged to change just one letter in each of the seven words shown to spell the names of seven animals. Example. In no 1, E is altered to I for PIG.

How quickly can you find the remaining six?

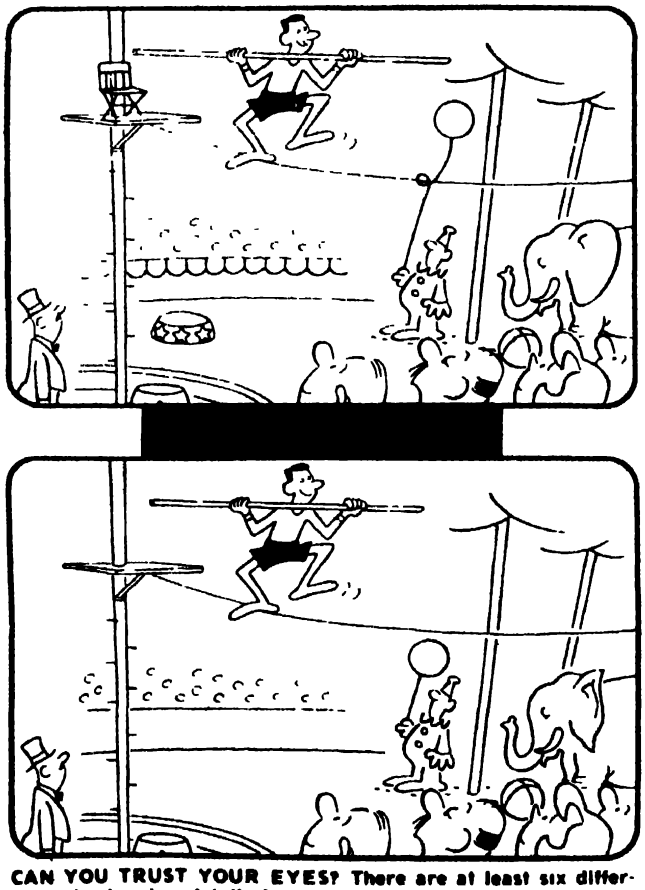
1 Pig 2 Wolf 3 Bear 4 Lion 5 Goat
6 Tiger 7 Sheep



• SUM FUN! Add 20 to this number Turn each digit of answer upside down in place; divide by four and the answer is 20 What number?

Sixty (60 + 20 = 80 upside down in place) minutes 80!

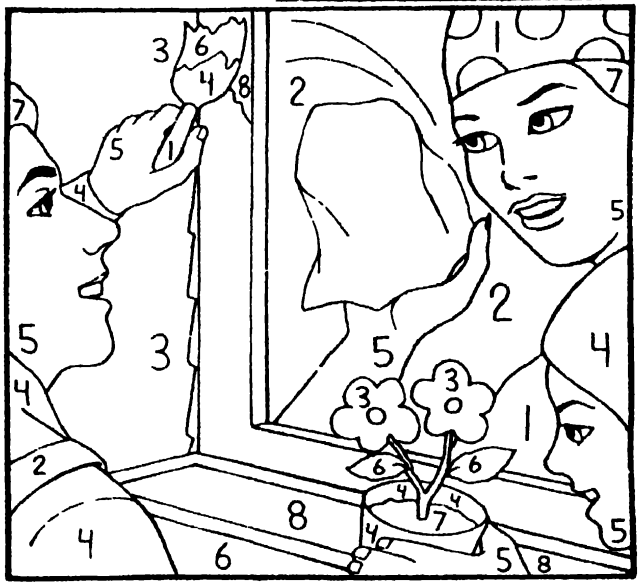
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with these below

Differences 1 Chair is missing 2 Pole is shorter 3 Burning is missing 4 Pedestal is missing 5 Balloon string is different 6 Elephant's ear is different

FUNSPOT



TASK FORCE! Apply crayons or colored pencils to the numbered segments above. 1—Red. 2—Lt blue. 3—Yellow 4—Lt., brown. 5—Flesh 6—Lt. Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

OUTFIELD

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram: Foul den

INNER EYE ◻ Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES
March 21—April 20

The new moon is ideal for romance partnerships, collaborations, hobbies and creative pursuits Those in education and politics will get a boost in image This is the time to sign contracts and joint ventures You will shine at meetings and conferences and friends and relatives will recognise your worth

TAURUS
April 21 May 20

Sun trines Uranus and Lady Luck will smile on you Home and property affairs are highlighted Elders will take an undue interest in your affairs Fuse business and pleasure Buying, selling r urbishing your wardrobe renovation and decoration are signified The time is opportune to reorganise your life and get rid of friends who expect favours from you Health may cause concern

GEMINI
May 21 June 20

Money will now pour in Be prepared to hear news both pleasant and unpleasant from different quarters Interviews are in the offing Partying and socialising are on the cards Travel, research and even courtship are indicated Relatives and friends will now make the effort to try and understand your point of view Reach out to people and places through all possible means of communication

CANCER
June 21 July 20

Family and financial matters will demand attention this week Mercury sextiles Venus and entertaining secret liaisons and socialising are signified Loans and funds to start new ventures will be made available to you You will receive news that will cheer you immensely Expect friends to drop in unexpectedly

LEO
July 21 August 21

The new moon in your sign implies adventure, new beginnings and success in every project you undertake Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way The weekend is specially lucky in all matters pertaining to children public appearances education and research. Conferences and interviews are on the cards



VIRGO
August 22 Sept 22

The Venus opposition Neptune formation implies slight health problems, stress and changing personal relationships Editors students painters businessmen and salesmen will do well You will be able to communicate your ideas and proposals with a new found sense of authority You may groom a secret rendezvous with someone special

LIBRA
Sept 23 Oct 22

The sun trines Saturn and the week's second half suggests fun gaiety and glamour Artistes, socialites businessmen, lawyers musicians, educationists and students will do well as will public relations officers and politicians Awards and accolades will come your way This is the time to seek other people's help in getting your work done

BIRTHDAYS

August 14

Moon sextile Pluto This sextile implies money a focus on family and probably a new enterprise There are however dangers as Mercury squares Jupiter Organise your facts before jumping to conclusions

August 15

Moon square Saturn Uranus Do not bite more than you can chew and handle as you already have enough on your plate Children could pose a few problems Moderation in food and drink is a must Only in December and later will the picture really clear

August 16

Mercury trine Neptune Partnerships contracts and assignments for Leons are signified Love blossoms no matter what your age This is the right time to shift residence

August 17

Libra moon, Western astrology no strong aspect Despite a little stress and strain, success and joy are yours See that partnerships are on an even keel and documents are signed after careful scrutiny and sound legal advice Take no chances with your health Travel has exciting possibilities

August 18

Sun trine Saturn Home and property affairs are favoured Buying, selling, renovation and decoration are highlighted The number 18 is one of great inner strength and will definitely help you to succeed in all that you do

August 19

Sun trine Uranus Sudden good fortune and opportunities to make it big are foretold The areas where success is assured are home, property, entertainment, hoteliering, sales and commission, loans and funds

August 20

Moon's first quarter, Scorpio Despite pressures and opposition, you will be able to hold your own Do not neglect the home front Plan well in advance. October, December, April, June, July and August are ideal to start a new venture

SCORPIO
Oct 23—Nov 22

Power and prestige will both be yours Moon conjuncts Pluto and while your sphere of influence will increase, so will responsibilities This is the right time to start a new enterprise or venture Your strength of mind will see you through all possible trials and tribulations Do not take anyone's offer of friendship or support at face value and learn to look below appearances

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 Dec 20

You will be successful in everything that you set out to do Matters pertaining to real estate, property affairs, acting, production, direction, import-export, sales, dramatics, arts and craft and science are highlighted Children hobbies and creative pursuits will keep you busy You will shine at meetings and conferences

CAPRICORN
Dec 21— Jan 19

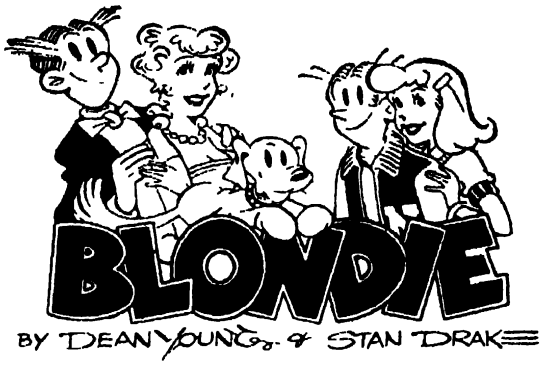
Money family affairs, intense relationships and important contacts are highlighted this week Matters pertaining to mort ages loans, funds, joint finar , insurance, shares and buy and selling are highlighted S trines Uranus and a possi e 'ransfer or change in residen cannot be ruled out Learn to stay calm and do not lose your temper over trivial issues

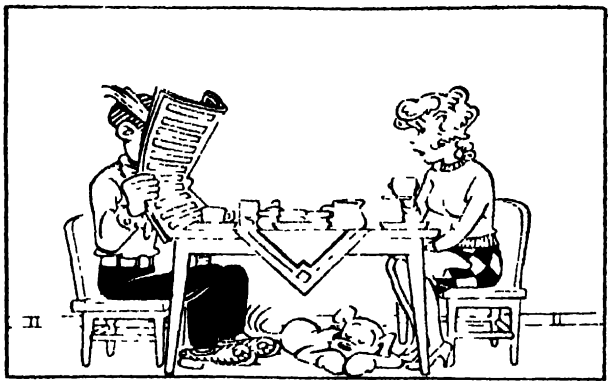
AQUARIUS
Jan 20 Feb 18

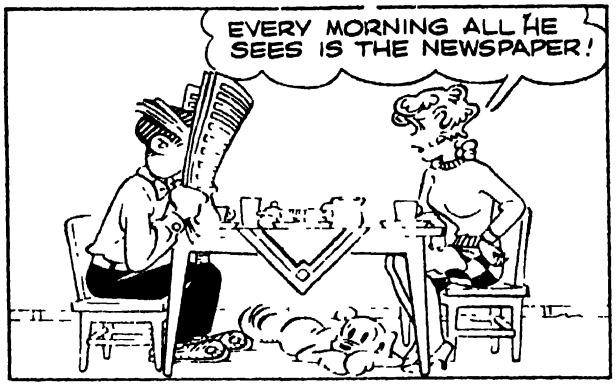
Marriage, an official engagement, collaborations business transactions and trips to foreign countries are in the offing Ceremonies rites and rituals are on the cards Children hobbies and creative pursuits will keep you busy This will be a particularly exciting week Reach out to people and places through all possible means of communication

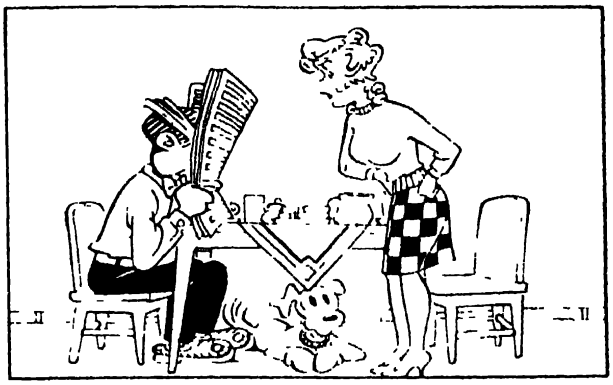
PISCES
Feb 19 March 20

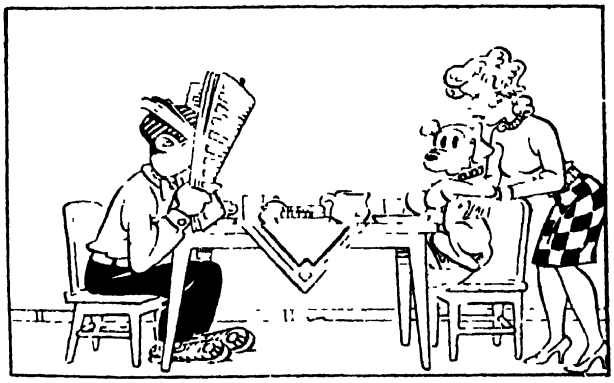
You will attain success in all your endeavours even though you may be off to a slow start Recognition and accolades are in store for you Learn to work in harmony with others Pets will demand much of your time You are likely to enter into an intense relationship with a relative stranger

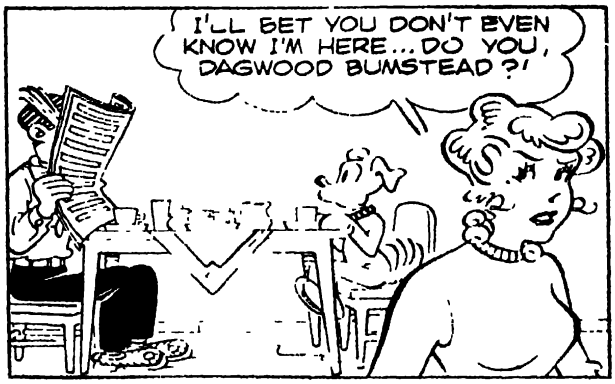


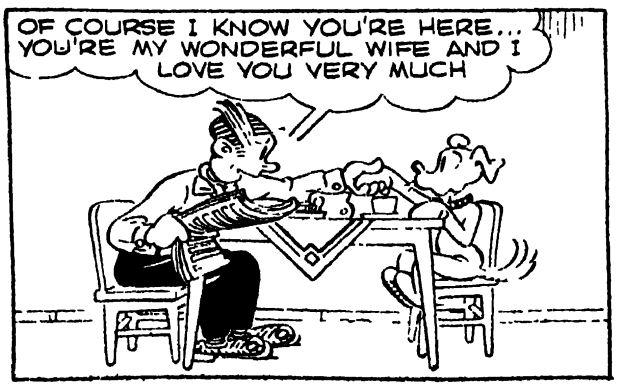




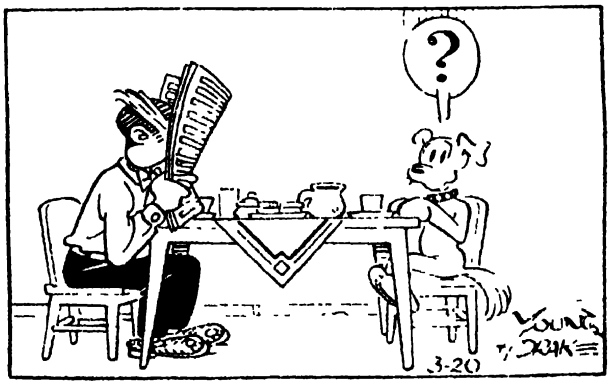


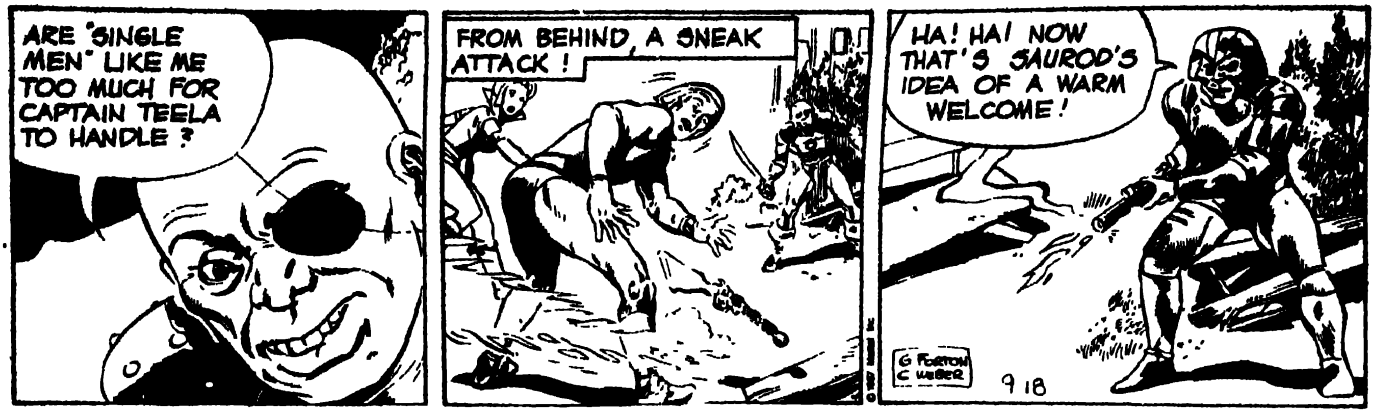






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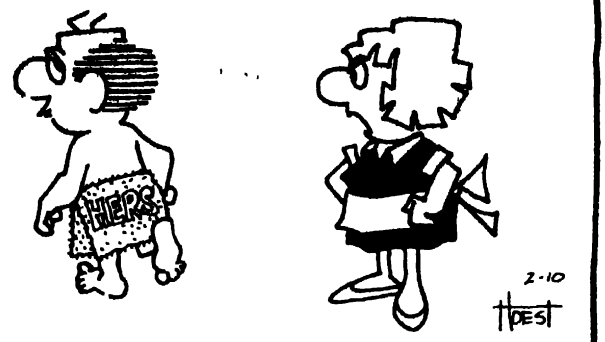

ARE "SINGLE MEN" LIKE ME TOO MUCH FOR CAPTAIN TEELA TO HANDLE ?
FROM BEHIND, A SNEAK ATTACK !
HA! HA! NOW THAT'S SAUROD'S IDEA OF A WARM WELCOME!
G FORTON C WEBER
9 18


SHIP'S PARKED IN BACK, BLADE WERE'S EVIL LYN ?
SHE'S LATE AS USUAL. JOIN THE DIVERSION, SAUROD ! YOU TAKE THE GUARD, TEELA'S ALL MINE !
9 19
WHO DED AND LEFT YOU BOSS? YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE WITH TEELA, BLADE. NOW IT'S MY TURN !
TERRIFIC. EVIL LYN SADDLES ME WITH A PRIMA DONNA PYROMANIAC!
IS THIS A PRIVATE PARTY? OR IS THERE ROOM FOR ONE MORE ?
G FORTON C WEBER


HE-MAN'S ARRIVAL GIVES BLADE'S BOASTING A NEW EDGE.
SO GOLDILOCKS CAN BLOCK ! TOO BAD YOU ONLY HAVE ONE SWORD!
9/21

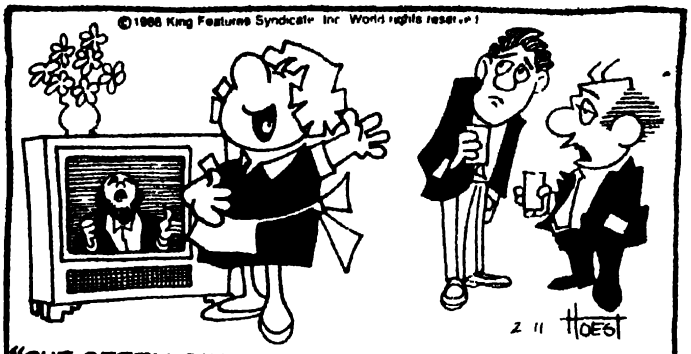

I BET YOU THINK YOU'RE A REAL CUT UP, EH, BLADE ?!
THAT'S AS CLOSE AS WE'LL GET TO BURYING THE HATCHET NOW, WHERE'S GWILDOR ?!
9/22

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"CAN'T YOU READ?"

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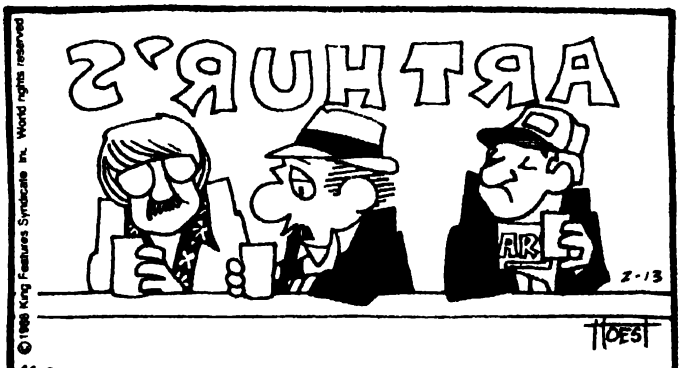
"SHE OFTEN SINGS WITH PAVAROTTI—HIM LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER, HER IN FRONT OF THE T V SET."

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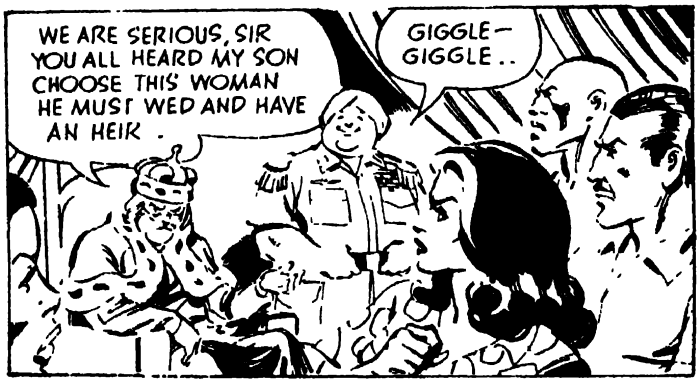
"WHEN HE'S NOT DRUNK AND DISORDERLY HE'S JUST DISORDERLY."

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"I'LL NEVER FORGET THE FIRST TIME I MET LORETTA, BUT, HEAVEN KNOWS, I TRY."

MANDRAKE By Lee Falk





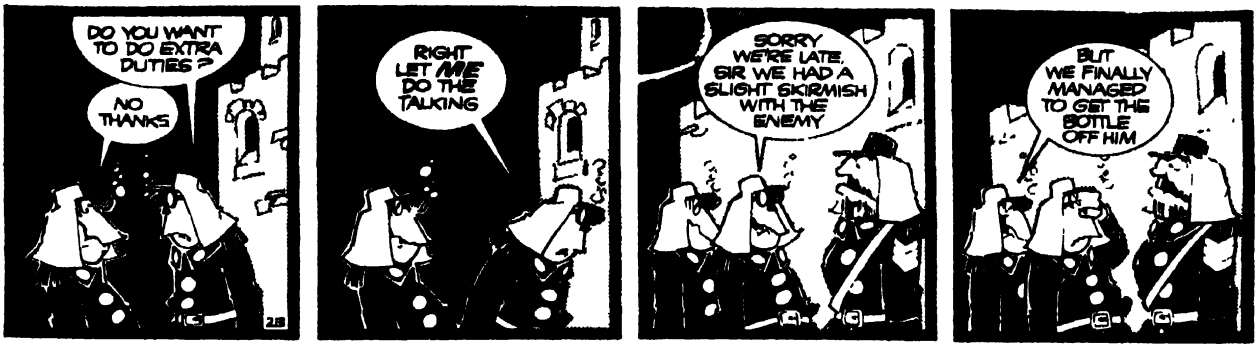


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JUST STAND THERE AND I'LL TRY TO FIND A WAY IN WITHOUT THE SERGEANT FINDING OUT
SO DON'T MOVE.
BEAU YOU SO COULD YOU GET THIS SAND OUT OF MY EYE
2.4


WHAT A STATE YOU'RE IN WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AND SNEAK OVER THE WALL
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT NOW I'LL HAVE TO TRY AND FIND A ROPE.
ROPE?
HERE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HANG ME?


DO YOU WANT TO DO EXTRA DUTIES?
NO THANKS
RIGHT LET ME DO THE TALKING
SORRY WE'RE LATE, SIR WE HAD A SLIGHT SKIRMISH WITH THE ENEMY
BUT WE FINALLY MANAGED TO GET THE BOTTLE OFF HIM
2.13

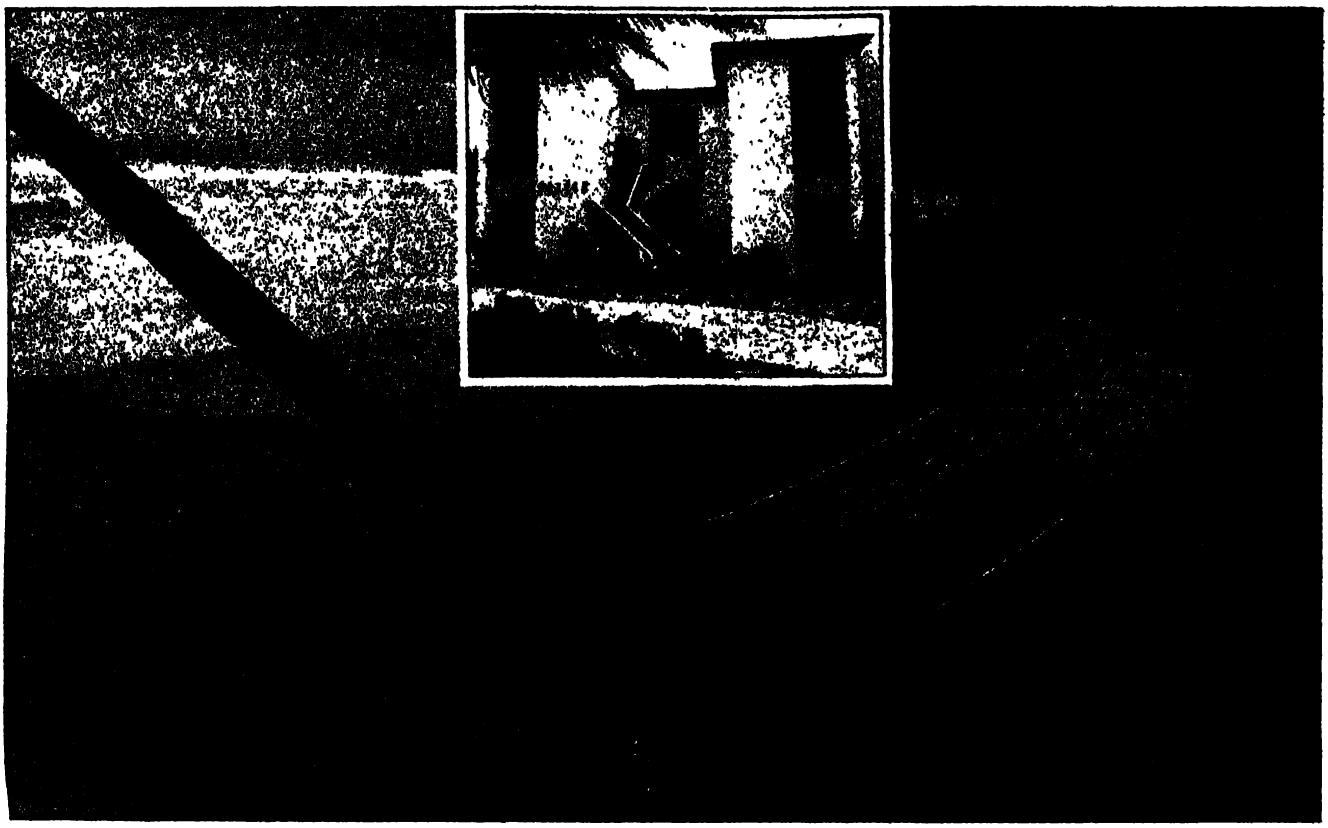

LATE RETURNING TO THE FORT AND DRUNK TO BOOT
PEEP'S EXCUSE WAS PATHETIC WHAT'S YOURS?
THAT'S VERY KIND I'LL HAVE A GLASS OF WINE
2.14


2.15
BEAU, I'VE DECIDED I WANT TO BE CLEVER LIKE WHAT YOU ARE
SO I'VE STARTED TEACHING MYSELF TO READ
VERY COMMENDABLE, DENNIS HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON?
NOT VERY WELL
WAR AND PEACE



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AVAIL OF THE INSTALMENT SCHEME

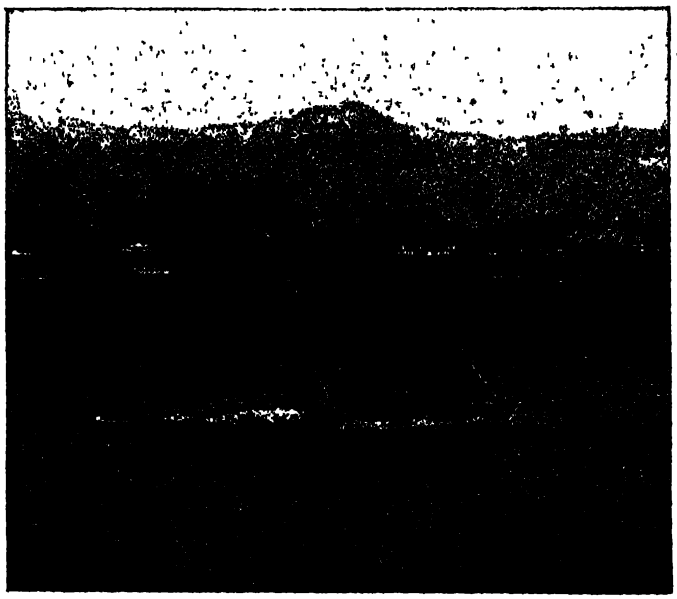
GOVAN/DRI/G5/87

CONTENTS

The Telegraph
28 AUGUST 1988

Pujas will be here again and you will want to get away from the madding crowd. This time, why not retreat to the beaches? This Puja Travel Special is devoted to a water-oriented vacation and an effort has been made to select some rare beaches, unusual water sports, resorts abroad but not too far, and the lighter side of pack-up-and-go. So, read, pack up and get ready to go!

4 **Fish, Tackle and Fly**
A fishing holiday in Kashmir



Subhajit Pal

9 **River Rafting in UP**
A fun-and-adventure excursion

10 **The Call of the Blue**
The thrill of an ocean cruise

14 **Picnics and Prayer**
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16 **Goa's Ark**
What happens to honeymooners on board

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Budgeting for a holiday abroad.



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Cover Deepak Bhattacharya (beach) and Samir Sinha (vacationer)

All rates quoted in this issue are the latest available at the time of going to press.

FISH, TACKLE AND FLY

Trek up to the lonely heights of Kashmir and angle for trout. It's a truly soothing holiday, says **Yusuf Jameel**

Forget all those holidays that just aren't holidays—unending journeys to reach elusive retreats, crowds, ruffled tempers and, at the end of it all, an unhappy family. Have a holiday that's truly relaxing—go fishing in the quietest corners of beautiful Kashmir. The mountains which surround the vale of Kashmir rise upto 17,000 feet above sea level and are a veritable paradise for anglers, with a network of rivers, streams and high altitude lakes. About 120 recognised fishing beats are spread over 40 streams that total over 500 km. Besides, there are 12 high altitude lakes ranging from 8,000 feet to 14,000 feet above sea level. The lakes, rivers and streams abound in both brown and rainbow trout besides other fish.



Tourists angling in a snow-fed stream in the Bringi Valley

Criss-crossing the state are the well-known Sindh and Lidder rivers and their tributaries besides a silvery network of smaller rivers and streams. The variation along the course of each river is immense, providing enormous opportunities to anglers. Nearer the source of the river, the gradient is steeper and the water is fast flowing. The landscape is generally hilly with dark brooding pines towering all around. As the river runs its course, the gradient evens out and the flow of water loses its torrential force. The pines give way to open countryside punctuated by willow, poplar and walnut trees.

The alpine lakes that fall along well-known trekking routes are Gangabal, Kishansar, Vishansar, Gadsar and Satsar in the Sindh Valley, Sheshnag, Tarsar, Marsar and Tulian in the Lidder Valley and Kausernag and Alpather in other side-valleys. The Dal Lake in Srinagar , of course, remains a favourite with watersports enthusiasts and anglers not wanting to go up to higher altitudes.

Undoubtedly, trout fishing in the mountain rivers, streams and high altitude lakes in Kashmir is much cheaper than in any other part of the world. One can enjoy angling in ideal conditions too. Trout breeding, according to N.A. Jan, director of the department of fisheries which controls angling in the state, began in 1899 when the first batch of 10,000 trout ova arrived from Britain, courtesy the Duke of Bedford to whom the Maharaja of Kashmir had presented a Kashmir stag (hangul) trophy. The first batch of eggs perished en route, but the second shipment, which included 1,800 fry, was successfully transferred in January, 1901. One thousand fry were sent to Panzagam-Dachigam near Srinagar and the rest were reared on the premises of a private carpet owner in Srinagar itself. The owner, Frank J. Michael, better known as the father of Kashmir trout fisheries, formed a private fishing club with 12 of his compatriot sportsmen. The club, however, wound up soon after because of a dispute with the state government over the use of some waters.

Michael established the first trout hatchery at Harwan, about 24 kms east of Srinagar, in 1901. Interestingly, these temporary ponds constructed at Panzagam village were washed into nearby streams where they flourished so much so that the Maharaja was able to present a 12.5 lb trout to Lord Minto.

In 1908 trout was stocked at Achabal, the spring-fed stream that diverted into three channels surrounded by a garden at an altitude of 1,667 metres in south Kashmir. By 1923, almost all snow-fed and spring-fed streams became the breeding ground for trout. In fact, at least 24 fishing beats were established by 1938 and a regular department of fisheries was launched. Later, Kashmir trout fingerlings were sent to Kulu, Kagan, Astore, Gilgit (now in occupied Kashmir), Bhutan, Nepal and Parachinar (now in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province).

Since 1978 the state fisheries department has established 18 trout hatcheries in the state with an annual production of two lakh trout fingerlings. In the last decade several measures have been taken to culture and promote trout and carp fisheries. In 1984 the fisheries department achieved a major breakthrough in the culture of the rainbow trout when it collaborated with a Danish firm for larges-

cale trout breeding. Currently, fly fishing, dry and wet, is done in most of the beats except a few where spinning is also allowed. High altitude lakes have been stocked with brown trout and will soon also contain Alpine trout Trout seedlings have been distributed in far flung areas by helicopter

Do not, for a moment imagine that fishing in Kashmir is a more somnolent sport than it is elsewhere, for the trout is a crafty fish and an angler has to use all his guile to make a successful catch Early mornings and late evenings are the best times to make a kill and as a tourism brochure adds, the illusion that the world is yours will be heightened "If using one type of fly does not meet with success, you will have to experiment with another And cast and recast repeatedly To increase your chances of success, you might like to shift to another spot - after all, your permit allows you to fish at any point in one beat which measures two kilometres And it ensures that nobody else is allowed the use of that beat for the days allotted to you! But in case you need information and assistance, you are not alone Our beat guards - there are two per beat are familiar with the habits of the fish and are there to advise you, should you wish," the brochure says chattily

V M Thapar, a businessman from Calcutta recently in the valley, found the angling "far better" this year than in previous ones 'But obviously in days gone by, when angling pressures were lower, fishing was undoubtedly better still Perhaps, it would be only fair to say that in the past angling was nothing short of fantastic so it would be an unfortunate yardstick to judge by," he wrote to fisheries director Jan after his fishing holiday

Jan on his part stressed that they were doing their best to ensure that there was no depletion of stock by indiscriminate fishing "We are also persuading the government and concerned agencies to stop further encroachments along rivers and lakes," he said, claiming that poaching had been "minimised" thanks to the stringent measures taken by the department He disclosed that plans were afoot to transfer the technology of trout breeding to the private sector, a move that would certainly revolutionise fishing in Kashmir

Even as Thapar is all praise for the fisheries department's "efforts at improving angling in the valley," the lack of coordination between the various government agencies like the municipalities, town planning authorities, the roads and building department and the department of fisheries has adversely affected angling in the state. Admitting this, Jan said the real culprit was not pollution but the indiscriminate growth of housing colonies and roads.

TIPS FOR ANGLERS

- Never carry your rod with the tip in front. It is safer to have the butt in front of you.
- Test the end of your line occasionally and cut off worn parts
- A quick jerk,a shake of the rod and a fast and slow reel will generally entice fish.
- Never go fishing without a landing net or gaff.
- Avoid kinked traces They are dangerous.
- Try and avoid gut showing the slightest wear or you may be asking for trouble.
- All hooks should be examined to ensure that they are sharp
- Most anglers advocate upstream fishing as fish cannot see below, or up or at the sides. There is also a better chance of hooking as there are less chances of a hook being pulled out of its mouth.
- Fish discriminate between shapes and forms Always carry a good selection of baits
- If the gut persistently curls up, dampen your fingers and thumb and draw the gut a few times through them. This helps to straighten it out.
- Do not fill your reel to the top, it will cause line jamb.
- Do not fill your reel insufficiently. It will reduce casting range.
- Do not snap or jerk knots when tying, pull steadily.
- Finer tackle gets you better sport
- Casting up and across the stream is the most natural presentation of a bait
- Do not let your shadow fall in the water when proceeding upstream on the look out for fish.
- Good casting means good fishing, so practise before getting out on a trip
- Knight tackle gives best fishing results.
- Best fishing spots are sunken rocks, eddies, water edges of rapids and deep pools.
- A good spot is one where abundant fry, are present.
- When successful at a certain spot give it a break before trying again after a few hours,otherwise the place will get depleted.
- A trout will usually take a fly instantly it takes the water. This is the best time to make a catch so you should be prepared to strike immediately.
- If a trout is close, endeavour to make the fly alight on the stream from the surrounding foliage to make it seem as though it had fallen off naturally A gentle movement of the rod will effect this
- More fish are killed in the morning and heavier fish in the evening.
- Fishing against the sun avoids the shadow from falling into water
- Many fish including trout seek shelter when a cold breeze is blowing under the bank on the sunny side of the river
- Where thre is a commotion of small fish, wait before casting a little above the commotion
- When warm, fish generally look for deep water, so snip deep.
- Tire your fish out completely before trying to land it and do not be in a hurry Play in a suitable landing place
- A fish which turns on its side is ready for the landing net Do not make a dash as the fish may be lost.
- No matter how careful you are, accidents are likely to occur, take a repair outfit with you.
- Do not wade in fast waters.
- If a hook gets into your skin do not pull it out. Push the point through, cut off the barb, then pull it out.
- Fish can be brought back home ice cold by simply arranging with alternate layers of dry or green grass The sack should be rolled tightly, tied and then soaked thoroughly in water before being tied on the car bumper

There are four classes of streams in Kashmir. Some have spring sources at an elevation little above that of the main valley (5,300 feet above sea level) while others originate from the high altitude lakes and glaciers over 14,000 feet. Then, there are the snow-fed streams which are permanent and arise from lakes,springs but carry no glacier water Finally, there are snow-fed streams which have no other sources and often run dry in winter

Rivers and streams are divided into approximately 120 beats, most of which are within a two-hour drive from Srinagar The beats usually house a department of fisheries or state tourism hut where anglers can stay overnight Some beat also have forest rest houses nearby Most of the trout beats are connected with pucca roads.

The permit that an angler must obtain before fishing allows him to catch upto six fish The permit fee is Rs 100 for foreigners and Rs 50 for Indians per day Enthusiasts can avail the services registered *shikari (ghilli* who act

A PRIMER ON KASHMIR'S FISHING SPOTS

1. Snow fed	Distance from Srinagar	Altitude	Lodging/staying facility
Lidder in Pahalgam	97 km from Srinagar	2400 m	Anglers lodge/ tourist cottages/ hotels (all types)
Bringi in Daksum	95 km from Srinagar	2438 m	Tourist hut at Daksum and camping ground.
Ferozpur. in Tangmarg	39 km from Srinagar	--	Tourist huts at Tanmarg anglers lodge inspection hut (fisheries)
Erin and Sonerwani in Bandipore	60 km from Srinagar	—	Anglers lodge
Aripal in Tral	55 km from Srinagar	—	Camping ground
Arizal in Budgam	65 km from Srinagar	--	Camping ground
Sindh in Sonamarg	17 to 64 km from Srinagar	--	Anglers lodges/ tiffin shed/ tourist huts and camping grounds
Sonamarg	780 km from Srinagar	300 m	Tourist huts camping ground
Heerpora in Shopain	60 km from Srinagar		Camping ground
2. Spring fed			
Kokernag	79 km from Srinagar	2012 m	Anglers lodge Tourist hut
Verinag	80 km from Srinagar	-	Tourist hut camping ground
Kotus	58 km from Srinagar	-	Anglers lodge at Nambal
3. High Altitude lakes			
Krishensar (Harmukh area)	Two stages from Srinagar; motorable upto Sonamarg (83 kms)	4167 m	Tourist hut at Harmag and camping ground
Vishensar	"	13750 m	
Gangabal	"	3788 m	
Nunkhul	"	35521 m	

A single room for Rs 25 to Rs 50 and double room for Rs 45 to Rs 100 is available at the angler's lodges and inspection huts (fisheries). Two adults and one child can stay in a single room. For every additional adult sharing the same room Rs 20 extra is charged A 50 per cent off season discount is also given at certain times of the year.

The Jammu and Kashmir tourism department charges Rs 250 and Rs 350 for a single and double room cottage, respectively at Pahalgam. At Kokernag only double room huts are available (Rs 200). At Sonamarg accommodation in well furnished huts at Rs 200 is available. Cooking gas facility and utensils are also available in the huts. In Pahalgam there are a number of luxury and economy class hotels and besides the camping

WHERE AUTOMOBILES CAN GO

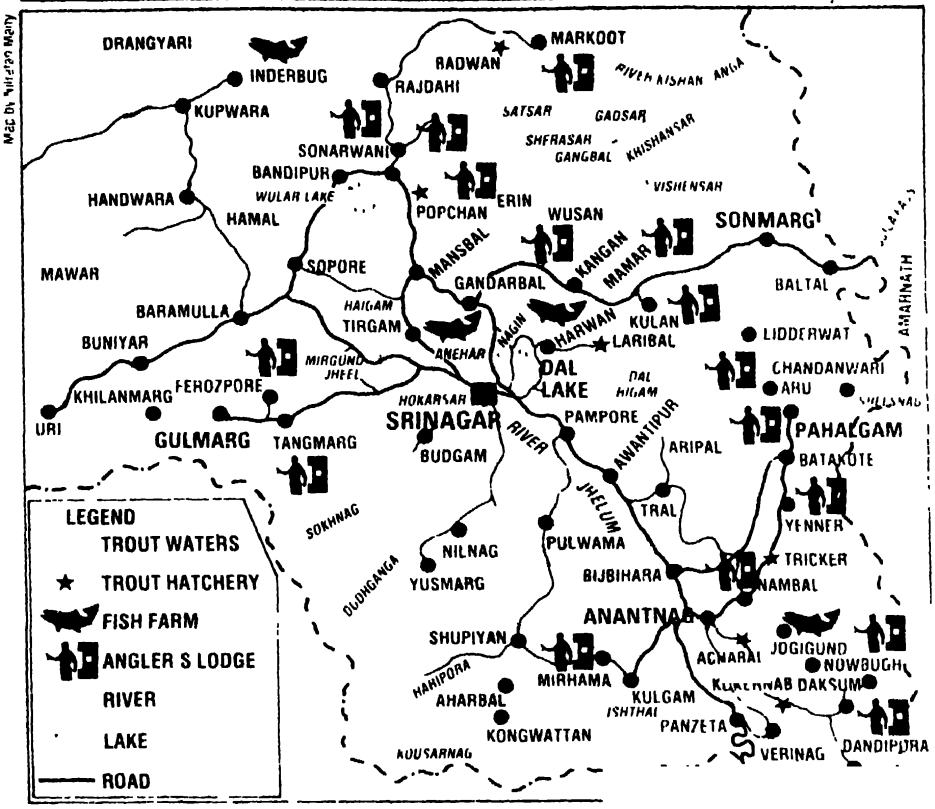
- Upto Pahalgam Bridge (98 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Aru (Pahalgam) (11 kms from Pahalgam bazar)
- Upto Sonamarg (80 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Erin, Bandipora (60 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Daksum (98 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Aripal Tral (55 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Arizal Budgam (65 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Heerpore Shopian (65 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Ferozpur Tangmarg (39 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Verinag (80 kms from Srinagar)
- Upto Kotus (58 kms from Srinagar)

Regular bus services between Srinagar and Pahalgam and to and from Sonamarg run during the angling season. Tangmarg, Kokernag, Verinag, Tral and Bandipore are connected with Srinagar by regular bus services. Taxi cars and mini buses can also be hired to reach most of the fishing spots. The high altitude lakes, however, are accessible only to trekkers.

In the Lidder valley, trout water fishing is possible on 30 major beats. In the Bringhi Valley 33 important beats exist which include 25 along snow-fed streams and the restalong the spring-fed streams in the Kokernag and Verinag areas. In the Sindh Valley in Srinagar district 14 fishing beats lie along the snow-fed streams. The high-altitude lakes of Krishensar, Vishensar, Gangabal and Nunkul also lie within the Sindh Valley. Sukhnag and Brainya are two major fishing spots in the Budgam trout waters while fishing is possible along 21 beats in the Bandipura trout waters.

In landlocked Ladakh, fishing is possible at Choglamasar, five kilometres from Leh, and at Pashkyum, 12 km from Kargil town. At both places there are camping grounds with scenic surroundings available to trekkers. Wakha in Kargil district, 40 kms form Kargil and 245 kms from Srinagar; also boasts camping grounds and a tourist rest house at Bulbaik. The Poonch Loren beat 18 kms from Poonch town, has attracted anglers in the past. Similarly, the ANS beat, four kms from Rajouri, and its district headquarters, is a favourite fishing spot. The dak bungalow at Bakooni is situated midway on the beat.

KASHMIR TROUT WATERS MAP



guide on a daily payment of Rs 30. He is generally well versed with conditions and location of important areas or pools and maintains a close liaison with the department staff. Fishing tackle can be hired or purchased from registered local dealers at reasonable rates. As experience has shown, reels and flies are all that are needed. Spoons and spinners are not allowed except in high-altitude lakes. Residents of Kashmir are allowed to do so only on Sundays. The booking for fishing is done on a first-come-first-serve basis and cannot continue for more than three days at a stretch. Sub-letting is not permitted and sharing or transfer of licences is prohibited.

The use of small worm-like frogs, both natural and artificial mulberries and other forms of living or dead plant and animal matter is strictly forbidden in all trout beats. Subject to availability, anglers can stay in departmental lodges on payment but this too cannot be extended beyond three days.

The fishing season usually commences on April 1 and lasts upto the end of September but it can start or end 15 days before or after the predetermined date depending on water and weather conditions. For the more adventurous, fishing in one of the many high altitude lakes (14,000 ft above sea level) is recommended. One trek route starts from Sonamarg and goes on to Vishansar, Krishansar, Satsa Gadsar and Gangabal, all alpine lakes. If trek alone takes eight days and a hiker advised to arm himself with a tent trekking boots, all available at tou department trekking shops. It is necessary to carry ample provisions as no food is available on the way. But a view the breathtakingly lovely lakes and spectacular mountains is worth the effort.

In winter when the water surface freezes, the fish (mainly brown trout) keep close to the bottom of the lake, rising nearer the surface as the ice melts. The use of spoons and spinners is allowed in these lakes. The trekking season, however, is only from July to October.

Information regarding equipment, location of beats, transport to and from and convenient accommodation can be obtained from the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) in Srinagar. The fisheries department is within the TRC complex and permits can be obtained from there. As most of the officials there are keen anglers themselves, you can get handy tips from them. Accommodation for overnight stay can be booked here as well.

It is possible that on your first "fishing holiday" in Kashmir, you might not meet with much success. And then again, you might land an unbelievably large catch. Catch or not, it is likely to be one of your most unforgettable holidays. ■

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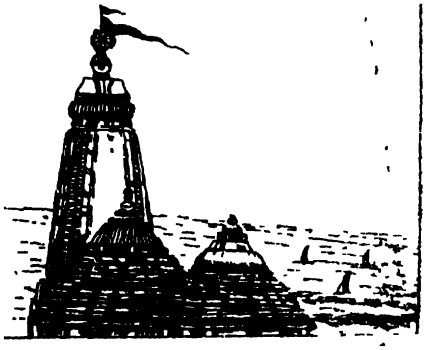
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RIVER RAFTING IN UP

It can be fun. And an unusual way of spending a holiday, too



River rafting in Garhwal

For water sports enthusiasts, there can be nothing more exhilarating than the feel of swirling water and surf splashing bare skin. But, water rafting in the upper reaches of the Ganga is recommended only for those with strong hearts and spirits to match because between Devaprayag and Rishikesh in the Garhwal Himalayas one encounters some of the nastiest stretches of rapids.

Described as the "most spectacular community river sport" the equipment consists of an oar-frame raft that accommodates about eight persons. It is navigated by an experienced oarsman who uses two large paddles. However, there is another version of the sport where each passenger also paddles to keep the raft facing downstream in the roaring tumultuous currents of the Ganga. But the latter method is not recommended for the inexperienced.

The rafts themselves are virtually unsinkable, made as they are of lightweight materials like rubber and nylon and are filled with air. All provisions and equipment are carried on board. Rafters normally stop for night halts on sylvan beaches along the river.

The sport is recommended for only those with a sense of adventure and who, above all, do not mind getting drenched for hours on end in the spray. They are, however, fairly safe from injury since it is compulsory for all to wear crash helmets and life jackets But there is still the chance of the occasional spill and soaking.

The normal season for white water rafting begins in November and continues till May. The winter months are cold but the excitement of it all is enough to keep you on your toes According to figures available with the Uttar Pradesh tourism office it costs about Rs 600 per trip down the river on board one of the privately run rafts

For those inclined for adventures slightly out of the routine, there are smaller expeditions including descents down the unmapped gorges of the Alaknanda and Mandakini or any of the other tributaries of the Ganga that foam and froth their way down to the plains. Canoes and *kayaks* may be hired, but there are no organised tours for the unschooled The rides include seeing some of the most spectacular aspects of the Himalayas

The Uttar Pradesh tourism offices in the four metropolises are listed below.

Calcutta: 12A, Netaji Subhas Road, ph: 207855.
Delhi: 36, Janpath, Chandralok Building, ph 3322251
Bombay: World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, ph. 215497
Madras: Commander-in-chief Road, ph. 479726.

Other possible water holidays include a ride down the Ganga by boat from Allahabad to Varanasi but this is not conducted on a regular basis. Visitors to Varanasi usually hire country boats for a view of the city's ghats. In Allahabad, boats can be hired to go to Prayag midstream between the confluence of the Ganga and the Jamuna . Yachts can also be hired in Nainital for daily and hourly rides on the Naini lake.

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TRAVEL SPECIAL

THE CALL OF THE BLUE

Arijit Sinha and **Surit Doss** on the thrill of an ocean cruise. It can be exacting but it's well worth it



View from the deck of a cruise ship

For over 150 years ships carried convicts to the penal colony set up by Captain Archibald Blair in the malaria-infested and unknown group of islands then referred to as Kalapani. It was a dreaded journey that no one wanted to make. Today the lush greenery of the tropical haven of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands, 600 nautical miles south-east of the mainland of India, attracts hundreds of tourists from all over the world. And the journey by ship crowns it all.

The ship sails out from its berth at dock no. 22 in Kidderpore, Calcutta, around midnight with 700 passengers on board. It is fascinating to watch the bridge opening up as the vessel makes its way to the Sandheads. Here the pilot, who manoeuvres the ship through the river waters, hands over command to the captain and returns ashore in a small boat. From the Sandheads one gets a last glimpse of land and the mangroves of the Sunderbans, dark and eerie in the distance.

For the next two days, all that meets the eye is the vast expanse of the blue-black depths of the Bay of Bengal and the quiet sound of the foamy waters hitting the sides of the ship.

The next morning when the passengers venture onto the decks for the first time a spectacular sight awaits them. The vision of blue-green waters all around meeting the clear blue sky at the far horizon and the sun shining with an unsurpassed brilliance is mesmerising. The grandeur of the sight evokes in the passenger a sense of awe, wonder and reverence. The huge ship seems like a mere toy in the vast ocean.

At 7.30 am breakfast is announced over the public address system and the cabin passengers are requested to take their seats in the first class dining saloon. One is expected to sit at the same table throughout the journey to make it easier for the allotted steward to take care of one's needs. Even bed tea is served by him. The breakfast is always continental. It starts with fruit juice, cornflakes or porridge, is followed by eggs cooked as you want it, ham, salami and freshly baked bread. The meal is rounded off with coffee or tea and cheese with biscuits. The other meals are a mixture of continental and Indian food. There is no restriction on the amount and the stewards are ever ready to stuff you till you well nigh burst at your seams. At tea time coffee or tea is served with biscuits and cakes. The bunk passengers have to queue up and buy coupons for meals at the bunk class canteen where you help yourselves. The prices are very reasonable.

There is really no chance of getting bored on the ship. After all there are 700 passengers to talk to. And if you are not looking for conversation, the ship's library is there to lend you books. There are also various indoor games to play like chess, cards, carrom or table tennis. Many just laze around on the top deck listening to piped music on the public address system. Sitting on the deck if you are lucky you come across schools of flying fish, sharks and dolphins. The dolphins can entertain for hours with their acrobatics.

MV Akbar, one of the ships plying on the Calcutta-Port Blair route, has a bar, but it is opened for only two hours in the evenings to minimise chances of a drunken brawl. On the other ship plying this route, the MV Harshavardhana, you can always ask your friendly steward to provide you with a drink. The ships also have a well-stocked canteen where anything from

WHAT TO PACK

This is a basic packing list for a seven-day warm weather cruise

MEN

Bathing suits (2)
Shorts (2 pairs)
Sports shirts (2 pairs)
Lightweight slacks (2 pairs)
Walking shoes (1 pair)
Flip flops or sandals (1 pair)
Hat (1)
Sunglasses (1 pair)

WOMEN

Bathing suits (2)
Cover ups or shorts (2)
Blouses (3)
Sundresses or skirts (2)
Walking shoes (1 pair)
Flip flops or sandals (1 pair)
Hat or scarf (1)
Sunglasses (1 pair)

cigarettes to snacks and canned food is available. There are adequate medical facilities on board too.

As evening falls everybody makes their way to the deck for a sight one cannot afford to miss. The beautiful sunset with its glorious play of colours in the fading light and the water is beyond description. Late in the evenings a game of house (bingo) is followed by a movie. This routine is generally maintained through the three days of sailing.

As the ship approaches Port Blair, numerous small uninhabited islands sprout from the sea to greet you. Thick clusters of mangrove and beaches of talcum-fine sands are a refreshing sight after three days of just water. The varying depths of the sea can be marked by the change in colour of the water. As it gets shallower the blue-black water turns a dark shade of green and then becomes a transparent light green as the beaches near. A pilot takes over from the captain again and guides the ship through the islands to Port Blair's Haddo Jetty and an unforgettable experience ends.

However, one can be driven from pillar to post just to board the ship. Only two ships, the Harshavardhana and Akbar, ply on the route and tickets are not easy to come by with most seats being booked for officials of the Andaman and Nicobar administration. Added to this is the uncertainty of the sailing date with departure postponed for weeks on end for one reason or the other.

Buying the ticket is itself not an easy task. One has to apply to the Andaman administration at least a month before the date of sailing from Calcutta with a 50 per cent advance. If tickets are available an allotment number is sent with which you go to the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) office from where tickets are issued two to three days before the date of sailing. Here one may have to wait in line for upto two days. Those travelling by the bunk class may have to queue up overnight, but many book their places with a coupon and return the next morning for another long wait. Others avoid the ordeal by going to a travel agent who charges an extra Rs 50. The tickets are issued only after a passport size photograph is produced and no one can travel on another person's ticket.

Fares on the MV Harshavardhana for a single berth cabin (deluxe) is Rs 637 for two berth (deluxe) and first class four berth cabins it is Rs 769.40, four and six-berth 'A' cabins cost Rs 83.50, the four berth second class cabins cost Rs 532.50 and the bunk class fare is Rs 17. This ship is fully airconditioned. Food on the ship costs Rs 40 per head daily. The rates on the MV Akbar are more or less the same, but there are different categories of tickets.

Once the date of sailing is announced passengers are expected to be at the docks by the afternoon though the ship sails around midnight or later. Here the tickets are stamped and medical checks carried out. No women beyond six months of pregnancy are allowed. The baggage is weighed. Each passenger is allowed roughly 40 kg or 10 cubic feet of space — whichever is more. For cabin class passengers the limit is 100 kg or 50 cubic feet. These passengers have the added advantage of a baggage room in their cabins.

Once the formalities are completed the gangplank is lowered and the embarkation begins. The absence of porters at the Kidderpore docks sometimes causes a great deal of inconvenience. The ship's purser shows you to your cabins and you settle in. If you are lucky the ship will sail before dinner or else it is a long wait. But in the end it is well worth it ■

CRUISES FROM BOMBAY

The international cruises that touch Bombay are listed below.

Sea Goddess II (touches Bombay on October 30)

Bombay to Singapore (13 days cruise) costing Rs 9,250 (the ship has a 116 passenger capacity and only one class). The route: Bombay-Goa-Colombo-Rangoon-Phuket Island-Pulau-Pangkot-Kula Lumpur-Singapore).

Saga Sjord (touches Bombay on February 15, 1989, leaves the next day).

The cruise is for eight days. The route: Bombay-Goa-Male-Penang-Singapore.

Fares: K Grade: Rs 68, 875, D-Grade: Rs 1, 05, 750.

The *Queen Elizabeth II* called at Bombay on March 10 this year. It is expected again in March 1991. The ship's 11-day cruise route covers Bombay-Mombasa-Mauritius.

Rates: P-grade (lowest grade) —per person Rs 28,980 (plus Rs 1265—port and handling charges)

D-grade: Rs 61, 755 (+ Rs 1265)

Bombay-Mombasa: (seven days)—P-grade: Rs 19, 320 (+ Rs 1265)

D-grade: Rs 41,170 (+ Rs 1265)

Bombay-Singapore: (13 days) Rs 16,000 (P-grade), Rs 44,155 (D-grade)

(These are inclusive of port and handling charges and exclude one way airfare.)

The three ships belong to the Cunard line. The general sales agent (GSA) here is Mackinnon Mackenzie (passengers wanting to take the cruise from Bombay have to contact the company's travel division Mackinnon Travels).

All fares given above are per person.

Steamer service from Bombay to Goa:

There is only one steamer service that runs between Bombay and Goa. The timings and rates are listed below.

The steamer leaves Bombay at 10 am (halts at Jaigad, Jaitapur, Vijaydurg, Deogarh) and reaches Panaji at 8 am the next morning.

The service is suspended during the monsoon months (that is, between June 1 and September 30). However, if the rains continue it is resumed on October 15.

The rate for the lower deck is Rs 48, upper deck: Rs 72, cabin (first class) Rs 220, deluxe cabin Rs 230, first class deluxe cabin-Rs 260.

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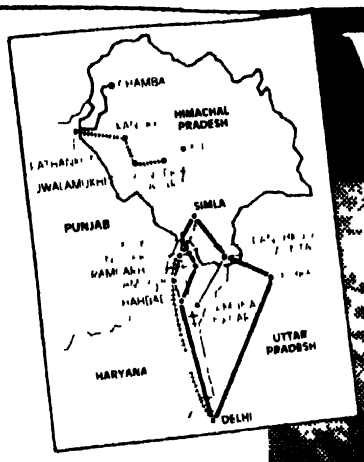
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PICNICS AND PRAYER

The hauntingly beautiful Chilka Lake on the Orissa coast is a place for pilgrimage, relaxation and communion with nature

The country's biggest inland lake, Chilka, is a veritable wonder of nature. Spread over 1,100 sq kms, its vast blue expanse connects with the Bay of Bengal through a narrow mouth, hence making it more of a tropical lagoon. The lake is dotted with a number of picturesque islands, some with evocative names like Honeymoon Island, Breakfast Island and Bird Island. Its beauty is further enhanced by its rich variety of aquatic fauna and resident and migratory birds. Its shores are the habitat of beautiful black bucks. The 19th century Oriya poet, Radhanath Roy, remarked that Chilka was truly a thing of beauty, a joy forever.

The lake is encircled by numerous hills. Its colour changes in kaleidoscopic grandeur with the passing clouds and the sun's position. The picture postcard beauty is accentuated by the hundreds of boats which set sail everyday, wafted by the breeze from the sea, the fishermen making a bountiful catch of prawn, mackerel and crab. Chilka wears a charming look specially in winter when it becomes home to exotic species of migratory birds coming in large numbers from lands as far off as Siberia and Mongolia.

Chilka has the goddess Kalijai temple, abode of its presiding deity, on a tiny island. Another attraction is the island home of migratory birds called Nalabana. Visitors to the lake can reach its emerald green islands by motor launches of the Orissa Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) stationed at Barkul and Rambha that are available on hire. Motor launches of the state revenue department are also available at nearby Balugaon. Besides, country boats can be hired from private operators at all these places.



S.P. Sarkar

Sunrise at Chilka

HOW TO REACH THERE

The Chilka Lake is accessible both by rail and road. For those travelling by air, the nearest airport is Bhubaneswar (105 kms) from where the journey is resumed either by train or by road. The Calcutta-Madras route of South-Eastern Railway touches Chilka at Balugaon (while coming from the north) and Khallikote and Rambha (from the south). The nearest station for the Barkul tourist resorts is Balugaon. Those who wish to stay at the Rambha resorts, need to alight at Rambha and Khallikote stations. The Calcutta-Madras National Highway 5, connecting Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Balugaon, Barkul, Rambha, Berhampur and Visakhapatnam, runs along the lake. Buses and taxis are available at Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Puri and Berhampur. One can also take autorickshaws from Balugaon to cover the three-km distance to Barkul.

The OTDC also provides luxury coaches and cars (both AC and non-AC) from Bhubaneswar, the charge for the AC coach is Rs 8.50 per km with an hourly detention charge of Rs 40, and that of the non-AC is Rs 6.50 with the same detention charge. For the 19-seater coach, the fare is Rs 5.50 per km with an hourly waiting charge of Rs 30. Air-conditioned Toyota cars can be hired at Rs 4.50 per km with an additional Rs 25 per hour for waiting. Non-AC cars would cost Rs 2.40 per hour, the waiting charge being Rs 10. The fare in private buses is about Rs 16. The OTDC also runs a conducted tour costing Rs 60 per head from Puri to Chilka (Barkul) three days a week. The coach returns to Puri the same day. Tickets are sold from different OTDC bungalows.

The Panthanivas at Barkul has 18 double-bedded rooms; the daily rent for an AC room is Rs 150 and that for a non-AC room is Rs 70. The rooms may be booked either on the spot or in advance through the OTDC network.

Visitors can get to the island by water transport or just cruise on the blue waters for pleasure and relaxation. The OTDC operates a 34-seater luxury motor yacht, a 12-seater launch and an eight-seater mechanised boat, the charges are Rs 10 per hour per person. The entire yacht can be hired for Rs 300 an hour and the other two vessels for Rs 70 and Rs 50, respectively.

The OTDC tourist bungalows, Panthanivas, at Barkul and Rambha, command a panoramic view of the lake and are served by a gentle, cool breeze. A drive between Barkul and Rambha brings you to Khallikote ghat from where you can have a charming view of the lake's expanse. In course of the drive, the lake appears to be an almost unending chain. Other places of scenic beauty are Nirmal Jhar, 11 kms from Rambha, which has a perennial stream channelised into different ponds. Besides being a picnic spot, the shrine of Lord Vishnu makes it important from the religious point of view. Twenty-two kms from Rambha, is Narayani—another picnic spot. With a natural spring and a temple of goddess Narayani, the place is ideal both for relaxation and religious activities.

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GOA'S ARK

It contained one chicken, two honeymooners and many people. **Shaiontoni Bose** describes the Panaji-Bombay steamer from top to bottom

There is a steamer service that runs between Goa and Bombay. It is managed by the Shipping Corporation of India. Any tourist worth his salt will know that when you go to Goa, a trip on this steamer is as essential an experience as pork vindaloo (yum), Feni (yuk), those charming, cheerful restaurants with fanciful names (how's "O Coquero" for a start?), and, of course, the good old vintage, salt, salt sea.

I may say with some smugness that I have been on that steamer twice. The first time, I was a teenager, accompanying my grandparents, on my first proper journey by sea. My grandparents had a beautiful cabin at the end of the ship which overlooked all sea and no deck. You could see the sunset and the first stars, the gulls, and the frothy, translucent water.

I had a little cabin which I had to share with a jovial, elephantine British lady in overalls. She never shed them. She looked seven feet tall to my humble five and was, luckily for me, nice. At any rate, there was I travelling first class, with all the comforts that this particular distinction offered.

Deck chairs to laze in on deck, watching the gulls - and could that be a dolphin's fin there? Or was it a shark (pleasurable shudder)? feeling the sea's salt cool spray on my face, sitting quietly with a book on my lap, watching other passengers, sipping a cool drink - oh luxury! And lunch *and* dinner in the dining hall, tables and napkins and table talk, forks and knives laid out. Everyone polite, each waiting his or her turn. In the evening, a saunter on deck, savouring the cool evening breeze.

There, immersed in themselves, holding hands, heads together, strolled the epitome of honeymoon couple. Two young Goans. She very pretty, beautifully turned out. He tall and smartly dressed, possessed of a somewhat naval bearing. I looked at them and thought a little wistfully, "What a wonderful way to spend your honeymoon, travelling on a boat like this." Ah! If only I had known.

I watched the changing colours. It enchanted me. The soft milky green of the sea during the day took on the deeper shades of the night, a greyish blue, and then the sky, studded with stars, a limitless, velvet black. The sea, edged with phosphorescent lace, lapped softly against the boat, reflecting the velvety darkness.

The bright lights of the boat played a very little way over the waves before they were swallowed by the night, creating a mysterious nocturne which told of so much more beyond the shadow.

How strange it felt to think as I gazed at the seeming nothingness of the night, that these depths of sky and sea held so much teeming life and so much that remained unknown to mankind.

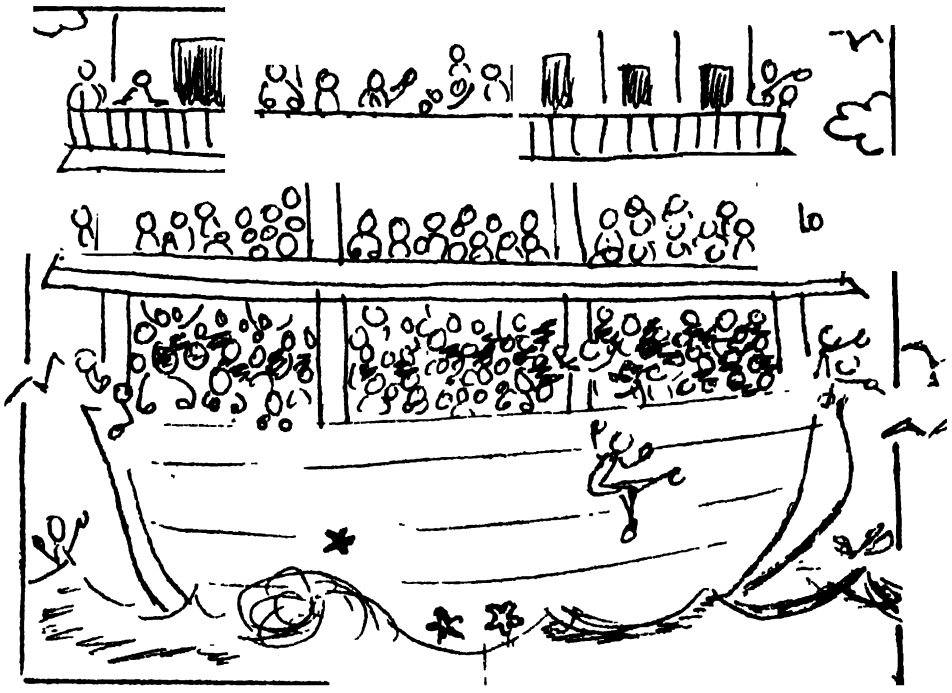
Nearby, the lovers too were gazing out, singing softly together. They had melodious voices which harmonised well.

Several years later, a very, very different pair of honeymooners boarded that same familiar steamer in utterly different circumstances. Us. We, to put it bluntly, couldn't afford first class. (Which journalist can?) We were too late to get upper deck tickets (then Rs 72) and had to settle for the lower deck (then Rs 48). The first class fare? Never mind.

Dressed in our shabbiest, we set off to catch the steamer at Panaji at 8 am. The crowd was mind-boggling. There was a queue of sorts. I hate to say this but we jumped it (we don't make a habit of this), along with another person rather more aggressive than us. The poor gentleman whose place was usurped complained, "I've been standing here since 7 o'clock." The aggressive man who did the better part of the jumping (we just joined in) said sarcastically, "Well, who asked you to?" Which was not nice at all. We knew we were in the wrong but just kept quiet and stayed where we were (which was not nice either).

Not everyone who jumped the queue had such an easy time of it. Several foreigners ambitiously strode to the head of the line. They were unceremoniously hauled back amid much shouting and screaming among the injured and indignant party who weren't going to be done out of their advantage. They were Bengalis, noisy and enthusiastic. They had been waiting since 5 am and were not going to relinquish their places to these foreign upstarts. The police didn't allow the offenders aboard until everybody had got on - and it looked like a mile-long queue.

The next phase of the mad rush began as the gates to the jetty opened. The rule of the game was (and I'm sure still is) each to his own and the devil take the hindmost. The name of the game could be called *"Jiska lathi, uska bhainse"* -to him who wields the stick belongs the buffalo. The basic idea was that each contestant rushed in armed with as large a piece of cloth or



bedding as he or she owned, and spread it out immediately, covering as much floor space as possible. There was a lot of shoving and shouting and trampling of feet as everyone shot into the lower and upper decks. The Bengali group, with masterly planning, cordoned off all the plum areas on deck and laid out their floor covering at leisure. Some people bagged luggage space and proceeded to bed themselves on the racks. Suffice it to say that we got the space of one — repeat, one — shawl and a suitcase between us. The suitcase took more space than we did. It was evident we weren't too good at the game.

There was some good-natured rivalry between upper deck and lower deck passengers. It seemed the thing to do, once tickets were checked, was to slide up to the upper deck which was more open and so, less claustrophobic. We who stayed below had the last laugh when it rained. All the uppers came haring down.

We were surrounded by a vast variety of people, both Indian and otherwise. Immediately next to us was a tall, thin, sardonically humorous Goan called Rui, who was extremely helpful. There sat a family which carried several bundles consisting of an assortment of babies and luggage, surmounted by a struggling squawking bag that we deduced contained a chicken.

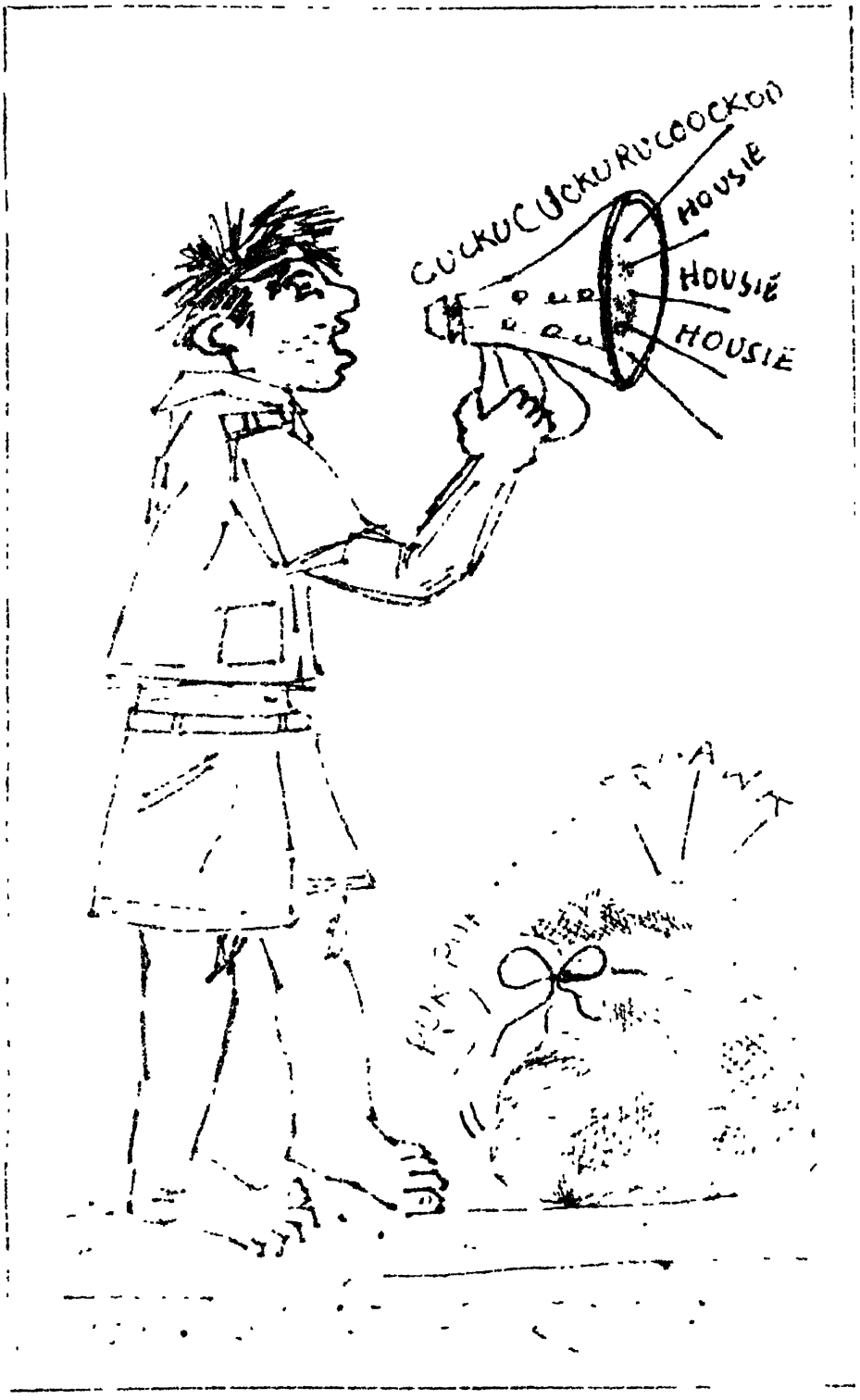
As the steamer started moving, we all rushed to watch the little Panaji harbour fade into the distance, the sign saying "Welcome to Goa" growing smaller and smaller, the whitewashed background of buildings receding, the swaying palms tossing their heads in goodbye.

Soon after we left, the steamer honking like an oversized goose, an announcement was made over the mike, exclusively for the common man. "Attention please," it said. "Attention please. There are life jackets overhead. Severe action will be taken against anyone using these as pillows. Repeat, severe action will be taken against anyone using life jackets as pillows."

Earlier, no one had noticed the inoffensive yellow bundles overhead. Immediately after this announcement everyone's expression lit up. Here was a good idea! Suddenly there was a mad scramble. The next thing you knew, people were lying back comfortably, heads cradled lovingly on a cosy, yellow inflatable pillow. No action was taken. We didn't get any, not alas owing to any misplaced virtue, but because we had given up even trying to beat the crowd.

If the atmosphere on lower deck was as unlike the first class cabin as pork vindaloo to Chinese chowmein, then the canteen was a direct antithesis to all that symbolised the First Class. It was packed like a sardine tin. There was a counter where we bought coupons. There were long community benches and tables where we sat ourselves down. We were served of sorts. The dal was splashed, the rice was dumped. The operative word was "Hurry, hurry, hurry." The food was edible and filling, but that was it.

The afternoon was hot. Many passengers dossed down, and for the first time, there was a little quiet. I think it was in the middle of this that the announcement "Housie" was made. A short, stocky Indian man, dressed in a uniform of grey shorts (or were they olive?) and a pocketride



shirt none too clean, strutted in busily, with a large loudspeaker, shattering the afternoon peace with a hideous sound very like a cock prophesying its consignment to the pot The sound he made (excuse the phonetic weakness of the English alphabet), was roughly "Cuckurucucucooo ," (he screamed) "Cuckurucuckckooooooooo" Everyone sat up startled The bag containing the chicken which had fatalistically quietened down, now began struggling again, emitting alarmed yet hopeful squawks in response "Cuckurucuckkkkooooo," blared the loudspeaker The little man was having a field day, "House, House, House " He announced the time and the venue We went up a little later to see the House in the upper deck canteen The room was full to the brim and a man was shouting numbers, but that's all we could figure out, so we left it at that

The evening brought with it not exactly tranquility but let us say, its quieter moments Once, we slid up to the cabins and savoured a spectacular sunset against the coastline, an old fort silhouetted in the red glow till a ruffled and irate man came rushing round the corner with a whistle, authoritatively blew it several times and told us sternly we were out of bounds Would we kindly return to the depths where we belonged?

We watched the rest of the sunset from the lower deck The blood-red sun sank slowly Gulls keening, whirling, somersaulting, diving, put up a tremendous show of acrobatics, their mournful keening cries piercing the air

As it darkened, from time to time you caught a glimpse of a lighthouse, flashing its reassuring beacon round, round and round again, the powerful beams throwing themselves far and wide before they were consumed by the all-absorbing dark.

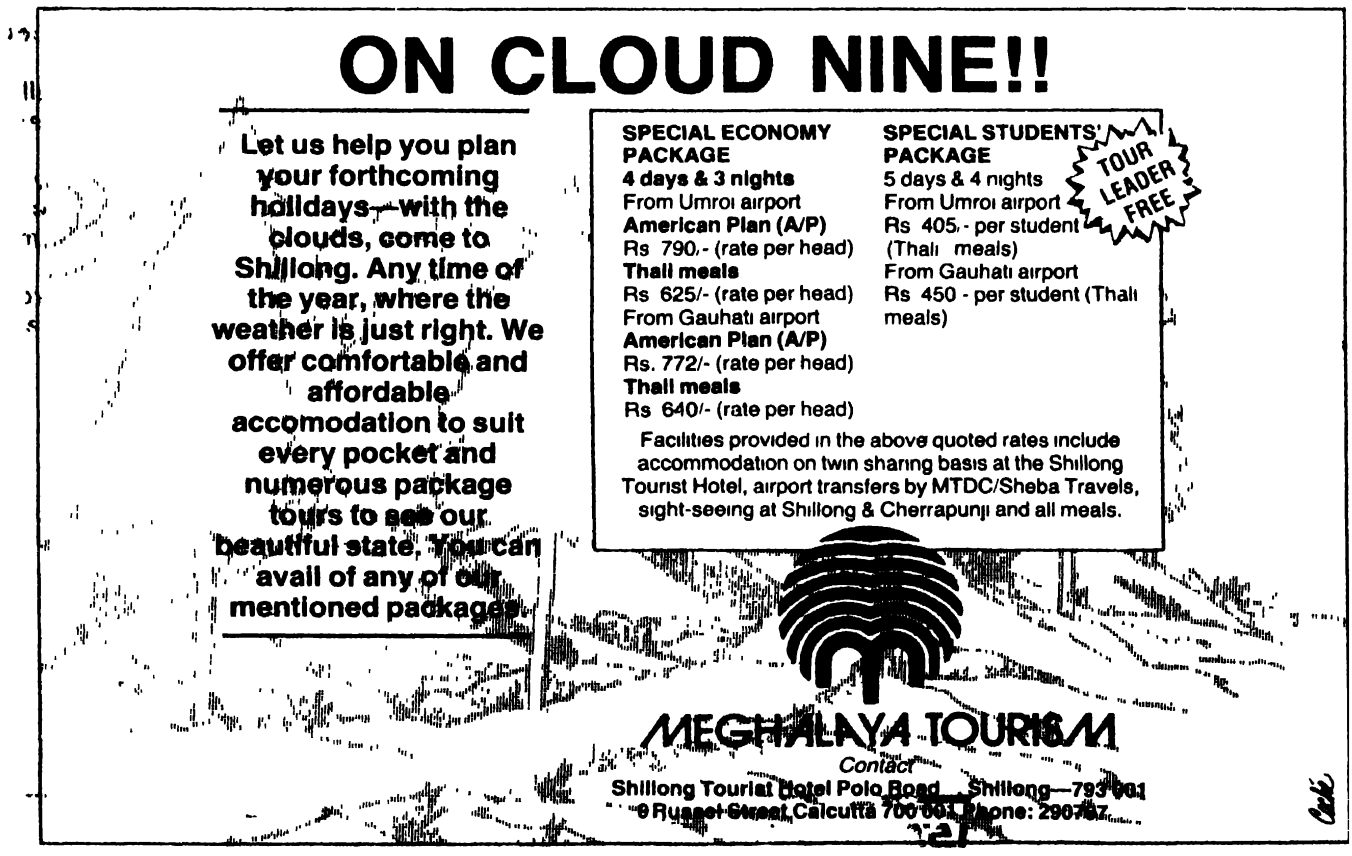
Once it poured The spray of rain mingled with the spray of the sea, bathing our faces, cool and refreshing During the evening the boat stopped once or twice, picking up people It was an eerie feeling hearing faceless voices in the dark as people bustled on and off It reminded us of the stories of smugglers and wreckers of old that one reads about

Sunrise brought the gulls again in their airy ballet as they dived for food and snatched it from each other

Chuffing inexorably towards the coast, we inched towards our destination- Bombay When we reached it was almost a shock We had felt this laid-back life would never end

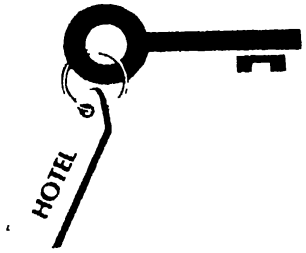
The hustle and bustle of the huge Bombay docks was in direct contrast to the small, lazy sunwashed harbour of Panaji, the image of the clean, white walled bright town giving way to the sight of the grey oily waters of the country's biggest, busiest port Our honeymoon with the Goa-Bombay steamer was finally, regrettably over ■

A ruffled and irate man came round the corner with a whistle, authoritatively blew it several times and told us sternly that we were out of bounds. Would we kindly return to the depths where we belonged?



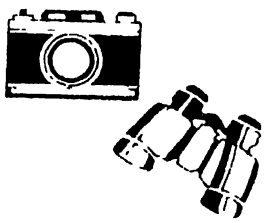
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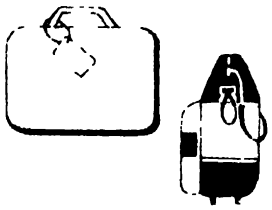
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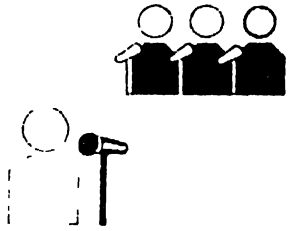
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Where to stay : Tourist Lodge at Madarihat Forest Lodges at Hollong, Gorumara, Chapramari, Lava, Lolay Gaon, Neelpara and Bardabari Malbazar Tourist Centre PWD Bungalow at Jainti near Buxa Fort

How to reach : From Calcutta, 50 minutes flight to Bagdogra and a short drive to Siliguri Or a choice of overnight and daytime fast trains to New Jalpaiguri and then to Siliguri There are also regular bus services from Calcutta to Siliguri Siliguri is very well connected with all the places by buses and mini-buses

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Government of West Bengal



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जिह्वे पिबस्वामृतमेतदेव गोविन्द दामोदर माधवेति ॥ with your tongue, Shri Krishna, Govinda Hare Murare
O Lord! Naravan, Vasudeva, Damodar Madhav"

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The legendary land of Anarta, Kush and Yadavas, the home of Lord Krishna, Dwarka, one of 7 Mokshapuris, 4 most sacred Dham of Hindus, 108 Devi Peeth, 4 Shanker Peeth, 68 Teerthas, 12 Jyortilingas was the seat of the kingdom, Lord Krishna founded after migrating from Mathura Here, Lord Krishna's birthday Janmashtami is celebrated with great pomp and gaiety every year in the month of Shravan

Other attractions besides over 1400 years old Jagat Mandir, are the temples dedicated to Rukmini, one of the Lord Krishna's consorts, and devotees like Mirabai and Narsinh Mehta

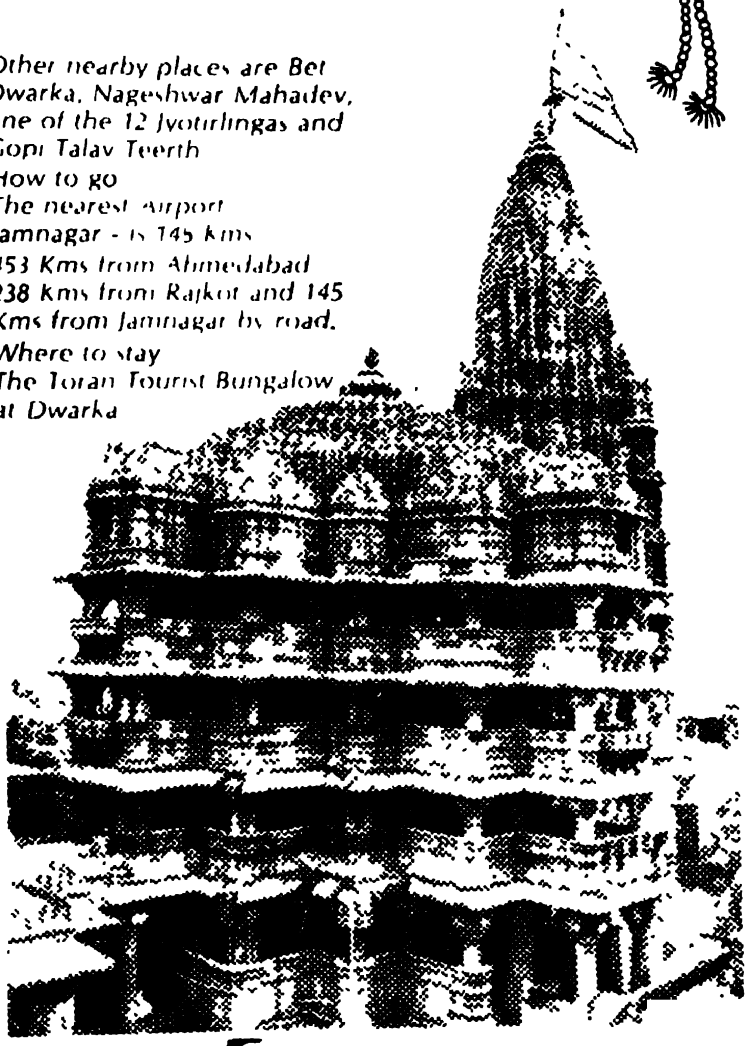
Other nearby places are Bet Dwarka, Nageshwar Mahadev, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas and Gopi Talav Teerth

How to go

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SUN AND SAND

Ruby red corals and electric blue seas add to the beauty of quiet Lakshadweep



The inhabitants possess an irrepressible zest for life

Lakshadweep is like a picture book dream holiday come true. Swaying coconut palms and almond coloured sands vie for attention as the endless sea laps the shore with an insatiable appetite Lakshadweep, an archipelago of 36 islands that lie scattered in the Arabian Sea about 250 km off Cochin is just the place for a "quiet holiday," replete with long walks on the twinkling sands, coral viewing, boating, or simply doing nothing.

Of the 36 islands only 10, Minicoy (1120 acres), Kalpeni (494 acres), Androth (1067 acres), Agathy (688 acres), Kavaratti (866 acres), Ameni (622 acres), Kadmat (748 acres), Chetlat (255 acres), Kiltan (397 acres), and Bitra (26 acres) are inhabited. The lagoons that lie towards the west of each of the islands are surrounded by coral rocks that guard them like an impregnable wall against the fury of the sea

Lakshadweep is well connected by air, road and sea with important metropolises *(see box)* and accommodation is plentiful, ranging from family huts in Kavaratti, Kadmat and Bangaram (Rs 80 per day for two furnished rooms with attached kitchen and bath) to honeymoon huts (Rs 80 per day) and youth hostels in Kadmat (Rs 10 per day)

It is believed that the islands came into existence following the fragmentation of the southern tip of Kerala Most of the inter-island travel is by boats. It is only recently that the government has stepped up its efforts to attract tourists to this string of islands. One reason for this cautious approach is the fragile eco system that exists here. However, permission is now freely given to Indians on package tours organised by the Society for Promotion of Recreational Tourism and Sports (SPORTS) in Lakshadweep. An increasing number of foreigners is also being allowed to visit the islands.

The ideal time to visit Lakshadweep is between September 15 and May 15. Light cottons are ideal for this essentially tropical climate and it is advisable to carry a Hindi or English to Malayalam dictionary in this Malayalam-speaking holiday resort. Mhal is spoken only in Minicoy. Most of the island shops stock only enough to provide for their 42,000 inhabitants and tourists should carry provisions like canned food, tinned milk and medicines with them

Undoubtedly, the coral reefs of Lakshadweep are unsurpassed in their beauty and visitors are often tempted to break off a piece to take back as a souvenir. Do not, however, give in to the temptation as offenders are liable to legal prosecution

Tourists are advisd to take their own swimming and diving equipment including snorkels and scuba gear Deep sea fishing gear should also be carried though equipment for local fishing is available on hire. Cameras with spare rolls of film should also be taken along

Most of the inhabitants of these coral islands are Muslims and very few speak a, smattering of either Hindi or English But the underlying hint of kinship that comes through transcends all language barriers and makes one want to return to this veritable paradise of corals, shimmering sands and deep blue seas



Coconut palms and tranquil seas abound in Lakshadweep

PACKAGE TOURS FOR DOMESTIC TOURISTS
(Leaving Cochin every five days)

□ Tours to Kavaratti. Stay at Kavaratti for 3 days.
Rates: II berth (A/C), Rs 790 per head; IV berth (A/C), Rs 760 per head; air cooled deck, Rs 590 per head.

□ Tours to Kadmat including visits to Kavaratti, Minicoy or Kalpeni. Stay at Kadmat for seven days and visits to any of the two, Kalpeni, Kavaratti and Minicoy.
Rates: II berth (A/C), Rs 1,290; IV berth (A/C), Rs 1,230; air cooled deck, Rs 1,030.

□ Tours to Bangaram. Stay at Bangaram for 6 days. Visit to either Kalpeni or Minicoy.
Rates: II berth (A/C), Rs 1,570; IV berth (A/C), Rs 1,540; air cooled deck, Rs 1,320

□ Diamond tours for four days with visits to Minicoy, Kavaratti and Kalpeni.
Rates: II berth (A/C), Rs 790; IV berth (A/C), Rs 730; air cooled deck, Rs 550.

SPECIAL TOUR FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS

□ Stay at Bangaram for one week. Tourists will be taken from Bangaram to Kavaratti on the seventh day to board the ship. Enroute they can see Andrott, Kalpeni and Minicoy.
Rates: II berth (A/C), Rs 1,440; IV berth (A/C), Rs 1,380; air cooled deck, Rs 1,290.

All the above rates are for adults., Half rates will be charged for children between 3 and 12 Rates include ship fare, embarkation and disembarkation in the islands, food on board, transport charges in the islands for sightseeing, lagoon cruising and accommodation

For reservations contact the assistant general manager, (SPORTS), Lakshadweep , Administration, Indira Gandhi Road, Willingdon Island, Cochin 682003.

Some of the holiday packages offered by the government-owned Ashok Travels are as follows: The seven-day "Swaying Palms" tour takes you from Cochin to Kadmat on a steamer and then by boat to one of the other islands At Rs 2,200 per person, the package takes care of transfer from the port to accommodation,food and lodging The second class A C fare for the same tour is Rs 2,000 and Rs 1,300 for third class, air cooled passage

The five-day "Silver Sands" tour costs Rs 3,000 per person from Cochin to Kadmat and back via Cochin or Calicut

The five-day "Coral Reef" tour to Lakshadweep on board the *Tipu Sultan* costs Rs 2 200 for first class (A/C), Rs 2,000 for second class (A/C) and Rs 1,500 for air cooled third class and takes you from Cochin to Minicoy, Kapeni and Kaveratti before returning to Cochin.

The "Coconut Grand" tour takes tourists from Calicut to Kasmat, Amin and back to Calicut for only Rs 1,300 per head. Besides, the luxury liner, *M V. Bharat Seema* makes five trips every month to and from Lakshadweep.



Madhavi Irani with Seema Paul and P.K. Menon

Within hailing distance of the Himalayas!

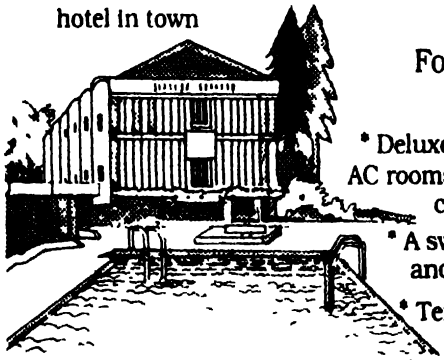
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QUIZ ◻ Neil O'Brien

"What is the China Syndrome?" asks Chandan K Ballav, Burdwan

The China Syndrome is a catastrophic nuclear accident resulting from an uncontrollable meltdown Writing in *The New York Times*, Don G Meigham stated

"Such a meltdown, some fear, would lead to the so-called China Syndrome—a nuclear lava flow of such intense heat that it would burn its way through its thick steel capsule, through the nine or 10-foot thick reinforced concrete slab, and down deep into the soil beneath the plant, in a manner that would recall the childhood fantasy of digging through the earth to China "

This term became widely publicised in March 1979, when an accident at a nuclear power plant on Three Mile Island, in Middletown, Pennsylvania (10 miles south of Harrisburgh), caused a temporary release of dangerous radioactivity, triggering fears of a meltdown The incident coincided with the release of a motion picture entitled *The China Syndrome*, which dealt with a massive meltdown in a nuclear power plant

CBS

***11th Question:* How did the "Star ... robot Artoo-Deeto get its name? (Supratim Choudhuri, 49, Bipiabi Anukul Ch. Street, Calcutta 700 072).**

***Ans.* When George Lucas and sound editor Walter Murch were mixing soundtracks for *American Graffiti* Murch needed reel 2 of the second dialogue track. "Say George," Murch asked, in a line that must now be considered historic, "bring me R2D2, will you?"**

"Sure", said Lucas. But first he jotted down in his little notebook: "R2D2—Great name! "

Debapriya Sarkar reports

"Sangit Kala Mandir organised its annual inter-school quiz at Kala Mandir Altogether 10 teams participated The quiz master, Neil O'Brien, served a mixed fare of questions ranging from the common place to the exotic Veritable sitters were interspersed with toughies, and the quiz master had something for everybody The participants enjoyed the quiz but the same could not be said for part of the audience One was left with the impression that one segment of the audience had turned up only to boo the teams

"To come back to the quiz, the opening rounds saw La Martiniere for Girls (LMG) carving out a big lead Calcutta Boys School (CBS), however, was hot on its heels and managed to eke out a slender lead, by the end of the first half Holders (La Martiniere for Boys) overcame a late start to catch up with their sister school at the breather

"After the break, the quiz rapidly developed into a see-saw battle between CBS and LMB, with the lead changing hands with every round Finally, with the scores tied, LMB answered the very last question to clinch the issue CBS had to rest content with second place and LMG came third

... diamond

On January 25, 1905, Frederick Wells, a mine superintendent, routinely inspected the Premier Mine in South Africa before closing down for the day and stumbled across the Cullinan diamond, which at 3,106 carats was the largest diamond ever discovered Wells picked up a $10,000 reward for his trouble The Transvaal government purchased the Cullinan diamond (named after Thomas Cullinan, founder of the mine) in 1907 as a 66th birthday present for King Edward VII of England The man chosen for the ticklish job of cutting the stone was a Dutch craftsman, Joseph Asscher

In 1908 he cleaved the Cullinan perfectly into 9 major stones, 96 lesser gems, and 10 carats of polished fragments The largest diamond carved from the Cullinan, a 530-carat pear-shaped rock known as the Great Star of Africa, today twinkles from the royal scepter of the British crown jewels in the Tower of London

QUESTIONS

1. When was the first episode of *Ramayan* shown on television? (Prem Kr. Agarwal, Rourkela 1)

2. In which prison is Nelson Mandela jailed? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)

3. About which island did Marco Polo once remark, "for its size, it is the finest island in the world "? (Manoj Kumar Singh, Danapur Cantt.)

4. Who wrote the following: "Man is the hunter; women is his game:/The sleek and shining creatures of the chase,/We hunt them for the beauty of their skins; They love us for it, and we ride them down ?" (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)

5. This father and son combination is from Sweden. In 1830 the father invented plywood. What did the son invent? (Bhushket Sengupta, Calcutta 60)

6. Which day will be observed as "World AIDS Day" all over the world? (Manoj Kumar Singh, Ranchi)

7. What is common to (i) Maggie Thatcher, Princess Anne, Prince Edward and to (ii) David Bowie, Jackie Collins, Princess Diana? (Anirban Ghosh, Calcutta 45)

8. There has been only one instance of three brothers appearing together in a cricket World Cup match. Who are they? (S. Ganeshan, Madras 28)

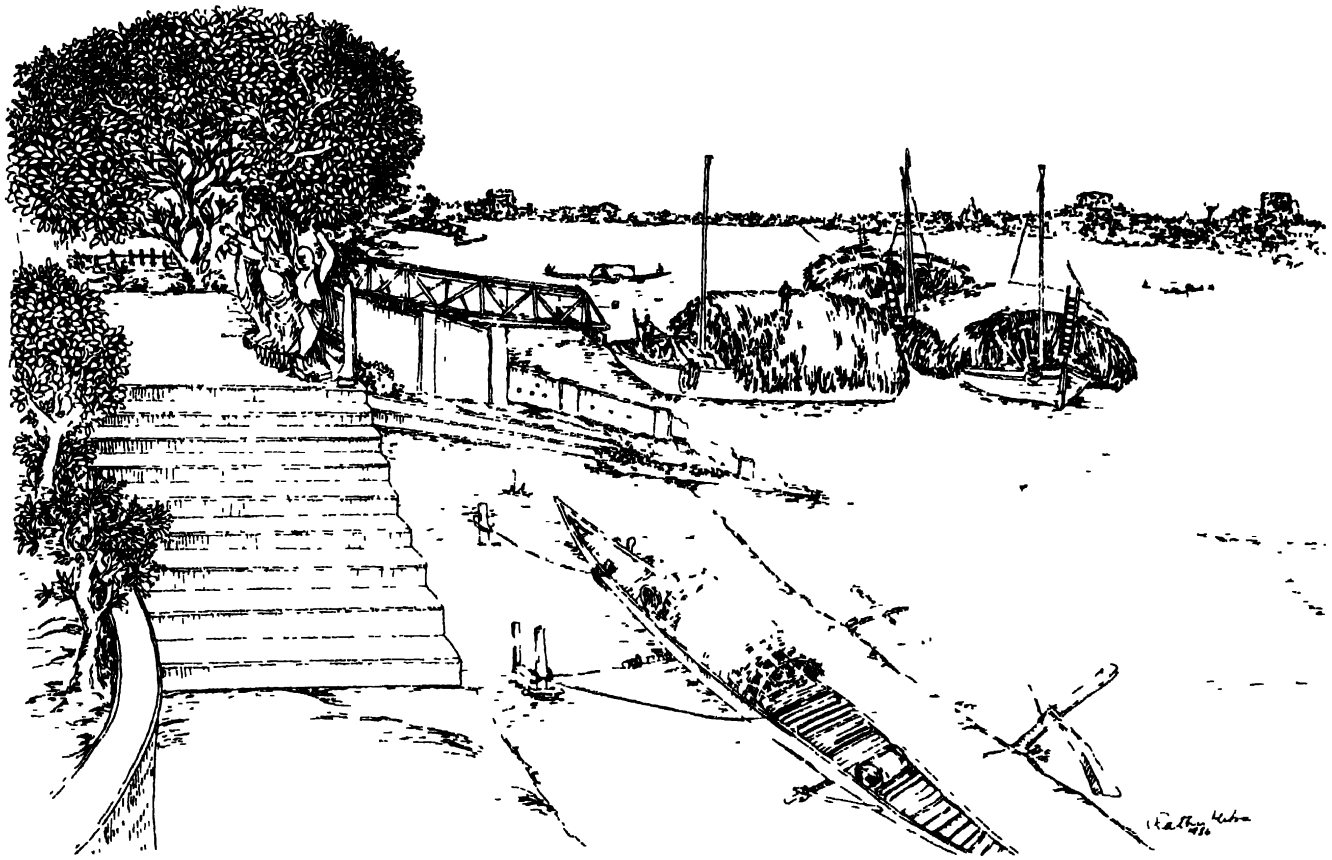
9. Name the only film actress to have received a fan-letter from Jawaharlal Nehru. (Shankar Sharan, BIT, Sindri and Mohan Kr. Agarwal, Bargarh)

10. Who is a sophomore in the US? (Sanjay Banko, Salkia 6)

ANSWERS

1. January 25, 1987.
2. Capetown's Pollsmoor Prison.
3. Sri Lanka.
4. Tennyson, *The Princess.*
5. Emmanuel Nobel and Alfred Nobel. The latter invented dynamite.
6. It is a joint naval exercise in the South China Sea with warships from five countries namely, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Britain.
7. All in (i) feature in the comparative charts, brought out by the *Daily Express* (London), of people who made it big by not having the mid-day meal, while those in (ii) feature in the "have their lunch" list. This chart was inspired by "Lunch is for Wimps" a La Gordon Gekko of *Wall Street* fame.
8. Barry, Richard and Dayle Hadlee of New Zealand who appeared in a one-day match against England at Nottingham in 1975.
9. Devika Rani.
10. A second-year university or high-school student.

BAGBAZAR GHAT



Situated next to Raja Nabakrishna Ghat in north Calcutta, the Bagbazar Ghat (sketched above) was earlier known as the Old Powder Mill Ghat Before the British came to India, there existed a large garden at this place which was named after Perin, the captain of a ship.

Till 1746, this garden was the evening resort for East India Company officers and their families. In 1752, it was auctioned and landlord Holwell bought it for only Rs 2,500. In 1755, he sold it to Colonel Cardine Frederick Scott, who was the General of the old Fort William and father of Warren Hastings' first wife, Mary.

Captain Scott started a powder mill on this site. The Company took over the mill after his death in 1755. In 1756, Nawab Siraj-ud Daulah defeated the British at Perin's garden

The Persian word for garden is 'bag' In those days, the English tried to use Persian words as far as possible, and thus Perin's garden came to be known as Perin's bag from which the present Bagbazar earns its name

The Bagbazar Ghat is almost in ruins, only a few steps exist Next to this ghat are the offices of the Circular Railway and residential quarters of some of its employees

HOW CLOSE IS PARADISE?

White beaches to bask on, blue waters to laze in, sumptuous food to gorge on and exotic shopping to do. **Susmita Mukherjee** and **Seema Paul** tell you how to budget for a holiday outside India

SINGAPORE/BANGKOK

Exquisite Singapore—an island of dynamic skyscrapers and quaint Chinese shophouses, of bustling bazaars and quiet backlanes. And Bangkok with its romantic facades and lavish spectacles Two stops that are a must on the itinerary of any tourist "doing" southeast Asia Easily accessible, both these cities have endless panoramic attractions and a wide range of facilities to lure the tourist

Travel Corporation of India (TCI) conducts a package tour to Bangkok, Singapore and Pattaya for nine days at a cost of Rs 6,990 and $65 per head However, an additional expense of Rs 600 may go into buying six extra lunches which are not part of the package. The tourist is usually kept at five-star hotels such as the Windsor in Bangkok and the Imperial in Singapore He has a choice of a non-vegetarian or vegetarian breakfast/dinner, and on the conducted tour to the cities he is escorted by a guide familiar with his language—Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi or English

A tourist can also travel by himself. All he needs is a little planning. He should take advantage of the fabulous holiday offers of the airlines, like 'Surprising Singapore' of the Singapore Airlines or the 'Royal Orchid Refresher Holiday' of the Thai Airways International These tours can be done in a group or alone and yet have the advantages of a group tour



Horse riding on a beach in Mauritius

There are regular flights to Bangkok and Singapore from Calcutta and the fare is Rs 4,750 (economy) for all the four major airlines—Thai, Singapore, Air India and Indian Airlines The tourist has the option of three routes—Calcutta/Singapore/Calcutta or Calcutta/Bangkok/Singapore/Calcutta or Calcutta/Singapore/Bangkok/Calcutta. On Monday, Wednesday and Saturday Thai operates from Calcutta On Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Indian Airlines runs its flight and Air India on Friday. Singapore Airlines has a flight on Sunday and Tuesday

Thai's Refresher holiday is an economical package and you get a personalised vacation at group tour prices The choice of the hotel accommodation in Bangkok whether first class, superior or economy, is yours. If you want to stay at an economy hotel, then you should opt for Imperial, a two-star hotel on Sukhumvit Road. On twin-sharing basis it would cost you US $25 (Rs 350) for one night, US $43 (Rs 650) for two nights and US $59 (Rs 826) for three nights. Single occupancy would cost more Airport Hotel has the same charges

Bangkok offers some of the world's finest and most modern hotels All of them are airconditioned and have all the amenities like TV, music, telephones, videos, swimming pools and fitness centres. Hotel rates include all service charges and taxes, a delicious American breakfast, transfers by airconditioned limousine to and from the airport and a morning or afternoon tour of Bangkok. You have to buy your own lunch and dinner. If you order it from your hotel restaurant, you will be given a 20 per cent discount. They usually offer a mouthwatering variety of Chinese, Spanish, Indian or Thai dishes at very affordable rates. Within US $7(Rs 98) you can enjoy a wholesome lunch or dinner.

Anyone visiting Thailand—the 'land of smiles'—cannot miss out on its exotic temples, the Royal Garden Palace, the Rose Garden country resort, its magic beaches and its coral islands. For the convenience of tourists there are counters



Tourists in a shopping arcade in Thailand

at every hotel to arrange guided tour. Tour charges vary between US $10 to US $40 (Rs 140 to Rs 560) per person depending on the itinerary Private cars, microbuses or motor coaches are used for the tours depending on the number of travellers You can book this refresher package at the Thai's Calcutta office on Park Street.

And once you have explored Bangkok, you can fly on to another fascinating island paradise—Singapore. This tropical city-of unique multiracial character is surprisingly cheap and one lives according to one's purse. Hotel rates are as low as you could want them. If you purchase the Surprising Singapore package of five days and four nights, you will be offered accommodation either at the President Merlin or the Imperial. President Merlin would charge

US $92 (Rs 1,298) on twin-sharing basis. Single occupancy would cost US $138 (Rs 1,932).

Imperial's rates are US $110 (Rs 1,540) on twin sharing and US $175 (Rs 2,450) for single occupancy. Hotel accommodation would include a choice of vegetarian or non-vegetarian American breakfast, a half-a-day's city tour with an English-speaking guide, special discount coupons for shopping at all Metro Shopping Plazas, special discounts at hotel restaurants. The booking can be done at Jetair, sales agent of Singapore Airlines in Calcutta. Both Surprising Singapore and Royal Orchid Re-



fresher holidays are valid for three months.

If you do not want to avail of the Surprising Singapore package, you can find accommodation in hotels which would cost around Rs 300 per day per person If you can find accommodation in a guest house, it is all the better because it is delightfully cheap—costing around Rs 200 per day per person.

And when it comes to food, Singapore probably has no rival. You can taste the unique local cuisine at surprisingly inexpensive rates. A visitor should not miss the experience of eating in one of the vast open-air kitchens of the hawkers in the city's thoroughfares like Newton Centre, Funan Centre or Cuppage Centre where an amazing array of fast food is churned out in minutes. The sizzling dishes are not only inexpensive but hygienic You can enjoy the delicacies without any fear of unpleasant after effects! For spicy north Indian dishes you should go to Jubilee restaurant on North Bridge Road and for a vegetarian meal to Komala Vilas A string of restaurants on East Coast Road and Pasir Panjan serve an endless variety of sea food. This tiny island offers food from the four corners of the world and all at surprisingly low rates Within Rs 25 the tourist can avail himself of a sumptuous breakfast, lunch or dinner

Every hotel has arrangements for fascinating tours and all you have to do is ask at the tour desk of your hotel for the details Visit Mount Faber, Tiger Balm Gardens, Raffles Place or the Jurong bird park and enjoy a breakfast there with the birds for US $3.50 (Rs 23) or you can watch a thrilling show of hunting, riding, skating, cannon-shooting by owls, macaws and cockatoos at the park. You can also visit the Zoological Gardens or the crocodilarium. The conducted trips cost between Rs 50 and Rs 120 depending on your choice of itinerary. A trip to Singapore is incomplete without a visit to its enchanting island resort—Sentosa. Tour rates to this magic island vary between $6 and $28 (Rs 38 and Rs 178). It is accessible by ferry, monorail or cable car This island has a computerised musical fountain and the famous Rasa Sentosa Food Centre

Buses provide an inexpensive way of travelling in Singapore and fares range from a minimum of 40 cents to 80 cents. The best idea for the visitor is to buy a one-day or three-days Singapore Explorer Bus Ticket. You can travel anywhere on the island with this ticket Even taxis are moderately priced and all of them are airconditioned. You can also rent a chauffeur-driven car or drive it around yourself

MALDIVES

An archipelago of over 1,200 tiny emerald islands, Maldives, with its capital Male, about 670 km southeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka, has recently found its place in the tourist map. White endless beaches embraced by the sparkling waters of the Indian Ocean and swaying palms make this island a bewitching retreat.

The Taj Group of Hotels has an enchanting resort, Villi Varu, which offers delightful packages to tourists. A single person staying at Villi Varu would have to pay US $255 (Rs 3,570) for four nights and four days. Taj offers fascinating discounts to couples who would have to pay just US $355 (Rs 4970) for the same period. Taj also has a seven nights-seven days holiday package under which a couple would have to pay US $490 (Rs 6860). Single occupancy would prove more expensive, around US $305 (Rs 4270). This package includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, bed tax, airport and hotel transfers, one barbecue dinner and a trip to Male at a mutually convenient time.

The resort has 60 naturally ventilated rooms with ceiling fans and each room has a private verandah which opens on to the beach. Villi Varu really offers an unforgettable holiday in the quiet of nature.

Taj has another resort on the Biyadhoo Island, the Bi Ya Doo, which offers a holiday in splendid isolation where you can swim, sail, fish, sunbathe or simply do nothing. If you want to stay in this exquisite resort from September 1 to October 31 this year, then you would be charged US $75(Rs 1050) per person per night Twin sharing would be more economical because you would have to pay only US $85 (Rs 1190). All rooms are air-conditioned. You can buy your dinner, lunch and breakfast from the resort's restaurant.

Fill in your afternoons with boating or just relax in the warm waters of the ocean For the adventurous tourist there is a wind-surfing school And for nature lovers there is a fascinating wealth of marine life to be discovered under the ocean blue A simple mask, snorkel and fins will open up a wondrous world Both the Taj resorts



Hunting for sunken treasures in Mauritius

offer equipment for wind-surfing, water skiing, fishing, snorkelling and scuba-diving.

Special night cruises can also be arranged for tourists. If you want to go for night fishing, the resort would charge you US $9 (Rs 126). You can also take a trip to the Fishermen's Village for US $7 (Rs 98) or to the capital, Male, for US $17 (Rs 238) by *dhoni* and US $22 (Rs 308) by speedboat. Remember, all these rates are for a single person. You can also enjoy a barbecue picnics on an uninhabited island and visit the Rannali resort for US $20(Rs 280).

To spend a vacation on this paradise you have to take a flight either from Madras or Trivandrum which will bring you to Hulule Airport, Male. From there a variety of speedboats will take you to the islands across the sea. The one-way Indian Airlines fare from Madras will cost you Rs 1,130. If you take the flight from Trivandrum it will be cheaper—Rs 572 and then you have just to relax.

MAURITIUS

Nestling in the warmth of the Indian Ocean, the beautiful sub-tropical emerald island Mauritius beckons tourists from all corners of the world. Its coral reefs embraced by virgin beaches, translucent lagoons, chic hotels and charming people make this island the most exotic place on earth. And Mauritius has what it takes to satisfy sunbathers, beachcombers, sightseers, swimmers and yachtsmen.

The Travel Corporation of India (TCI) has a seven-day package to this breathtaking island. The tour charge is Rs 5190 US $210 (Rs 2940) per person. The tour includes economy class air fare, accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with continental breakfast, fixed menu—either Indian or continental, vegetarian or non-vegetarian—dinner and lunch on the the full day of tour, round trip transfers and sightseeing with local English-speaking guides. The tourist would have to buy the rest of the lunches.

Even Air India conducts a package tour to Mauritius in partnership with Air Mauritius for seven days provided at least 15 passengers are available. The tour rate is fixed at US $40 per person per day excluding the air fare. The economy class air fare from Bombay is Rs 6,396. Air India and Air Mauritius also offer special discounts to four persons travelling together provided they stay for a minimum period of six days and a maximum of 13 days on the island between April and November. Under this discount, each tourist would have to pay Rs 4950 for a two-way ticket. But if there are less than four persons, the fare would be Rs 8062. You can also take the triangular flight from Bombay to Mauritius which will bring you to Delhi via Singapore for Rs 8880. But you have to spend at least 10 days in Mauritius and Singapore and not more than six months

Mauritius has a string of luxurious coastal hotels which charge you around Rs 300 per day per person. Five-night packages are also offered to tourists on a twin-sharing basis. The package would include breakfast, dinner, hotel-airport-hotel transfers, and one full day and one half day sightseeing excursion. The Continental Hotel in Curepipe Town charges Rs 2,125 while the PLM Mont Choisy beach hotel Rs 3325 (between April and October). If you are a group of four then Casuarina Bungalow would charge you Rs 2100 per person and El Monaco Rs 1050.

Mauritian restaurants simply revel in their culinary expertise. You are offered an incomparable choice of Indian and Creole curries, French peppered steaks, English roast beef, Muslim biryani and a host of Chinese delicacies. You can dine on giant lobsters, shrimps, crayfish and crabs. Visit Le Mandarin where you will get the best Chinese food, and for the traditional European and Creole cuisine you should drop in at La Flore Mauricienne in Port Louis. For the spicy Indian experience,you should go to Maharaja in Cure-

WHAT YOU GET DUTY FREE

An Indian tourist going abroad must first make sure that if he is carrying any article of high value, like camera, video camera, video cassette recorder, jewellery or an expensive watch, he is examined by the Custom officer at the time of departure and given an export certificate. This certificate should be kept safely so that on return the Customs officer sees the document and passes the goods without charging duty.If you are carrying jewellery of a value higher than the concession allowed under the baggage rules, it is advisable to arrange for an export certificate for that as well.

There are various free allowances for certain articles, but these vary depending on the country you visit or the number of days spent there. A different set of allowances exists for children below the age of 12 years.

The baggage rules allow an Indian tourist to import free of duty used personal effects. These cover articles of personal wear, excluding jewellery but including one wrist watch valued up to Rs 500, and also articles of personal use.

Besides this, a tourist aged 12 years and above is allowed duty-free import of goods worth not more than Rs 1,250 and in case of tourists less than 12, the allowance is limited to Rs 300 only. In case of tourists coming from Maldives after a stay of three days or less, the allowance is given upto Rs 750 and Rs 200, respectively. Otherwise, the above rates stand if one stays there for more than three days. Again, these rules do not apply to tourists coming from Nepal or Sri Lanka. Upto 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 gms of tobacco may by included in the free allowance. Liquor is allowed as well, but only up to 0.95 litres.

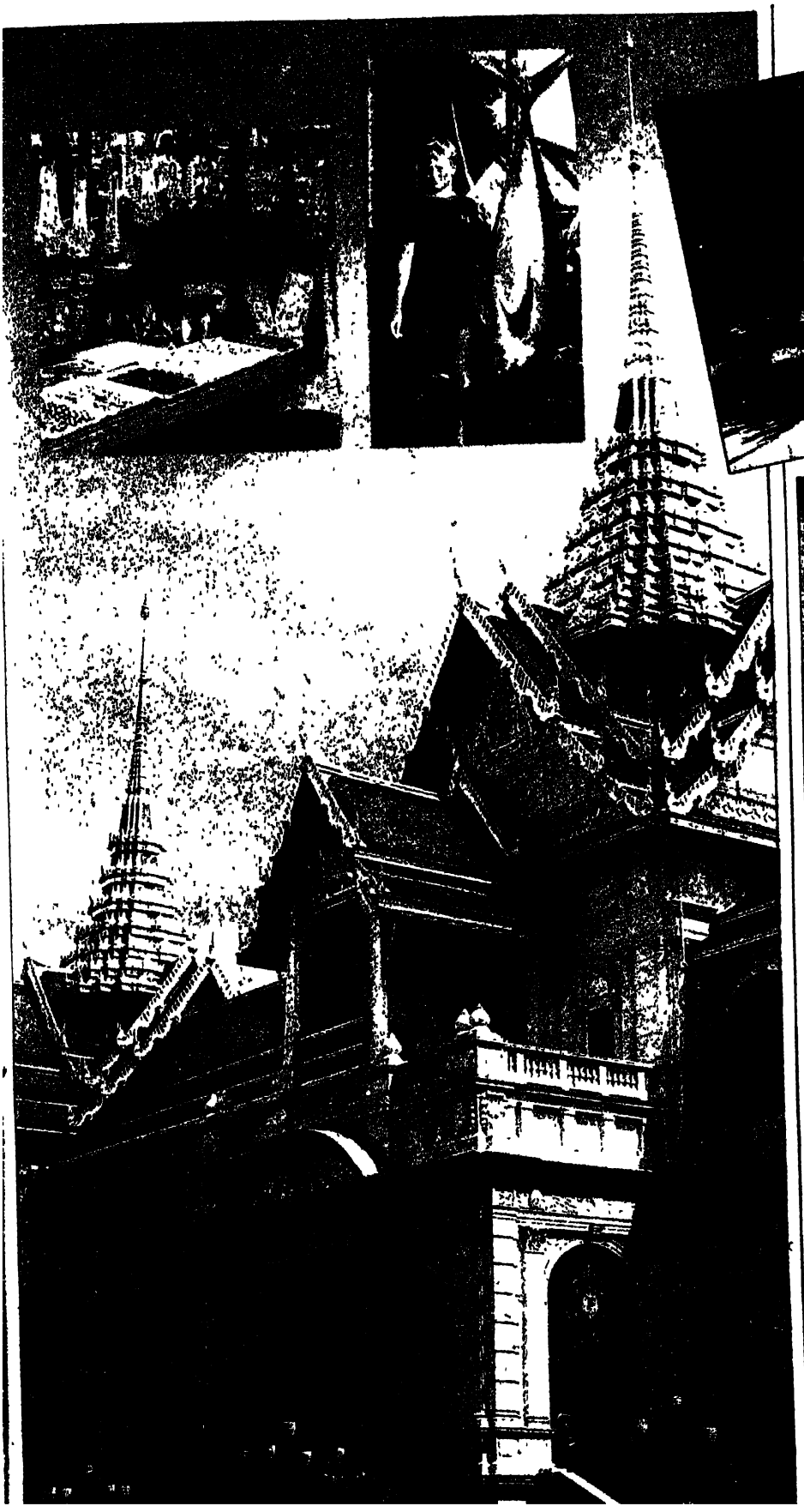
Articles which exceed the free allowance limit or which cannot be cleared under free clearance, can be cleared at the following rates:

- Motor cycles, scooters or mopeds; Cigarettes, cigars and tobacco in excess of the quantity stated; Textiles exceeding Rs 500 in value: 340 per cent.
- Any other article accompanying you upto a value of Rs 2,000: 175 per cent; Rs 2,000: 245 per cent; not accompanying you: 245 per cent.

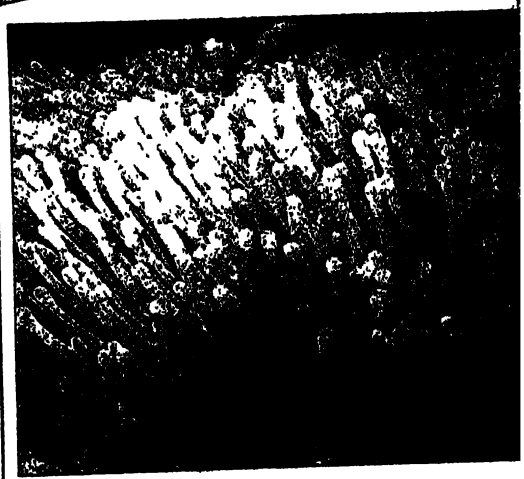
Additional duty is charged on television sets, the rates of which differ on the basis of screen size and whether they are monochrome or colour sets. This has to be checked up with the Customs officer on your return. Similarly, the rates of duty on liquor vary according to the type of liquor you bring, like whisky, brandy, wine, champagne, beer, etc. Normally for whisky, brandy, gin and rum, you will have to pay 315 per cent plus Rs 33.50 per litre.

Christopher J. Singh

Facing page: One of Thailand's Buddhist temples; inset (left), a shop in a busy bazaar in south Thailand; inset (right), a prize catch in Mauritius; upper right, relaxing at a resort in Villi Varu, Maldives; lower right, a coral specimen in Mauritius







pipe. Within Rs 20 you can buy yourself a filling lunch or dinner.

You can divide your golden days between sunbathing and swimming but if you want action then you should venture for one of the water sports—yatching, water skiing, windsurfing, windgliding or windsailboarding. Most hotels have boards for hire and some offer them free of charge to guests.

If you simply want to sightsee then book a conducted tour to the famous Pamplemousses Gardens and see the grand collection of exotic plants there, or the Grand Bassin where a natural lake rests in the crater of an extinct volcano,or you can visit Coloured Earths at Chamarel—a mound of land stretching in contrasting layers of red, blue, green and yellow due to weathering. All these trips together would cost you around Rs 80

Port Louis has a unique fruit, vegetable and spice market where you can shop You can also purchase locally made souvenirs, baskets, woodwork, Chinese embroidery and shell jewellery. Mauritian beer is quite popular. And if you are a gambler, Mauritius offers one more attraction: a line up of casinos. ■



ORISSA

With a warm sun above, the blue stretching before you and the sands trickling through your toes, there is very little else that you would want. Beaches tend to get overcrowded, though, and to pick one where you can get away from the madding crowd isn't easy.

The **Puri beach** is the most famous, but Gopalpur, Konark and Chandipur are equally enticing. Puri has the famous Jagannath temple and one of the world's finest beaches, which extends for miles. While you laze on the golden sands you can have the rare opportunity of gazing at the splendid sunset and sunrise on the same beach. Between sunrise and sunset there are other pleasurable sights such as fishermen plying their catamarans and sailboats and drawing into their nets a rich catch of prawn, pomfret and other fish.

After a stroll on the road just above the beach, you can buy typical Puri handicraft from the numerous shops at the southern end of the beach. There is a treasure there of stone sculptures, wood carvings, seashell items, patta paintings on cloth and canvas and colourful applique work. Eight kilometres to the north, the estuary of the Nuanai river provides a virgin beach for total relaxation.

Besides Puri's direct rail links with Calcutta, New Delhi, Hyderabad and Bombay, it is approachable by road, being 90 kms from Cuttack and 65 kms from Bhubaneswar. Bhubaneswar is also connected by air, and buses and taxis are available at both Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to visit Puri. Busfare is a maximum of Rs 10 while taxifare is at the rate of Rs 2.40 per km. Luxury coaches run by the OTDC will take you on conducted tours from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, at a return cost of a maximum of Rs 45.

Cheap accommodation at Puri is available at the OTDC Panthanivas, several hotels on the beach, and the youth hostel. At Panthanivas, a four-bed room costs Rs 120 a day. Those with heavier wallets can avail of the facilities at OTDC's Mahodadhinivas, S.E. Railway Hotel, Sun-N-Beach, Holiday Resort, Vijaya International and Toshali Sands. A room here would cost Rs 120 per day upwards.

About 35 kms north of Puri is **Konark** which is famous for its Sun Temple and black pagoda. Less renowned is its lovely beach and its glorious sunrise. You can catch glimpses of fishermen in their sailboats even while you let the breeze play in your hair in secluded spots covered by thick casuarina growths on the side of the marine drive, blocking the view from the road. A five-km stretch of the marine drive has several picnic spots inside the casuarina forests. Nearby is the Balighai beach girdled by casuarina forests and Kuruma, the site of the archaelogical remains of a



Somnath Ghosh



Shekhar Tarafder

Buddhist monastery, is situated close by, too. Another place of religious attraction is Ramachandi, some 10 kms down the beach.

To get to Konark there are buses and taxis available at Cuttack (90 kms), Bhubaneswar (70 kms) and Puri (30 kms). Luxury coaches run by Orissa Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) will take you on a conducted tour daily from Bhubaneswar and Cuttack to Puri and then to Konark, the two-way cost being just Rs 45.

Accommodation is available at the local Panthanivas, Ashok Travellers' Lodge of ITDC and the state government's PWD inspection bungalows, apart from some private lodging houses.

If you are looking for a quieter place still, 15 kms from Berhampur (Ganjam) is the **Gopalpur beach,** dotted by hotels close to the shore. For high-budget tourists, the Oberoi group has the Palm Beach Hotel, very near the shore. If you have to be more thrifty, you can choose from the other hotels along the beach, but Gopalpur does not have a Panthanivas. Besides taxis and buses, a major railway station, Berhampur, on the Howrah-Madras trunk route is a good link.

At the northernmost end of the Orissa coast is **Chandipur,** 12 kms from Balasore town. This beach's speciality is that the sea recedes from the shore for over a kilometre in the mornings giving visitors a wide expanse to stroll on.

Balasore is a major railway station on the Howrah-Puri and Howrah-Madras lines. Buses, taxis and cycle rickshaws will take you to Chandipur from Balasore. The Panthanivas is almost the only accommodation available and the OTDC runs a mini coach, too. The Panthanivas has a bar and dining facilities, the daily charges for a double-bed room being Rs 150 (AC) and Rs 70 (non-AC). During season, it would be advisable to book in advance with the OTDC.

GOA

With its meandering rivers, sprawling hills, lush green fields and miles and miles of beach, Goa means many things to many people. It was the jewel in the Portuguese crown for four centuries and a half and the Latin element in the Goans still shows. Goa was described as "the Rome of the East" by early European travellers because of its countless churches and chapels though only a few of them survive today. No visitor to Goa should leave without seeing the temples, too.

Goa is music, Goa is dance, and Goa is *feni*. But more than anything else, Goa is all beach.

Arambol has a fresh-water lake and a cool spring just beside the beach while Sindso is where the beautiful, amber-coloured translucent shells are found, shells that are used in place of glass in windows of many Goan houses. Palolem is perhaps the most idyllic of tropical island bays and Benaulim has its golden sands sparkling with small starfish. Anjuna, one of the most beautiful beaches, is now famous for its foreign visitors in nature's garb and it is here, too, that one finds the flea market which is a colourful, massive *haat* selling anything from a Nikon camera to herbs from Provence.

The remote Morjim unfolds the picturesque ritual of fishermen dragging their fishing nets. And Vagator shows you the most spectacular Goan sunset with its tall, spindly palm trees bowing to the setting sun. "The beaches of Goa," wrote Terence Rodrigues, an Oxford don, in the *Taj* magazine, "are a constant source of fascination" and "the perceptive traveller can find an element of surprise and sheer delight at every corner."

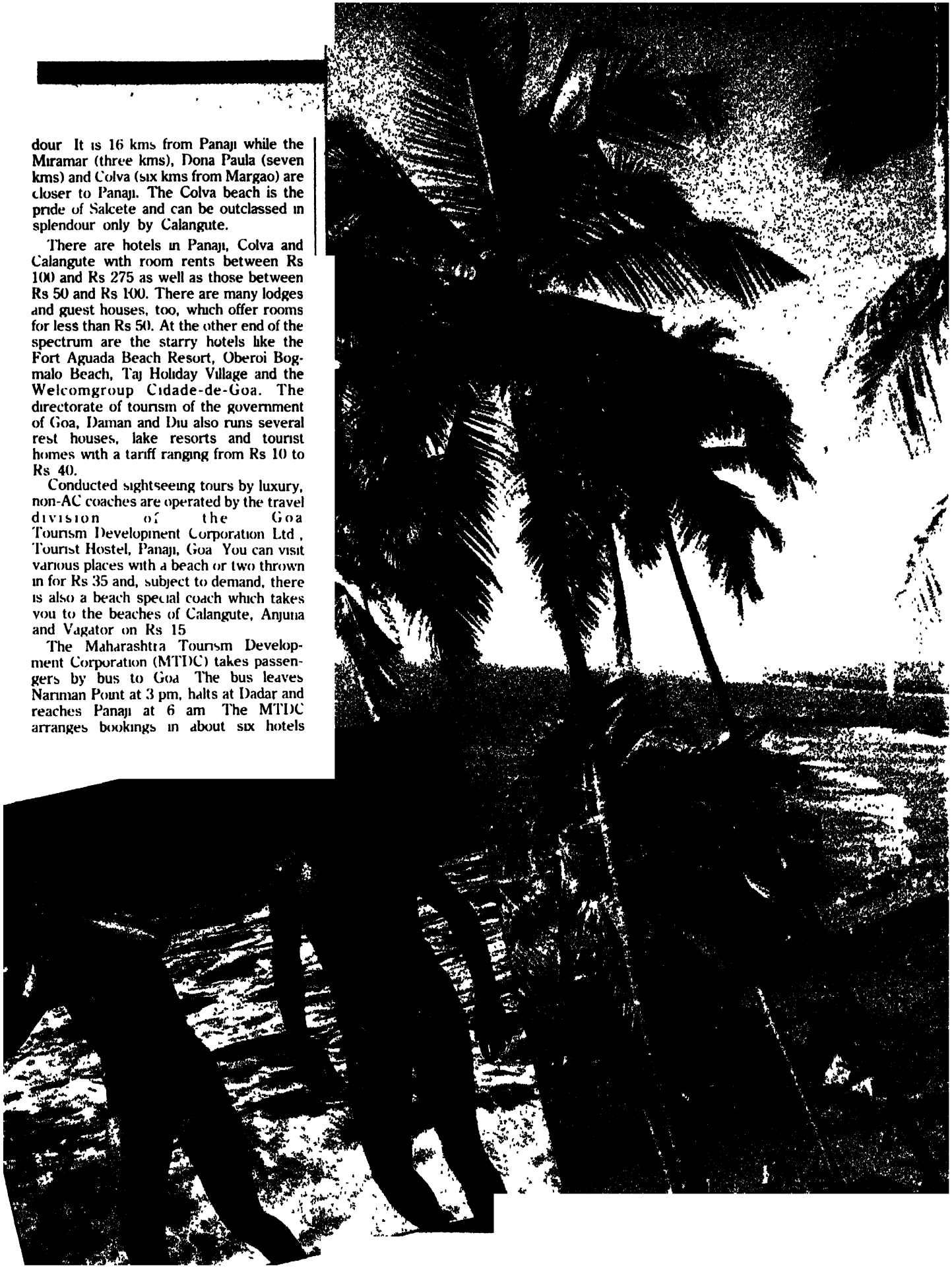
The Calangute is considered the queen of Goa's beaches and is the most popular resort in Goa because of its scenic splen-

dour It is 16 kms from Panaji while the Miramar (three kms), Dona Paula (seven kms) and Colva (six kms from Margao) are closer to Panaji. The Colva beach is the pride of Salcete and can be outclassed in splendour only by Calangute.

There are hotels in Panaji, Colva and Calangute with room rents between Rs 100 and Rs 275 as well as those between Rs 50 and Rs 100. There are many lodges and guest houses, too, which offer rooms for less than Rs 50. At the other end of the spectrum are the starry hotels like the Fort Aguada Beach Resort, Oberoi Bogmalo Beach, Taj Holiday Village and the Welcomgroup Cidade-de-Goa. The directorate of tourism of the government of Goa, Daman and Diu also runs several rest houses, lake resorts and tourist homes with a tariff ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 40.

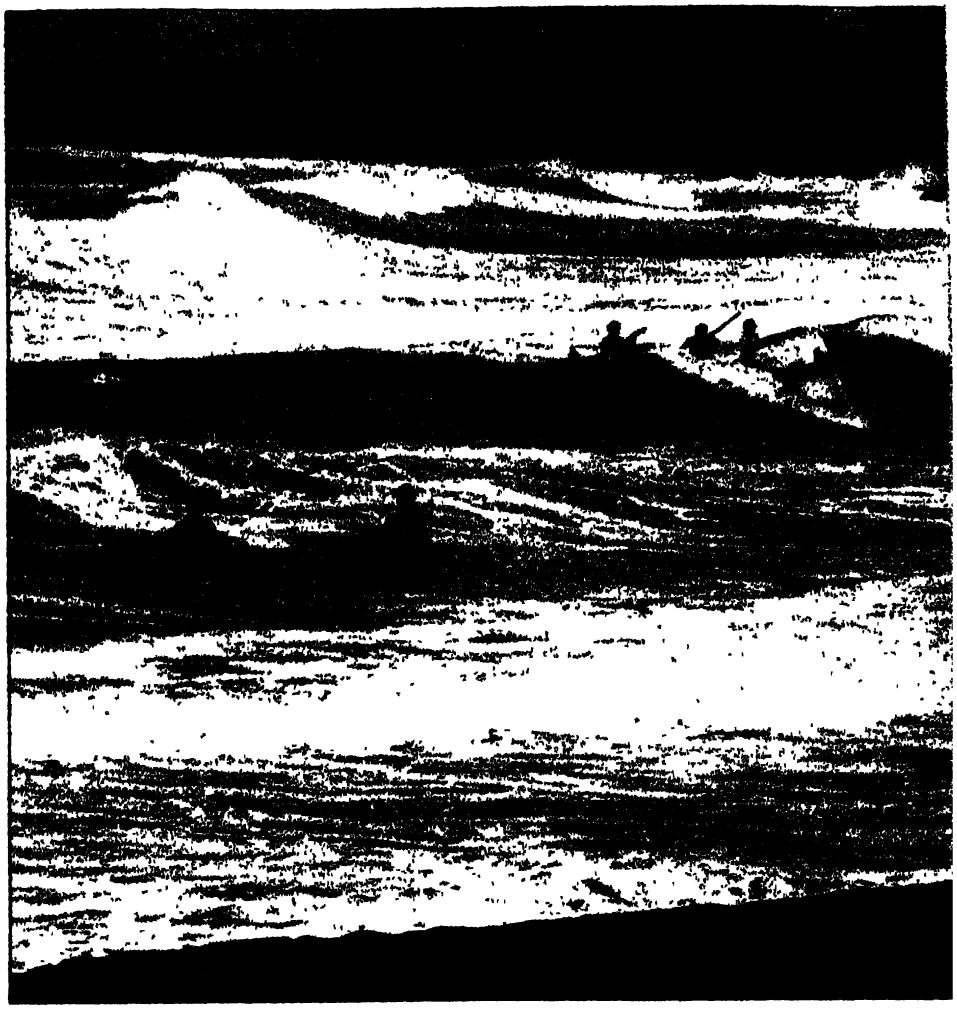
Conducted sightseeing tours by luxury, non-AC coaches are operated by the travel division of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd, Tourist Hostel, Panaji, Goa You can visit various places with a beach or two thrown in for Rs 35 and, subject to demand, there is also a beach special coach which takes you to the beaches of Calangute, Anjuna and Vagator on Rs 15

The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) takes passengers by bus to Goa The bus leaves Nariman Point at 3 pm, halts at Dadar and reaches Panaji at 6 am The MTDC arranges bookings in about six hotels





Rashbehari Das



Samir Sinha

Kovalam's rare scenic splendour

where it has a quota also offering an optional bus service for a two-day tour of Goa.

Goa is on an eternal celebration of life and if you have a zest for pulsating moments, not just quiet and peace, go there

KERALA

Easily the most attractive spot all along the Kerala coast is the crescent-shaped bay of clear waters created by a jutting rock cape with its picturesque surroundings· Kovalam

Eighteen kms from Trivandrum, Kovalam is a sheltered beach with a shallow sea and offering excellent tourist facilities. The honey-gold sands of Kovalam offer rare scenic beauty and make it an ideal beach resort

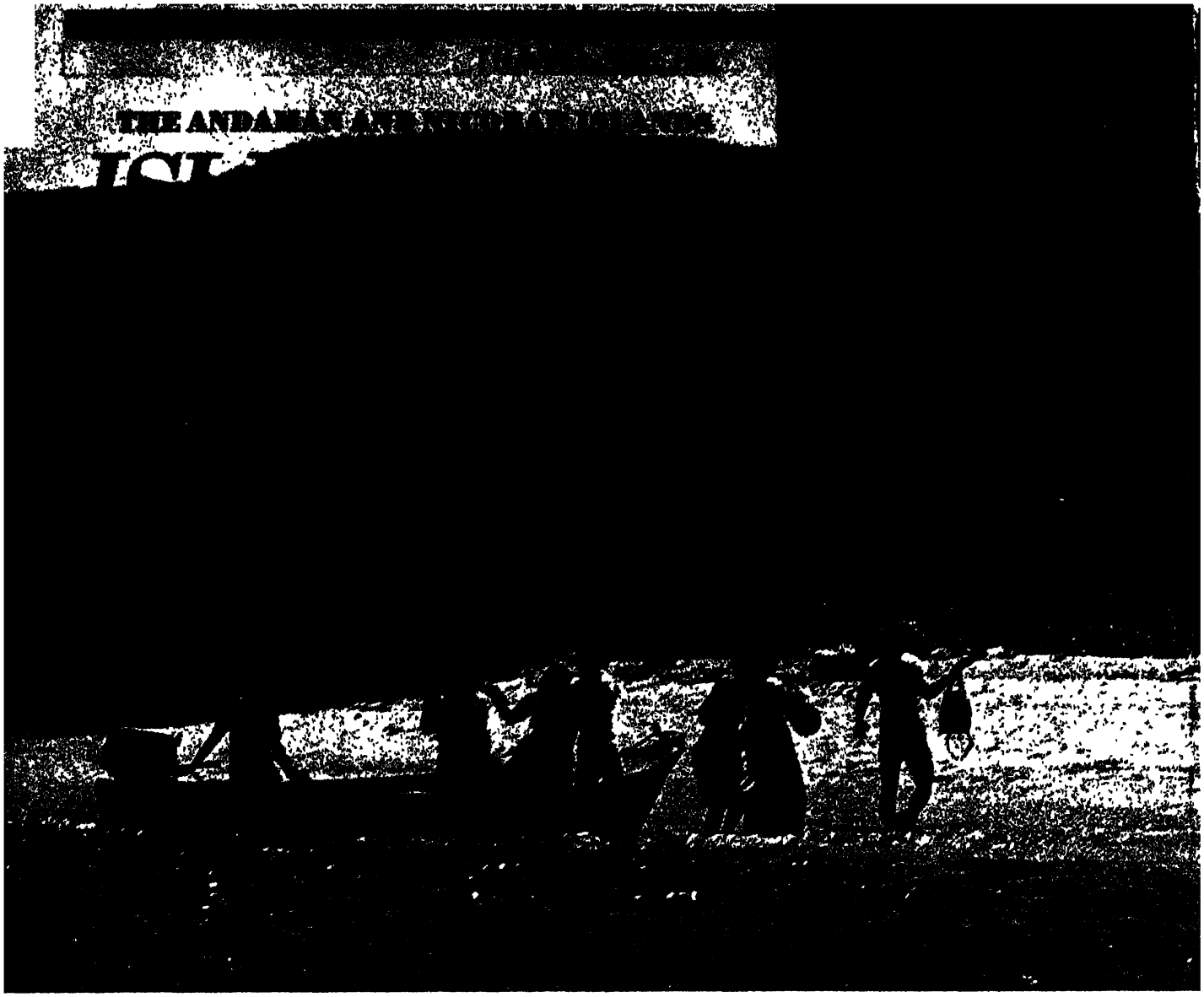
Other enchanting locations along the 600-km coastline are being developed, among them being Shiva Giri, 40 kms north of Trivandrum, Cherai near Cochin and Kappad in the north.

Kovalam is easily accessible by taxi, auto and bus from Trivandrum airport and the fare varies from Rs 85 to just Rs 2 The ITDC also has a special transport section to cater to the needs of the visitor.

There are a number of hotels and lodging houses in and around Kovalam, the daily charges ranging from Rs 40 to Rs 250. The state-run Mascot hotels in the city charge upwards of Rs 100 a room with VIP suites going up to Rs 400, while Hotel Chaitram in Trivandrum and Hotel Samudra in Kovalam are two others run by the state's tourism department where the tariff is slightly less. The youth hostel at nearby Veli offers dormitory accommodation at just Rs 5 a day

The Ashoka Beach Resort run by the ITDC provides five-star luxury and accommodation is also available in airconditioned cottages in Kovalam Grove The beach resort has additional facilities like a yoga and health centre for ayurvedic treatment including the renowned Kerala oil massage

Anil Grover with S.P. Nanda, Lekha Dhar and P.K. Menon



Over 1,200 kms from Calcutta, the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands with its lush green forests and virgin beaches overlooking the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal is an idyllic tourist retreat. The myriad islands stretch for over 700 kms and offer miles of fragile coral gardens and a submarine splendour which is visible in the waters that glitter in the tropical sunshine.

Four flights out of Calcutta every week at 5.45 am take you to this luxuriant paradise—on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The two-and-a-half-hour flight to Port Blair costs Rs 1,255. The journey by ship, however, is immensely better, but buying the tickets is a long and tedious process and there is no certainty when the ship will sail.

The capital, Port Blair, is a growing town situated on the gently rolling hills overlooking the numerous bays and lagoons. Named after Captain Archibald Blair, who set up a penal colony under the orders of the East India Company, the town became the venue of the dreaded cellular jail for freedom fighters in the late 19th century. The three-storeyed jail was constructed with seven wings, each wing stretching from a central tower like the rays of a starfish. Thousands of patriots and convicts were cramped into the 698 cells measuring just 4m×2.7m and left to die a slow death With only two of its wings now intact, it stands as a national memorial with an excellent museum that records the sufferings of those incarcerated there.

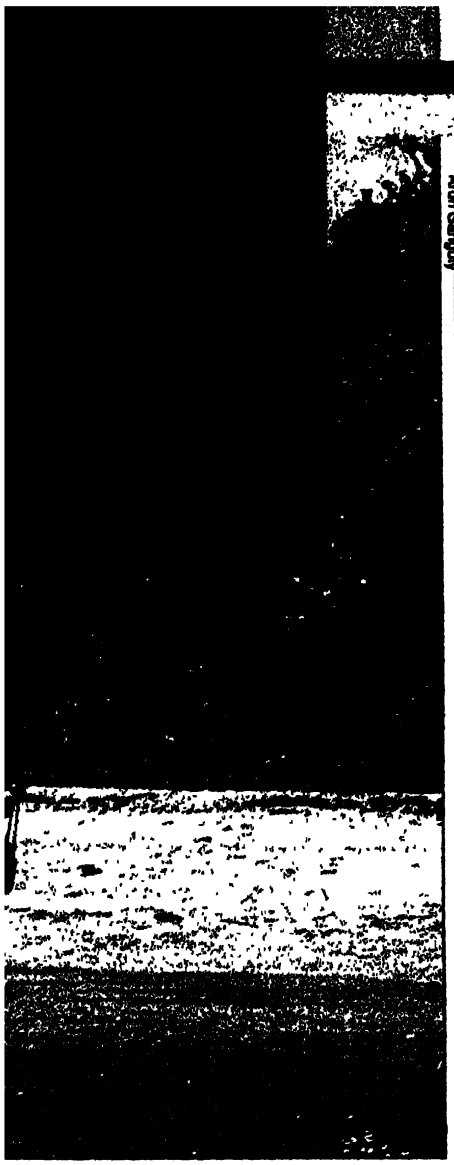
Nearby, on a tiny island is Chatham Saw Mill, one of the oldest and biggest in Asia.

DESTINATION PORT

Port Blair is 1190 kms from Madras, and is accessible by air and sea. There are four Indian Airlines Boeing flights from Madras to Port Blair and back. A flight takes two hours one way and the Monday flight extends upto Car Nicobar.

There are five liners that ply between Port Blair and the mainland ports of Calcutta, Madras and Vishakhapatnam. The voyage takes about three days and the ship normally stays for two or three days at Port Blair. Information relating to the sailing schedule can be obtained from the general administration branch of the Andaman and Nicobar administratin and the Shipping Corporation of India.

In order to make your bookings for the ship, write to Deputy Secretary, General Administration, Secretariat, Port Blair and mentioning the name of the ship, and date of travel. Also, send 50 per cent of the price of the ticket in advance. If your advance is accepted, your ticket is booked. The Shipping



Arun Ganguly

One gets to see how timber, including some rare species like padauk, kokko, chulgam, marble and satin wood, is processed. Other places of interest include the anthropological museum with its display of the tools and habitat of the primitive negroid tribals of the Andamans—the Onge, Jarawa, North Sentinelese, and the Great Andamanese and the mongoloid Shompens and Great Nicobarese. There is also the marine museum, the zoo and the Wimco match factory.

However, what makes a visit to the islands memorable are the beaches. Their waters are full of slivers of coral rock and are a bonanza of pleasure and profit for scubadivers and snorkelers. During a daylong excursion to the uninhabited Jolly Buoy and Cinque Islands one can engage in deepsea fishing, or explore rich marine life, and in the evening grilling the day's catch over a sizzling campfire at Corbyn's Cove beach, three kms from Port Blair town. But be warned: do not remove the corals—smuggling the out is a criminal offence. Giant lobsters are available in plenty, whether to eat or adorn your drawing room. In the open sea you can see dolphins gambolling till late in the evening.

To the north of Port Blair, across a narrow stretch of sea, is Ross Island, once the seat of the chief commissioner of the British administration. The commissioner's residence, built along the lines of Windsor Castle, is in ruins, but the area abounds in deer and peacock. On the southernmost tip of the South Andaman Islands is the picturesque beach of Chiria Tapu (Birds' Islands) with its creeks, an ideal spot for a picnic. An hour's drive from Port Blair is Wandoor Beach from where boats take you to the uninhabited islands.

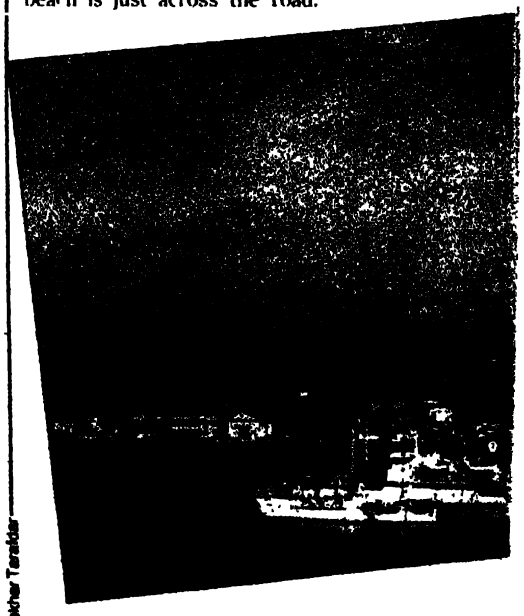
The area around Port Blair facing the sea is dotted with bunkers and pill boxes, remnants of the Japanese occupation between 1942 and 1945. Many of these have not yet been opened and are said to contain live bombs, ammunition, guns and motorcycles. Huge anti-aircraft gun barrels placed at strategic spots to ward off the British today lie silent, facing the sky over the sea.

The Andamans with all their lure, however, remain a rich man's paradise. Cheap accommodation at the many guest houses is rarely available, being booked by government officials on duty. The good hotels—Bay Island, Andaman Beach Resort and Aasiana—are usually booked during the season from September to May. The best time to visit the islands is from October onwards when the temperature varies around 21° to 28°C.

It is always better to take a package trip to the Andamans because food is expensive and good eating places are scarce. For the Puja holidays, Aasiana hotel, run by Swastik Sandel, the dapper 43-year-old marine engineer with long links with the Andamans, offers an attractive package for Rs 1,850 with meals and five days of sight-seeing thrown in. At an extra cost of Rs 150 you could include a trip to Jolly Buoy island. The package excludes the airfare. There are other packages too varying from Rs 1,110 to Rs 1,480. Sandel, who designed the hotel along the lines those in the French Riviera in Cannes where he worked for several years, promises an atmosphere free of mosquitoes and the sunrise over the sea from your bed whichever room you take. In addition, he offers sumptuous Bengali and *tandoori* food, "which you will not get in any other hotel here."

The Welcomgroup-run Bay Island invites you to "explore a new horizon" for a long break of three nights and four days for Rs 1,275 and a big break of five nights and six days for Rs 2,125. The package includes a 15 per cent discount on food and soft beverages, while sightseeing and excursions, snorkelling, fishing, scubadiving and surfing can be arranged at an extra cost. The hotel, designed by Charles Correa, is built almost entirely of the reddish padauk wood and overlooks the sea. It also has a swimming pool. The packages here are valid upto September 30.

Nestled at the foot of a hill and overlooking the small strip of beach of Corbyn's Cove is the TCI-run Andaman Beach Resort. They have an Andaman package of four nights, valid upto the end of September only, for Rs 1,600 per person and Rs 700 for a child aged between five and 12 years. This includes all meals and airport transfers. The hotel also arranges sightseeing, deepsea diving, island excursions and some water sport like surfing. The hotel also has a lovely garden and the beach is just across the road.



Shekhar Tendolkar

BLAIR

Corporation office in Calcutta can also give you tickets, subject to availability, but for cabin tickets you have to write to Port Blair.

There is only one passenger shipping route from Madras to Port Blair. One steamer leaves Madras every four or five months depending on weather and condition of the vessel. There is no strict schedule, the arrival and departure being normally notified through press advertisements.

Seema Paul and G.C. Shekhar

In the absence of any proper arrangements by the local tourist office, it is always better to stay at one of these hotels and arrange the sightseeing and excursions. If you are an expert diver, you can also explore the numerous shipwrecks dating back to World War II and the equipment will be arranged by these hotels at an extra cost. If you are staying somewhere else, you can contact the reliable Island Tours, who will arrange your sightseeing, including a harbour cruise that covers Viper Island (once full of snakes and now having the remains of a prison with its gallows) and Haddo Jetty.

There is also a glass-bottomed boat run by the marine department in Port Blair in which you can explore the colourful underwater life of the coast of the Andamans. Inter-island tours are also possible, but the lack of accommodation on the other islands hampers tourist travel.

The evenings in the Andamans are pretty dull with practically no entertainment and no good restaurants in town. The three good hotels are all a taxi-drive away and this can cost anything upto Rs 30 at night. There is little to shop for except trinkets made out of shells and other shell products and deer skin, though only from a licensed shop. Delicacies like venison and other seafoods are available at the three hotels.

A tourist visiting the Andamans can never hope to get a glimpse of the various aborigine tribes because they live in reserved areas and some of them remain hostile- not having come in contact with civilisation.

WHERE, HOW AND HOW MUCH



Ashis Sinha

M.V. Harshavardhana

HOTELS

(*These rates are valid upto September 30 after which there is a 10 to 15 per cent hike.*)

Bay Island (run by Welcomgroup): Single room AC Rs 565 and non-AC Rs 425; double AC Rs 670 and-AC Rs 530. Food is extra and taxes total 10 per cent. For bookings: Welcomgroup, 16 Strand Road, Calcutta 700001 ☎ 203222, 203223, 209527. Added attraction: Mandalay restaurant that serves seafood, island specialities; and Nico Bar.

Aasiana: Single AC Rs 390 and non-AC Rs 340; double AC Rs 490 and non-AC Rs 415. Set meals including breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner for Rs 130 per day. Also available and open to non-boarders continental, Chinese, Bengali and *tandoori* cuisine. Reservations: Sandel Resorts Ltd, 14 New Road, Calcutta 700027. ☎ 454859.

Andaman Beach Resort (run by TCI): Single AC Rs 380 and non-AC Rs 310; double AC Rs 450 and non-AC Rs 365. The menu is fixed. Breakfast costs Rs 45, lunch Rs 75, dinner Rs 85 and morning and evening tea Rs 20. Between December 15 and February 15 the room rates go up by about 25 per cent. Reservations: Puja and winter booking should be done before September with Travel Corporation of India Pvt Ltd, Everest House, 46-C Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 700071 ☎ 449971-74.

Shompen Hotel: Single AC Rs 200 and non-AC Rs 125, double AC Rs 265 and non-AC Rs 190. Booking through any travel agent.

NK International: Double AC Rs 200 and non-AC Rs 125. Bookings through any travel agent.

Dhanlaxmi: Single AC Rs 170 and non-AC Rs 95; double AC Rs 200 and non-AC Rs 125.

Tourist Cottage (Babu Lane, Port Blair): Single Rs 40, double Rs 50.

Jai Hind Hotel: Single Rs 35, double Rs 50.

Central Lodge: (Golghar, Port Blair): Single Rs 25, double Rs 50.

Anand Lodge (Haddo): Single Rs 25, double Rs 40.

Ram Niwas Lodge (Aberdeen Bazar): Single Rs 20, double Rs 40.

Sampat Lodge: Double Rs 40.

GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION:

(*The room rates can vary according to the rush and your bargaining prowess. Food is extra.*)

Nicobarese Cottage: Rs 160 per cottage AC and Rs 130 for non-AC.

Megapod Nest: Single AC Rs 55 and non-AC Rs 40; double AC Rs 110 and non-AC Rs 80.

Tourist Home (Marine Hill): Single Rs 10, double Rs 20.

Tourist Home (Haddo): Single Rs 10, double Rs 20.

Guest House (Corbyn's Cove): Single Rs 10, double Rs 20.

Guest House (Haddo): Single Rs 10, double Rs 20.

Youth Hostel: Rs 20 per room; Rs 8 and Rs 5 per bed for students.

Reservations for all government accommodation are usually possible only in Port Blair. You can also write to Deputy Director (Tourism), Secretariat, Port Blair, Andaman Islands. For the youth hostel write to Warden, Youth Hostel, Port Blair.

SHIPS

MV Harshavardhana

Single berth cabin (deluxe) Rs 837; two-berth deluxe and first class four-berth cabins Rs 769.50; Four-and six-berth 'A' cabins Rs 583.50; Four-berth second class cabins Rs 532.50; Bunk class Rs 125. Food costs Rs 40 per head per day.

For bookings and sailing schedules: Shipping Corporation of India Ltd, Shipping House, 13 Strand Road, Calcutta 700071. ☎ 230456.

GROUP EXCURSION AND SIGHTSEEING

Ross Island: Rs 40 per head for half a day. **Jolly Buoy:** Rs 150 per person. **Harbour Cruise:** Rs 40. **Corbyn's Cove:** Rs 25 per head. **Chiria Tapu** Rs 50 per head.

If you are **not in a group** the rates are: Rs 110 a car for city sightseeing. **Ross Island** Rs 100 per boat. **Jolly Buoy** Rs 560 per boat. **Harbour Cruise** Rs 140 per boat. **Corbyn's Cove** Rs 100 per car. **Chiria Tapu** Rs 300 per boat.

For **Cinque Island,** the boat charges are Rs 1,000.

POST MORTEM

Prejudiced Press

Most of the politicians were defensive and none of them dared to criticise the fourth estate in a bold and powerful manner ('Politicians on Journalists,' July 24).

The last few years have witnessed a rapid erosion in the ethics and values associated with journalism. Fairness and impartiality have given way to bias and prejudice. To take the latest example, V.P. Singh is hailed by one section of the press and another section loses no opportunity to lash out against him at the slightest pretext, both sides presenting one-sided analyses.

The irony is that now honest politicians have outnumbered honest journalists!

B. Ganesh,
Jamshedpur

■ Our former President, Mr Zail Singh, rightly said that like the legislature, executive and judiciary, the press was an inseparable wing of a democratic setup. However, freedom of the press does not mean freedom to impose views upon an unwary public. People will lose their faith in the press if editors try to suppress news and print only that which tallies with their own views.

G.D. Naik,
Bombay

■ The politicians were allowed to talk about the press and they used the opportunity to pour venom on them to the extent possible.

Arun Bose,
Darbhanga (Bihar)

■ The story would have been more complete if you had got the views of Rajiv Gandhi, Jyoti Basu, V P Singh and Subhas Ghising.

Supratim Sarkar,
Calcutta

■ I think journalists form the best section of society after soldiers. They have to bear the wrath of those they criticise, brave hardships, risk bullets and withstand pressures of all kinds. The criticism that journalists receive from politicians is a good yardstick to measure the success of their work.

Kulwant Singh Gill,
Howrah

Wrong Names

In your story, 'Love Me, Love My Soap' (May 8), it was wrongly stated in the box item that Asrani models for Sylvania Lakshman bulbs, Jaya Prada for Sevashram brahmi amala kesh tel and Keshto Mukherjee for Tortoise mosquito coil.


Bapi Upadhyay

Jaya Prada

Ashok Bhowmick,
Calcutta

■ For Rajdoot, you mentioned Rishi Kapoor and Dilip Dhawan as models instead of Rajeev Kapoor and Dhawan. And Keshto Mukherjee has not modelled for Tortoise mosquito; it is the famous mimic Johnny Lever.

Akash Gupta,
Howrah

■ You left out some celebrities like Deepika and Jaya Prada (Dabur amla kesh tel), Rakesh Bedi (Polar fan), Moon Moon Sen (Cinthol shop), Padmini Kolhapure (Khaitan fan), Anooradha Patel (Brooke Bond tea), Dara Singh (Everest asbestos) and Paintal (ECE bulb).

Javed Nishat,
Calcutta

Gems

The first page I turn to in the magazine is the last; that of Candid Camera. Each one of them has been a gem and worthy of collecting separately.

Biswajit Kar,
Kharagpur

Punish Smokers

Your article against smoking (July 17) was timely. Smokers in minibuses and local trains have no common sense or consideration for others. They consciously ignore the 'No smoking' notices put up there. New laws should be enforced to punish these offenders.

Renuka Dasgupta,
Calcutta

■ If smoking is injurious to health, *not* smoking is injurious to the national exchequer.

Dipendra Chatterjee,
Calcutta

BARTER BANK

• **Study material:** I would like to exchange the Elite course material (IIT; 1986-88) for anything of equivalent value. Write to V. Kapoor, 49 Ezra Street, Calcutta 700001.

• **Camera and projector:** I offer a Super-8 Chinon movie camera with zoom lens and a Super-8 movie projector for a stereo single/double two-in-one with cassette recorder (10 watts or more) or anything of corresponding value. Contact Adarsh Kumar, Beohar's Eye Hospital, Circuit House Road, P.O. Box 154, Ranchi 834001.

• **Camera:** I offer a black and white Click 4 camera for anything of corresponding value Contact M.K. Agarwal, C/o Radheyshyam Durga, Marwari Para Road, Jugsalai, Jamshedpur 831006

• **Magazines, record player** and **records:** I offer 170 issues of the Colour Magazine, an HMV record player and four Hindi music LPs for a Philips tape recorder or anything of corresponding value. Contact Bobby, Quarter no. B/64, Sector 6, Rourkela 769002.

• **Study material, refrigerator** and **two-in-one:** I offer the complete course of Brilliant's classes for the IIT-JEE, 1985, Agarwal classes material for IIT-JEE, 1985, a 165-litre Allwyn refrigerator and a Philips two-in-one for anything of corresponding

Bhattacharya, Central Hospital Karma, PO Jhumri Tolaiya, district Hazaribagh, Pin 825409.

• **Novels, study material, magazines** and **transistor:** I offer several novels, ICSE text books and question papers, 12 issues of *Reader's Digest* (from April 1986 to March 1987), several issues of the Colour Magazine and *Sun* and a two-band Philips transistor for anything of corresponding value Contact Manjul Saha, Flat no 4, Krishna Mullick Lane, Beniagachia, Calcutta 37

HOW SKILLED A TRAVELLER ARE YOU?

WHITHERTO?

If KAPUR was going to Kharagpur, and MEL to Melbourne, what are the destinations for the following people

1	M— —IC—	11	—URI— —
2	PA—I—	12	NA— — —BI
3	—I— —VA	13	CO— — —HA—EN
4	—RAN- - -U- - —	14	— — — —LULU
5	D— —A— — —S	15	— —S—ING— — —
6	—RA—U—	16	KA— — — —N—U
7	—A—SHE— — —	17	— —LO -BO
8	I— —AN— — —	18	—OK—O
9	— —RAN— —I	19	—A— — — — — —DI
10	—INGA— — — —	20	—AMB—I— — —

SHOPPING TIME

An all time favourite during travel is shops. And the names are getting stranger and stranger, day by day! SCALES does not sell weighing machines, it sells fish! MARY's PETS is not a pet shop, it sells meats!

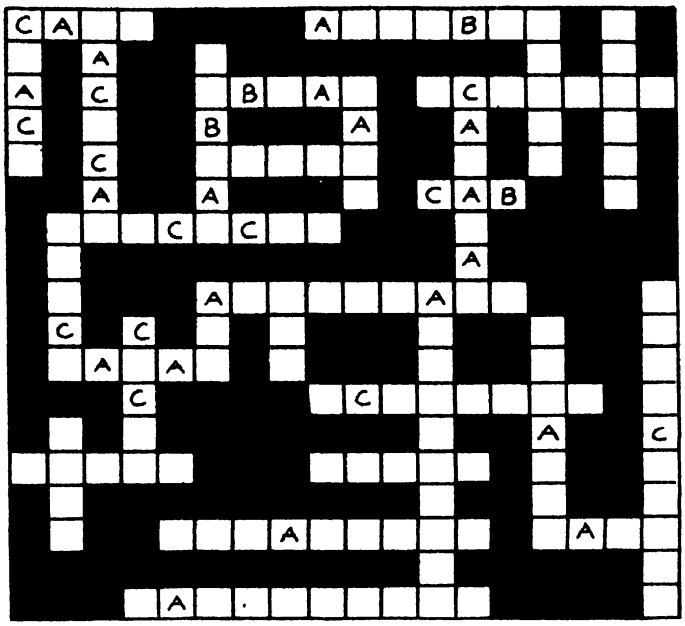
Can you say what each of the following shops sells?

FACES	TIC TAC
BUDDIES	HIGH RISE
SOLEMATES	LEAVES
HIDE & CHIC	ALL EYES

A NEW TONGUE TWISTER

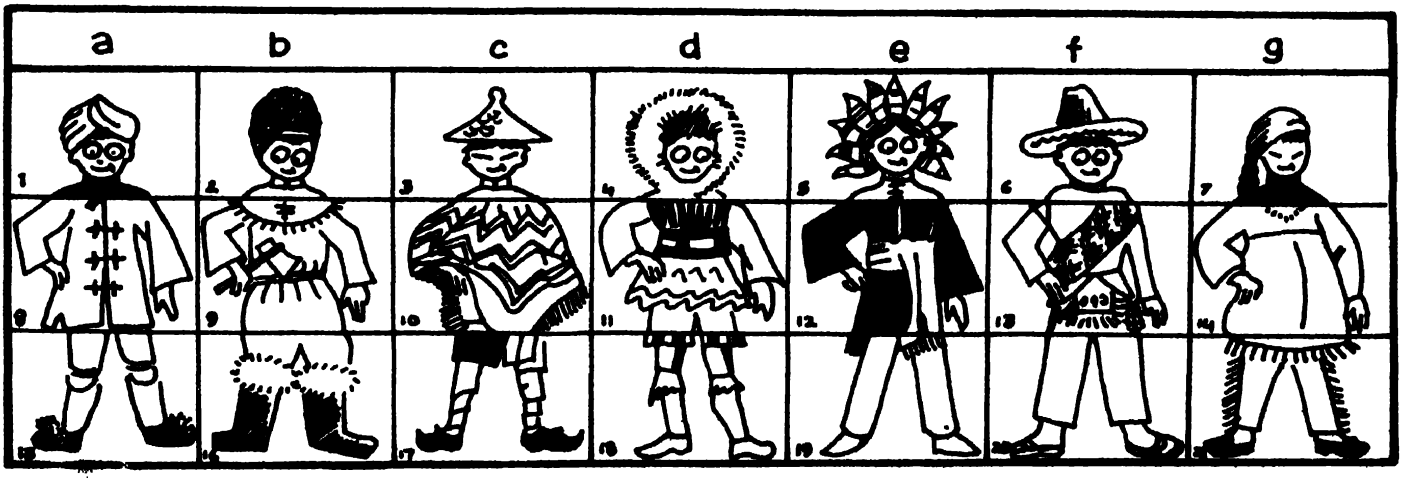
If you can say it three times in a row, fast, and without stumbling, you have a genius for a tongue THE SLOW SNOW-SLED SLOWS NED

ABC OF TRAVEL



In the grid, you can fit in various modes of travel The DO-IT-YOURSELF scrabble crossword has all the As, Bs and Cs of the words already filled in. CAB is in place The object is to fit in all the words in the grid, each word you fit in will restrict the position of other words, so use a pencil.

SPLIT PERSONALITIES



Match the head, body and legs of each figure to make seven picures of people from the world over.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Where in the world you get:
1) 104 as half of 6?
2) these directions right? (Illustration of N,S,E,W, placed incorrectly as shown)
3) those that are not root nor metal?

INTERNATIONAL CAPITALS

Name the capital cities of the two groups of countries listed below. When this is done correctly, the first letters of the cities, when read down will reveal the names of two more countries.

BURMA - . .....
MONGOLIA - . . . .
BULGARIA -
PUERTO RICO -. .. ...
PAKISTAN -... ...
ETHIOPIA - . . ... .

CZECHOSLOVAKIA -
JORDAN - . .
SUDAN - . .
PAKISTAN .
CHILE -
LIBYA - ..
GHANA - .
CYPRUS -... . .

WHAT BULL

Is a duck always a web-footed animal, or a puppy a young one of a dog? Not all over the world, it would seem. For *Bombay duck* is not a bird, it is a fish. And *mud puppy* is not a pup, it is a lizard.

Match the popular names of animals in the left column to the actual "types" in the right column.

a) Ground hog
b) Priarie dog
c) Flying fox
d) Horned toad
e) Guinea pig
f) Sea horse
g) Titmouse
h) Sea lion
i) Silver fish

1) a bat
2) a lizard
3) a rodent
4) a fish or a walrus
5) an insect
6) a bird
7) a seal

WELL DRESSED

An air hostess did not like to repeat her outfits, and the airlines provide only a limited number of clothes. But Kitu was clever; she mixed and matched so well that she did not need to repeat an outfit in three years.

She had three times as many saris as she had shawls; and she had twice as many blouses as she had saris.

What is the least number of saris, blouses and shawls she had so that she did not need to repeat an outfit (shawl, sari, blouse) for at least three years?

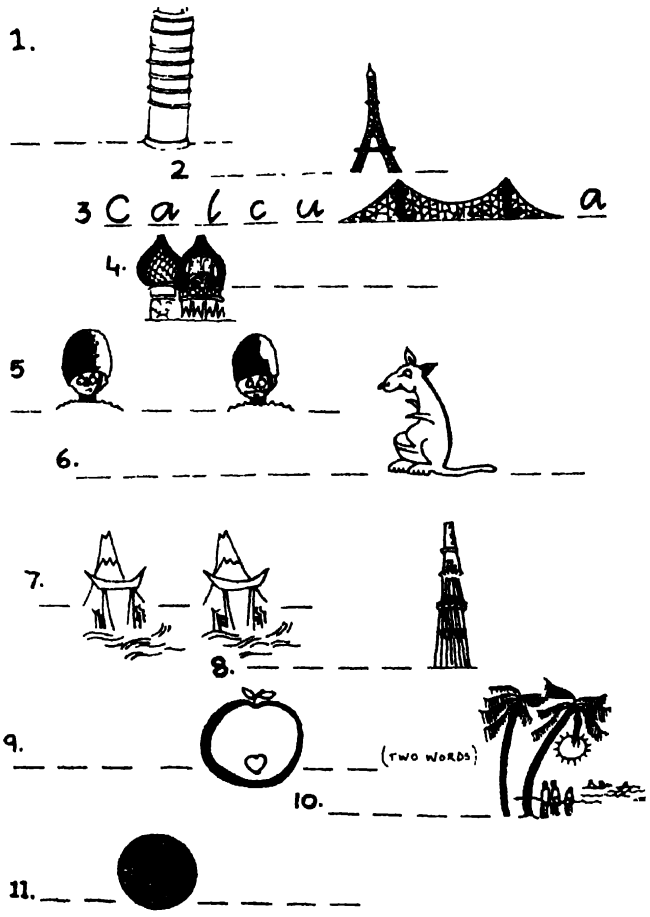
WORDS! WORDS!

a) Can you say why the following are "flight" words
AIRY
BATHTUB
PANAMA
JALOPY
IAMBUS
TWANG
PIANO

b) And why are the following "moving" words
BUTTER
TOBACCO
PANELLING
SUBWAY
NAVIGATION
RACCOON
RAINTREE
GIRDLES

EYE SPY

Each of the illustrations below indicates the name of a different city, country or place.
Identify them



Compiled by Shamlu Dudeja

ANSWERS NEXT WEEK

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) Java (Lake Town, 578936)

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand Dr Shreeram Lagoo, Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

• **Biwi Ho To Aisi:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242661), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932) Madhuban (Regent Park)

Directed by J K Bihari and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Rekha, Farooque Shaikh, Bindu, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Halaal Ki Kamaai:** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849) 4 shows

Govinda, Farha, Gulshan Grover and Shakti Kapoor are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Swaroop Kumar The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Khoon Bhari Maang:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 461140), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Malancha (Regent Park)

A film by Rakesh Roshan, starring Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shatrughan Sinha, Kader Khan and Sonu Walia The music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Mardangi:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956) Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 471103)– 4 shows

Directed by S R Pratap and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the cast includes Hemant Birje, Aman Virk, Dara Singh, Archana Joglekar and Dan Dhanoa

• **Naa-mumkin:** Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 219828) 4 shows, Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740) –all noon show

A film by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, starring Sanjeev Kumar, Zeenat Aman, Vinod Mehra, Raj Babbar, Dr Shreeram Lagoo and Om Shivpuri. The music is by R.D Burman



A scene from the *The Bounty*

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285142) 12, 3, 6 9 Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) 11 30, 2 30, 5 45

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Sone Pe Suhaaga.** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani 241132) Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 219828), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 561133), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410117), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road, 350059)

Directed by K Bapaiah and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Jeetendra Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon and Kimi Katkar

• **Vijay:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473) –4 shows

A film by Yash Chopra, whose cast includes Rishi Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri, Hema Malini, Raj Babbar, Anupam Kher, Rajesh Khanna and Sonam The music is by Shiv Hari

• **Waqt Ki Awaz:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266) - 4 shows, Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270)—3 shows

Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi are the lead pair in this K Bapaiah film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri Others in the cast are Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Neelam.

Foreign Films

• **Life Line (A):** Navina (Prince Anwar Shah Road, 468091) 12, 3, 6

• **King Kong vs Godzilla:** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 244715) 4 shows

• **Silver Bullet (A):** Liger (Chowringhee Road, 285977) 4 shows

• **Stakeout (A):** New Empire (Humayun Place, 291051) –12, 3, 5 45, 8 15

Directed by John Badham, the film stars Richard Dreyfuss, Emilio Estevez, Madeleine Stowe, Aidan Quinn and Dan Lauria

• **The Bounty (A):** Society (Corporation Place, 241002)—4 shows

Directed by Roger Donaldson, the film stars Mel Gibson, Anthony Hopkins, Edward Fox and Laurence Olivier

• **The Protector A):** Globe (Lindsay Street, 296665) –12, 3, 5 45, 8 30

Bengali Films

• **Aaghaat:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 471567), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282) 3 shows

Directed by Deb Sinha and with music by Mrinal Banerjee, the cast includes Prasenjit, Satabdi Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Chiranjeet and Sukhen Das

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)– 3 5 15, 8 30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film The music is by Swapan Chakraborty

• **Debibaran:** Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Purabi (Mahatma

Rekha and Bindu in *Biwi Ho To Aisi*



Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—3 shows

Soumitra Chatterjee, Ranjit Mullick, Deepankar De, Sumitra Mukherjee, Debika Mukherjee, Kali Banerjee, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Srikanta Guhathakurta and has music by Bappi Lahiri

• **Shankhachur:** Rupabani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road 471686) -1, 4, 7

Victor Banerjee Samit Bhanja, Basanta Chowdhury Subhendu Chatterjee, Debashree Roy and Tapas Paul comprise the cast of this film, directed by Jahar Biswas and has music by Dilip Dilip

Special Events

28 August: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the comedy play, *Salim Sherwani Ki Shaadi* The cast includes Vinay Sharma, Shakil Khan, Arun Sharma, Ashok Walia, Sanchaita Bhattacharya Nitu Khilnani, Manisha Chaturvedi, B M Hada, Pradip Roy, Semi Ahmed and Nasreen Ali

At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7 AJC Bose Road, 446087)

28-30 August

The 27th annual exhibition by the members of Academy of Fine Arts' children studio (age group 4-11) in the Central Gallery

28-31 August

Mohua Banerjee will hold her exhibition of paintings and batik in the South Gallery

Prayas will hold its exhibition of paintings in the New Gallery



28 August-2 September

An exhibition of paintings and sketches by Indranil Sarkar in the West Gallery.

29 August onwards

A week-long exhibition of drawings by O.C Gangooly in the North Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

30 August onwards: daily 6.30 pm; Saturdays and Sundays at 3 and 6.30 pm

As part of the Festival of the USSR in India, Festival of India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Shree Digvijay Cement Co Ltd present Moscow State Circus, till September 11 (excluding September 5 and 12)

At Netaji Indoor Stadium

3 September: 6.30 pm

Proscenium presents Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* Directed by Sheo Kumar Jhunjhunwala, the cast of this play includes Dolly Basu, Joydip Lahiri, Govind Jhunjhunwala, Sharmini Bhatnagar, Rahul Banerjee and Kanupriya Jhunjhunwala

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street)

TRAVEL

Planes

Note: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

London-Rome-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1). AI-132A at 1905.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830, Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Osaka-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1855; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1955.

Delhi-Calcutta (connects AI-108 from London and AI 128 from Frankfurt): Arr. (6): AI-455A at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi (connects AI-115 for London and New York). Dep. (7): AI-115A at 0145.

Calcutta-Bombay-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1700 and Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1810; Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555, Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955 Dep (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep (7). SQ-413 at 1530, Arr (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4): SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4): IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6, 7): IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-215 at 1010, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6, 7) IC-248 at 1425.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7) IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep (7): IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily). BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340, Dep (7): IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730; Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ 101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6 7): IC-477 at 1005.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 296 at 1725

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6). IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (1 3 5 6 7) IC-410 at 1110, (2 4) at 0850, Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-542 at 0620, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily). IC-272 at 2235.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3): IC-277 at 0630, Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7). IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-203 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4) IC 204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Varanasi- Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1535, Arr. (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 2120

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (2) IC-269 at 1535, Arr (2) IC-270 at 1845

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (4) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (4). IC-270 at 2135

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr (daily): IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal Dep. (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-255 at 0815, Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440, Arr (1 3 5 6 7) IC-244 at 10 30, (2 4) at 0810 and IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-201 at 0540; Arr. (1, 3, 5). IC-202 at 0910.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7): IC-219 at 0625; Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep (1, 4) IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC 239 at 1100, Arr (1, 4) IC-240 at 1015, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-240 at 1310

Meghdoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily). PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7). PF-708 at 0910

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchu. Dep. (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep.—Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon., Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep.—Thursday & Saturday Arri —Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960

SEALDAH

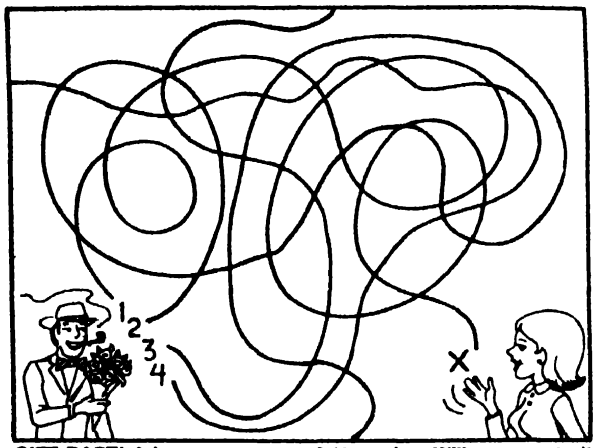
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
52	22-35	**Bangalore Super Fast Express** Dep. & Arri.—Wed. & Sun	13-45	51
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep. & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



GIFT RAPT! A bouquet en route? How nice. Will you see to it that flowers reach their destination, point X, above?

•SUM VERSE! Twelve is as much greater than four, as twice this number exceeds five score. What number? Answer in 30 seconds, if you can.

The number is fifty-four



VERSE-RIDDLE WITS TESTER

Put on your thinking cap to discover the subject of this puzzling riddle in verse

If from your shelf you take a book,
You'll find me there, if you but look
And if you put me back again,
That I am there is also plain
Decapitate, 'twill then appear,
Without mistake that I am here,
Behead again, you'll want no more,
Because I always come before

I m a five letter word What word am I?

I am there (shortened) here and ere)

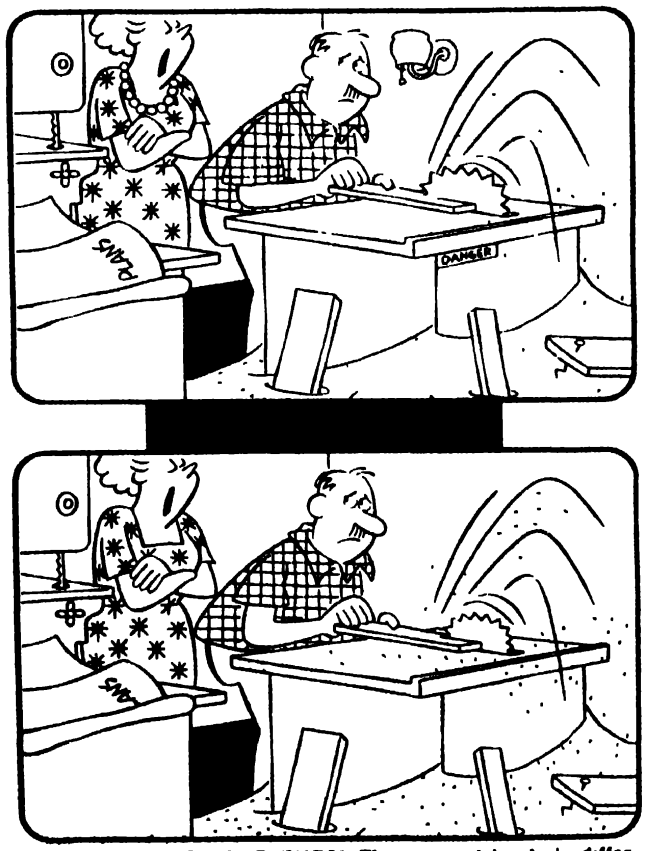
• ODD LOT! Insert all of the odd numbers 3 to 19 in the diagram below so that each row of three numbers across, down or diagonally, totals exactly 33.

Number 11 is already in place. As a starter, insert 17 at top left. Now, study possibilities for 19, etc. How quickly can you puzzle out the rest?

One possible answer—Across rows 17 3
13 7 11 15 9 19 5

	11	

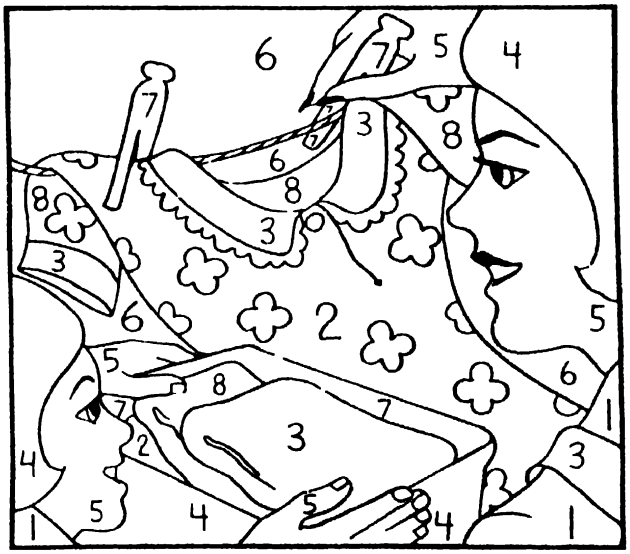
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Beads are missing 2 Plane is smaller 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4 Light is missing 5 Blade is smaller 6 Sign is missing.

FUNSPOT



LINE IS BUSY! Apply these crayons or colored pencils neatly to the diagram above: 1—Red. 2—Lt. purple. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

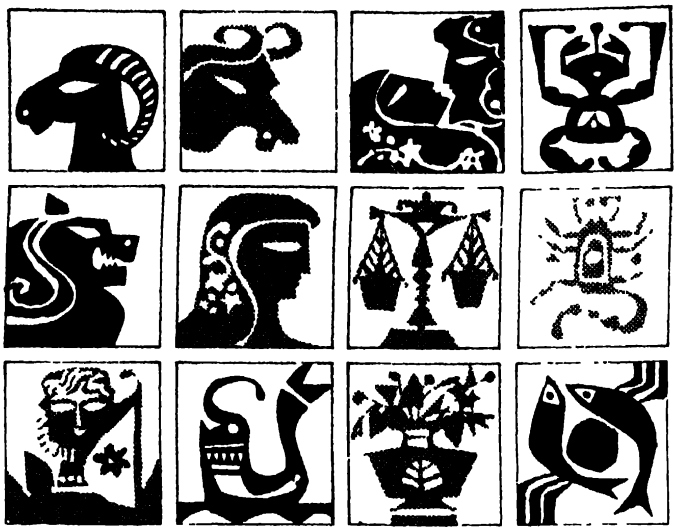
PEDESTAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible answers: Lead, seap

INNER EYE'S Bash Barowalo



ARIES

March 21—April 20

Visits to hospitals, social welfare clinics and health homes are likely. Income will show an unexpected increase and family ties are likely to be strengthened Responsibilities will, however, increase and pressures will get at you However, do not disregard the possibilities that stare you in the face The health of family members may cause concern and do not ignore minor coughs and colds

TAURUS

April 21– May 20

A week to solve personal posers, launch new business ventures and enter into collaborations Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication The time is right to embark on a journey You will earn money through joint ventures and schemes Friends and relatives will stand by you and support your point of view

GEMINI

May 21– June 20

Moon conjuncts Jupiter and you are in for a spell of hard work However, do not totally ignore the lighter side of life and socialise and entertain in style Matters pertaining to home, property, finance, buying and selling are highlighted There may be an addition to the family soon, so prepare to celebrate the happy event

CANCER

June 21—July 20

Romance is the most significant highlight of the week ahead Cooperation and support will come your way as friends and relatives will do their utmost to help you You may receive important information from loved ones Ceremonies, rites and rituals are signified This is the time to balance emotions with reason

LEO

July 21—August 21

Matters pertaining to joint finances, loans, mortgages, security and business ventures will occupy your time You may be in for a transfer or promotion A trip abroad is a distinct possibility Love is on the cards Health may not be up to the mark, so it is advisable not to ignore even minor ailments. Rely on your intuition in all matters of importance

VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

The full moon signifies hectic activity in the coming month New developments on the work and travel fronts could emerge Get ready to fan out to people and places through all possible means of communication Legal issues will demand attention However, given your perseverance all matters should work out

LIBRA

Sept 23 -Oct 22

You must take sufficient precautions to ward off accidents and health problems Learn to relax and do not let minor problems get at you Changes at work are destined by September at the very latest You will receive encouraging news soon Marriage is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible

BIRTHDAYS

August 28

Mercury square Saturn Pressures will mount Do not expect too much from a relationship, at least for the time being If you are on a diet, stick to it. A change on the work front is foretold. People's reactions to you might fluctuate

August 29

Moon Mars conjunction. This is an excellent year for matters pertaining to joint finances, links, ties, information, immigration, travel, funds and investments. A shift is likely soon. There are chances of your going in for an expansion or collaboration

August 30

Sun trine Neptune: Artists, entrepreneurs, students and writers will do well. You will gain in self confidence and Lady Luck will smile on you. Romance, an official engagement and even marriage are possible. Children, education, research and loans and funds will also demand attention.

August 31

Moon trine Sun: You will be successful in anything that you do Travel, alliances, awards, rewards and accolades will be yours Your enterprise and hard work will endear you to people who matter

September 1

Sun sextile Pluto Communicate publicise your work, take the initiative and put your point of view forward fearlessly Matters pertaining to profit, brokerage and commission will keep you busy Think positively and do not let minor setbacks harden your outlook

September 2

Moon conjunction Jupiter Expect an increase in your pay packet and greater mileage now. This is the time to branch out and start a new enterprise. Make your presence felt. Politicians, actors, teachers, entrepreneurs and students will do well.

September 3

Mercury trine Jupiter: Travel is indicated. Salesmen, editors, public relation officers, newly married couples, diplomats and lawyers will do well. Monetary and land disputes will occupy your time in the coming months.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

The sun sextiles Pluto and a successful week ahead is assured. Children, creativity, hobbies, travel and creative pursuits are highlighted Romance is in the offing for the fancyfree and eligible Opportunities for expansion and progress will soon come your way Friends and relatives will finally recognise your worth and will stand by you

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23- -Dec 20

There is once again a sharp focus on home and property affairs, installation of gadgets and machinery in office or your factory, renovation, buying, selling and refurbishing Health hazards may continue to plague you so go for regular checkups Ignore minor obstacles and forge ahead despite opposition from near ones and friends

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Learn to tax yourself to your limits Catch up with all pending correspondence and sign contracts, collaborations and joint ventures Lady Luck will smile on you because Mercury trines Jupiter Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication but take care not to get in people's way

AQUARIUS

Jan 20- Feb 18

Moon trines Uranus signifying close family ties and the possibility of a get-together Socialising and entertaining are on the cards You may have to host an important business meeting or conference Important people will go out of their way to help you September is the best month to launch a new enterprise or venture

PISCES

Feb 19—March 20

The full moon and eclipse in your sign should be taken as a warning to take extra care in personal relationships, health and property matters Do not ignore minor ailments and be extra careful while crossing the road or handling explosive items like gas cylinders. Renovation and decoration will keep you busy

Bon Apetit!

The seductive scent made Adam's nostrils quiver, and the sneeze that followed shook the trees in the garden and there was a shower of red fruits 'What was that? What was that?' asked Adam, waking up from his long, dreamless sleep 'Apples, silly', answered Eve 'Why don't you take a bite?' 'A bite? What will I do with a bite?', said a bewildered Adam 'Aw, come on You are supposed to eat it man ' So Adam bit into the apple, ate it, and discovered what a wonderful thing hunger could be

But the apples in Eden did not last forever Angry and hungry Eve screamed, 'What sort of a man are you? Go and get me something else to eat ' So Adam broke the branch of a tree and chased the strange animals on earth, finally managing to kill one of them Elated, he stripped its hide, tore it in half and wrapped one piece round his hips. He slung the carcass on his shoulder, dangled the other piece of animal-hide and smugly announced, 'See what I've got for you woman ' He meant the skirt, of course, but a famished Eve was already busy attacking animal flesh She choked and spluttered 'Ugh! what have you brought man? It's got no salt, no taste In fact, it tastes like nothing on earth. Why can't we cook it?' 'Are you crazy? How can we cook when there's no fire?', retorted Adam in a slightly injured voice. So the voice from heaven said 'Let there be Fire' and there was fire. Only Adam put his foot down this time. 'Me man, you woman', he said, 'I kill animal, you cook meat.'

And that is how it all began. When the hunters became tired of hunting and the roast meat their women prepared, they moved away from forest country to the riverside. A settlement at last! And of course, somebody from up there didn't forget to say 'Let there be grains' because there were grains, and vegetables and milk With so much on their plate how could anyone stick to the same old dishes? So, creative cooking became a must And there could be no creativity without spices Even the Mycanaeans knew that

Mycanaeans were those tall, fair Bronze Age people on mainland Greece Their diet was cereal-based Nutritious, but rather dull So they decided to enliven their meals with spices and flavourings like coriander, sesame, celery, mint and cress

Use of spices reached an artistic peak in our subcontinent, particularly in the mediaeval period But much before that, in Puranic times, cookery was already considered to be an art When the Pandavas went incognito to king Virata's palace, Bhima posed as the cook Ballabha. He got through his interview only after convincing the king about the delicacies he had prepared while in the service of king Judhisthira From then on there was no stopping the Indians from finding new and even more exciting ways of preparing meals

But, though, variety reigned supreme in our country, the French somehow managed to creep into the field of international cookery by seducing gourmets with liberal helpings of wine and herbs in their dishes

But if France dominated the Continent and the palate of the rich, a silent revolution of the Asiatic variety won over the heart of the common man throughout the world. In fact, there are very few people who cannot stomach Chinese cooking. Italian pasta and some Greek dishes have also become

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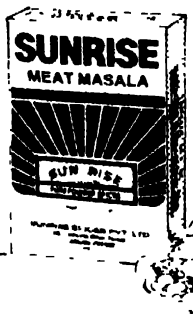
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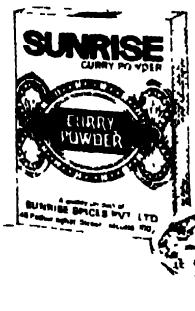
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PRAYOG/121-88

The Prestige

The makers of Prestige Pressure Cookers have introduced the Prestige Pressure Pan. This is a boon to any housewife and a blessing to any kitchen. The Prestige Pressure Pan is versatile in its use It can be used to fry, deep fry, saute and pressure cook amongst other things A whole vegetarian or non-vegetarian meal can be cooked with the use of a Prestige Pressure Pan It is available in two sizes and is easily available at any Prestige dealer
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First complete cutlery range

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Is the water you are drinking—safe?

Did you know that 80% of all human diseases are waterborne? Did you know that 30,000 people die everyday because of lack of pure drinking water? Do you know that rusty water pipes and leaking sewage systems could give you polio, dysentery, jaundice, cholera, gastro-entritis and other intestinal-tract diseases?
In this context what we need is a filter-cum-purifier with a monitoring device and Eureka Forbes have found the answer—AQUAGUARD Aquaguard gives you pure, safe drinking water. It is a highly advanced and scientifically designed water purifying system invented in Sweden. It has won the approval of health bodies all over the world. Aquaguard is an on-line water filter-cum-purifier that provides safe drinking water through a unique 3-stage purification process.

popular among non-gourmets.

With developing taste-buds and culinary creativity, certain changes became necessary From utensils and ovens to cooking medium there has been remarkable development over the years Gone are the days of wooden pans or iron cooking utensils Light aluminium, sleek steel and non stick pans have invaded all modern kitchens, along with other modern gadgetry

It seems ironical that while the art of cooking has reached a level of finesse beyond the imagination of Adam or Eve, change in modern lifestyle has made it imperative that meals should be simplified and cooking-time reduced Gone are the days when simmering over a charcoal-fire gave the dish its special flavour Instead, gas or electric-ranges are doing the same job in less than half the time. What is lost in flavour is made up in time Particularly if you have a micro-wave oven And you needn't cook everyday if you can stuff your fridge with cooked meals It is just a question of heating and serving

Talking of heat and serve, how can one overlook the latest craze for pre-cooked meals? Beautifully packaged, all they need is a couple of minutes on-oven preparation They may not taste like a home cooked meal but, who is complaining?

Along with time-savers, the health-food fad has also set in a new trend of non-cooked meals Eat bran, honey, yoghurt, fruits and boiled food, but don't cook it please. No sensible person can afford to lose those vital vitamins And if you must spoil it all by cooking, then use an edible oil which does not give your cholesterol a boost, says every health food fan

Does that mean that the fine-art of gastronomy is dying? Not on your life, if the deluge of cookery books is anything to go by Food from all corners of the world are packed into these recipe books, lest they be forgotten. Writing a foreword to one of these books in 1956 Noel Coward said, "The year . has been devoted to my culinary adventures There was the wonderful day when my first souffle rose to such heights that it nearly hit the top of the oven (the oven fortunately had a glass

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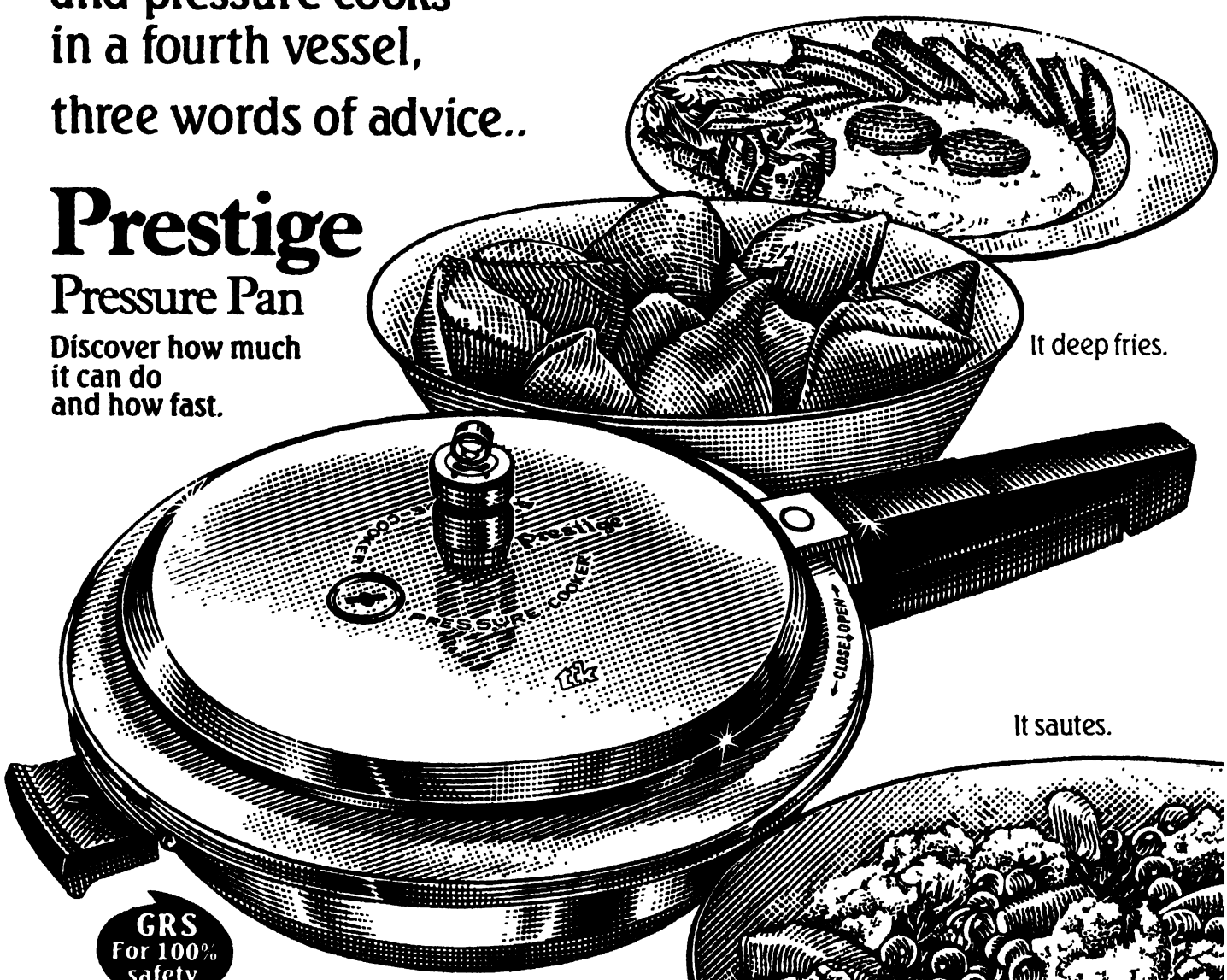
To every housewife who fries in one pan, deep fries in another, sautes in a third and pressure cooks in a fourth vessel, three words of advice..

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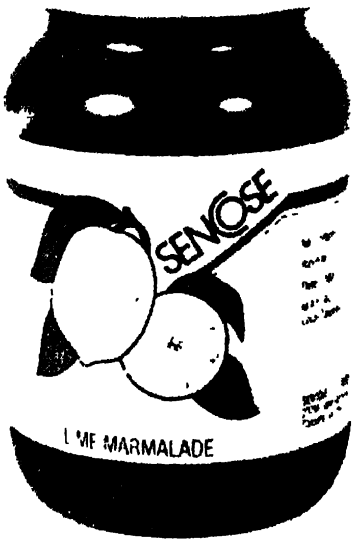


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PRAYOG/85-88

Consumerware

Borosil Consumerware has become a way of life in the Indian homes. It's an international lifestyle in itself. Much the same as the way people live in U S A and Europe There it is called Corning or Pyrex Borosil Bake & Serve is made right here in India Plain or decorated with special glass Tough and clear. You can bake Serve Freeze And reheat All in the same dish The variety is endless Bake & Serve ware, Carafes, Vision Glasses, Crystal Pitchers, and bowls What's more, a 200-strong country-wide network takes care of your needs And now they bring 3 exciting new products to boost every hostess' serving style

Rectangular Casserole Set: This sleek and transparent product allows you to see your culinary skills come to a satisfying conclusion Bake, Store, Freeze, reheat your food in the same dish Then serve it in style and see the look of satisfaction all around you

Swizzle Sticks: Intricately designed to complement Vision Glasses Stir up your drinks and serve them with style

Oven Gloves: Dainty gloves that protect the hands of every hostess Glass has special properties, not found in steel, plastic and other materials Many housewives use glassware happily and with pride Reasons As Glass is not affected by weather or other elements, it does not corrode It does not have any smell to affect food liquids And it is transparent and allows you to see what is stored inside and what is being cooked inside Clear glass has unmatched apeal The aesthetics can be enhanced with colours and different decorations (painted borders & designs, transfers, cutworks)

Borosil's wide range of products, make fabulous gifts The consumerware products are well styled, elegant to look at and very easy to clean Borosil was the first company in India to come up with the time saving concept of Bake & Serve

door so that I was able to watch this phenomenon open-mouthed), the thirty-six hours I spent first trying to make puff-pastry, during which I had to cancel all engagements and lost a night's sleep into the bargain, the evening the Oven Blew up, the afternoon the lid flew off the waring Mixer and sprayed unreachable parts of the ceiling with chocolate mousse

Not everyone has such misadventures while consulting a recipe-book. Coward's play-writing genius obviously did not extend to the kitchen But there are millions still who, inspite of pressures on time and blood, like to turn out a good wholesome meal, if not a delicacy. And the man clever enough to find the catch was none other than Lord Lytton, who wrote—'He may live without books—what is knowledge but grieving?
He may live without hope—what is hope but deceiving?
He may live without love—what is passion but pining?
But where is the man who can live without dining?'

Lobster Special

Cut 2 medium-sized onions in thin slices, saute them until golden in a small wineglass of olive oil, then add ½ pound of chopped tomatoes and stir in for a few minutes Add salt, pepper, a handful of chopped parsley and a glass of white wine Cook fiercely for a few seconds Then put in the cut up pieces of lobster and let the pan simmer until the sauce becomes a fairly thick consistency

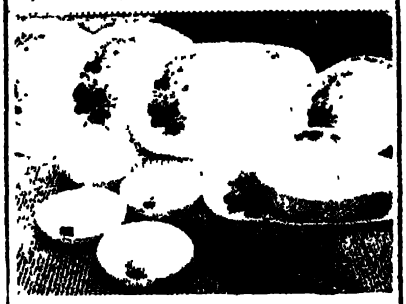
Brinjal Salad

Roast a large brinjal whole When soft, peel it and mash the meat Marinate it in a dressing made of 2/3 cup olive oil, 1/3 cup vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon mustard, salt and pepper. Chill throughly and serve on crisp lettuce.

Lime Cucumber Salad

1 packet lime gelatin; 1 teaspoon grated onion
1 cup boiling water; 1 cup sour

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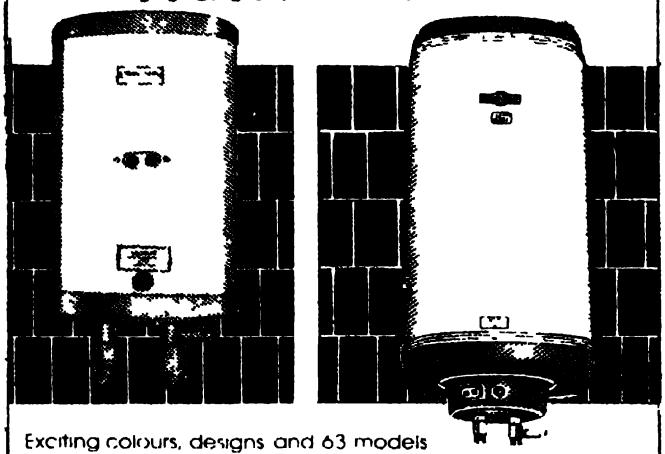
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अब नये आकर्षक और सुविधाजनक कन्ज्युमर पैकिंग में उपलब्ध

- १०० २५० ५०० ग्राम प्लास्टीक बेग में एवं ५ किलो हेन्डल वाली बेग में
- १० और ५० ग्राम पाऊच पैक में
- ५० और १०० ग्राम बोक्स पैकेट में



निर्माता

मे केशवलाल विठलदास पटेल

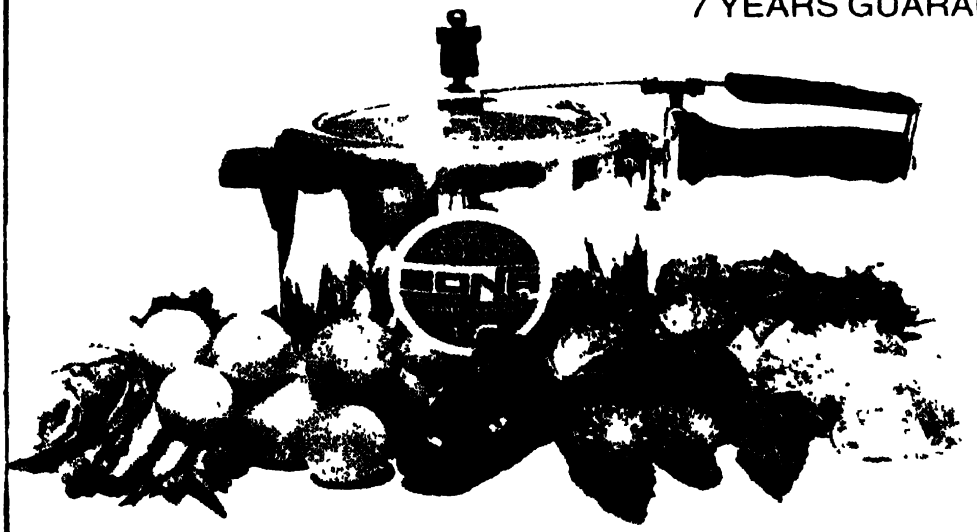
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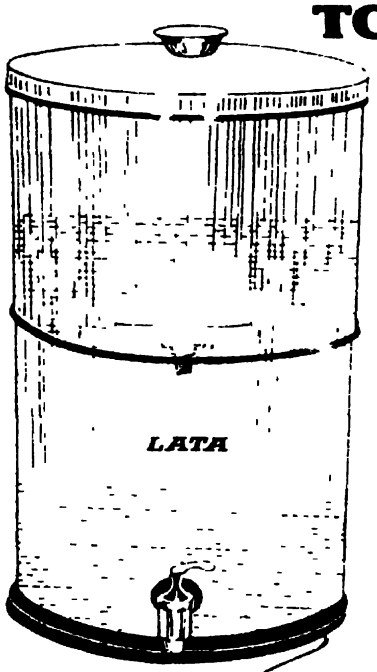
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cream
1/4 cup vinegar; 1 cucumber, coarsely grated
1 teaspoon salt; Lettuce
Dissolve gelatin in water. Add vinegar, salt, and onion. Chill until the gelatin begins to thicken. Stir in the sour cream and the cucumber. Pour into 6 cups or bowls. Chill until firm. Unmould on lettuce, and serve.

Easy Potato Salad

3 cups hot potatoes, diced, 1 teaspoon salt;
2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped; Pepper, a dash;
1/2 cup cucumber, diced, 2 tablespoons sugar,
1/2 cup celery, diced; 2 tablespoons vinegar;
2 tablespoons onion, minced,
1/2 cup mayonnaise;
Mix thoroughly and chill; sugar may be omitted. Other vegetables may be added according to individual preference. Serves 6.

Chi Ch'ieh Tze

4 cups brinjal, cut in thin strips,
1/2 lb uncooked chicken meat, cut in thin strips;
1 tablespoon corn-starch; 2 tablespoons soya sauce,
1 tablespoon sherry, 4 tablespoons oil;
3 chillies, shredded fine with seeds removed,
1 small clove garlic, chopped fine,
1 tablespoon fresh ginger; 1/2 cup soup stock,
Cover brinjals with boiling water. Let stand 5 minutes, then drain well. Dredge chicken with mixture of cornstarch, soya sauce, and sherry. Heat pan and add oil Saute chillies until they turn colour. Remove from pan. In the same pan saute the chicken until done Add brinjals, garlic, chillies, ginger, and soup stock. Heat thoroughly. Serves 6.

West Indian Fish Stew

Boil some slices of *Betki* or *rahu*, and keep the water Fry some sliced onions and chopped parsley in oil See that onions do not brown. Then add some of the fish water, seasoning with pepper, paprika and a little nutmeg Make this very hot but do not boil. Add to it 3 well-beaten eggs, and let them thicken for 2 minutes. Be careful to keep off the boil. Add a dash of lemon juice, and pour this sauce over the fish. Put it into a moderate oven for 15 minutes.

Hungarian Beet Soup

2 medium-sized cooked beetroots; Salt;
2 eggs; Juice of one lemon;
Peel and grate the beetroot and cook in stock for 10 to 15 minutes Add salt. Remove beetroot from the stock and keep on one side. Take the lemon juice and whisk in the eggs. Blend this with the beetroot stock, briskly beating all the time to prevent the eggs curdling Part of the grated cooked beetroot may now be put back in the soup if desired

Goa Curry

Fresh drumsticks; 2 dry Kashmir Chillies,
3 tablespoons grated coconut; 3 cloves,

1/2 teaspoon cuminseeds; 1 teaspoon turmeric,
5 flakes garlic, 2 onions, sliced;

1 teaspoon mustard seed, curry leaves,
Grind fine the chillies, cuminseeds, coconut; garlic, cloves and turmeric Skin and cut the drumsticks into small pieces Wash and boil till soft.

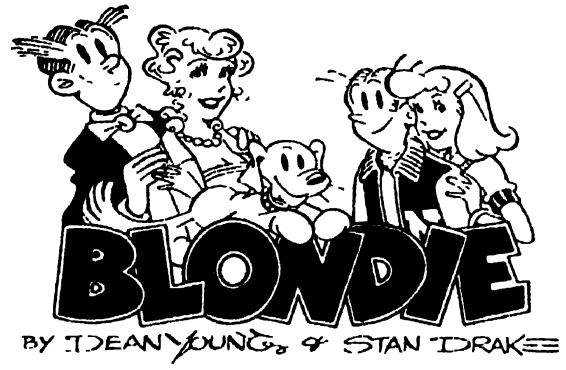
While boiling, add the ground spices. Season with onion, mustard seeds and curry leaves. Salt to taste.

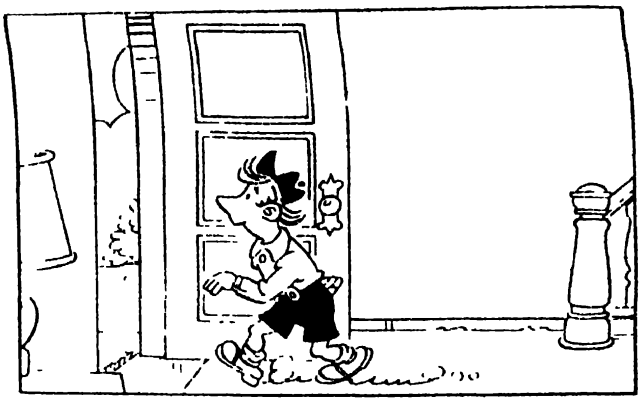
Chicken Chaat

1/2 boiled chicken, 1/4 teaspoon red chilli powder,
1 teaspoon roasted and ground cumin;
1 boiled potato, diced; Juice of 1 lemon salt
Take boiled chicken and cut into cubes. Place it on platter. Sprinkle all seasonings Add potatoes Shake together gently.

Chicken and potato pieces can be speared with toothpick for serving.

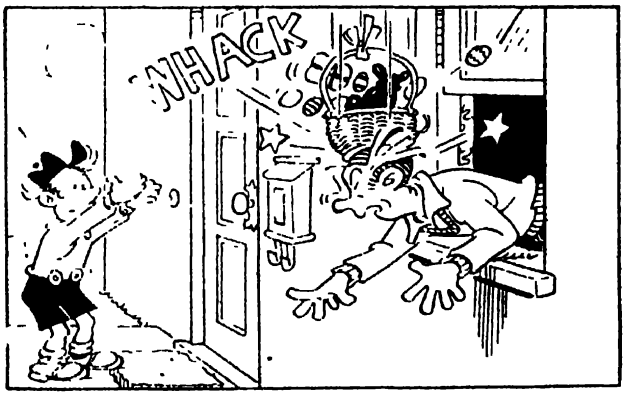
Bisakha Ghose

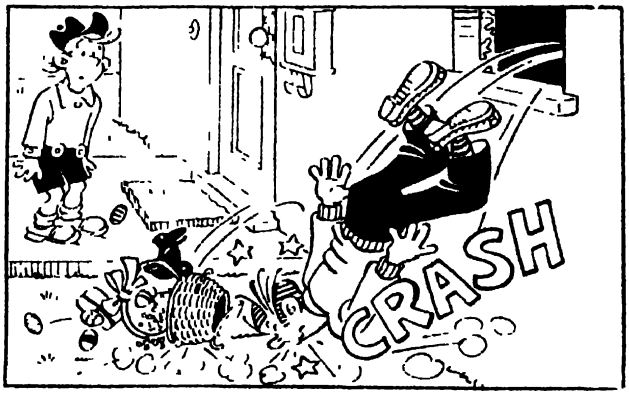


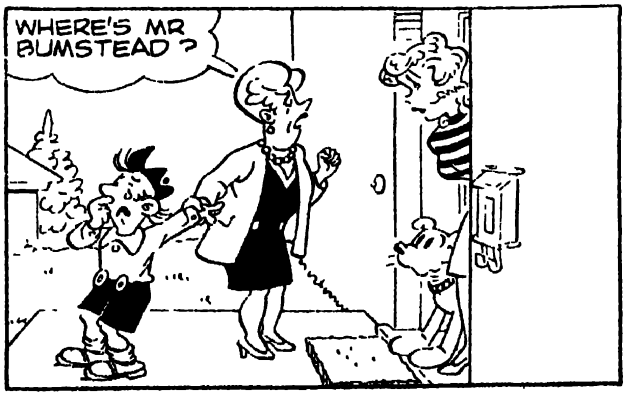








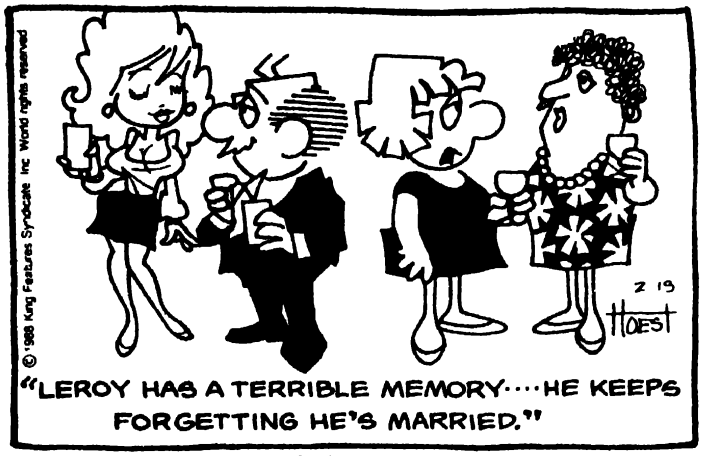




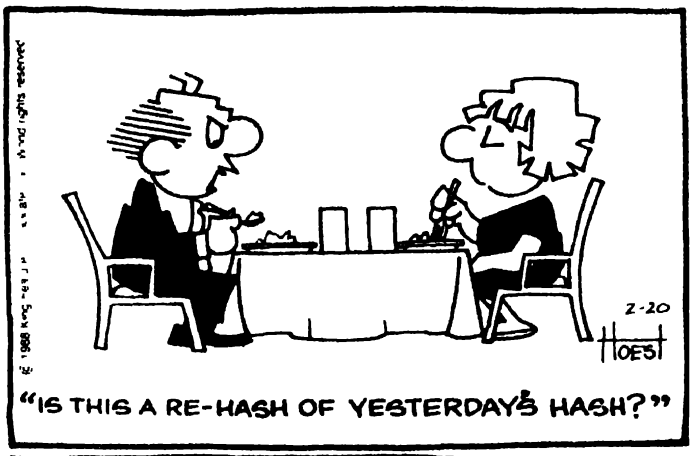
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AS SAURCD'S FIRE SPREADS HE-MAN S FORCED TO MAKE QUICK WORK OF HIS OPPONENT
HANG LOOSE FOR A WHILE, BLADE. I HAVE A HOT DATE
AIM FOR THE ROOF CAT! WE VE GOT TO PUT OUT THIS FIRE BEFORE IT REACHES THE ANIMALS!
BLADE'S OUT OF ACTION, SO IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME? I'VE BEEN TOLD I DO A MEAN FIREMAN'S CARRY!
WHICH WAY?! THAT ROOF LL COME DOWN ANY SECOND!
CAN'T BREATHE FIRE ALL AROUND ME!
I'LL JUST ADD A NEW DOOR, RIGHT - HERE!
FIRE'S JUST ABOUT SNUFFED! THIS IS ALMOST AS MUCH FUN A THRASHING SKELETOR!
THE ANIMALS ARE FREE! BUT WHERE S HE-MAN? -- I'LL CHECK THE OTHER SIDE!
BUT TO TEELAS SURPRISE
NO-HE-MAN BUT BLADE'S BACK IN THE PICTURE -- AND WHO S THAT THEY'VE GOT WITH THEM?
BLADE SAURCD AND THE DISGUISED EVIL LYN ESCAPE BUT NOT UNDETECTED!
THEY RE KIDNAPPING A THENURIAN!? BUT WHO? THAT S NOT GWILDOR!
TEELA TAKES SWIFT ACTION!
ERIC HE-MAN S AT THE BARN SOMEWHERE, FIND HIM AND TELL HIM I'M ON THE TRAIL OF A GANG OF THENURIAN-NAPPERS!



"LEROY HAS A TERRIBLE MEMORY····HE KEEPS FORGETTING HE'S MARRIED."



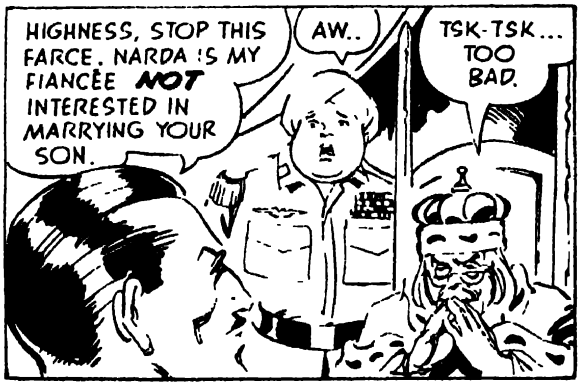
"IS THIS A RE-HASH OF YESTERDAY'S HASH?"



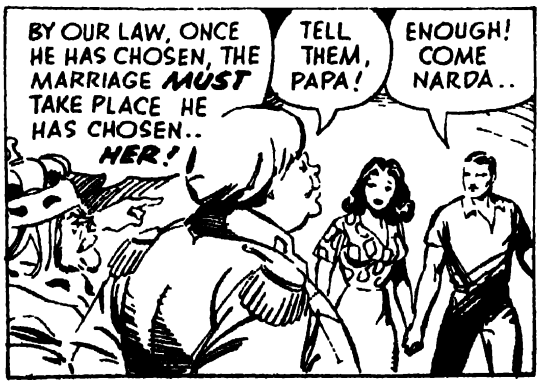
"LORETTA! SOMEBODY WANTS TO LISTEN TO YOU!"

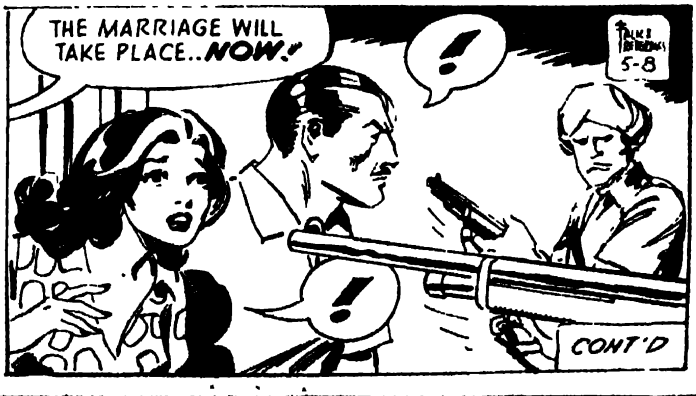


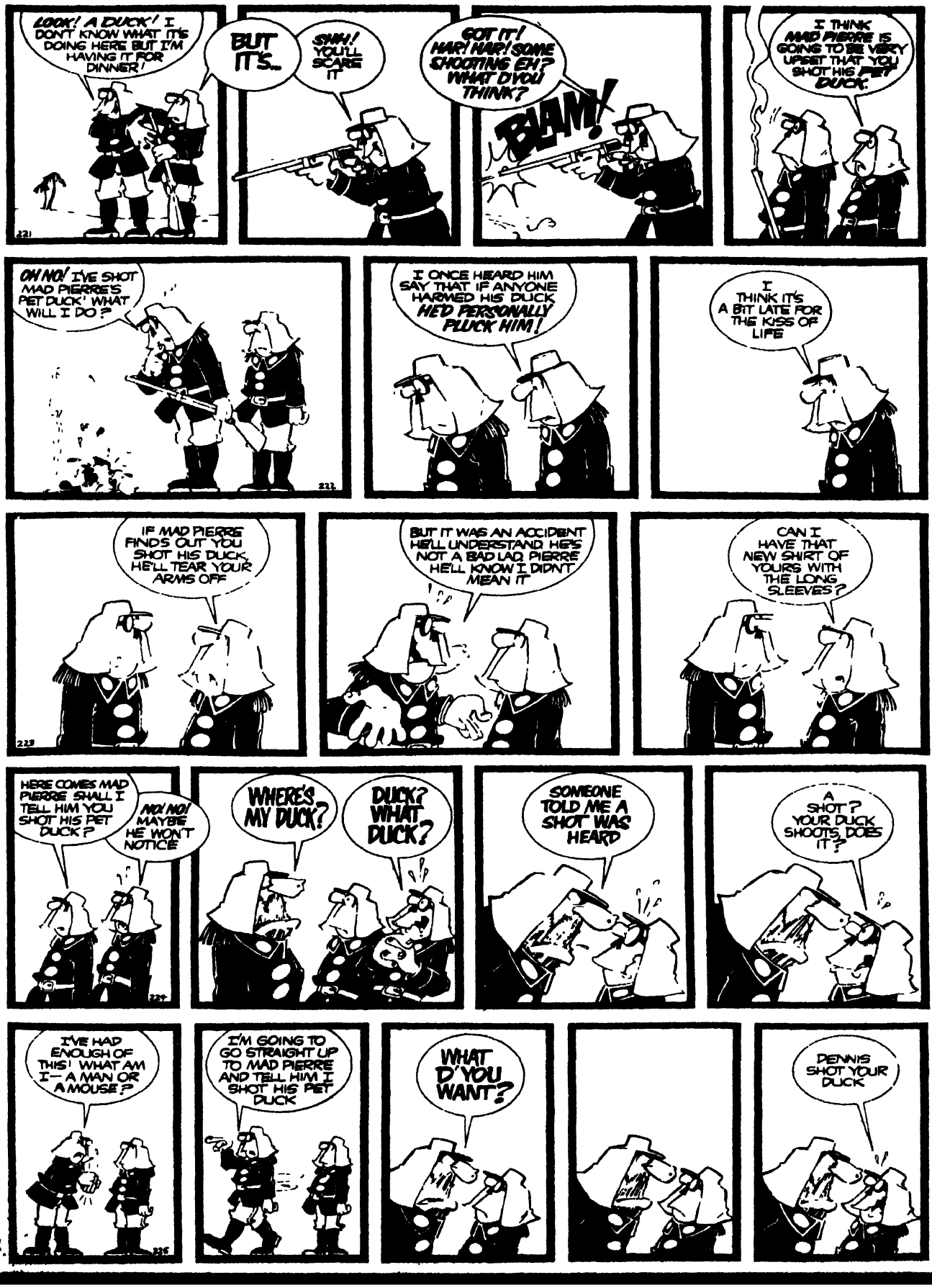
"LORETTA HAS A NAGGING INJURY···· SHE BIT HER TONGUE."









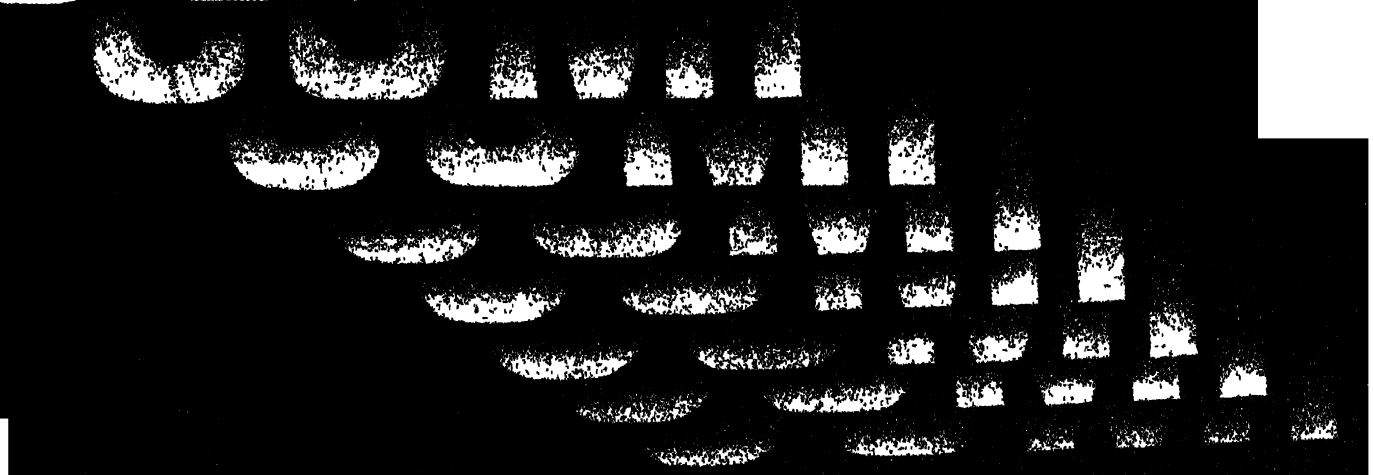

LOOK! A DUCK! I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S DOING HERE BUT I'M HAVING IT FOR DINNER!
BUT IT'S...
SHH! YOU'LL SCARE IT
GOT IT! HAR! HAR! SOME SHOOTING EH? WHAT D'YOU THINK?
BLAM!
I THINK MAD PIERRE IS GOING TO BE VERY UPSET THAT YOU SHOT HIS PET DUCK.
OH NO! I'VE SHOT MAD PIERRE'S PET DUCK! WHAT WILL I DO?
I ONCE HEARD HIM SAY THAT IF ANYONE HARMED HIS DUCK HE'D PERSONALLY PLUCK HIM!
I THINK IT'S A BIT LATE FOR THE KISS OF LIFE
IF MAD PIERRE FINDS OUT YOU SHOT HIS DUCK, HE'LL TEAR YOUR ARMS OFF
BUT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT HE'LL UNDERSTAND HE'S NOT A BAD LAD, PIERRE HE'LL KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN IT
CAN I HAVE THAT NEW SHIRT OF YOURS WITH THE LONG SLEEVES?
HERE COMES MAD PIERRE SHALL I TELL HIM YOU SHOT HIS PET DUCK?
NO! NO! MAYBE HE WON'T NOTICE
WHERE'S MY DUCK?
DUCK? WHAT DUCK?
SOMEONE TOLD ME A SHOT WAS HEARD
A SHOT? YOUR DUCK SHOOTS, DOES IT?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! WHAT AM I— A MAN OR A MOUSE?
I'M GOING TO GO STRAIGHT UP TO MAD PIERRE AND TELL HIM I SHOT HIS PET DUCK
WHAT D'YOU WANT?
DENNIS SHOT YOUR DUCK



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In its quest to bring advanced materials technology to India, one company used just one tool – determination.

CUMI



Careers Cut Short

'Tomorrow Comes' (August 14) by Pradeep Paul seemed incomplete without the mention of Maureen Connolly, who died at the age of 20, only a year after becoming the first woman tennis player to achieve the Grand Slam.

Kaushik Pal,
Kharagpur

Maureen Connolly Brinker was born on September 17, 1934, and died on June 21, 1969, of cancer, on the eve of Wimbledon. She won the Grand Slam in 1953.— Editor

■ A glaring omission was that of Collie Smith, the West Indian cricketer, who would have sidelined even the great Sir Garfield Sobers had he not lost his life in a car accident in England.

T.L. Raju,
Calcutta

■ Nari Contractor was felled by a Charlie Griffith ball and not by Gilchrist. The latter was bounced out of international cricket following some incidents on the 1958-59 tour of India.

K.K. Vaidya,
Kansbahal (Orissa)

'Your Smoking is Dangerous to Us'

It is difficult to socially boycott smokers because they may be responsible citizens. By closing down the cigarette industry, smoking cannot be stopped though the national exche-



quer will be hit hard. Besides, cigarettes affect only a fraction of the population. In rural areas, the people consume raw tobacco leaves which are even more injurious to health.

To reduce smoking, an absolute ban on the sale of raw tobacco is necessary and the cigarette manufacturers should be encouraged to sell cigarettes with a reduced percentage of nicotine. Lastly, the campaign against smoking should be: 'Your smoking is dangerous to us.' That would influence non-smokers to avoid the company of smokers.

B. Ganesh,
Jamshedpur

No Evidence?

Sumit Mukherjee could have done justice by writing a few words about Balasaraswati to whom a tribute was to be paid in the classical dance festival instead of writing about the ABC of Indian classical dance and splashing the pages with the monotonous biodata of the performers ('The Melody of Rhythm', July 17).

Secondly, Uday Shankar and Rabindranath Tagore did not contribute in any way to remove the stigma attached to Indian classical dance. The former popularised the Uday Shankar style of dance which was not classical. Tagore was a connoisseur and patron of all arts and there is no evidence to substantiate Mukherjee's claim.

Protima Bedi is an excellent dancer and has earned enviable fame but is it fair to label her as the "prima donna of Odissi" while the great Sanjukta Panigrahi is still alive?

Srigopal,
Calcutta

Sumit Mukherjee re-

Balasaraswati

Mr Srigopal

fact is that at the time the article was written the organisers had not decided to dedicate the festival to Balasaraswati, and hence the omission.

As for Uday Shankar and Rabindranath's contribution to the cause of classical dance, I am surprised Mr Srigopal could make such a comment. At his culture centre in Almora, Uday Shankar had great gurus in various classical genres. Among them were the great Amobi Singh who taught Manipuri, Shankaran Namboodiri, one of the more famous Kathakali exponents, and the Bharata Natyam maestro, Kandappa Pillai. Uday Shankar's popular presentation both in India and abroad, 'Glimpses of India', included the classical and traditional Manipuri number, *Neela kamala dalo shyam*, and Bharata Natyam numbers, *Krishnani begana baro* and *Natanam aadinar*. Besides, *Tilottama* had rich elements of Kathakali and so did Uday Shankar's most famous item, *Kartikeya*.

Tagore, too, invited traditional masters to his ashram at Santiniketan. One of the earliest of these gurus was Buddhimanta Singh from Manipur who arrived in 1920, followed by Nabakumar Singh from Agartala in 1925 and two others from Imphal four years later. Among Kathakali gurus who adorned his ashram were Kelu Nair, Krishnan Kutty, Chandrashekhar, Balakrishna Menon and Haridasan Nair. As for removing the stigma from classical dance, Tagore or Uday Shankar would have hardly made the classical forms part of their institutions' curricula if they had no such intentions. And above all, both had encouraged the girls within their families to participate in dance.

Finally, the term 'prima donna' is not used by the best critics in which the article was being written.

The Telegraph
4 SEPTEMBER 1988



Anil Grover

16 If there was a fire in our storehouses of *objet d'arts*, which one would the curators there try to save first? Presenting six of the most precious items in Calcutta's collection.

4 Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh had their death sentences confirmed recently by the Supreme Court for the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi. A reconstruction of this and other death sentences.

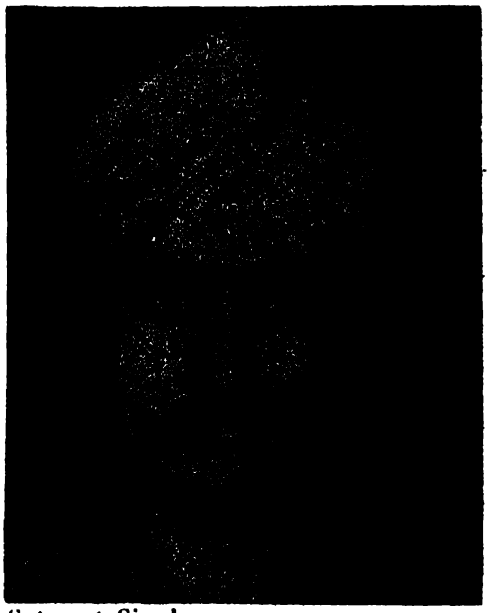
14 A photofeature on Independence Day in Darjeeling

SECTIONS

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Cover Anil Grover and Sandip Bhattacharya

THE VERDICT



Satwant Singh



Billa

Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh's death sentences were confirmed recently by the Supreme Court. Pathik Guha reconstructs this and other famous cases in which the verdict was death

"Mrs Gandhi Shot Dead, Nation Wounded"

The headline said everything. New Delhi, October 31, 1984. Shortly after 9 am. The then Prime Minister of India was on her way for an interview to an Irish TV team led by screen personality Peter Ustinov. She had barely reached the connecting stretch between Akbar Road and Safdarjang Road when bullets were sprayed on her. As many as 25 shots, and all from close range. The assassins were those who were posted there to protect her from danger. Telex and teleprinter services all over the world were abuzz in no time. It was the biggest political event of the eighties.

The murder, well planned and flawlessly executed, was almost a split-second affair. According to eyewitness accounts, the trigger happy securitymen were Beant Singh and Satwant Singh, constables in the Delhi Armed Police and posted in the Prime Minister's security.

Beant was shot dead by the security personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police while Satwant was seriously injured and admitted to hospital.

But there were two more prime suspects in the drama. Balbir Singh, a sub-inspector posted in the Prime Minister's security, and Kehar Singh, an assistant in the directorate-general of supplies and disposals. While Satwant was arrested soon after the crime, Balbir and Kehar were arrested in December 1984. The murder case chargesheet, running into 20 pages, was filed in a metropolitan magistrate's court in February 1985. The special sessions judge, Mr Mahesh Chandra, began trial of the case in a makeshift courtroom inside the Tihar Central Jail on May 13, 1985.

On January 22, 1986, Mr Chandra, after examining proceedings running into 4,122 pages (1,345 pages of evidence) and 570 exhibits, awarded death sentences to all the three accused, stating that it was the "rarest of rare cases wherein death sentence ought to be imposed." The eight-month-long trial took as many as 113 sittings. The prosecution examined 73 people to substantiate its case whereas the defence had only three witnesses. Key accused Satwant faced 103 questions, Kehar 112 and Balbir 96. For the judge, who had tried more than 100 murder cases, but had never imposed capital punishment before, the 262-page verdict in this case was a break from the record. He found all the three guilty under Section 302 (murder) read with Section 120B (conspiracy) and Section 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. Satwant was also sentenced to death under Section 302 (murder) and awarded seven and three years rigorous imprisonment under Section 307 (attempt to murder) and Section 27 of the Arms Act.

The sentence for attempt to murder was in connection with the bullet injuries sustained by the assistant sub-inspector, Mr Rameshwar Dayal, of the Prime Minister's security, during the shooting. Section 27 was for Satwant's using the SAL carbine—provided for security of the Prime Minister—to shoot her.

On February 19, Satwant, Balbir and Kehar moved the Delhi high court challenging the verdict of the trial court. A special full bench comprising Justice S. Ranganathan, Justice B.N. Kirpal and Justice M.K. Chawla, confirmed the death sentences on December 3. The three accused then moved the Supreme Court in February 1987. On April 15, the Supreme Court division bench comprising Justice G.L. Oza, Justice B.C. Ray and Justice K.J. Shetty, stayed the death sentences and admitted their appeal for hearing.

On August 3, 1988, the Supreme Court acquitted Balbir, but confirmed the death sentences on Satwant and Kehar, describing the assassination as the "most foul and senseless act" in which "all values and all ideals in life and all norms and obligations were thrown to the winds." The judgement of the three-member bench ran into 199 pages. In his 75-page verdict, Justice Oza noted that the manner in which an unarmed lady, no less than the Prime Minister, was attacked by Satwant (and the slain assassin Beant) "repels any consideration for reduction of sentence." Referring to Kehar, he said, "Even the co-conspirator who inspired the persons who actually acted does not deserve any leniency."

The prosecution's argument was that Kehar, although not an assassin himself, had conspired to kill the then Prime Minister. According to it, he had administered *"amrit"* to the slain assassin Beant and Satwant to avenge "Operation Bluestar" in June 1984 (Indira Gandhi was killed four months later).

The only parallel to the Indira murder trial is, of course, the one that sent Nathuram Godse, the Brahmin from Pune, and Narayan Apte, managing director of a pro-Hindu publication, to the gallows on charges of murdering Mahatma Gandhi. It was on January 30, 1948, that Bapuji was approaching the hall for his evening prayer, resting himself on the shoulders of Abha and Manu, his grandchildren. Godse had shot the frail, old man thrice from almost point blank range with his revolver. He was arrested by the crowd present there. The police investigation continued for five months and unearthed a massive conspiracy to kill the Mahatma. The special court began its hearings at the Red Fort in New Delhi on June 22, 1948 and there were altogether 149 witnesses. It was on February 10, 1949 that the court sentenced Godse and Apte to death.

Five other conspirators (Gopal Godse, Bishnu Karkare, Madanlal Pahwa, Shankar Kistaya and Dattatreya Partude) were given life imprisonments. Nathuram and Narayan appealed to the Punjab high court (then at Simla) which began its hearings on May 2, 1949. Interestingly, Nathuram stressed in his appeal that it was he who was alone to blame for the murder of the Mahatma. Like the assassination of Indira Gandhi, there was an immediate cause that the assassins highlighted that had roused their overzealous passions. All the accused were Hindu chauvinists and given to the notion that the policies of Gandhiji were abetting the demands of the Muslims. Although they had been planning to kill Gandhiji even before 1948, the fanatics were incensed by an act of Gandhiji in January 1948. Pakistan had claimed Rs 55 crores from India as its share following settlements in the division of the undivided country. The then home minister, Sardar Vallabbhai Patel, was against the payment, apprehending that Pakistan would spend the money in buying arms to use against India. Bapuji found this argument highly biased and started a fast against the decision. This forced the government under Nehru to pay Pakistan the money within three days.

Nathuram, who did not beg mercy in the appeal, made a long harangue (he did not have a lawyer to defend him) in the court seeking to justify the murder. And the payment was cited as one incident that roused his wrath. The hearings of the high court continued till June 6, 1949 and on June 21, the division bench upheld the capital punishment. Thereafter, both Godse and Apte sought permission of the Privy Council to appeal against the high court verdict, but the council rejected their plea. Both of them were hanged in the Ambala jail on November 15, 1949.

Recent executions that were much talked about were those of Billa and Ranga.

Billa and Ranga were hanged in the Phansi Kothi of Tihar jail on January 31, 1982 for murdering the teenaged Chopra children in New Delhi on August 26, 1978. Geeta (17) and Sanjay (15) were children of Captain M.M. Chopra and they were kidnapped before being killed by the two criminals who had demanded ransom from Mr Chopra. The death sentence was imposed on them by the additional sessions judge, Mr M.K. Chawla, on April 7, 1979 and upheld by the Supreme Court on April 22, 1981. The hanging rung down the curtain on one of the longest legal battles in a murder case, starting from the trial magistrate's court in September 1978 to the Supreme Court in January 1982. In the course of the trial, even the President's power to grant mercy to condemned prisoners was challenged.



Godse and Apte

The real names of Billa and Ranga were Jagbir Singh and Kuljeet Singh, respectively. They had kidnapped the Chopra children while they were on their way to the All India Radio station in New Delhi. Geeta was supposed to give an audition at the Yuvavani section of AIR. As the brother and sister struggled with the bandits in the car, Sanjay was stabbed to death and Geeta was assaulted. The dead bodies of the two were recovered from the bushes of the Buddha Jayanti Park three days later. The hunt for the criminals led to the two being arrested from a compartment of the Delhi bound Howrah-Kalka Mail, near Agra. They had boarded the train reserved for army jawans and got into an altercation with them. Both of them flashed weapons as they were challenged by the jawans. They were easily overpowered by the jawans who mistook them to be pickpockets. It was the GRP men who recognised the murderers from Delhi.

In his judgement, Justice Chawla described the murders as the worst crime of the decade. "The ends of justice would only be met if the two accused are put to an eternal sleep, thereby allowing others to live in peace," he said.

October 1983 was marked by so many executions in the country. In Tihar jail, on October 9, Kartar Singh and Ujjagar Singh, the two brothers were convicted for the murder of Vidya Jain in 1973 These were the first hangings in that jail after those of Billa and Ranga and also the first since the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of execution by rope. Frantic efforts by some Delhi lawyers to save the convicts from the noose even on the morning of the fateful day made things more grim. The lawyers, who put up a writ petition citing Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution in favour of the minor children of Kartar and Ujjagar, argued that the state could not deprive them of their fathers. The lawyers tried to contact Justice R.S. Pathak, who was a member of the jury in the hanging case judgement, and Justice P.N. Bhagwati who was the dissenting judge in that case, the night before. Both the judges opined that the petition be heard by the vacation judge, Mr Murtaza Fazal Ali. The lawyers reached his house at 5.30 am on the day of the hanging. Justice Ali listened to the lawyers' contention but found the arguments about children's rights "ingenious but unacceptable."

And then, on October 25, the Pune killers, Rajendra Jakkal, Dilip Sutar, Shantaram Jagtap and Munwar Shah, were hanged in the Yerwada Central Jail in

Pune. They were sentenced to death by the sessions court on September 28, 1978 for having murdered 10 people in Pune during 1976-77. The delay in carrying out the death sentence was caused by continuous appeals at several levels, including the Supreme Court. The sentences on the four were first confirmed by the Bombay high court on April 6, 1979 and their special leave petitions against these convictions and sentences were dismissed by the Supreme Court on November 17, 1980. In 1982, three of the convicts—Shantram, Dilip and Munwar—approached the Supreme Court again with writ petitions to the effect that the delay of five years in executions of the death sentences was ground enough for commuting the sentences to life imprisonments. The death penalty had been "brooding" over their heads for an excruciatingly long period of time, they argued in the petition.

In their judgement of April 18, 1983, Justice V.D. Tulzapurkar and Justice Ranganath Misra found the argument unacceptable, saying that the accused themselves were partly responsible for the delay since they had continued to pursue further review and writ petitions against the sentences.

The most recent execution in the country was perhaps that of Baba Bal Yogi Avdhoot alias Ganesh Giri, who was hanged to death at Jaipur Central Jail on July 14 this year. The Jaipur district and sessions judge had convicted Avdhoot for poisoning to death three persons. The trial court verdict was passed in December 1984. The Rajasthan high court upheld the judgement on October 18, 1985. This was confirmed by the Supreme Court on February 24, 1986. Thereafter, Avdhoot had filed a mercy petition to the President, but this was rejected on June 24 this year. All the victims of Avdhoot were his disciples. He confessed to have concocted a chemical mixture which killed a little girl within minutes. He admitted he had used the mixture to kill 11 persons and not just three.

Such is life.■

SOLUTIONS TO 'HOW SKILLED A TRAVELLER ARE YOU?'

WELL DRESSED

Kitu had 4 shawls, 12 saris, 24 blouses which give her 24× 12× 4 or 1152 combinations. She won't repeat a combination in under three years.

WHAT BULL

Ground hog—a rodent; priarie dog—a rodent; flying fox—a bat; horned toad—a lizard; guinea pig—a rodent; sea horse—a fish or a walrus; titmouse—a bird; sea lion—a seal; silver fish—an insect.

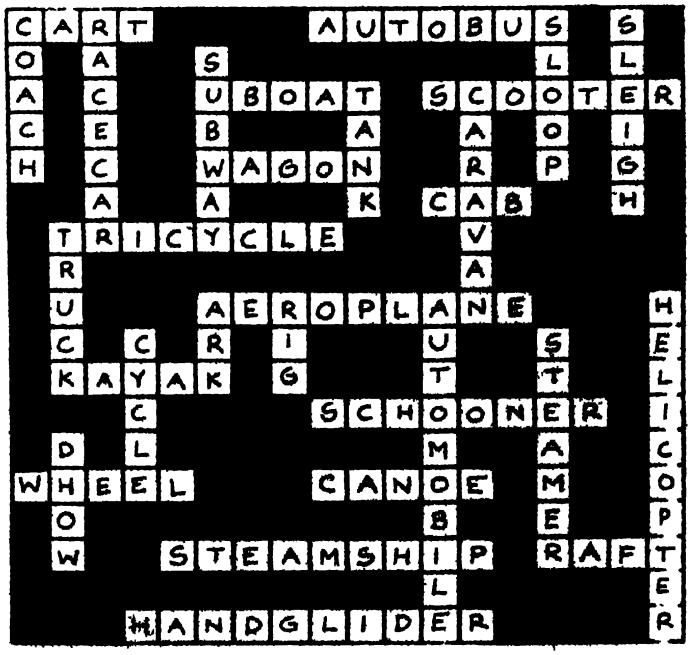
SHOPPING TIME

TIMES PIECES, ETC.: FLOWERS: SHOES: LEATHER GOODS: TOWING FIRM: CAKES AND BREADS: BOOKS: NEEDLES, ETC.

EYE SPY

Italy, Paris, Calcutta, Moscow, London, Australia, Japan, Delhi, New York, Hawaii, Florida.

ABC OF TRAVEL



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

a) Everywhere. (Illustration of SIX)

b) On the ceiling. Put this piece of paper on the ceiling and look at it from below. The directions will be correct.

c) In Canada. TORONTO, MONTREAL (Anagrams of NOT ROOT and NOR METAL)



WHITHERTO?

MEXICO, PARIS, FRANKFURT, DAMASCUS, PRAGUE, JAMSHEDPUR, ISTANBUL, VARANASI, SINGAPORE, ZURICH, NAIROBI, COPENHAGEN, HONOLULU, WASHINGTON, KATHMANDU, RAWALPINDI, CAMBRIDGE.

SPLIT PERSONALITIES

a—1, 12, 17; b—12, 10, 19; c—3, 8, 20; d—4, 14, 16, e—5, 9, 21; f—6, 13, 18; g—7, 11, 15.

INTERNATIONAL CAPITALS

RANGOON, ULAN BATOR, SOFIA, SAN JUAN, ISLAMABAD, ADDIS ABABA—RUSSIA; PRAGUE, ANKARA, KHARTOUM, ISLAMABAD, SANTIAGO, TRIPOLI, ACCRA, NICOSIA—PAKISTAN.

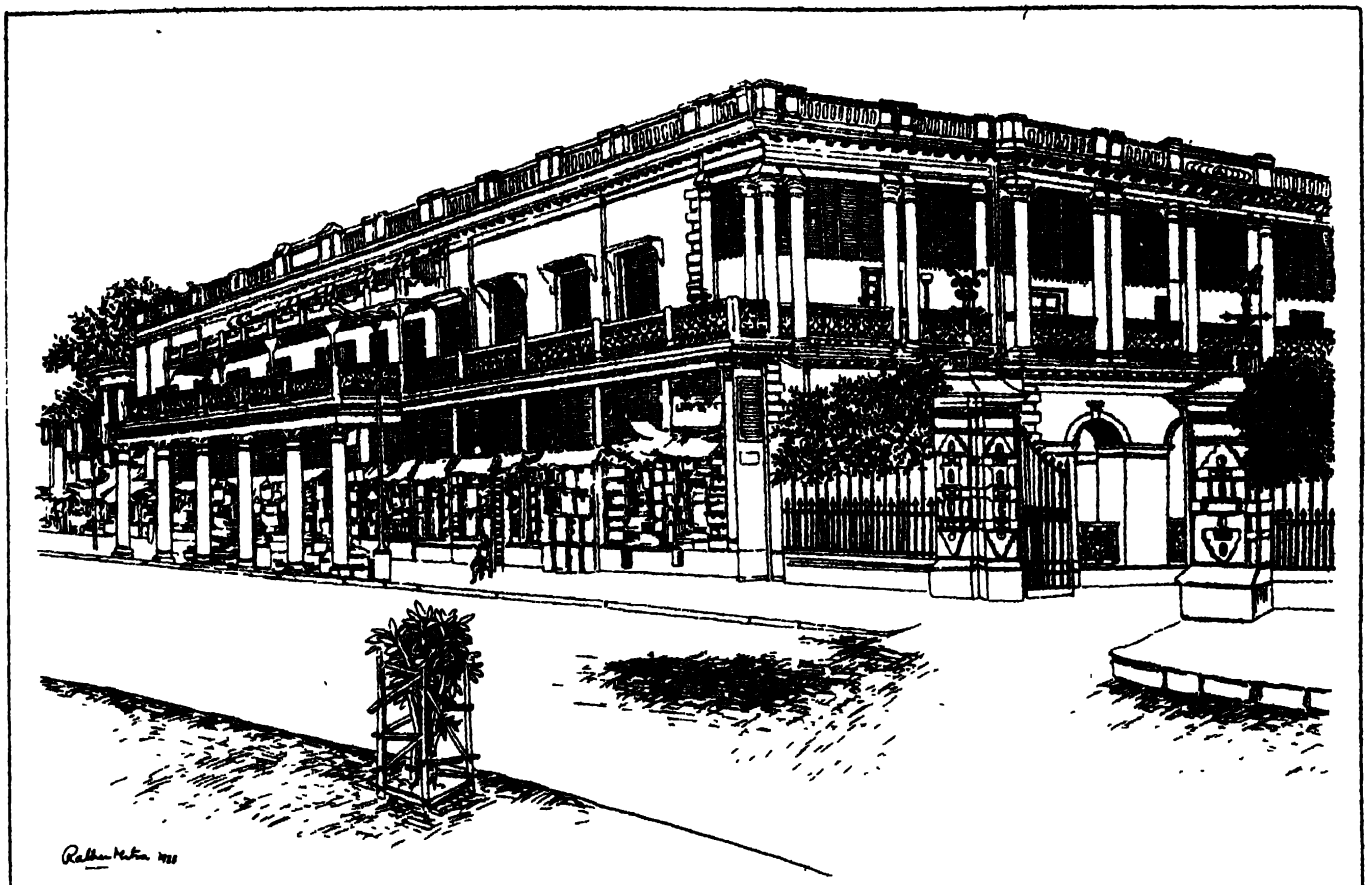
WORDS WORDS!

a) The first few letters are the abbreviations for airlines:
AIR INDIA, BRITISH AIRWAYS, PAN AMERICAN, SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES, JAPAN AIR LINES, INDIAN AIRLINES, TRANS-WORLD AIRLINES, PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES.

b) The beginning of each word is an anagram of a mode of transport:
TUB, BOAT, PLANE, BUS, VAN, CAR, TRAIN, GLIDER.



JORASANKO RAJBATI



When the English merchants left Hooghly and concentrated their business in Calcutta, the Indian bankers of the Subarna Banik caste also followed suit. They felt there were prospects of lucrative business deals with the British who were then taking the initiative to transform insignificant villages into big commercial centres.

A popular figure of the time was Naku Dhar who hailed from Saptagram—once a big inland port of Bengal. His family title, Dhar, was later changed to Roy. Naku, whose actual name was Lakshmi Kanta, was the founder of the Jorasanko Rajbati. His generous financial assistance to Clive on the eve of the Battle of Plassey paved the way for strong ties with the English.

Lakshmi Kanta had no son and only one daughter, Parbati. Her son, Sukhomoy Roy, was the most illustrious member of this ancient family. He was a pious man and always lent his helping hand to the poor and suffering. His charities were as boundless as his wealth. He built the road that links Uluberia with Cuttack. His loyalty to the English was appreciated by the emperor of Delhi who conferred the title of Maharaja Bahadur and granted him *Char Hazari*, or the permission to command 4,000 men.

Sukhomoy's great grandson, Raja Debendra Narain Roy, was born in 1847. An honest public servant, he was member of the Corporation during 1882-1914, and his activities extended far beyond the Corporation walls. He was the honorary presidency magistrate and vice-president of the British Indian Association. He took active interest in the activities of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He was conferred the title of 'Kumar' in 1893 and subsequnetly 'Raja' in 1914.

The Jorasanko Rajbati (sketched above) at 79 Upper Chitpore Road (now Rabindra Sarani) is at present occupied by his descendants

A GHAZAL

Firaq Gorakhpuri, whose birth anniversary was last week, was undoubtedly one of the greatest poets in Urdu. But where did he fail? M.Q. KHAN casts a critical eye on his works

"Poetry is my life and Urdu its means," wrote Raghupati Sahay Firaq, better known as Firaq Gorakhpuri, who was as a child shy and wanted "to remain as unnoticed as a broom."

Firaq had no peers when it came to the *ghazal*, except Mir Taqi Mir whose manner, in fact, he reminded one of: "Firaq, recite verses steeped in impressiveness,/ So that you may remind them the manner of Mir." The low-profile child grew up to have an ego that pulsated in his verses. This, for example: "Stop joking and jeering, Firaq is reciting,/Behold, even doors and walls have become sincere."

There has seldom been an Urdu poet who attained as much popularity in his own lifetime. But his achievements have been a subject of debate. Some critics seem bent upon discarding Firaq's entire works as dross and filth with only a few sparks of greatness. On the other hand, there is no dearth of critics who have made it a personal mission to elevate him to a peak above most other Urdu poets.

He was an embodiment of learning, of innovations, a master of the poetic craft and touched upon a variety of themes—love, life and all its richness, manners and cordiality. To some, he was vain, maniacal, a poetaster, selfish, conceited, vulgar, with a knowledge of Indian languages and culture which was quite shallow. An impartial and balanced assessment of Firaq's poetic achievements is not child's play. However, attempts should be made to see things in their right perspective.

In his preface to his poetic collection titled *Shabistan*, he wrote, "To my level best, in my poems, I have tried to disengage myself from the influences of the period of decadence in which the Urdu poetry saw the light of day and breathed some days earlier. But it was not all to come out safe from this pitfall. Life and literature must have positive forces. With this feeling, I tried to understand those values and the culture of India which had formed and strengthened the Indian temperament, her ancient thoughts, philosophy, Sanskrit literature, the paintings and frescoes of Ajanta, Hindu dances, music, sculpture, the enlightened personalities, the environment created by her soil, water and air. I feel that if the soul of Indianness permeates into Urdu poetry, it will have a sort of fusion of the innocence of the universe and life, a piety and sacredness, a spiritual materialism. It will give birth to that universal music which will, of course, have an edge over the celestial symphony. I had been all along hearing that the fountainhead of Urdu poetry and its living soul, outer or inner inspirations, are the traditions of Persian and Arabic poetry. These statements have always awakened within me feelings of rebellion. To be influenced by Persian or Arabic writings is something different. If this poetry is to be of India, how could its roots and base be in Madina or Shiraz? It was hard for me to swallow that."

This vocal concept and claim of wedding Urdu to its soil and environment was Firaq's brainchild; or was it borrowed and secondhand? This question is so very compulsive because supporters of Firaq's poetic greatness have considered it as one of the pillars of Firaq's rare achievements. The vital point is, how far Firaq adopted it in his own poetry and how far he succeeded.

Any student of literature knows that the concept of national atmosphere was seen in the Renaissance in Europe more than 400 years ago. However, a mere display of zeal and enthusiasm may well be discarded as chauvinistic and paraochial. In *Shabistan*, there are 134 ghazals but only 10 have some Hindi words. In *ghazal* no. 9 he uses two words, *amrit* (nectar) and *prem ki kashti* (boat of love); in *ghazal* no. 1, there are words like *Dil ka nagar* (the city of heart) and *Prem ka aisa ulta pansa* (the reverse dice of love). Let us see *ghazal* no. 22 in greater detail:

Prem *ki duniya, kya duniya hai,*
Is **nagri** *mein din hai na raat.*
Khari dupahri *gora* **roop,**
Kalay bal bhari barsaat.
Komal roop *noor main duba,*
Joban *par hai chandni raat.*
Qatil is ko kaun kahay,
Hansmukh *aankhain* **komal gaat.**
Achchi nahin is zulf ki yaad,
Das na lay mujh ko **raat bi raat**
(A lover's world is a queer world,
This city has neither day nor night.
The noon is standing and features are fair,
Black tresses like the mid of the rainy season.
Slender features are full of light,
It's the moonlit night of youth.
Who would call it murderer,
Smiling eyes, slender body,
It is not good to remember those tresses,
May it not bite me in the night.)

No doubt there is an adept use of Hindi words in these lines, but there is no sign of Hindu culture that gave birth to ancient thoughts and philosophy, Sanskrit literature, the paintings or sculptures of Ajanta and Ellora or Hindu drama, music and dance. Of course, Firaq was a master in depicting feminine beauty with rare images, similes and metaphors.

Firaq has summed up the message of the Gita:

Duniya say rakh sachchi lag,
Jhoota teyag aur bairag.
Prem aur roop ki leela hai,
Kaisa lagao kahan ki teyag.
Karkay dekha, kuch lay kay na baith,
Khushi aur gham ka kharag.
(Love this world with all sincerity,
This denunciation and seclusion is false.
This is all the illusions of love and beauty,
Where is relationship and affection.
Do not sit with the plea of joy and sorrow,
Show the world what you can do.)

Of course, this was innovation and a healthy step towards permeating Indianness in Urdu *ghazals*. In the above *ghazal* he tried to introduce the philosophy of the Gita in Urdu. But Firaq could not keep himself firm on this line and soon stepped into this type of poetry:

Nfs parasti pak mohabbat banjati hai jab koi,
Wasl ki jismani lazzat say ruhani kaifiat lay.
(This workshipping of desires becomes love, when one
Enjoys divine communion with the physical pleasure of union.)

It is most like the teachings of attaining divinity through sexual intercourse. Firaq is a master craftsman and gives a graphic, sensuous and voluptuous picture of feminine beauty equalling it with the paintings and sculptures of Ajanta and Ellora, embodying the gesture and action of Indian music and dance.

Yeh tera jism hai ya ragini hai aakay khari,
Kay aaj tak to na dekha tha yeh badan ka rachao.
Bisat-e-naaz pay tu hai kay koi devi hai,
Bhaon ki narm lachak, ankhri yon ka narm jhukao.
Hai seena kay sangeet phichlay paharka,

GREAT

Woh chehra kay usha pasheeman, pasheeman.
(This your beauty seems Ragini (music) standing herself,
I had never seen such symmetrical body,
It is you on the soft earth or goddess herself,
The soft elasticity of the brows, the soft bend of the eye-lashes.
Breasts are like the music of last hours,
With that countenance the dawn is itself bashful.)

No doubt, Firaq tried to enrich Urdu poetry to some extent, but could not harness that what he had set out to. There are obvious reasons. He was born and brought up in an environment which was pro-Persian and pro-Arabic and it was a part of his nature. The resolution and conscious effort to switch over to Hindu culture or Sanskrit literature or the ancient Indian art was an imposition which could not go very far.

When Firaq borrowed or just wrote in that very strain of particular poets like Mir, Ghalib, Bedil, Hafiz or Saadi, he mentioned their names in the margin or as footnotes but he never quoted Sanskrit poets. This shows that his knowledge of Sanskrit poetry and other arts of India was shallow. When he explains any word of Hindi, he fails.
Komal **midgul** *gaat yon jaisay,*
Sahaj subhao prem baalaag.

He claimed that he coined the word, *midgul*, but it is a deformed shape of *mirdul* of Hindi. Sometimes he uses Hindi words in one line and in the next takes refuge in Persian or Arabic.
Mad *main dubi huee yeh raat,*
Nargis-e-neembaaz *ka aalam.*
Meray naghmain ki narm laiye main dekh,
Jumbish-e-paae-naaz *ka aalam.*
Nigha-e-shokh *kay subha na pooch,*
Bay chalay **Turk-e-naaz** *ke aalam.*

(This night steeped in wine,
It is like the condition of Narcissus with half open eyes
See in the soft tunes of my music,
Movement of the graceful steps.
Don't ask the manners of graceful eyes,
It is like the grace of Turks without movements.)

Some of the words from Hindi draw our attention and have a touch of Indianness, but the second line of every couplet tells a tale of his Persian and Arabic inclination. They are without an iota of doubt better



expressions, where the use of Hindi words is burdensome, forced and imposed. His intentions, however sincere, were not crowned with success, because it was far beyond Firaq.

To many, Firaq was one of the greatest poets of Urdu, ranking next only to Mir Taqi Mir, Ghalib and Iqbal. He left a deep impression on Urdu poetry and inspired many generations of Urdu poets, both in India and Pakistan. His poetry is marked by a lyrical quality and depth of feeling unparalleled in Urdu poetry. He prided in representing the Aryan mind in Urdu and made his *ghazal* reflect Indianness. His verses echoed the finest shades of Indian culture: ancient, medieval and modern.

Dr Gopi Chand Narang's applause of Firaq representing Indianness and Indian culture is based on a wrong concept. Narang's findings that Firaq's sensuousness reminded one of the Sanskrit literature and the theory of *Rasa* also do not stand analytical study.

This one ghazal would show whether Firaq was skilled in the use of Persian words or Hindi words:
Ras main duba hua lahraya badan kya kahna,
Karwatain lati huee subh-e-chaman kya kahna.
Roop sangeet nay dhara hai badan ka yeh rachao.
Tujh pay lahlote hai besakhtapan kya kakha
Zulf-e-shab goon ki chamak paikar-e-seemeen ki damak,
Deepmala hai sar-e-gango-jaman kya kahna.
(What to say of that waving body drenched with juice,
It is like the turning side of the morning of the garden.
Music has personified itself in the beauty of her limbs
Spontaneity is enchanted with you, what to tell of it.
The brightness of night like tresses, the glitter of silver image,
It seems there is a deepmala (cluster of lamps) on the currents of the Ganga and the Jamuna.)

But soon after, in that very *ghazal*, he could not resist taking shelter in expressions fully soaked in un-Indian culture which he had himself thought alien to his poetry.
Tu mohabbat ka sitara, tu jawani ka suhag,
Husn lao deta hua lal-e-yamen kya kahna.
Chashm makhmoor surahi ba bagal, jaam-bakaf,
Naghma-e-Hafiz e-Shiraz badam kya kahna.
Qadogesu pay nazar partay hi bekhood ho ishq,
Khawab-e-Mansur sar-e-dar-o-rasan, kya kahna.
(Thou art the star of love, thou art conjugal union of youth,
Your beauty is aflame like the ruby of Yemen. What to tell of it.
Eyes intoxicated, a goblet under the armpit, the cup in hand,
Your limbs are the lyrics of Hafiz or Shiraz, what to tell of it.
Love loses its sense with the very glimpse of your stature and tresses,
You are the dream of Mansur on the gallows, what to tell of it.)

Even a novice can understand the difference and judge where Firaq was more at ease. Firaq was wrong in thinking that Urdu was alien. Urdu poets had given Urdu a pure Indian background long before Firaq made such an attempt. He was not satisfied because he was not after Indianness or Hindi, but wanted to Hinduise Urdu though it was beyond him. He was himself unaware of the true heritage of ancient India or classical languages of India. ■

THE ALIEN

I went to two schools in Colombo, Ladies' College on Flower's Road and St Paul's Milagriya in Bumlipitya. In addition to reading, writing and very simple arithmetic, the two schools taught me how to dance around the maypole, play on seven small, silver bells hanging from a rod, ballet and the undeniable fact that I was an Indian.

It may seem strange that I should have to go to school to learn this last self-evident fact, especially when Ma went on and on about us being Indian but I simply did not realise till I went to school that being Indian meant being different from those who were not. I was only five when I started school and perhaps this explains my obtuseness. Oh yes, I also learnt how to make a stuffed toy bunny, and that British women indicated by the colour of their dress, the length of their bereavement—deep, unrelieved black immediately and for the first few months after the death of a dear one, then black and white or purple, then white, and then back to normal wear. Men apparently felt the same degree of grief for the whole period of mourning, for they wore a black armband on their jackets for the prescribed year Except for learning that an Indian is an Indian is an Indian, the rest of these varied skills and information turned out to be totally irrelevant today.

Anyway, when I was admitted to Ladies' College, I was proud and happy to be going to school at last. I'd been packing my satchel every morning with crayons, pencils and smooth exercise books for months before this but Ma started me off on the wrong foot by sending me late every morning. School started at 8.00 am and for some contrary reason she firmly believed that no one—no proper Indian, that is—went to school without a meal of rice, curry, dal and vegetables. This opinion of course, could not come to much harm in Calcutta and Madras where schools start at 10.00 am or 10.30 am. My mother was a Bengali to the core and affirmed that 8 am or later, the Bengali custom of a full meal every morning must be observed.

Eating a meal at such a time meant choking part of it down and pushing the rest around my *thala*—an oversized bell-metal plate—in a state of desperate tension. I would watch the clock showing 8.00, 8.15 and finally 8.30 with Ma commenting all the while on the wretched timings of Colombo schools, until finally she decided I'd eaten enough. It was no use protesting that I was late every morning. Ma's ways were *the* norm, adjusting was for others. I still wonder whether her diehard Bengaliness was a result of her being one of the first Indian women who have gone to university in the US or a reaction to that experience.

After a month of continually being late, I was made to stand on the platform in the school hall, with another older girl for the whole morning. My little legs ached—I was only five. The other girl kept her eyes closed and cried and cried with shame. The big girls passing on the verandah outside saw her weeping and sobbing and exclaimed in sympathy, "What a sin." I wondered what sin was, and what would happen if I sat down on the floor, when my legs could no longer stand. "Not a tear," I heard one teacher tell another about me later when asked if I'd cried. "She must be odd," the other replied. I didn't tell Ma about the punishment.

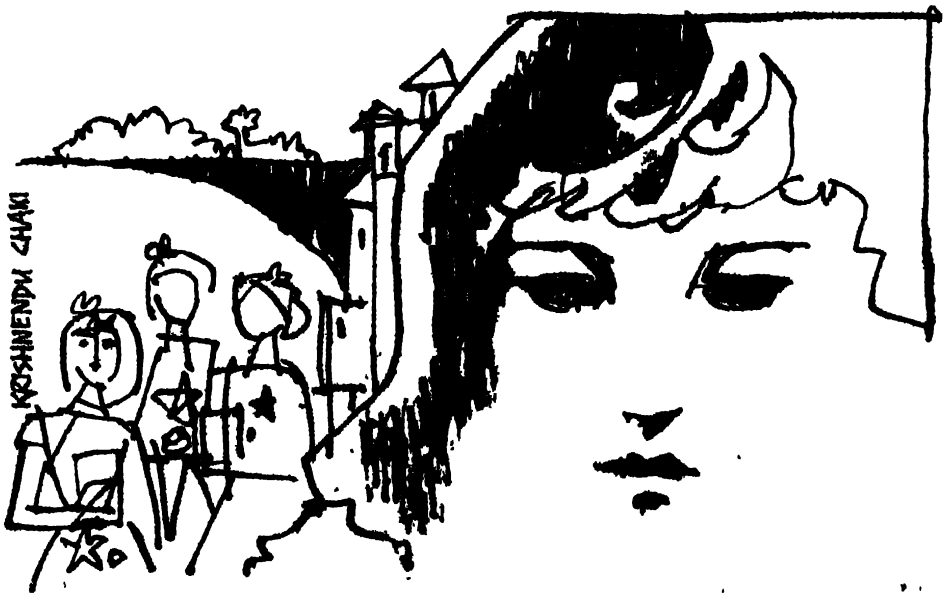
That is what a young Bengali child felt like in her Colombo school, writes Rani Sircar

Three or four months later when my brother was born and we'd moved to another house, Ma for reasons unknown to me, suddenly stopped forcing lunch into me at breakfast time. Perhaps she could no longer cook and serve such elaborate meals so early in the morning. But I had to come home for lunch at 12.00, the time she would be feeding my brother, so my meal was delayed, and I was late for afternoon school. My teacher was very concerned about my tardiness. What was the matter? First regularly late in the morning; now, late every afternoon? I said I didn't know, and when the principal asked, I repeated the same excuse. After all, how could I explain the Bengali custom of eating the main meal before school started and my baby brother's meal coinciding with my school lunch time?

And then Tagore came to Colombo, "Ask your teacher if you can join the school party which they will be taking to the special programme Tagore is presenting for schools," said Ma. But when I asked Miss D'Souza at school, she simply said, "What programme for schools? Who's Tagore?"

It so happened that in all my five schools, except during the last two years of my schooldays, the teachers were quite unaware of notable Indian men and women, contemporary or recently dead: J.C. Bose, C.V. Raman, Aurobindo Ghose, even S Radhakrishnan meant nothing to them. They had not heard of yoga or ayurvedic medicine. Gandhi was a mischievous trouble-maker. And I was told not to be cheeky and impertinent when I asserted at maths class (I was 14 then and in Lahore) that Indians had discovered the zero. All Indian achievements and contributions to the world's pool of knowledge, science, literature, the arts and philosophy, were ignored—purposely, accidentally or through sheer ignorance. I can't tell. Perhaps, it was a mixture of all three.

In Madras and Lahore I read the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* as a series of fairy tales at school, fairy tales which my teachers insisted were definitely not on par with the tales of Hans Anderson or the brothers Grimm or Perault, and certainly not rewritten with the same care as the versions of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* which I also read at this time As a result of my 'European' schooling, I will even today, unless I'm thinking, say Nunkomer (Nand



Kumar, hanged by Warren Hastings), Shandernagore (Chandernagore), Sunderbans (I pronounced Sunder as in "asunder," and bans as "buns") and so on, Grisly stories of how the Indian sepoys behaved towards the British during the Mutiny (which Baba, even in those days, proudly insisted on calling The First War of Indian Independence) upset me terribly; and I couldn't understand Ma's obstinate Indianness and patriotism that forced us to wear *khadi* (handspun, handwoven material) as opposed to material from British-owned mills or imported material and her insistence that we speak Bengali at home.

Between Ladies's College and St Paul's Milagriya, and again after the latter I went to school in Madras, Bani's school in Kilpank and Ewart's School in Egmore. Both were schools run by missionaries with English principals and one or two English teachers. The rest of the teachers were Indian and if I remember correctly, all Indian teachers in these schools were Christians and the medium of instruction English

Wearing my Colombo school uniform, which was a short (just above the knees), square necked, sleeveless white frock with a pleated skirt, and with shingled hair, I was very noticeable at St Ewart's School Madras. The other little girls wore *pavades* which were long full skirts upto the ankles usually made of gorgeous silk and with rich, wide borders, and *chattes* or short-sleeved blouses which came down over the skirts and covered the hips. The older girls wore in addition a "half-sari", a strip of material that was tucked into the skirt on the left, taken over the buttocks, then over budding breasts and draped over the left shoulder. Everyone had long plaits adorned with fragrant flowers and went barefoot.

In vain I asked Ma to let me go to school barefoot in a *pavade*, and grow my hair Though she'd beenembarrassingly Indian with her "breakfast-lunches" when I went to school in Colombo, she held totally different views about dress and hair Bravely I endured the sniggers of the girls at the Colombo school about my uniform, till one of them pinched me and said it was "shameless" to wear a sleeveless frock. On hearing this, I marched indignantly into the principal's office and asked her if this was true. Miss Greene took me on her lap and said that I shouldnot mind the girls and come to school any way my mother sent me.

However, imagine rows and rows of girls in colourful *pavades* and bare feet, their long, sleek plaits of hair adorned with flowers, singing lustily in South Indian voices that never could be pitched correctly to English songs: "From out of a wood did a cuckoo fly," or "Hark, hark the lark at Heaven's gate sings" or best of all, "The east is bright with morning light, the darkness it has fled. And "Harry, our King has gone ahunting/ To bring his deer to pay/ Tally-ho, Tally-ho-o."

If I was incongruous at Ewart's School, surely few scenes could be more visually and audibly malapropos than the one I've just described? Both cases bring to mind, to use the Bengali phrase, stone bowls of gold or perhaps gold bowls of stone. And one remembers South Indian gentlemen of the thirties and forties who dressed immaculately with shirts tucked into spotless white sarongs held in place with a belt, wore ties, jackets, turbans and a vermilion mark on their foreheads, slippers on their feet, and, often, diamond eartops.

The Raj as it is popularly called today, was not only a business of setting up railways or abolishing *suttee* or establishing the rule of law. It was also a business of displacements and dislocations which at best can be called pathetic jokes.■

MARKET BANK

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's *Foundation Course* for the MBBS examinations and *Physics for Everyone* by L.D. Landau and A.I. Kitaigorodsky (vol I, II, III and IV) for Brilliant's *Foundation Course* for IIT-JEE or anything of corresponding value. Contact S.K. Jaluka, 4 Debinibas Road, Calcutta 74.

• **Video cassettes:** I offer video cassettes of *Falak, Love, '86, Uttar Dakshin* and *Desh Premee* for other video cassettes. Contact Anand Gupta, T.H. 130, Hindmotor Colony, P.O. Hindmotor, Dist. Hooghly, West Bengal.

• **Dictionary:** I offer Larousse's French-English dictionary for a German-English dictionary. Contact Jayanta Mandal, B-1, F-7, Parnasree, Calcutta 60.

• **Video game:** I offer a Casio video game 'Astro Chicken' in exchange for a 35mm camera (Minolta, Konica, Pentax or Canon). Contact Md Sayeed, 28/B Elliot Road, Calcutta-16.

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's *Foundation Course* (IIT-JEE '89) with complete solutions for a Japanese stereo Walkman with headphones or anything of corresponding value. I also offer 12 issues of the *Readers' Digest* (August '87–July '88) for anything of corresponding value. Contact Saurav Bhattacharya, 2A North Road, Jadavpur, Calcutta-32.

• **Camera:** I offer German Rolleiflex, twin lens reflex model 'F' camera with built-in coupled exposure meter, F3.5/75 mm planner lens, leather case with 35mm attachment 3 filters and lens hood, all original and brand new for exchange with photographic goods of corresponding value or a gold wrist or pocket watch of any make (need not be in working condition). Contact Thakurdas, C/o Indian Gift House, Grand Hotel Arcade, Calcutta-13.

• **Encyclopaedia:** I offer 20 volumes of *The Book of Knowledge*, seven volumes of *Land and People*, a 30-volume set of *Encyclopaedia Americana* with the *American 1965 Annual* for old coins, antiques or anything of corresponding value Contact Mandira Shah, C/o Nisha Engineering Corporation, 285B, BB Ganguly Street, Calcutta 12, Phone: 270951

• **Stamps:** I offer 4,000 foreign and Indian stamps for a pair of field binoculars and the book *Collins Guide to the Wildlife of India*. Contact Art Arora, 2 Camac Street, Calcutta-16.

• **Magazines:** I want to exchange 170 issues of *The Telegraph Colour Magazine*, an album containing 10'×8' size film stills of the 1930s and 1940s and 300 issues of the *Time* magazine, 30 of *Newsweek* Pink Floyd's *Ummagamma* (double LP), *Animals* (LP), Cole Porter's *Gershwin* (LP), *Charlie Shavers* (LP), 100 copies of *Frontier* and a few English novels for anything of corresponding value. Contact A. Majumdar, 137 AB Nagar, Calcuta-61.

• **Moped:** I offer a Hero Majestic Moped in good running condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sanjay K. Agarwal, 85 Elliot Road, 6th floor, suit 18.

• **Stereo system:** I offer a Bush two-in-one (model 6700) which is two months old for a stereo cassette player (model 3030) and a HMV stereo record player (model 1010) in good condition for a large number of records and cassettes (Rabindrasangeet and Nazrulgeeti) and *The Telegraph Colour Magazine* for anything of corresponding value. Contact Swapan K. Ghosh, 10/1 (old 6/2) S.N. Bylane Calcutta-65.

• **Record:** I offer a new LP of the film, *Shaheen*, an Indo-Arab-Italian combined venture for anything of corresponding value. Contact Md Sayeed, c/o Mood Photographic Agency, 28/B, Elliot Road, Calcutta 16.

• **Record player:** I offer a Philips' record player in excellent condition for anything of corresponding value Contact Rohit Gulati, 46-B, Garcha Road, Calcutta 19.



QUIZ by Nell O'Brien

CBS

11th Question: At a suitable place in his book, this European author pauses to explain that it is translated from an Arabic text of the hero's memoirs, originally written in Arabic by a learned Moor, Cid Hamet Benengili, and accidentally found in a parcel of old papers by the author. The book is regarded by everyone as a masterpiece. What book and which author are we talking about? (Sumit Budhraja, H No. 1417, Sector 22B, Chandigarh 160 022)

Ans: Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.

"Who were the mummers?" asks Gobinda Hore, Calcutta 40

The performances of mummers are among the oldest forms of drama, and in Europe they still keep much of their primitive character Mumming is certainly a performance for the common people, and is not intended for the stage or for a sophisticated audience It has its origin in the primitive pagan ritual performed to propitiate the forces of nature It began with a sword-dance, the climax of which was the locking of the swords above the head of the person playing victim to symbolise the death of the spirit of life or of the old year Then there followed a dance of rejoicing, when the swords were withdrawn and the victim survived, just as life is renewed in spring The idea in the sword-dance was obviously connected with ancient fertility rituals, and it goes back at least as far as Roman times

During the 15th century the dance form was expanded into a crude dramatic shape with character and dialogue There has been little change from that time to the plays of the present day, which are still performed in a few English rural districts The version varies in detail from place to place, but always follows the pattern laid down in the sword-dance There is a short prologue, craving the hearers attention and introducing the show, rather like that of the rustics' play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* The central incident is a fight which brings the hero to the point of death He is brought back to life by the doctor, who represents the medicine-man of the original pagan ritual At the end, all the characters join in general clowning and gaiety The hero may be St George, Robin Hood, or one of several other national heroes from legends or the ballads, the villain may be the Turkish knight from the Crusades or any other typical enemy There are male and female clowns, often called Tommy and Bessy

The players taking part were never professional actors, but local people The words of the play were not written down till a much later date, but were passed on verbally from actor to actor The actors wore masks or had their faces blackened, and they performed in a manor-house or farm Because of its ritual origin these plays are usually connected with special seasons of the year, and are part of the thanksgiving spirit of Easter, of harvest-time, or of Christmas, when it is supplemented with carols It still survives on the continent as well as in England, together with many other customs and symbols, such as the maypole, which goes back to the very early ages of man s history, when his life and his beliefs were closely bound with the fields and with the forces of nature

Kishore Kumar Malviya reports from Deoghar "Deoghar College successfully organised a Quiz Contest in its own precincts The Quiz Master was Professor D P Sinha The duo of Kishore Kumar Malviya and Jawaharlal Choudhury won the contest, which was a part of Inter-College Quiz Con test, 1988 of Bhagalpur University "

Pradeep Kedia Siliguri reports "It was an all-girls affair at Hotel Amber, Siliguri, when Jubilee Junior Jaycees (girls wing) of Siliguri City Jaycees organised an Inter-School Quiz for girls Al the quiz lovers of Siliguri thronged the Jaycees hall of the hotel to witness the final for which three teams qualified

"St Joseph's High School and Mahbert High School were neck and neck throughout with Mahbert High School finally winning The Quizmistress Suryabala Kejriwal kept the audience on its toes with her wide range of questions The audio and visual rounds were arranged by Suman Goel and Pradeep Arya, respectively "

Postscript: The Argus Close-Up Quiz will be held on 5, 7 and 8 October, 1988 Quiz master R M Sen Entry form available at Dalhousie Institute (3 pm to 8 30 pm) Entries close on 19 September, 1988

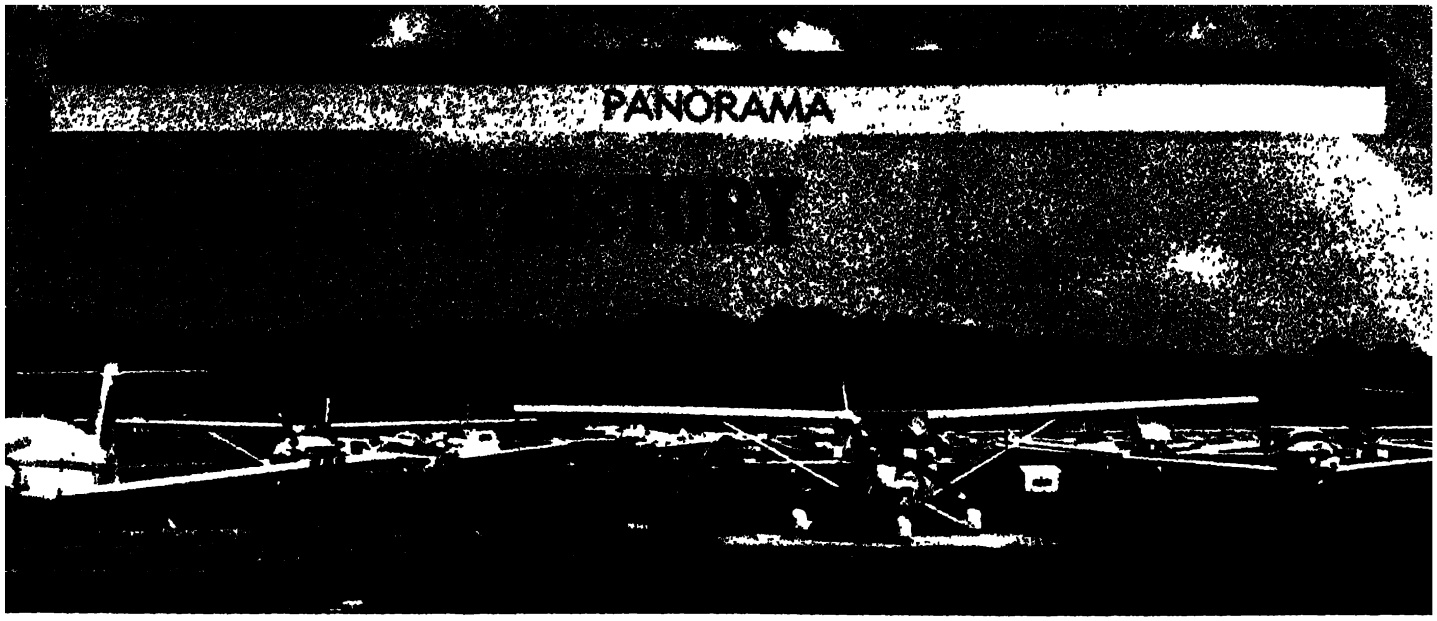
New All-India North Star Quiz Regional Finals, Guwahati 4 September 1 pm Madras 10 September 3 pm Quiz Master: Derek O'Brien.

QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote *Heart of the Absolute*? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
2. Which cricketer is nicknamed "Big Dog"? (Nirmaljyot Kr Sarkar, Asansol 1)
3. How did the famous musical group ABBA get its name? (Amit and Partho, Chaibasa 1)
4. How many Is, Vs and Xs are there in the Fidiman numerals of the Big Ben clock? (G. Ravi, Calcutta 19)
5. What is the meaning of the word "phthisiophobia"? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
6. Who said, "Sex appeal is 50 per cent what you've got and 50 per cent what people think you've got"? (Sanjeev Hussain Patel, Gauhati 12, and Pritam Jagtap, Calcutta 19)
7. What is the first name of Mr Bean?
8. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Dawn-Lit Mountains?
9. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Hill People?
10. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Five Rivers?
11. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Temples?
12. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Rising Sun?
13. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Golden Rice?
14. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Red Hills?
15. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Forests?
16. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Lakes?
17. Which Indian state is known as the Land of Coconuts?
18. Which film starred three generations of the Kapoor family? (Prakash Jha, Calcutta 6)

ANSWERS

1. Sophia Loren.
2. It is a vote passed to find out the view of a limited number of people (by majorities) to be incorporated in redrafting the mood of a large mass, a kind of opinion poll.
3. It is the first Compact Disk (CD) cassette launched in India (by Music India).
4. A Tryquadrone.
5. *Kal, Aaj Aur Kal* (Made in 1972 it starred Prithviraj, Raj Kapoor and Randhir Kapoor



A meeting ground for private airplanes and tourists alike

A visit to the College Park Airport, Maryland, the world's oldest continually operating airport

Was it not for the white board that announces that the College Park Airport, Maryland, is the oldest continually operating airport in the world, one would dismiss the information, without so much as another thought. Yet, it was here that Wilbur Wright taught two army officers how to fly the US government's first aeroplane.

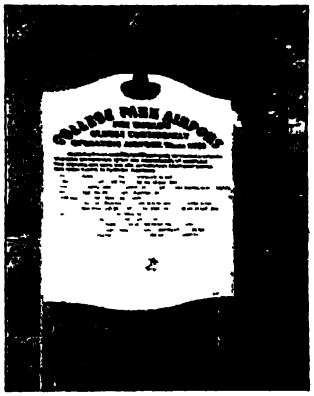
Not surprisingly, the airport lays its claim to a number of other "firsts" like the first woman to fly as a passenger in 1909, the first development of landing and field lights for night landing in 1911, the first Army aviation school in 1911-12, the first post office air mail service in 1918 and the first controlled helicopter flights between 1920-21.

The Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville, today regarded as legends in international aviation, played a role in bringing the College Park Airport into prominence. For years, the two brothers studied all that they could find on aviation and aeronautical problems before building scale models. The two even built their own wind tunnel and selected Kitty Hawk in North Carolina as the testing site for their gliders and powered aircrafts.

After their successful flight at Kitty Hawk the two returned to Dayton, Ohio, where they convinced a local banker, Terrence Huffman, to allow them to use his pasture for their flying experiments. By 1908, they established an aircraft manufacturing company, Wright Aircraft Company, at Fort Myer, Virginia, and demonstrated their new product to the signal corps of the US army. So impressed was the armed core at their mastery that they were soon deployed to teach two army officers how to fly. But the duo found the field at Fort Myer too small for safe training and following an aerial survey by balloon and on horseback, a field near the Maryland Agricultural College in College Park was found most suitable.

Its proximity to Washington DC and easy access by road and rail, unboubtedly influenced the decision. The field was just east of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and south of Paint Branch and the eastern branch of the Potomac. A lease of 160 acres was formalised on August 25, 1909, and after all hazardous barriers like fences and trees were removed, the Wright brothers landed on the field on October 6, 1909. The same year the two brothers taught two US officers to fly using the field as a training ground.

What was the airport like when it was built? It had a runway of 2,376 feet in an east to west direction. In July 1909, the US war department established the US Signal Corps Aviation School at College Park. The same year only two hangars were built there but by the next year, two other hangars had to be constructed to house troops and the two



army planes. By 1911, the Army had two planes and a water tower at the airport. America's first military airfield and official airport.

At the turn of the century, a father and son duo, Emile and Henry Berliner, started a new endeavour—making of helicopters. Their first test flights were at Corby's Place in Rockville, Maryland, on a golf course. But in 1920 the Berliners moved to College Park Airport as they needed a larger hangar. For the next two years, the airport was used as a testing ground for the Berliner helicopter. In February, 1922, the first controlled helicopter flight took off from the College Park Airport ground.

From 1926 to 1935, College Park Airport housed the National Bureau of Standards experiments for developing the first radionavigational aids for all blind landing systems. These navigational aids were the prototypes for the systems used all over the world today.

Decreased to 40 acres by industrial growth in adjoining areas, the airport was sold on February 20, 1973 to the Prince Georges Country Executive, William Gullet, and the country commissioners for $1.5 million. The deal was transacted to preserve the "world's oldest continually operated airport".

On September 23, 1977, the US department of the interior, entered College Park Airport in the National Register of historic places, thus acknowledging its significance in aviation history. Today, thanks to the Maryland-National Capital Area Park and Planning Commission, the airport has a new look. The buildings have been repaired, fences erected and even picnic tables added for visitors.

Unfortunately, only few of the countless tourists to the US visit the airport. Yet, the historic essence of this wonder will remain a hallmark in aviation science for years to come.

Text and photographs by Biswaranjan Sarkar

EVERYONE'S





With the GNLF and the West Bengal government finally deciding to shake hands, Darjeeling is getting ready to smile again. **Aloke Mitra** froze some heartwarming scenes on Independence Day





VICTORY







SIX OF

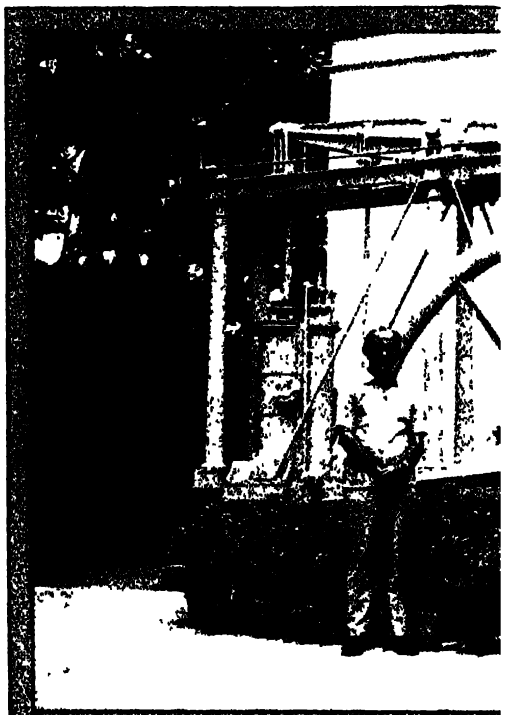
I have been setting fire to some of the renowned storehouses of rare objects in Calcutta. You might say I have been inspired by Hanuman's deeds in Ramayana, *but naturally, the heads of the institutions were not amused.*

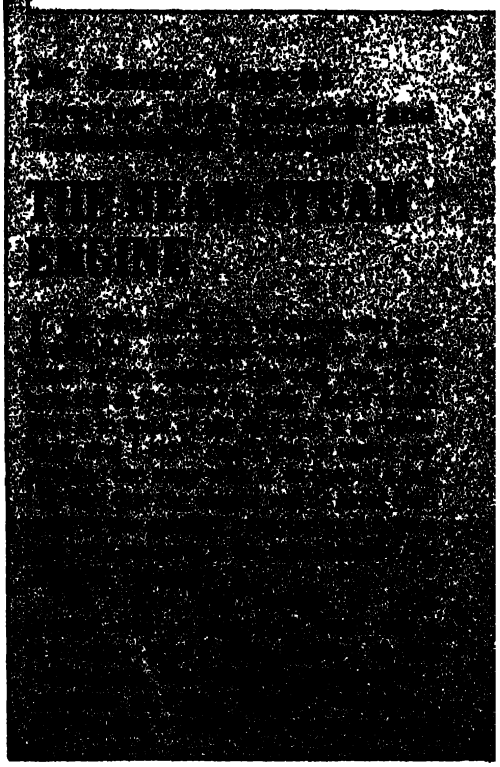
But in Calcutta anything can happen. After the flames die out, there will not be much of art left in the ashes and embers. Some of the heads assured me that all precautions had been taken and enough emergency exits provided in case the unspeakable actually took place. Others were scandalised that such a thought could even occur to insensitive old me. Perish the thought and the question, they said. Still others showed me that the red tape in which the art objects are wrapped would work as ample and sufficient fire cover. If the place did catch fire, it would be days before the required people would be hunted down and hours before keys would be sorted out, and buckettuls of sweat before vaults and lockers and treasure trunks would be opened.

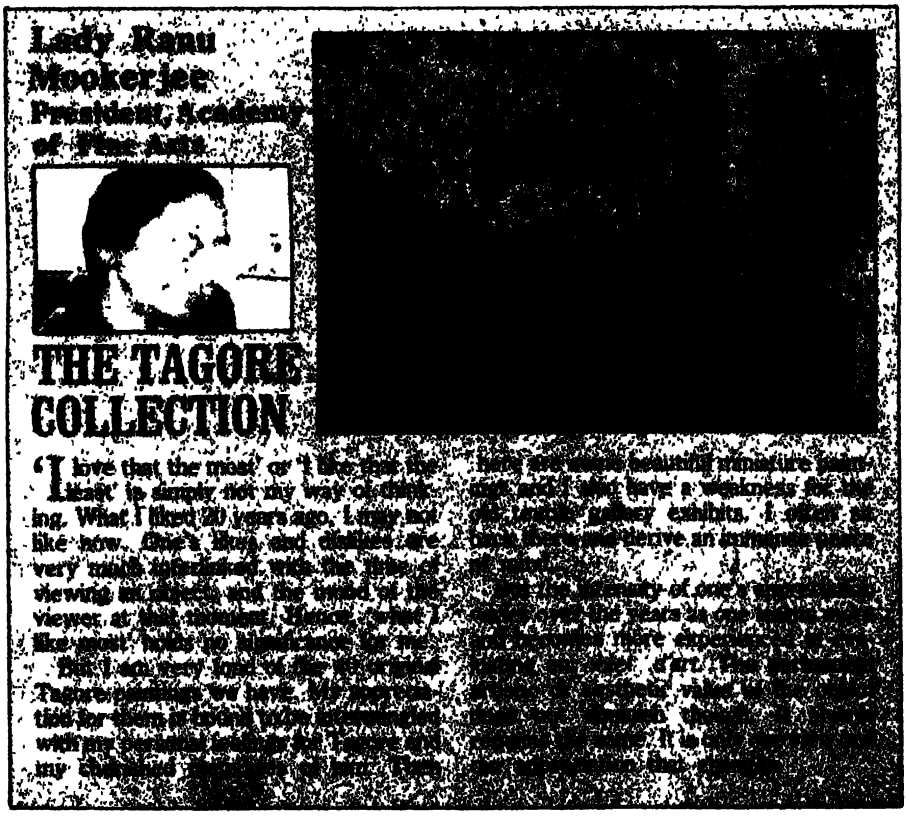
But the cold question remains. If certain important storehouses of rare objects caught fire and there was just time to save one particular item, which would the head of that place choose to risk his life for? The most valuable? Most ancient? The most portable? The personal favourite? The answers zeroed in on fascinating objects.

What would our curators save if their storehouses of art objects caught fire and they had time to rescue only a single one? Apurba Chakraborty talks to those in charge of our museums to come up with the six most precious items in Calcutta's collection

Photographs: Anil Grover







Lady Ranu Mookerjee
President, Academy of Fine Arts

THE TAGORE COLLECTION

'I love that the most' or 'I like that the least' is simply not my way of thinking. What I liked 20 years ago, I may not like now. One's likes and dislikes are very much dependent upon the [illegible] viewing mood and the mood of the viewer, at that moment. Hence, what I like most holds no significance for me.

But I am very fond of the Abanindranath Tagore paintings we have. We have this for [illegible] with my husband's family and my husband [illegible]

THE BEST



Dr. R. Chakraborty
Curator, Victoria Memorial

THE DANIELLS' TAJ

I might try to save the biggest and perhaps the most beautiful of all the Daniells—*The Taj*. But I don't imagine I will. And, therefore, I am not quite sure whether I would enter a blazing building risking my life to save a Daniell. I might—it all depends on the impulse of that particular moment when I see flames engulfing the building. But then it would require at least 10 people to carry down this large, exquisite painting. There will, of course, be a crowd to watch the fire and with 10 foolish people like me I hope I will be able to save it.

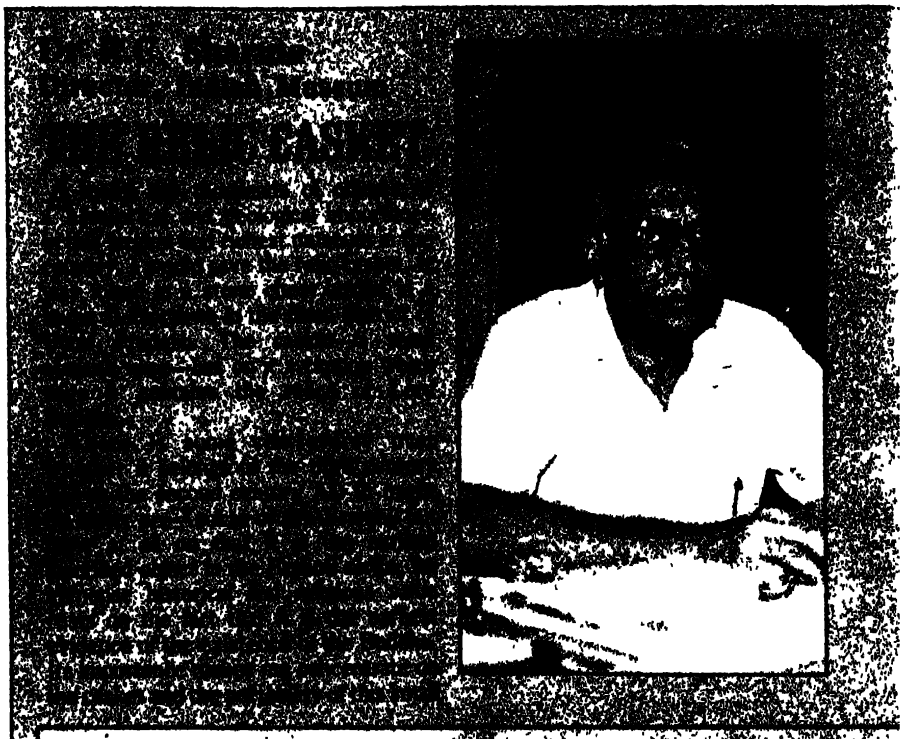
At the Victoria Memorial we have the single largest collection of the Daniells pair—Thomas and William, who came to India in 1786. Their painstakingly done paintings with vivid details give a very precise picture of our country at that time and are thus of great historical value. Besides, this collection has made the museum famous throughout the world and people often come here specially to see the Daniells. They are surely the most valuable paintings in our museum.

Personally, I am not a great fan of the Daniells. I'm more moved by the work of Zoffany. Another of my favourites is the huge *Durbar Procession at Jaipur* by Ramchandra—you can even see the dust hanging in the air. I believe that ethically a curator should not be attached to a particular object preserved in his museum which he would first save in case of a natural calamity. But I am quite emotionally attached to a this painting of a lady, *The Bibi*, which hangs in my office. It has replaced an equally beautiful picture of Warren Hastings. But I fear I shall be much criticised if I don't try and save the Daniells and jump for something else.

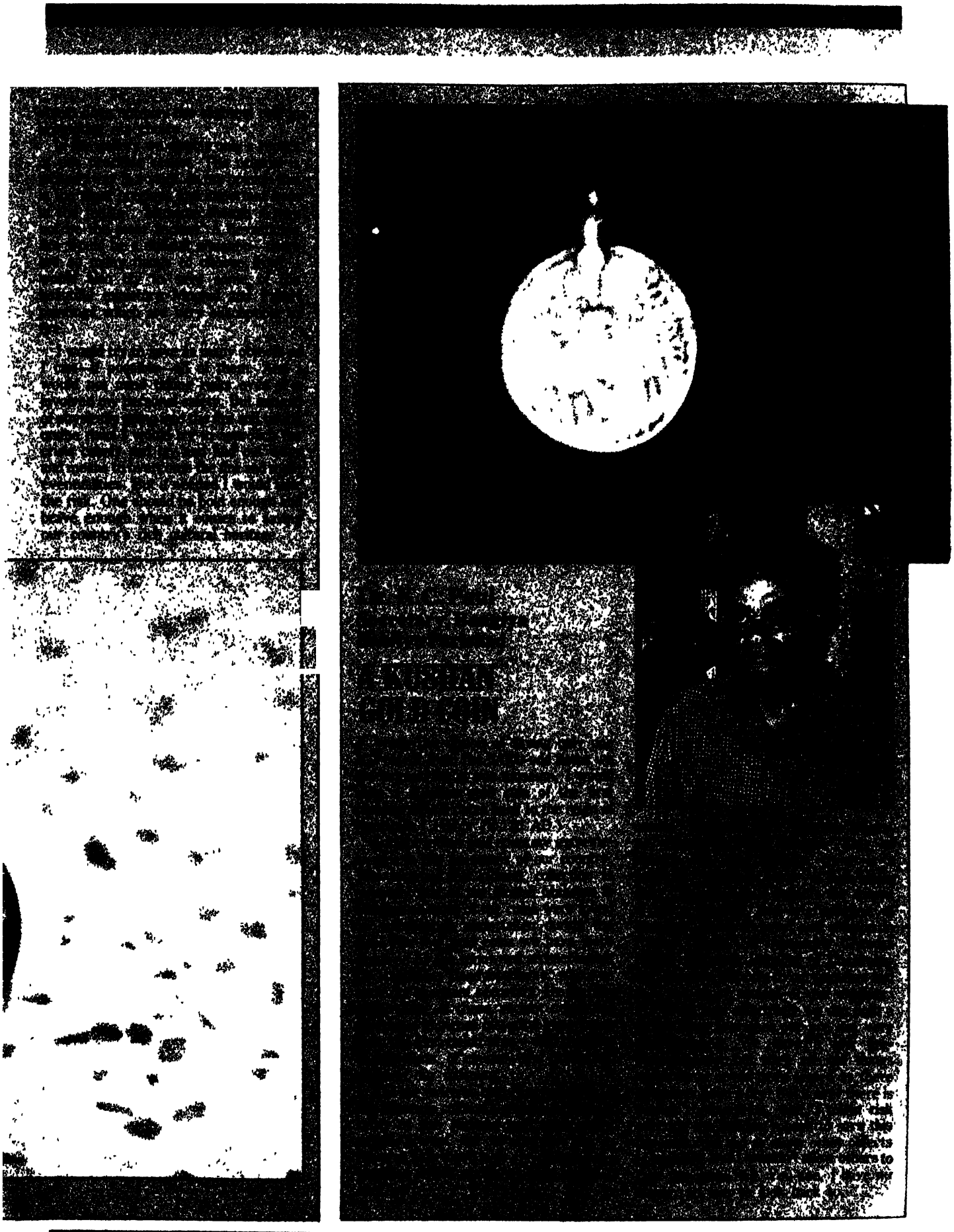
Given the time and the opportunity, one object I would definitely try to save is the original model of the Victoria Memorial Hall. Victoria Memorial is itself a museum piece though its little model may not be. It is much more than just a large building that houses a post-medieval period museum. The building, I feel, reflects the splendour of the Raj. If it is devastated, at least I will have saved the replica from which we may be able to build it anew.











All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284148), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Jaya (Lake Town, 573936)

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Dr Shreeram Lagoo, Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

• **Biwi Ho To Aisi:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664) Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932), Madhuban (Regent Park)

Directed by J K Bihari and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Rekha, Farooque Shaikh, Bindu, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Khoon Bhari Maang:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani 270147), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464140), Purnasree (Raja Raj Krissen Street, 554033), Malancha



Jeetendra, Dharmendra and Anil Kapoor in *Sone Pe Suhaaga*

(Regent Park)

A film by Rakesh Roshan, starring Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shatrughan Sinha, Kader Khan and Sonu Walia The music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Mardangi:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 471403) 4 shows

Directed by S R Pratap and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the cast includes Hemant Birje, Aman Virk, Dara Singh, Archana Joglekar and Dan Dhanoa

• **Naa-mumkin:** Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 219828) 4 shows Metro (Chowrighee Road, 280141), Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552754) Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740) -all noon show

A film by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, starring Sanjeev Kumar, Zeenat Aman, Vinod Mehra, Raj Babbar, Dr Shreeram Lagoo and Om Shivpuri. The music is by R D Burman

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442) 12, 3, 6, 9, Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808) - 11.30, 2.30, 5.45

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Sone Pe Suhaaga:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 219828), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351882), Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road, 350959)

Directed by K Bapaiah and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Jeetendra Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon and Kunu Katkar

• **Vijay:** Lund (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 274730) 4 shows

A film by Yash Chopra, whose cast includes Rishi Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri Hema Malini Raj Babbar Anupam Kher, Rakesh Khanna and Sonam The music is by Shiv Hari

• **Waqt Ki Awaz.** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242966) 4 shows Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) 3 shows

Mithun Chakraborty and Sridevi are the lead pair in this K Bapaiah film whose music is by Bappi Lahiri Others in the cast are Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Neelam

Bengali Films

• **Chhoto Bou.** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552754), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462) Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740) 3, 5.45, 8.30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film The music is by Swapan Chakraborty

• **Debibaran:** Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujala (Russa Road, 478666)—3 shows

Soumitra Chatterjee, Ranjit Mullick, Deepankar De, Sumitra Mukherjee, Debika Mukherjee, Kali Banerjee, Debashree Roy and Prasenjit are the chief attractions



Soumitra Chatterjee, Debashree Roy and Ranjit Mullick in *Debibaran*

in this film, directed by Srikanta Guhathakurta and has music by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Among Wolves (A):** Globe (Lindsay Street; 296665)—12, 3, 5.45, 8.30.

• **The Sin of Adam and Eve (A):** Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383)—4 shows.

• **The Bounty (A):** Society (Corporation Place; 241002)—4 shows.

Directed by Roger Donaldson, the film stars Mel Gibson, Anthony Hopkins, Edward Fox and Laurence Olivier.

NEW RELEASES

• **Maa Ek Mandir:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)—3 shows.

Sumitra Mukherjee, Joy Banerjee, Madhabi Mukherjee, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumantra Mukherjee, Rajat Das, Indrani Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das comprise the cast of this film, directed by Sukhen Das and has music by Ajoy Das.

• **Punarmilan:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757) Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road; 355059)—3 shows.

Directed by Jayanta Basu, the cast includes Sandhya Roy, Subhendu Chatterjee, Debika Mukherjee, Santu Mukherjee, Ruma Guhathakurta, Dilip Roy, Chinmoy Roy, Satya Banerjee, Jnanesh Mukherjee, Samit Bhanja and Satabdi Roy. The music is by Kanu Bhattacharya.

4 September onwards: daily 6.30 pm; Saturday and Sunday at 3 at 6.30 pm

As part of the Festival of the USSR in India, Festival of India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Shree Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd present Moscow State Circus, till September 14 (excluding September 5 and 12).

At Netaji Indoor Stadium.

7 September: 6 pm

Indo-Bulgarian Friendship Society presents Bulgarian violinist Madame Nevyana Kulcheva in concert with pianist Madame Angelina D. Pashmakova, on the occasion of the National Day of Bulgaria.

At Gorky Sadan (Victoria Terrace).

9 September: 6 pm

Prorna's cultural evening features the award-presentation ceremony of Santosh Smriti Purashkar 1988 to Santosh Majumdar and Dr Partha Chattopadhyay; songs by Hemanta Mukherjee, Ramkumar Chatterjee, Ashoketaru Banerjee, Sumitra Sen, Bani Tagore and others; recitation and play-reading by Partha and Gouri Ghosh, Nirmal Guha, Murari Chakraborty, Tulsi Roy, Sankar Banerjee, Pradip Ghosh and Soumitra Mitra, and *shruti-natak* by Jagannath and Urmimala Basu.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road; 449937).

9 September: 7 pm

SRA Music Circle presents a sitar recital by Bimal Mukherjee.

At Aldeen (1 NSC Bose Road; Calcutta 40).

10 September: 6.30 pm

Proscenium presents Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, directed by Sheo Kumar Jhunjhunwala. The cast of this play includes Dolly Basu, Joydip Lahiri, Govind Jhunjhunwala, Sharmini Bhatnagar, Rahul Banerjee and Kanupriya Jhunjhunwala.

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street).

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1530; Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240; Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110. Dep. (2, 4): IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6, 7): IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6, 7). IC-248 at 1425.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily): BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340, Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily): BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7): IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr. (1, 2, 5): GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr. (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7). IC-444 at 2000; Arr (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily). IC-265 at 1730, Arr (daily). IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-478 at 1045, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1). IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-410 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4): IC-410 at 0850; Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2235.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7): IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 1535; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (2): IC-269 at 1535; Arr (2) IC-270 at 1845.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep. (4): IC-269 at 1800; Arr. (4): IC-270 at 2135.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4). IC-203 at 0625, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625; (7): IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100; Arr. (1, 4): IC-240 at 1045, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) 7): IC-227 at 0835; Arr. (1. 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-255 at 0530, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815; Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-256 at 1000, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr. (daily) IC-222 at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (2, 4): IC-244 at 0810, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Airlines

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0830; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-706 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi-Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.
Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.
Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.
Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.
Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.
Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.
Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.
Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.
Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.
Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	Delhi Kalka Mail	6-30	2
5	19-20	Amritsar Mail	8-05	6
3	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues , Wed. & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri.—Mon , & Fri.	18-20	104
101	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri. & Sun Arri —Tues , Wed , Thurs , Sat. & Sun.	10-55	102
173	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp. Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues , Fri & Sat Arri.—Tues , Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	Purbanchal Express Dep.—Mon. & Thurs Arri.—Thurs. & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	Toofan Express via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	Amritsar Express	15-45	50
11	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	Gorakhpur Express	11-45	20
21	16-05	Mithila Express	6-45	22
57	5-45	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	58
307	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	308
59	17-35	Kamrup Express	6-30	60
309	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	310
305	18-15	Asansol Express	8-45	306
31	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	32
105	23-00	North Bihar Express Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	Jamalpur Express Dep.—Tues., Thurs. & Sat. Arri.—Mon., Thurs. & Sat.	6-00	172
15	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-45	16
959	15-25	Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express Dep —Thursday & Saturday Arri.—Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	Indore Express Dep —Tuesday Arri.—Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	44
53	20-10	Gaur Express	6-15	54
51	11-20	Jammu Tawi Express	16-10	52

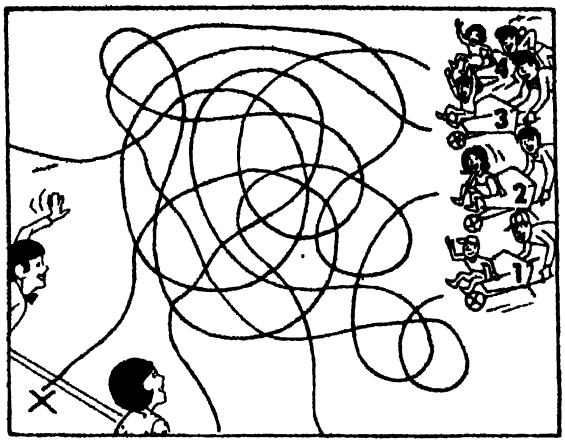
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
33	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	Madras Mail	6-00	4
2	20-30	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Wed , Fri & Sat Arri.—Mon., Tues , Thurs., Fri , & Sat.	14-15	59
134	21-00	Ahmedabad Express	4-10	133
52	22-35	Bangalore Super Fast Express Dep. & Arri.—Wed. & Sun.	13-45	51
30	12-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	Coromondel (Madras) Express	11-15	142
37	23-15	Madras Janata Express Dep Mon , Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	14
11	6-20	Ispat Express	21-50	12
5	21-50	Sambalpur Express	5-55	6
15	21-30	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-30	16
7	22-45	Puri Express	5-45	8
9	19-00	Jagannath (Puri) Express	7-45	10
45	10-00	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	14-15	46
317	16-45	Purulia Express	11-30	318
902	22-35	Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras) Dep. & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 203370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on [illegible] holidays).



WHEEL 'EM! Which team wins the wheelbarrow race — 1,2,3 or 4? Finish line is at bottom left, indicated by X.

•SUM FUN! See if you can solve this math poser in your head One-third of this number is 13 less than half of it. What number? Time 1 minute

The answer is seventy-eight



NUMBERS GAME TO PONDER

Try this number game on yourself, then show it to friends

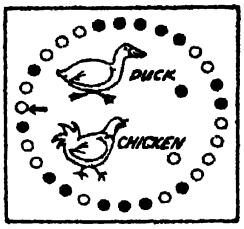
Place numbers 10-99 in a hat Pick two

Double your first choice, add 5, multiply by 50 To the result, add your second pick, and then subtract 250

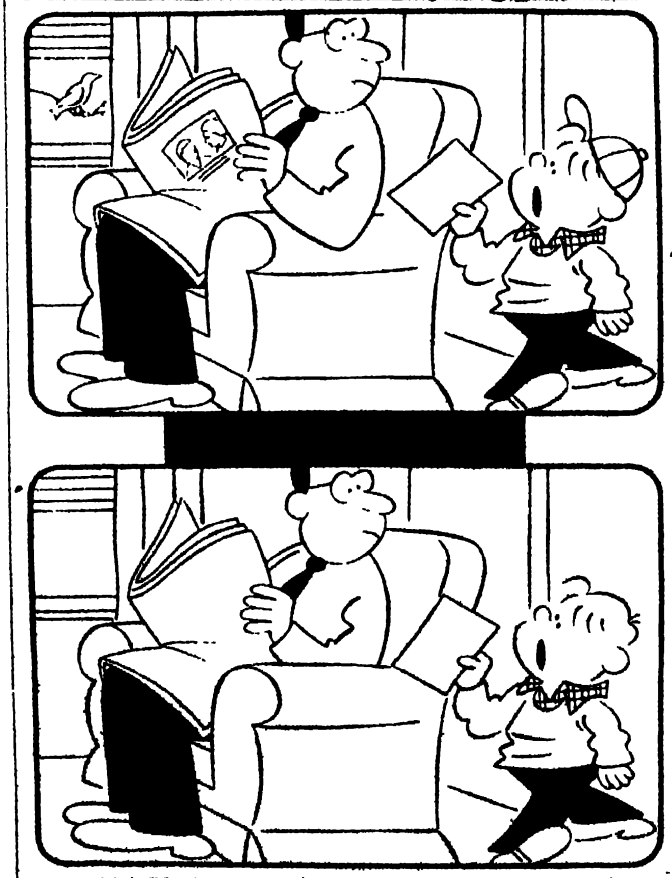
Alakazam, the first two digits of the answer will be your first number, the last two digits will be your second choice

Example Say you select the numbers 11 and 34 Eleven doubled is 22, plus 5, is 27, times 50 is 1350, 1350 plus 34 is 1384, minus 250, is 1134—the two numbers which were selected

• TEN COUNT! Count 10 to remove all 15 of the ducks (black dots) from the circle below. Here's how: Beginning at arrow moving clockwise, cross off the tenth dot. Continuing clockwise, again cross off the tenth dot, and so on (once a dot is removed, it is not to be counted again). Give it a try!



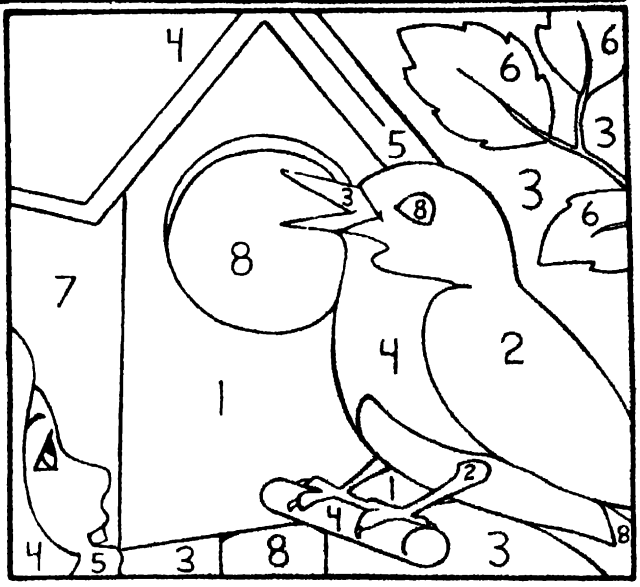
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Bird is missing. 2 Foot is moved 3 Newspaper picture is missing 4 Elbow is concealed 5 Report card is moved, 6 Cap is missing

FUNSPOT



HOUSE CALL! A songbird is singing for joy outside its house above Add these colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Maroon. 8—Dk. blue

SPELLBINDER

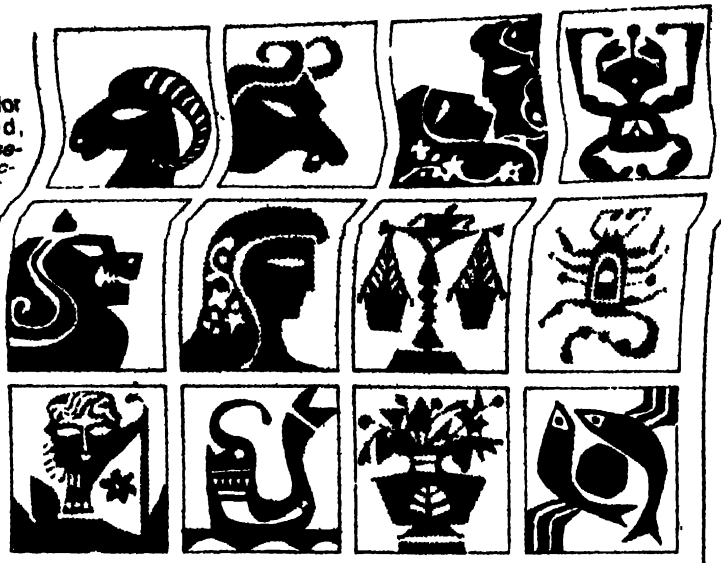
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

OUTREACH

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagram: Ear's hair



ARIES
March 21—April 20

A week of work for the unemployed, added responsibilities for housewives, peons, executives, doctors and income tax officers. From 7th to 9th is the time to make major moves, take a chance be it romance, a job, simply socialising or research. Pamper children. Travel is also on the cards. Be diplomatic in all your dealings.

TAURUS
April 21—May 20

You will win in your encounter with the opposition. The soft rustle of money will sound in your pockets. But on the 5th and the 6th, try to be a ball of fire. Expect visitors, relatives and get-togethers. The latter part of the week will be devoted to property, parents and in-laws. Children may be a source of worry.

GEMINI
May 21—June 20

Time for communications, contacts and relationships. The scope for contacts is almost limitless. The stress through Wednesday to Saturday is on personal relationships. Deeds, documents and contracts will be signed to your great satisfaction. Travel and even immigration are strong possibilities.

CANCER
June 21—July 20

Not only will you be on top of the world, but up among the planets this week. Secret ties, hectic communication, sudden trips and expenses will all go in your favour. Buying and selling will give you an opportunity to make a fast buck. But you will have to take the initiative.

LEO
July 21—August 21

Courtship and joy from the company of your children are in store for you this week. Some time will be spent on sports and hobbies. Sales, purchases and investments may take up your time, too. Take a crack at the game of chance. Host a party, a dinner and set sail for a bit of buccaneering.

VIRGO
August 22—Sept 22

A lucky, lucky week for you. Give it all you have—imagination, skills, initiative, guts, insight and an extra punch. Collaboration, local and international, a trip abroad, renovation and decoration are areas in which you will excel. Learn to curb expenses.

LIBRA
Sept 23—Oct 22

Go in for publicity, reach out, be amiable and expansive and the world will respect you and admire you for your orginality, ingeniousness and invention, creativity and sparkling wit. Wednesday to Saturday are the days to march forward.

BIRTHDAYS

September 4

Moon opposition Saturn-Uranus: Change in your work atmosphere is possible. But by the end of the year you should have seen though the rough patch. The trick is not to worry too much, be methodical and flexible.

September 5

Moon sextiles the sun: You will get a great deal of help from family members, your superiors and elders. It may be just the right time in your life to take a chance, maybe marriage, or some enterprise or home investment.

September 6

Moon trine Saturn-Uranus: Home conditions will improve and for Virgos it will be time to start a new venture, the impact of which will be felt next year as well. The number nine is lucky for the next year. Take advantage of position 9 in 9 and add 6, 7 and 9, to nine.

September 7

Moon sextile Saturn-Uranus: Home and [illegible] are highlighted. Travel to foreign countries is also indicated. This is the ideal time to put your best foot forward and forge ahead.

September 8

Moon sextile Mercury: An excellent time for writers, traders and industrialists for planning and collaboration specially on matters of technical know-how. A good phase, too, for lovers and lawyers, detectives and police officers, diplomats, dancers and artistes.

September 9

Moon trine Saturn-Uranus: Home conditions will improve and for Virgos it will be time to start a new venture, the impact of which will be felt next year as well. The number nine is lucky for the next year. Take advantage of position 9 in [illegible] and add 6, 7 and 9, to nine.

September 10

[illegible]

SCORPIO
Oct 23—Nov 22

Time to assess yo bank balance. A also your chance to make important investment, a ma house shift. Time, too, to trac buy, sell or go on an importa journey. Taxes may have to b paid. An insurance policy can be taken- it helps in the long run. You may develop an intense relationship with a relative stranger.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 -Dec 20

The right occasion for partnerships, ranging from the professional to the platonic. You will be able to finalise your travel plans. Your partner will nudge you into being practical and precise and in the end there will be success and satisfaction. Your better days are from the 7th to the 10th.

CAPRICORN
Dec 21 -Jan 19

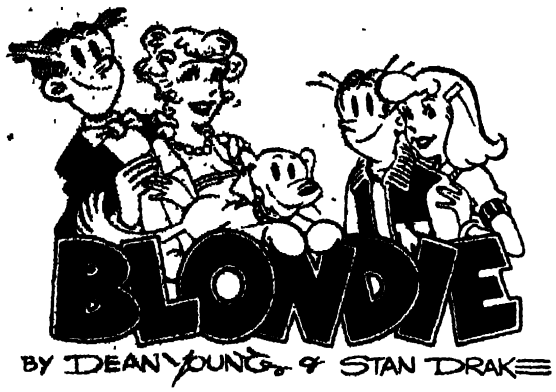
You will make headway in your profession, trade or business. Money and honey for you as well—there will be investments and intimacies. Children will give satisfaction. However, healthwise the first few days of the week may prove troublesome. Interesting and influential people will come forward to help you.

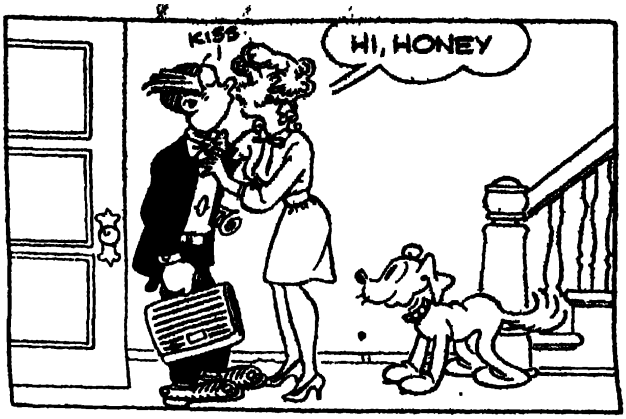
AQUARIUS
Jan 20- Feb 18

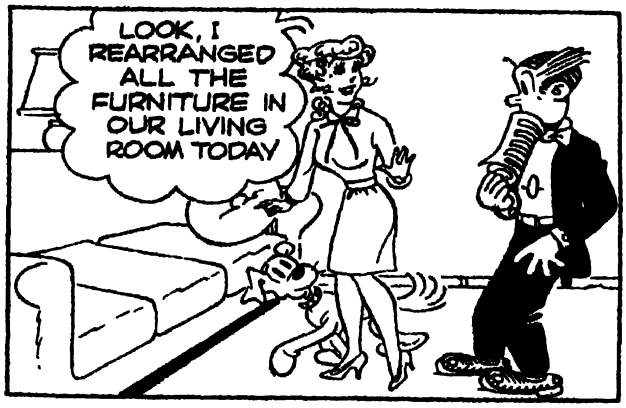
You will run into stardom, victory, the satisfaction of creativity as the moon's last quarter falls into your slot of the "seat of pleasure and profit." From the 7th onwards contacts will help you and passion will mark your style. September-December will be the time for marriage, alliances, engagements and collaborations.

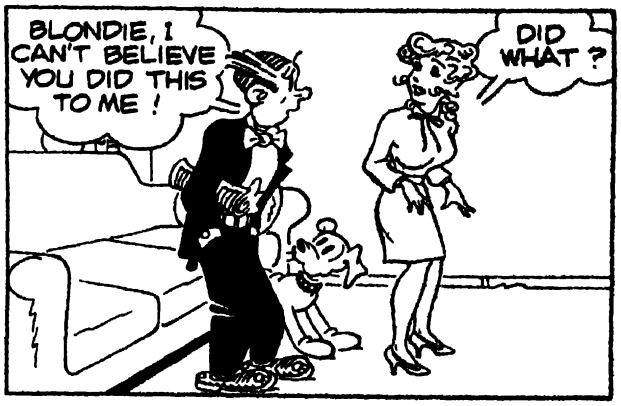
PISCES
Feb 19—March 20

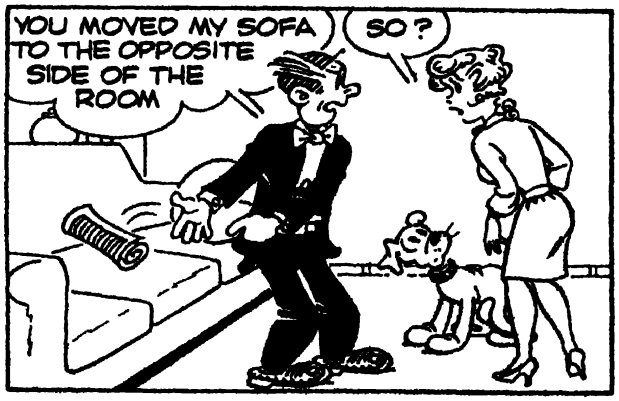
A very active home front. There will be renovation, decoration, alteration, buying and selling and also a home away home. Jobwise you have chances of a promotion or recognition. September-October will be a good period for you. A transfer is on the cards. Health requires attention and it will do you well to go for regular check-ups.

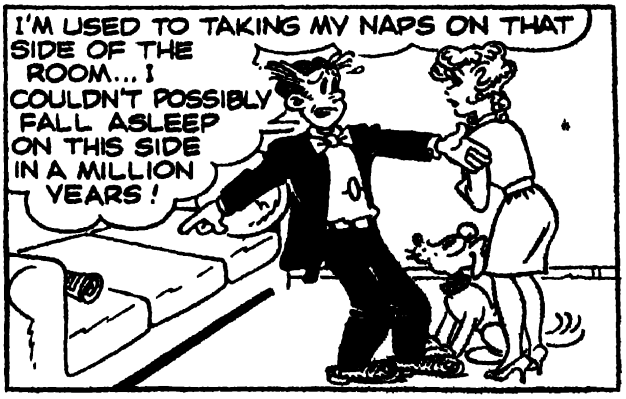






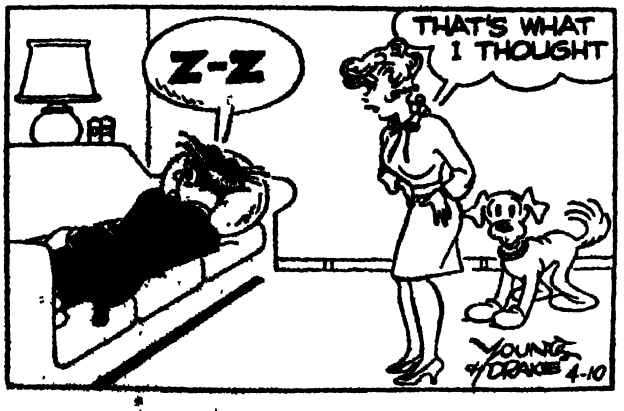






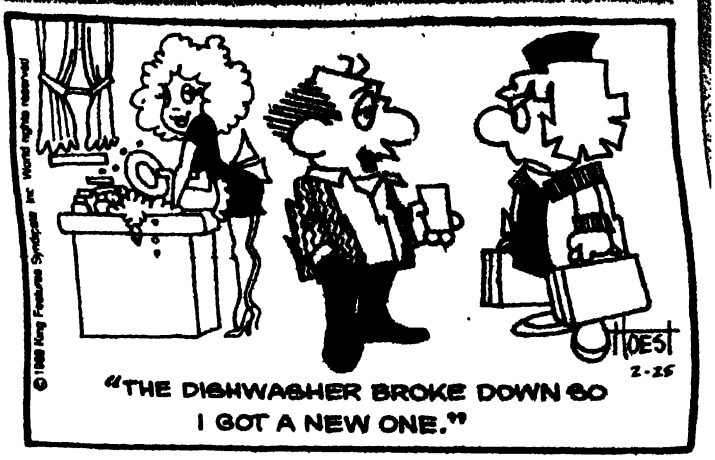


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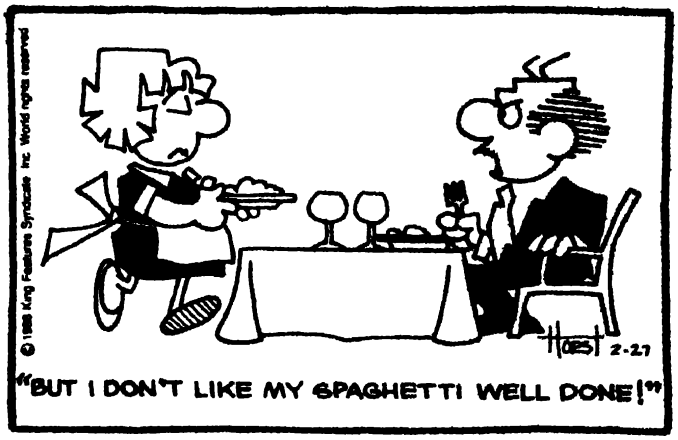



THE ESCAPING VILLAINS FLEE TO SNAKE MOUNTAIN, STRONGHOLD OF HE-MAN'S ARCH-RIVAL, SKELETOR!
FLYING LOW TO AVOID DETECTION, TEELA IS ONLY MOMENTS BEHINDS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN TO THIS SIDE OF SNAKE MOUNTAIN. WHAT IS THAT SMALL BUILDING?
INSIDE..
WHAT A BRILLIANT RAID! SOON WE'LL BE FREE FROM SKELETOR'S BONY CLUTCHES!
A TOAST TO A BETTER WORLD, OURS FOR THE TAKING!
JUST OUTSIDE
HOW THOUGHTFUL! AN ORGANIC LADDER FOR SHAMELESS EAVESDROPPERS!
WELL, BLADE GET READY FOR A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO YOUR HOME PLANET AS ONE OF ITS CONQUERORS!
SO, EVIL LYN WANTS TO CONQUER MERRIAN NOT IF I CAN GET BACK WITH HE-MAN FIRST
BUT BACK AT ETTLAIN, HE-MAN'S HANDS ARE FILLED ... WITH ONE FRANTIC THENURIAN!
GWILDOR, SLOW DOWN! WHAT'S THIS ABOUT KIDNAPPERS?! WHO'S IN DANGER?
THALIA, THE FIRST FEMALE THENURIAN I'VE SEEN IN YEARS.. STEPPED INTO MY LIFE AND.. POOF! SHE'S VANISHED"
ERIC SAID SOMETHING ABOUT TEELA FOLLOWING A FEMALE THENURIAN! IT'S NOT MUCH OF A LEAD..
..BUT IT'S ALL WE'VE GOT!
THERE'S CAPT'N TEELA NOW!
EVIL-LYN'S GOT THALIA...AND NOW SHE WANTS THE ENTIRE PLANET OF MERRIAN TO HERSELF!
THAT'S EVIL LYN FOR YOU... CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS WRONG BY WRONG!









MANDRAKE by Lee Falk










PIERRE, I LIED TO YOU
DENNIS DIDN'T SHOOT YOUR PET DUCK — I DID
BUT YOU'RE A KIND AND JUST MAN, PIERRE, AND I THROW MYSELF ON YOUR MERCY
AFTER ALL — MEH! MEH! IT WAS ONLY A DUCK
YOU WERE DOING WELL UNTIL YOU SAID IT WAS ONLY A DUCK
TSK! EGON! THERE'S A FLY IN THIS SOUP!
THANK YOU.
DEAR ME
EGON!
I KNOW YOU CULINARY SORTS ARE LOATH TO GIVE AWAY TRADE SECRETS, AND HAVING TASTED THIS, RIGHTLY SO!
I MEAN, WE DON'T WANT ANY TOM, DICK AND HARRY BOILING UP WARTHOGS
WELL, WELL
EGON, I TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I SAID ABOUT YOUR COOKING YESTERDAY
IT WAS POSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING MORE REVOLTING.
THIS IS THE STUFF TO PUT HAIRS ON YOUR CHEST!
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY LIKE THIS MUCK, DO YOU?
LOVE IT!
EGON! DENNIS HERE LIKES YOUR COOKING!
AW, LOOK! YOU'VE MADE HIM SO HAPPY, HE CAN HARDLY EAT THE TOAST!

ARCHIE


RENTING VIDEOS IS BETTER THAN GOING TO THE MOVIES!
WHY?
CARTOONS
MOVIES
VIDEO CEN
SCI-FI
NO MORE STANDING IN LINE WAITING TO SEE A FLICK!
THIS BLAZING FIREPLACE VIDEO YOU RENTED IS GREAT, ARCHIE!
THANKS, BETTY!
IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN THE REAL THING!
NOW, I NEVER HAVE TO GO OUT IN BAD WEATHER LIKE THIS TO CHOP FIREWOOD!
TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE RELAXING! IT'S 6 O'CLOCK ALREADY!
WHAT? STOP THE VIDEO QUICK!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OUT TO THE VIDEO STORE!
THIS TAPE HAS TO BE BACK BY SEVEN!



Fourteen years of achievement are behind us now
Achievements that are our credentials in the
race to meet emerging needs

Leadership in automotive instrumentation
with a 40% market share
Leadership in high accuracy textile machinery
counters and monitors

Diversification into wind monitoring instruments
Electronic products for power stabilisation and control
And low-cost, high quality machine tools with
Railway speed monitors and Oil pumps for two-wheelers
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a country propelling itself into the future

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POST MORTEM

Cruel Training

I read with interest about courier pigeons ('Adding Wings to the Message,' August 21). However, as an animal lover, I was pained to note that the pigeons are kept hungry for over 30 hours so that they eat "ravenously" when they alight on the boomerang box. It is also cruelty not to give the poor creatures even a drop of water so that the thirsty birds fly back home in search of water. Isn't there a less cruel way of "training" these messengers?
Anjana Sinha,
Calcutta

Mightier than the Bomb

Your story, 'The New US-Japan War' (August 7) was well timed. Historically, August 6 is a black day for Japan. But it has now turned the tables on the USA in a different way and proved that trade is mightier than the bomb.
B.B. Kar,
Calcutta

Vicious Circle

Sharada Venkatraman's Viewpoint, 'Our Children Need Us' (July 24), was an eyeopener. As a teacher I have a few points to add.

We have a time limit in which to complete the syllabus and are unable to do our best because the syllabus is so vast. If we use aids, experiments and demonstrations, how can we finish the chapters in time?

Another point is the widening gap in the teacher-pupil ratio. We have about 50 children [illegible] 30 [illegible] versa) and the parents take it out on the children. There must be a change from the exam-oriented mode of education to a student oriented one.
Indira Ganapathy,
Balasore (Orissa)

Bitter Taste

I had a bitter experience recently at one of the fast food counters mentioned in the article, 'The Original Fast Food' (July 31). The payment was collected beforehand at Garden Cafe, Alipore, and I had to wait for 45 minutes to get an ordinary *dosa, vada* and *idly*. The staff was very impolite and refused a refund. The food was not worth it and the coconut chutney was sour.

People with plenty of time can go in for such fast food.
P.R. Mundhara,
Calcutta

Appealing

Your Puja Travel Special issue ('Sea Change,' August 28) was very useful and the cover was very appealing. Keep it up.
Ashis Kumar De,
Purnea (Bihar)

Eye-opener

The students of the BHMS colleges should be thanked for exposing some of the conditions prevailing in the homeopathy colleges (July 17). I being another such student, request you to detail the conditions so that the public knows exactly why it gets such doctors.
Rudra Prasad Chakraborty,
Calcutta

■ Whatever Tarun Sen (Post Mortem, June 26) may say about Sanjay Agarwal's letter (May 22), there are thousands of people who have had bitter experiences with our 'friends in need.' If the honorary secretary of the Indian Medical Association wants, we could supply him with specific cases for investigation and necessary action.

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11 SEPTEMBER 1988



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6 Abu Abraham's essay on the travails of the middle class

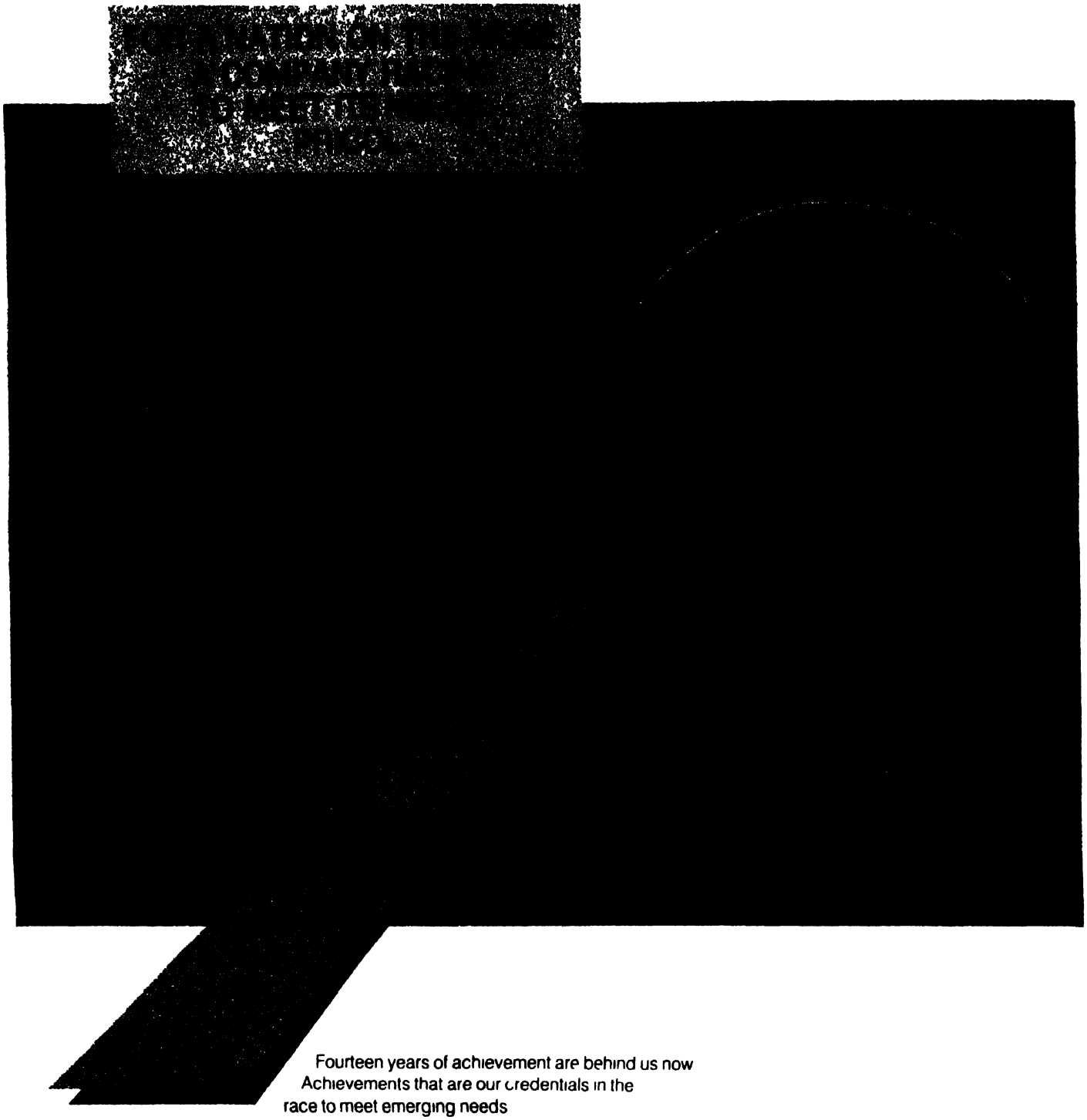
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Cover Sandip Bhattacharya



COMPUTERS, BIT BY BYTE

A schoolgirl's view of the microchip age

This essay won ***Ranjini Mohan*** *of Class X, St Joseph's Convent, Chandernagore, the first prize in the Commonwealth Essay Competition, 1987-88 (Group B) Ranjini's essay was adjudged the best of the 550 entries from 33 countries because of, among other things, its "breadth, depth. .and gentle humour." We have made some minor editorial changes*

Science and technology have advanced ever since the first tool was made, ever since early man first fashioned weapons out of stone, made leaves into clothes. Rapidly but surely man has traversed the path of technological advance till the very destiny of his planet, in the form of nuclear weapons, is in his hands. In India, the greatest technological advance has been the introduction of computers and their application in various fields.

India has made much progress in technology. Space research has zoomed into new vistas of exploration, television networks envelop the country, connecting its every nook and corner; satellite communications have brought inter-stellar links. We are forever seeking new lands to explore, trying to go where no Indian has gone before. But none of this technical progress can compare with computers when it comes to the greatest good for greatest numbers. Computers are asserting their importance "bit by byte."

Computers have so taken over our lives that we may be said to be living in a computer era. They have invaded every sphere of operation and their varied functions include the most minor additions to the most complicated scientific calculations.

Science fiction was the first to create the concept of the computer. But these dreams have been brought down to earth as a result of scientific brains putting their mental machinery in high gear Even though our modern day computers will satiate the most imaginative visions of a fiction buff, the original concept was an unassuming, down-to-earth abacus—the very abacus that kindergarten children learn to count on Through varied stages of development came the calculator. But surprisingly it was in the unlikely sphere of weaving that the first real computer came into being. Whatever else it may have been, it was certainly impressive in its size. This has evolved down to the desk-top size of our fourth generation computers

Computers lay out before us immense possibilities—the possibility of getting your tea in bed, or the possibility of sending satellites to explore the never-never lands in space. These near-human brains can make weekend recipes, the all-confusing bills and income tax returns and all the mind-boggling things that housewives have to do, as simple as a pie. They have ushered in a revolution against boredom. If your wife is busy cleaning the kitchen, you can always enjoy a game of chess or draughts with your computer and lose.

This miraculous wonder's spheres of performance include schools, business establishments, hospitals, railways and airlines, police depart-



ments, almost anything under the sun! In schools and business establishments these are mainly used in their capacity as administrators. Lengthy registers, time-consuming results, accounts, are all the work of a moment for these near-human-brains. The monotony of assembly-line work is no trial for this zealous worker who works three thousand hours a day and does not break for tea or coffee. No demands, no strikes!

Computers are solely responsible for medicine catching up with and running ahead of the twentieth century. Medical diagnosis, eye check-ups, CAT scans are done with an undreamed of degree of accuracy, eradicating the not-too-remote possibility of human error. Even though computers do not as yet assist in surgical operations, in future, that would certainly eliminate the fear of surgeons forgetting their scissors in unfortunate abdomens or hearts.

For Indians, travel has always spelt nightmares in the form of long queues at the booking counters. But the appearance of these efficient taskmasters has changed the scene. Even bank employees decide to bury the hatchet and do a 15-minute task in 15 minutes.

Our flat-footed, seemingly overworked policemen have welcomed this invention with open arms. No more do they have to rattle their weary brains over security measures and alarm systems thanks to this genial genie. Records of wanted criminals maintained by computers may just begin to compare with those of the FBI.

In India it has been in the area of scientific research that computers have proved invaluable. The complicated procedures and calculations involved in sending a rocket into space, sending and receiving satellite communications analysing and decoding extraterrestrial information have all been handed over, thankfully, to the computer. No more do we have to expect a shower when the weatherman promises fine weather. Weather forecasts are done with an uncanny accuracy which augurs well for the reputation of an astrologer for these latest scientific inventions.

Computers bring with them a fairytale-like bonanza for the vast majority of educated and uneducated Indians, to the man on the streets, to the 700 million groping Indian populace. They have brought undreamed of reality to thousands of dreams. They have been accused of creating unemployment. But they have also created new jobs. They have unleashed upon unsuspecting India a new species of humans known as "computer professionals"—users, programmers, technicians, experts. Their tentacles have reached deep enough to allow these half-crazed creatures to create the new language of 'computerese'!

But in spite of this mystical wonderous ability to make real our dreams, India has not fully exploited their applications. There are many spheres these versatile performers could excel in. Some people oppose them as undemocratic, for given reign they could dictate our lives and leave us nothing to do but to gaze at the blue skies, or the VDU monitors as the case might be. This is undesirable as there are many men in India who have attained the impossible art of bidding time stand still.

But the computers are the foothold to development for any backward country. The benefits gained from investing in the magic of this pot will far outweigh any of the drawbacks. The common man is the greatest beneficiary. The computers will herald in the twenty-first century and inaugurate India's ascension to the world of 'automatic'. The speed of operation of the computers is faster than "the swift winged arrows of light." Thus it will save for us "over-worked" students more time to watch television. It will wipe from our faces the strained look and remove the grey streak in the teacher's hair.

Businessmen shall find their salespersons not all that incompetent. The computer's attentions to our libraries shall certainly leave nothing to be desired. In every walk of life, computers are leading the way. Our mental powers and fagging energies can be saved much of their taxation for as P.G. Wodehouse would have said, we can "leave it to computers."

Computers are India's cup of fulfillment. They shall break free her chains of backwardness and, allow us to say "Rise India, thy computers lead, follow their blazing trail."■

• **Study material:** I offer the complete set of Brilliant Tutorial's Post Elite Course for IIT-(1988) for anything of corresponding value. Write to Kaustav Ghosh, 20/Q Ballygunge Terrace, Calcutta 700019.

• **Magazines:** I offer *Sportstar* issues from August '87 onwards or some English novels for an old edition of World TV/Radio handbook. Write to N. Mathur, MPEB West Bank, P.O. Jamnipali, Korba-495450 (MP).

• **Record player and records:** I offer a HMV stereo record player with two speakers and a few records on Bengali plays and Rabindra-

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's Foundation Course for IIT (Entrance) for a carrom board or, video game or Walkman. Write to Rajeev Newar, 11/A Chowringhee Terrace, Calcutta 700 020.

• **Suitcase:** I would like to exchange a 29" VIP suitcase for a 26" VIP/Aristocrat/Safari suitcase. Contact Pradeep Dutta, Ashoke Colony, Barasat, 24 Parganas (North), Pin: 743203.

• **Mobike:** I offer an Explorer 50 cc motorcycle for a Bajaj M-80 well-maintained motorcycle. Write to Raymond Chin, 7 Nawab Serajul Islam Lane, Calcutta 700016.

• **Stamps:** I offer 100 Indian P.O. Chandernagore, Dist Hooghly, West Bengal.

• **Camera:** I offer a new Agfa 200 camera for anything of corresponding value. I also offer 100 Indian and foreign stamps for posters of Stevie Wonder or other pop stars. Contact Samit Roy, P-867 Lake Town, Calcutta 89.

• **Amplifier:** I would like to exchange a Russian made amplifier with two speakers (10 watts each) for a bullworker or a tape-recorder. Writer to Sandeep Mukherjee, 4-2/1F Krishnaram Bose Street, Calcutta 700004.

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's Foundation Course for IIT-JEE (1988) and an IIT-

Walkman. Contact S. Ganguly, 14/C Sarat Ghose Garden Road, Calcutta 31.

• **Radio and Tape recorder:** I offer a Santosh solid state two-band transistor and a Philips AM 124 portable cassette recorder for a two-in-one or a Bush RQ 310 mini cassette recorder and any other electronic device. Contact Malay Ghosh, 37 Vivekananda Sarani, Jadavpur, Garfa, Calcutta 78.

• **Camera and synthesizer:** I offer a UK-made Kodak camera for any other foreign made camera. I would also like to exchange a Casio PT 20 synthesizer with adapter for a double-screen video game or

The Travails of

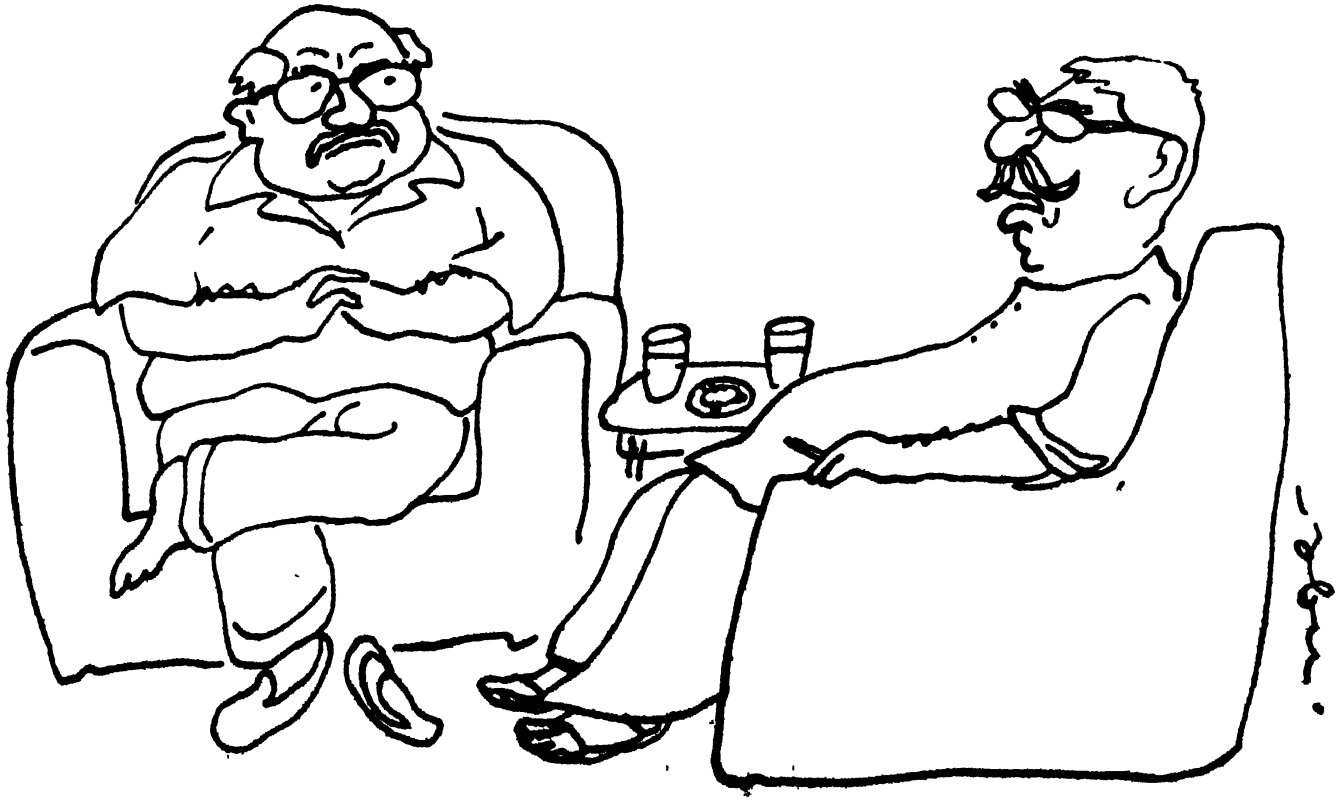
Middle-class is what middle-class thinks it is. You can earn less than your working-class neighbour or more than your upper-class friend, but you may still be middle-class, because that is what you want to be.

Your cost of living keeps going up, but your standard of living remains more or less the same. You don't aspire to be like the rich though you wouldn't mind getting rich. At least money is not your ambition. You want to be in one of the 'respectable', that is, socially useful, professions. More than that, you want your children to be doing the same kind of work.

BY ABU ABRAHAM

There is virtue in this. It is the middle-class that runs the country. It is they who form the bulk of the administrative service, the medical, engineering professions, the banks, the commercial and technical services. They provide the teachers, the scientists, the lawyers and the journalists. In this unorganised and competitive milieu, some do better than others. Some, like doctors and lawyers, are way above the rest in terms of income, but they like to keep middle-class company. Their mental attitudes are well within the middle-class orbit.

There is, of course, the general theme of the middle-class being perenially squeezed by the classes below and above. In fact, the middle-class squeeze themselves. The doctors and lawyers give you a proper squeeze when they get a chance, but that may not be often. In the case of the grocer, the general trader, the mechanic, they believe it to be their inalienable right to sell shoddy goods and services. And not only they. In our society thousands of shoddy, private schools are run by middle-class entrepreneurs for the



We middle classes are the worst hit— we go on from day to day without knowing where the next dowry will come from!

The Middle-class

middle-class. Parents who wouldn't dream of spending a hundred rupees on books for their children as birthday or Diwali gifts don't mind spending thousands on phoney education for them in an 'English-medium' school. The higher the fees, the better must be the education, they believe. In this instance, they are only too willing to be fooled.

Middle-class earnings are quickly and drastically diminished by middle-class waste. One wedding, with or without dowry, can guarantee to wipe out a life-time's hard-earned savings. Dowry condemns thousands of middle-class families to a life of perpetual want and hardship. Yet so great is the hold of this evil practice on conventional middle-class parents that they would rather their daughters didn't marry than they should marry without dowry.

Beneath the civilised veneer of the orthodox or conventional middle-class, there is a whole ethos of selfishness, greed and cruelty. The finer aspects of culture and morality that they are supposed to promote are marred by a whole pattern of meaningless tradition and the pressures of their own conformism. Where money could have been invested for better welfare, they blow it up in absurd ways to show that they are as good as their more affluent neighbours or friends. They spend a fair amount, too, on silly religious rituals.

The intense concern about education is what marks the middle-class. And yet it is the educated middle-class that suffers more than the rest. In economic terms the suffering is real. But there is in addition the mental hurt in the knowledge that our society does not care to reward them better. In a capitalist society (which is what ours is, basically) teachers, nurses and scientists are judged not on the basis of their contribution to society, but on how cheaply they can be hired. They are paid scandalously low salaries because there are plenty of them available. Their bargaining power is low.

The situation is different in socialist countries. Scientists in Soviet Russia, for instance, are treated as the cream of society. They lack nothing. All the material comforts are provided, and their children's education and future are also well taken care of. Socialist planning gives great importance to intellectual workers of all kinds—teachers, writers, artists, journalists.

The philistinism that is inherent in a capitalist society affects the middle-classes most—and is often exemplified by their behaviour. In spite of an obsession with education in the formal sense, there is in many middle-class houses a crude indifference to culture. Thus we never have enough readers for our writers—except in certain highly literate areas—and only a minute section of people take an active interest in the arts. Intervention by the government in the promotion of literature and the arts can help, but the basic need is a cultural transformation of the middle-class.

Parents who wouldn't dream of spending a hundred rupees on books for their children as birthday or Diwali gifts don't mind spending thousands on a phoney education for them in an 'English-medium' school

While the middle-class in a sense remains stationary, it is being continuously replenished from the classes beneath. A few middle-class families move upwards and join the rich, but many move from the poorer classes to merge, like an unseen current, with the middle-class stream. The Indian middle-class has been a continuously expanding entity. Economic development and the growth of educational facilities have accelerated this process.

This phenomenon, though it ought to be welcomed, is often resented. The orthodox and conservative elements find in it a threat to their age-old values and attitudes. Having to accept people coming up from the lower strata as their social equals involves a mental adjustment that doesn't come easily to all. Cultural disparities show up, as also differences in their ways of life. Traditional families find their assumed and unspoken superiorities questioned. Worse fears arise: Will the upstart son of your next-door neighbour develop ambitions to marry one of your wheat-complexioned daughters?

Panic grips them! 'When there is confusion of *varnas*, virtues are lost.' So what you do is rush to the matrimonial columns of our national dailies, submit your daughter's vital statistics to the computer.

It goes without saying, of course, that the middle-class, as we recognise it, is a complex society. Parts of it are progressive, others conservative or reactionary. The battles between these conflicting elements continue endlessly and indeterminedly. Sometimes reaction gets the upper hand, at others the reformists win. But together they give our country a certain stability. Like unity in diversity, stability in instability is a mark of Indian nationhood as it has evolved.

Though one thinks of the middle-class as unchanging in its character, there is no question that its composition as well as its values have undergone enormous changes. Traditional communities that formerly would never think of going into business or joining the armed forces, now do so in large numbers. By widening the range of their professional choice, they have on the whole done extremely well. The pressures of modern living have induced a greater love of money all round. No harm in that, so long as professional standards are maintained, and there is the same dedication as before.

But one wonders. When we see, for instance, the mushrooming of private clinics in our big cities, we wonder whether the basic object of these places is medical assistance to the people or the making of quick and easy money. Most of them turn out from experience to be as bogus as the English-medium schools that we mentioned earlier.

A large, educated middle-class, conscious of its heritage and its responsibilities to society, is a guarantee for democracy—if democracy can be guaranteed at all anywhere. The speed of change tends to upset its equilibrium, giving rise to different manifestations of violence, but these are easily contained. Discontent will remain the outstanding mood of the middle-class, but this needn't be entirely negative. Without discontent there can be little creativity. It's only when discontent turns into cynicism and despair that danger signals show up. ■



Protima Ghosh reports on the Maggi Wiz Quiz Contest: "What Lord's is to cricket and Wimbledon to tennis, the Dalhousie Institute, Calcutta, is to quizzing. It was, therefore, in the fitness of things that the Maggi Wiz Quiz should be held at Dalhousie Institute. Over 20,000 students from 81 schools took part: first at the intra-school level and then in highly competitive inter-school rounds. 'It was a mammoth task,' Quiz Master Derek O'Brien admitted. It was made possible only because of the highly efficient "FSL Force." At the end a beaming Mr J.S. Bajwa, branch manager (Calcutta), Food Specialities Limited (FSL), anounced that 'this quiz will become an annual feature...and it truly was a grand success.'

"But let's start at the beginning. Train and cycle-rickshaw rides, tea in *bhaars*—Maggi took quizzing to Hooghly district. The Assembly of God Church (Dankuni) and St Joseph's, Chandannagar, earned themselves a trip to Calcutta.

"Don Bosco, Liluah, played host and won the Howrah district finals. They were joined a week later by Julien Day School, Ganganagar (North 24-Parganas, winners) with Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur, completing the five-team district representation in the semi-finals. The spotlight then shifted to Calcutta: the quiz capital of India. Sixty-seven schools from the city vied for the other semi-final spots. But bare statistics only tell half the story.

"Who can forget the Oral School? It was a moving experience to see them answering questions through 'sign language.' And then, the Spastics Society. Raja in his wheelchair throwing his arms up in gay abandon after answering that '*elaichi* is the Hindi for cardamom.' Or Mithun, the little genius who used a 'head-pointer' to communicate—just as an artist uses a brush.

"One veteran quizzard commented: 'Yes, I know you people are going to try to get this quiz listed in the Guinness Book. But what impressed me even more were two things: i) that this Maggi Quiz was 'non-bookish' and 'broad based', and ii) that you invited the Oral and Spastic Schools.

"The Quiz Master handled the proceedings with professional ease. The standard of questions was just right (the sweat-shirts he wore too bright!) and it was truly an impeccable performance. Of particular interest was a 'live visual round' featuring, among others, Olympian Gurbux Singh, beautiful belles in traditional Indian costumes and even a labrador, which was paraded around. The video round presented on a giant screen enthralled the eight finalists and the large audience, as did the speed round where contestants had to answer five questions (answer began with the letters M A G G I) in under 30 seconds.

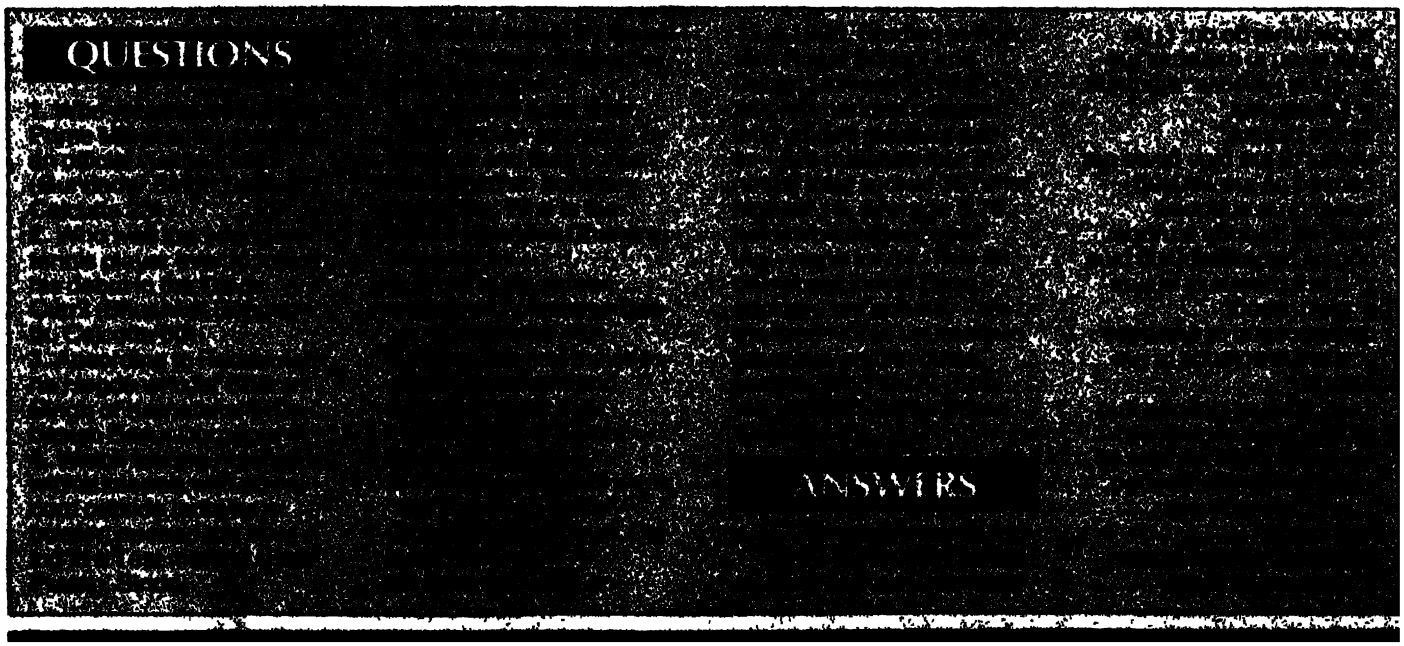
"There were handsome cash prizes and hampers to be won—and the students of Classes IV, V and VI for whom it was meant, loved every minute of it. St James' School toyed with the opposition to come out convincing winners while Calcutta Boys School just pipped La Martiniere for Girls to second place. St James' was awarded the trophy by chief guest Neil O'Brien while Mrs Sangeeta Talwar, product manager, FSL, distributed the hampers."

CBS

11th Question: **What is the Phantom Limb Syndrome? (Shomdip Ghosh, 91 Beltala Road, Calcutta 700 026)**
Ans: **It is the feeling after amputation, that the amputated limb is still there in contact with the body in its original position.**



The Maggi Wiz Quiz Contest in progress





AKRUR DUTT



Born in Sonatikri village near Magra in Hooghly district, West Bengal, Akrur Dutt landed in Calcutta as a truant just before the Battle of Plassey. His association with Pritiram Murh, father-in-law of Rani Rashmoni, in Jaunbazar, led the two friends to start business together from which they amassed substantial wealth.

Akrur constructed a house in a lane (which goes by his name) near Wellington Square in central Calcutta. The building is over two centuries old and is still occupied by his descendants. The present address of the house (sketched above) is 1, Rajen Dutt Lane which is an offshoot from 18, Akrur Dutt Lane. Rajen Dutt was a great-grandson of Akrur.

Akrur Dutt worked as a contractor of goods for warfare and was also engaged in sale and purchase of goods to shipping companies. The Dutts of Wellington Square had close ties with Raja Radhakanta Deb and helped in spreading education in Bengal.

They were also actively associated with the Calcutta School Book Society programme. Akrur died in 1809.

FOLK

To the village on a magical mystery tour: A place where every drop of rain, every swish of the sickle, every rainbow in the skies has a story to tell. Where growing up is a mediator's job—passing on to the next generation the gift of the ancestors. Life's age-old instruction manual issuing through the word of mouth. Fables and jingles, proverbs and tales—folklore rotating around that grain of truth.

"Sit up and eat," says the mother to her reclining child, "or you'll turn into an alligator." In other words, she points to better digestion. "Don't come into the kitchen wearing those shoes," grumbles the grandmother. "The fire is sacred." Involuntarily, she gives lessons in natural hygiene. "You cannot step out of my house at this hour without having a meal," the farmer tells his worst enemy at noon. "Or, the eye of Saturn will fall on me." Hospitality triumphs over rivalry—such is the magnanimity of rural tradition.

Traditional wisdom is not just mumbo-jumbo, rituals and superstitions. Man's instincts and power of observation enable him to distil the ways of nature and thus survive. A compilation of some of these essential truths

By Soma Guha and Anil Grover with our correspondents

In many cases, truth fades out giving way to superstitions and meaningless rituals. But the essential strain of rural wisdom still runs through and the instruction manual still survives. Without which it would be difficult to solve the everyday puzzles and measure up to life's demands. The thread of inherent knowledge helps in threading together the cycle of seasons and surviving it.

The year begins in rural Bengal with a customary bath, using a paste of *neem* (margosa) leaves and *haldi* (turmeric). Though treated primarily as symbols of purity, these ingredients score high on the



TALES



medicinal charts. In fact, it is through natural medicines that rural wisdom becomes most evident. Naturopathy—folk remedies—is a subject by itself.

Folk medicine is something which has stood the test of time. Mixing *ajwain* oil and pure mustard oil in a 1:3 ratio and letting the mixture lie in the sun for a few hours gives one a cure for earache. The mixture should be used four drops at a time, twice or thrice a day. Inhaling the oil of *dalchini* or drinking *tejpata* tea gives relief from coughs, colds and influenza whereas an application of clove oil is a sure balm for toothache. A decoction of green *dhania* drunk like *sherbet* before bedtime helps in getting rid of insomnia.

Neem is taken as an effective antidote for measles, chicken-pox and other such diseases. A gentle brushing of the *neem* leaves soothe away any irritation caused by the rashes. Among the Santhals, the patient is often made to recline on a bed of *neem* leaves. A bitter but tasty concoction of *neem* and *begun* (brinjal) is consumed as a preventive against encroaching epidemic.

Rural people have their own ingenious ways of tackling various physical disorders. Common cold and impending fever can be suppressed by a brisk rub of heated oil and *kalo jeera* (black cummin seeds) on the palm and under the feet. A spoonful of warm *ghee* with a dusting of black pepper acts as a throat-soother. The juice of *tulsi* leaves with honey and ginger relieves cold

Stomach ailments, a regular feature in Bengali villages, have their own preventive measures. A glass of warm water with a pinch of lime can act as a regular laxative if taken on an empty stomach. In case of abdominal aches and pains a warm concoction of *halud-chun* (turmeric-lime paste) lessens the agony. The juice of *patharchuna* leaves is also consumed by many villagers as a reliever of stomach troubles.

The juice of *ganda* (marigold) is applied on cuts and bruises while sandalwood paste heals pimples and rashes. To stop bleeding, often a handful of sugar is pressed on the cut skin. *Kajal* that comes out of burning *ghee* is totally pure and beneficial for the eye. Various beauty products including face packs with herbal base—so very popular in the urban homes—have all originated through folk wisdom.

There are many variations of these simple but effective cures for simple ailments. But unconventional medicine has proved to be a boon to Pune's Peshwe Park Zoo where the authorities sell tiger's urine, bear's hair and the mud from under an elephant's foot at reasonable rates. It is not surprising to see the queues for 'naturopathy'. Twenty-five mls of tiger's urine sells at a rupee, for example. It is considered the ideal panacea for chronic asthmatics. The mud from under an elephant's foot is considered lucky for house warming ceremonies and a bear's hair will quieten a crying child if tied around its neck. The zoo authorities claim that they do not advertise or encourage these superstitions, but they can hardly stop curious clients, can they?

The moon plays a vital role in determining climatic conditions. If a ring of mist or halo surrounds the moon or stars are visible in the lunar sphere, rain is forecast. King Moon is holding his court, say the villagers. The further away the court, the sooner the rainfall—the closer the court, the chances of a famine increase

There is a tradition of predicting the future through astrology and, in Gujarat, it has its roots in the teachings of an astrologer called Hudad, who came from Marwad, and upon having no sons, passed on his *vidya* (knowledge) to his daughter, Padli. She, in turn, composed these into a book in the form of *lok geet* or simple couplets.

They particularly deal with the seasons and one of them translated goes: "If you get rain with thunder and lightning on the full moon day of Ashaad (first month of the monsoon), then there is no question of scarcity or drought that year" and "If you get rain with thunder on the fifth day of Shrawan (second month of the monsoon),

then you are certain to get rains during both the months." But: "If you have thunder on the midnight of the 11th day of Shrawan *vadth* (second half), then, my husband, you had better go to Marwad to seek work and I will work here."

In Bihar, too, a large number of folk sayings are related to agricultural operations. One of them advises farmers to migrate to Calcutta if they find the evening sky crimson in the months of Shrawan and Bhadon. But a Bhojpuri saying describes Calcutta (symbolic of the neighbouring metropolis) in not too flattering terms: *Ghoragadi, nona pani aur ranr ke dhakka/ Ei tinu se bachatrahe tab keli kare Kalkatta* (The pheaton, salty water and ladies of easy virtue must be avoided in Calcutta). The theme of migration, in fact, gave rise to a form of dance drama known as the *Bidesia*, popularised by Bhikhari Thakur, in which women lament their plight in the absence of their husbands who have forgotten them after migrating to Calcutta in search of work.

Ancient wisdom also warned people to beware of the three 'twisted' things in the Magadh region of the state, that is, the south Bihar plains. The region, a saying goes, is replete with 'twisted' or no-good roads, crooked people and is characterised by people with a 'twisted' or harsh tongue. Similar warnings are held out about the "thugs" of Kahalgaon and the people of Bhagalpur who have a tendency, so says the legend, of running away with whatever they can lay their hands on.

Predictably, the castes figure in many of the folk sayings and the barbs against the higher castes are evident. *Karni na dharni, suvarna naam* (Distinguished by lowly deeds, they take refuge in their lofty caste identity), says one. Another goes thus: *Bavan, kukur, nau; aapan jaati dekhi gurrau* (Brahmins and barbers share traits with dogs, namely, barking when they see their kin). And the trader or *bania* gets this: *Aami, nimbu, bania; garaite ras dei* (Mangoes, lemons and traders give nothing without being squeezed).

Laughter appears to have been viewed with suspicion in the Magadhi-Bhojpuri speaking areas where it is said, *Sadhuwai daasi, chorwai khaansi, preeti binashai haansi* (Just as women are the undoing of priests and coughing gives away the thief, so does laughter spoil good relations). Another Magadhi saying also talks of *Jar, joru, jameen; jhagra ke ghar teen* (Wealth, wife and land are the three principal reasons for feuds).

Sikkim is a land of mystery and monasteries. Take the mystery of the water vase, for instance. According to tradition, the sacred vase, Bum-pa or Bum-chu, contains holy water which was blessed by Ngadak Sempa Chenpo some 300 years ago. According to legend, he had performed the Mana Mantra prayers five billion times and appropriated Lord Alokiteshwara (Chen-re-zi); the result of his prayers was the Bum-pa which came flying through the air.

On the midnight of the 15th day of the first lunar month, according to the Tibetan calendar, the seal to the sacred vase is broken and the water carefully measured. Of the 21 cups, three are taken out and distributed among the devotees. The rest is put back in the vase and three cups from the Rhatong-chu is added to it. It is then sealed and left undisturbed till the next year.

This water is believed to predict the future of the land or to reflect upon the times. If the water is found to be more than 21 cups, it is an indication of floods in certain areas; if it is less, there will be shortage of food. If the colour of the water is cloudy, sickness and disease threatens the land.

'Sit up and eat,' says the mother to her reclining child, 'or you'll turn into an alligator.' In other words, she points to better digestion. 'Don't come into the kitchen wearing those shoes,' grumbles the grandmother. 'The fire is sacred.' Involuntarily, she gives lessons in natural hygiene

It may be mystery in Sikkim, but such predictions seem an uncanny reality in Tamil Nadu. The rural folk there have devised their own surefire way (or so they claim) of predicting the monsoon. During April-May, an inspection of mango and tamarind trees indicates what is in store for them. If the mango trees blossom there will be scanty rain and if the tamarind is in full bloom, raindrops will keep falling on the head.

The conjugal life of a Bengali villager is dictated by astral folklore. Right from betrothal to marriage to conceiving of a child, the entire span is guided by astrology. For instance, there are certain restrictions in practising sexual intercourse as often as one wishes to. Love-making has been tabooed on the 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 14th and 15th day of the phase of the moon and the last day of the month. That leaves only 15 days for sexual embrace in a month. If strictly followed, the rules would ensure birth control without the use of contraceptives!

Out on the fields, the hardworking peasant banks heavily on traditional wisdom that has filtered through words of mouth from generation to generation. Their livelihood depending on the vagaries of nature, the rural folk turn out to be excellent weather forecasters in their own right.

The moon plays a vital role in determining climatic conditions. If a ring of mist or halo surrounds the moon or stars are visible in the lunar sphere, rain is forecast. King Moon is holding his court, say the villagers. The further away the court, the sooner the rainfall—the closer the court, the chances of a famine increase.

An extra-red sunset signifies a wet day coming. A rainbow on the western horizon predicts drought, but one on the east ensures rainfall. If winds blow from the south through the month of Ashaad (June-July) there are chances of a flood. The duration of rainfall is also forecast by tracing its route. If rain arrives from the south, its expected length of stay is approximately three days. If rain-bearing clouds are first spotted in the east, rainfall is expected to last for about one week.

In many villages, especially among the Santhals, water is never drawn directly from the river for drinking purposes. A pit or hole is dug or the bank and water is allowed to gather in it after filtering through sand. Water is then drawn from this hole. Even though germs cannot be killed through this process, much of the dirt is washed off. Such practises undoubtedly signify a certain wisdom, based on lessons learnt from the past.

The peasants in Bengal have their own code of rules and guidance in *Khanar bachan* (Sayings of Khana). According to folklore, Khana was the daughter-in-law of mathematician-astrologer Varaha who was one of the nine jewels in King Vikramaditya's court. Her husband, Mihir, was also an adept astrologer, but Khana far surpassed him in talent and learning. She gave valuable advice to the people regarding fieldwork as well as family life, which is counted upon by villagers even today. These sayings have become an integral part of rural wisdom.

Every aspect of fieldwork, from sowing to harvesting, is featured in these sayings. Villagers rely heavily on the useful tips that have come down from ages past. For instance, *Deke deke Khana jaan, cod dhan chhayay paan* (Says Khana, rice grows



Water being collected from a hole in the bank and not directly from the river

under the sun while betel leaf grows in the shade). It is advised: *Kartiker jal uno, dhanya janme duno* (The paddy fields should not be watered much in the month of Kartik/October-November. This will ensure a rich harvest).

Various other bits of practical advice have come down as proverbs, so popular among the villagers. Like, *Nadir dhare putle kochy, kochu hoi hath oonchu* (To ensure swift and healthy growth of arum, it should be planed by the riverside). For those employed in bamboo cultivation, it has been said, *Phalgune aagun chai tai mati, bansh bole shighra uthu* (The dried bamboo leaves which fall on the ground should be burnt in Phalgun/February-March. After the ground is cleared up, soil should be deposited on the roots of the plants in the month of Chaitra/March-April. The bamboo then will shoot up strong).

There is the saying, *Sholo chaashe mula, tar ardhek tula. Tar ardhek dhaan, bina chaashe paan.* In other words, the raddish field should be ploughed for 16 days, the cotton field for eight days while betel-leaf plantation should not be ploughed at all. Then it is said, *Baansh bone putle aalu, aalu hoi gachh beralu* (Potatoes planted amidst bamboo shoots will be extra-large and fast-growing).

Rainfall is a blessing or a curse depending on the month. Thus, *Jodi barshe Aghrane, Raja jaan maangne* (If it rains in Aaghran/November-December, insects ruin the crops; breft of taxes the king has to take to the begging bowl). And, *Jaishthe shuka Aashade dhara, shashyer bhar ne shahe dhora* (Dry Jaishtha/May-June and wet Aashad June-July ensure a good harvest).

Thus carries on life in the villages, taking strength from the ingrained wisdom of the rustic folk. The wisdom that peeps out from under layers of superstitions and strange rituals—a silver lining to the dark clouds of illiteracy and ignorance. ■

POLITICS BEGINS

As a rule, you can hope to make a mark in life in this subcontinent only if you are your father's son or daughter. This has been the age-old tradition and even at the fag end of the 20th century, the general practice here has been to introduce one as someone's son or daughter. In this tradition-bound society, an IAS officer, in nine out of ten cases, prefers his son or daughter to follow him in the administrative services. The masses in most cases are no different, mainly because they are more vulnerable to social pressures. Despite all the tall talk about social mobility, a Harijan or a barber's son usually has no other choice but to carry on with the family profession. In other words,

After the death of President Zia-ul Haq, will his son step into his shoes? Tarun Ganguly recalls that in the subcontinent, the offspring of political heads have often followed their lead

notwithstanding the religious or cultural divide, class and caste are almost synonymous. Lately, the same analogy appears to have caught up with the children of politicians.

In late 18th-century England, Pitt the younger succeeded his father, Earl Chatham, as the Prime Minister. But that was more an aberration than a general rule. The Churchill family, for generations, tinkered with politics, but none other than Sir Winston became the first minister of His Majesty's government. Back home in the subcontinent, a politician's son or daughter has acquired the right to join politics by virtue of his birth. In case of Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, she became the Prime Minister of that country following the assassination of her spouse,Solomon Bandaranaike, who earlier held the post.

In India, which is generally considered an elected monarchy by the cognoscenti, the Nehru-Gandhi family has been at the helm of affairs, with minor breaks, since Independence. Mrs Indira Gandhi, herself no mean politician, proved to be a chip of the old block as she successfully held office twice. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, a trained pilot, was the unanimous choice of the Congress(I) when his mother fell victim to assassins. Though Mr Rajiv Gandhi had been functioning as one of the general secretaries of the Congress(I) since his brother Sanjay's untimely death in a plane crash, his mother's death catapulted him to power

In Calcutta, Mr Jyoti Basu, the chief minister, has never groomed his son for politics, but in communist countries there was a time when family ties often secured positions of authority. In China, Chairman Mao's wife, Madam Xiang Quing wielded enormous power during her husband's regime. After Mao's death, she was condemned to languish in prisons. In Brezhnev's Russia, his daughter Galina and son-in-law, Churbanov, now disgraced, were the powers behind the throne. Nearer home, in the south-east Asian country of the Philippines, Mrs Corazon Aquino came to power mainly because she was the widow of the slain Opposition leader, Benigno Aquino.

But in the subcontinent, family ties usually guarantee an exalted position in politics. Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman, got prominence in Bangladesh politics only after her father's assassination. Wife of a physicist, Sheikh Hasina could avoid the killers' bullets only because she was in New Delhi with her husband during the murder of Sheikh Mujibur. Now a politician in her own right, she is the best known Opposition politician in that country since she is the president of the Awami League. Similarly, Begum Khaleda Zia was never heard of when her husband, Ziaur Rahman, was the President of Bangladesh. Though a politician, she still resides in her late husband's quarters in the Dhaka cantonment, and continues to behave more like a housewife than a politician.

In Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto was a chit of a girl when her father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was hanged by President Zia-ul Haq. Though engaged in politics in her student days in England, she perhaps never thought of joining the rough and tumble of Pakistan politics. Her father's death got her the sympathy due to a martyr's daughter in her country, and now she is the unquestioned leader of the largest political outfit, the Pakistan People's Party. Despite Pakistan being an Islamic country and she a married woman, her political charisma has already captured the imagination of the people and in case of a free and fair election, there is every possibility of her becoming the next leader of Pakistan.

But then, there is every possibility that Ms Bhutto might face a challenge from the late President's eldest son, Mr Ezazul

Benazir Bhutto: Every possibility of being the next leader of Pakistan



AT HOME

Haq. Ezazul, a businessman, has so far never cared for politics, but the way he addressed his first press conference, following his father's death, proved he was good material for one of the factions of the Pakistan Muslim League. Mr Ezazul Haq has dismissed any possibility of his joining politics, but there are pressures from the anti-Junejo faction of the Muslim League to prop him up as a leader for the elections. After all, politics is heady wine, and very few can avoid its charms. Mr Haq might find it difficult to spurn the offers which are sure to be made.

Politics at times has proved to be the lodestone for the offspring of politicians in this subcontinent. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, once described as 'the reluctant politician,' perhaps proves the point better than anybody else. So long as his brother, Sanjay, was there, he showed no interest in politics, but after Sanjay's death, Mrs Gandhi increasingly depended on him, and ultimately, in true Nehru-Gandhi tradition, Rajiv joined the fray and after almost four years as Prime Minister, he must be enjoying his job now. Take the case of Mr Ajit Singh, son of a former Prime Minister, Charan Singh. Ajit was doing quite well in his chosen profession of computer technology in the United States, but after his father's death he has come back and, it appears, is enjoying his incarnation as a leader of the Jats. Mrs Bandaranaike is the leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka, and her son, Anura, is now a member of Parliament. Vijay Kumaranatunga was a matinee idol in Sri Lanka; he married Mrs Bandaranaike's daughter and set up his own political outfit. He was felled by an assassin's bullet—otherwise, who knows, he might have become one of the major politicians of that country.

In fact, the adulation and public support that go with the job act as elixir for politicians. The Kennedy family has often been termed as the only royal family in democratic United States. Joe Kennedy was the US ambassador at St James' Court during World War II, and old Joe's ambition was to make a President of one of his sons. His eldest, Joseph, died in a plane crash during the war. But John, the second in line, became a senator and ultimately the president of the mightiest country in the world. John Kennedy's younger brother, Robert, served John as attorney-general, and after John's assassination, fought for the Democratic Party nomination for the top job in the country. He too fell to an assassin, and the next in the list, Edward, came forward. But he gave up the effort midway as he came out in a very poor light in the Chappaquiddick incident in Massachussetts in which one of his secretaries, Mary Jo Kopechne, died under mysterious circumstances. Though the next generation of Kennedys has so far preferred to maintain a low profile, the clan still has a good following among Democratic Party members.

Rajiv Gandhi: The choice of the Congress(I) after his mother's death

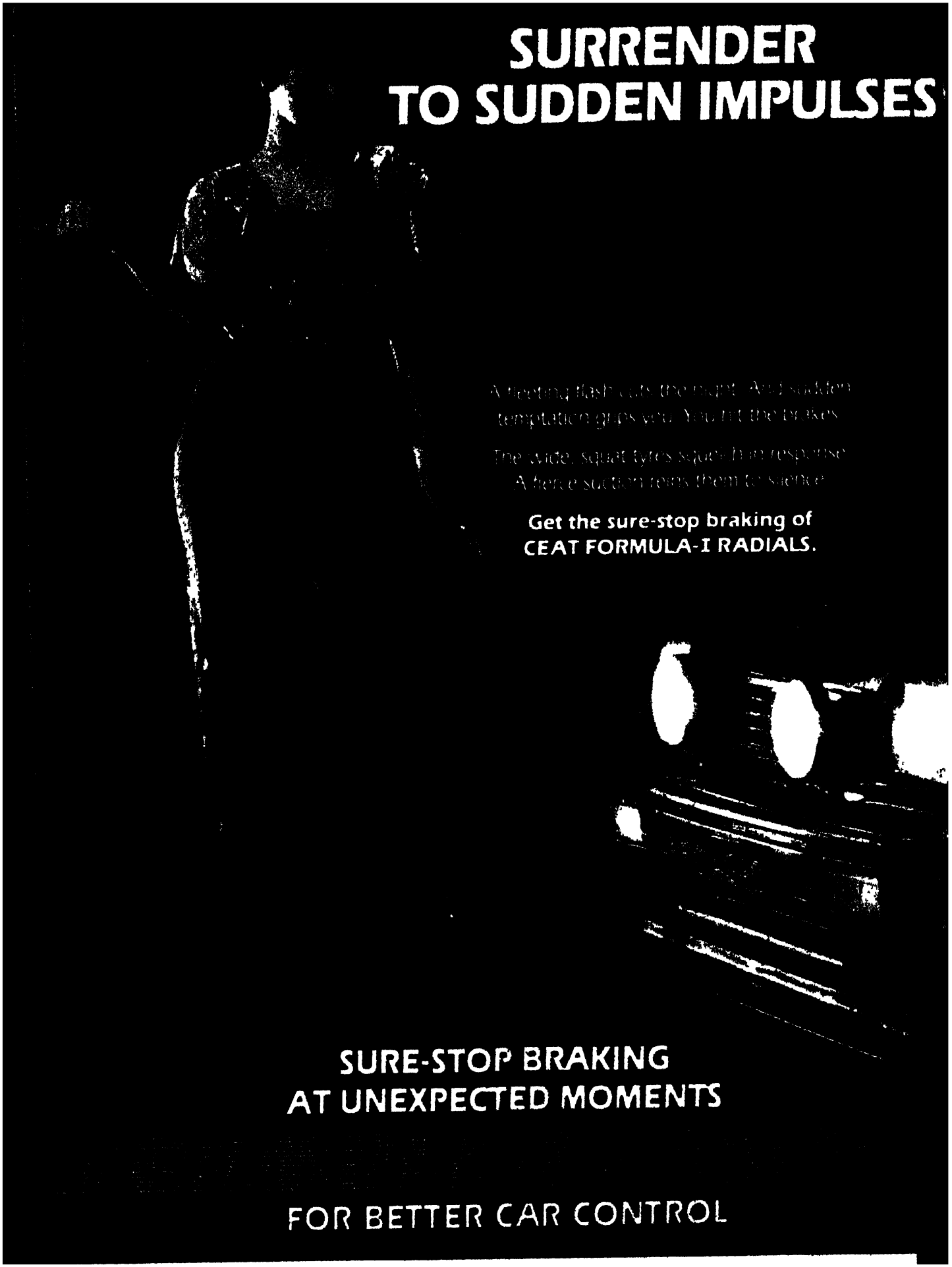


Sondeep Shankar

In Bengal, most of the chief ministers since 1947 have been bachelors. Dr B.C. Roy, Dr P C Ghosh, Mr P C Sen and Mr Ajoy Mukherjee never married, so the question of their offspring joining politics was never there. Mr Jyoti Basu has been very careful to keep his son, Chandan, away from politics and now Chandan is an industrialist in his own right. There seems no possibility of his ever joining politics. The strongman of the CPI(M), the late Promode Dasgupta, was a bachelor, and the very structure of the party is such that it preempts family politics. Only the Boses, brothers Sarat Chandra and Netaji Subhas Chandra, were considered a 'political family', but the next generation has been happy remaining on the sidelines. Sarat Chandra's sons, Amiyanath, Sisir and Aurobindo, dabbled in politics for some time, but never seriously. After them, nobody from the Bose family has shown any political inclination.

Socially and culturally, the umbilical cord has always been and is very strong in this subcontinent. In many families, politics has been treated as a profession like medicine, engineering, education or law, and if somebody has been successful in any of the professions, the others have followed the line. The old adage, "Baap ka *beta, sipahi ka ghoda, kuch nahi, tab bhi thoda thoda*" has always been believed and, perhaps, that is why the tradition has continued. The iron-clad political caste system has continued with the fond hope, *"Kuch nahin tab bhi thoda thoda."* ■

SURRENDER TO SUDDEN IMPULSES



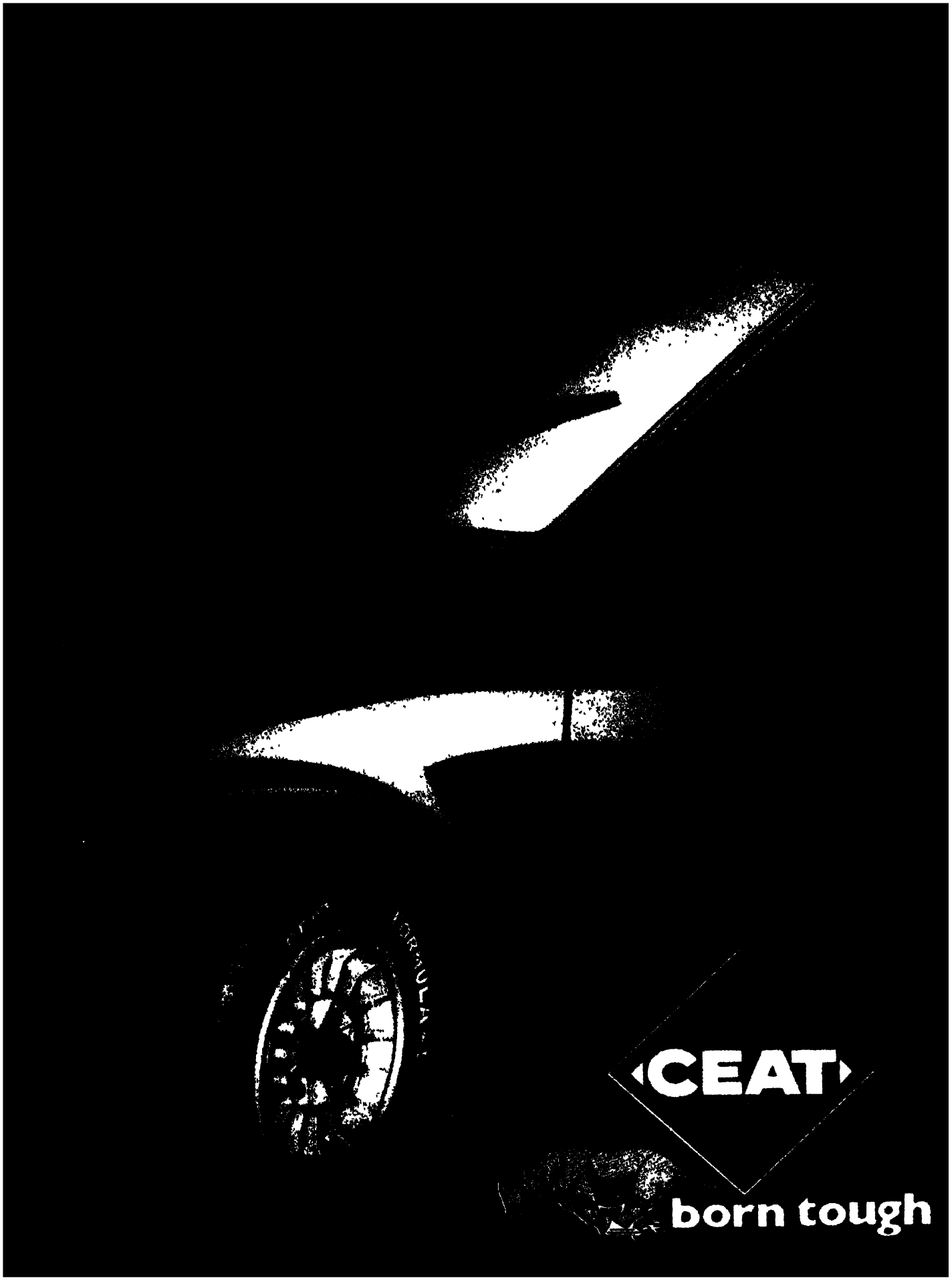
A fleeting flash cuts the night. And sudden temptation grips you. You hit the brakes.

The wide, squat tyres react in response. A fierce surge of power from the silence.

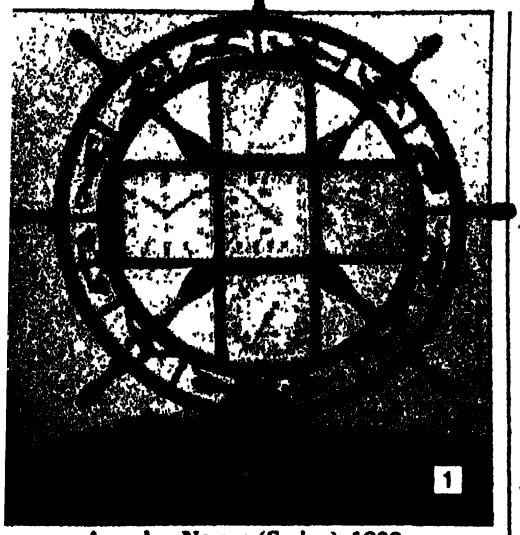
Get the sure-stop braking of CEAT FORMULA-I RADIALS.

SURE-STOP BRAKING AT UNEXPECTED MOMENTS

FOR BETTER CAR CONTROL

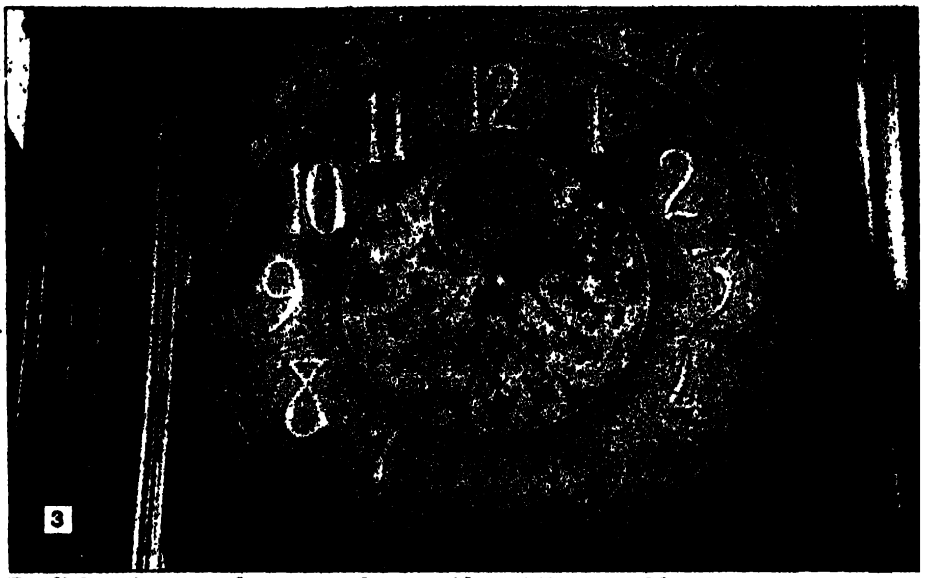

CEAT
born tough

CLASSICAL

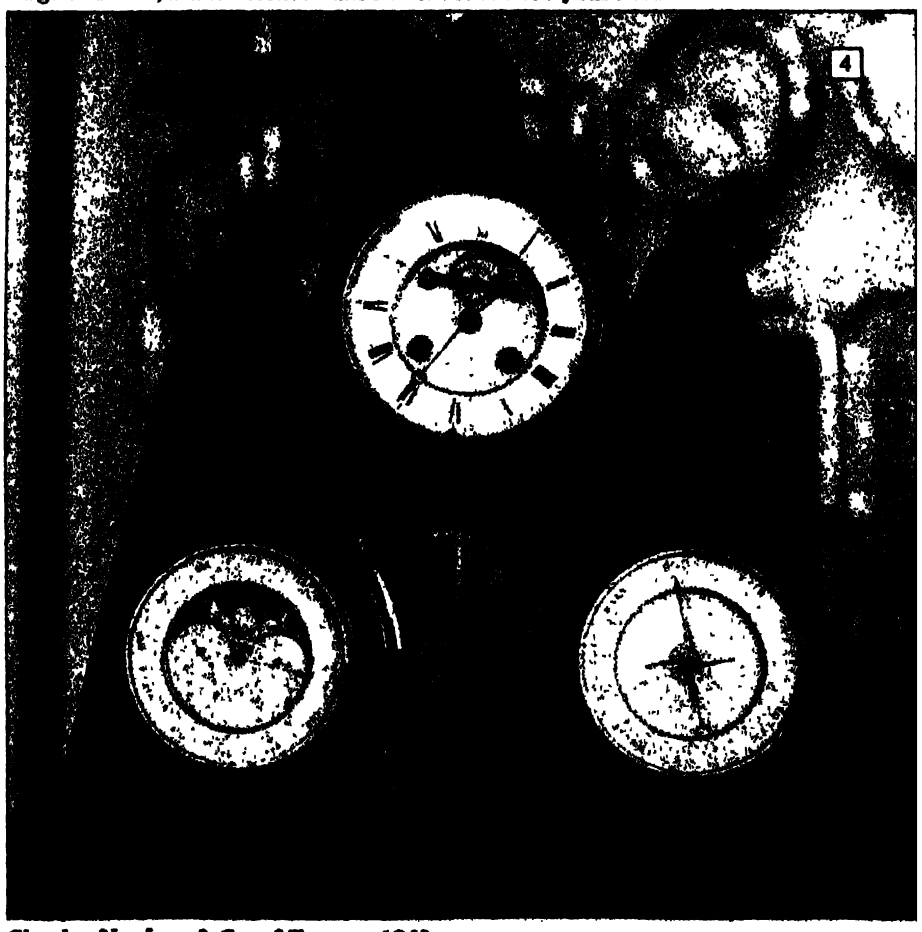


Angelus Naveo (Swiss), 1900

There are clocks and clocks. But some of them have fascinating histories behind them. **Abhijit Roy** stops short before a few of the antiques in Calcutta



English make, manufacturer unknown. About 150 years old

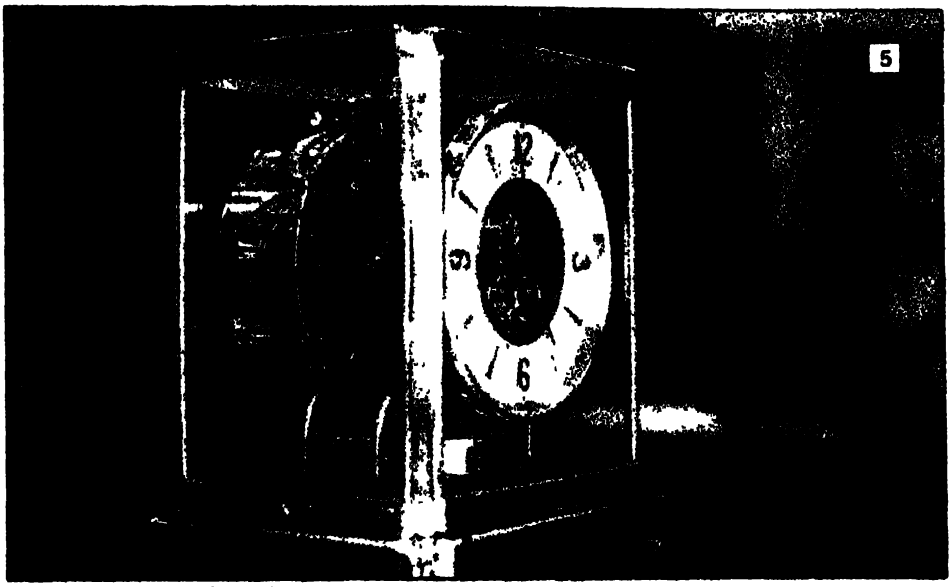


Charles Nephew & Co. of France, 1840

St Thomas & Co. of the USA. Over 100 years old



TIME



Jager-le-Coultre (Swiss), 1890

Body made of brass and shaped in the form of a ship's steering wheel, bordered with the signs of the zodiac for ornamental value. The clock has five dials The top dial is a hygrometer The dial in the middle shows the day, date and month The bottom dial is a celsius thermometer. The left dial is a watch which, if wound once, runs for eight days, and is fitted with 15 rubies. The right dial is a barometer



English make, manufacturer unknown. Nearly 180 years old

Ornamental metal body, pendulum strike

A great grandfather chronometer, showing the moon phase along with the time Hour hand mounted on a gold disc Set on a solid teak case, the clock is nearly 12 feet tall and is known as the Westminster style clock

Mounted on a wooden triangular case A table-top model with hand winding facility and a pendulum Shows three faces. The topmost face is a clock showing the time The bottom left dial shows the day, date and month and the lunar phase on that day, which changes with the hour The bottom right dial is a metallic barometer for weather forecasts This clock won a gold medal in an exhibition held in Paris in 1849, which was organised by E. Bourbon & Richards. Incidentally, Charles Nephew had a branch office in Calcutta in the 19th century. The clock shown in the photograph is a rarity and only about four of these are available in the world Price Rs 60,000

A skeleton clock where all the parts can been seen from the outside The clock, mounted in a metal case, has a pendulum in a disc which rotates instead of oscillating. The disc is filled with mercury which powers the disc's rotation. This model does not require any winding and is virtually a perpetual motion clock. Offers of over Rs 60,000 have been received by its owner.

Known as mystery clock or the statue clock. Made of blackened brass The pendulum is held by the statue. The winding and rotating mechanism is in the pendulum while the balance is maintained by the bottom ball at the end of the pendulum. It is about two-and-a-half feet tall.

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

•Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani: Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road; 392250), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Jaya (Lake Town, 573936)

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Dr Shreeram Lagoo, Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad. The music is by Anand Milind

•Biwi Ho To Aisi: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Krishna (T C Dutta Street; 250437), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932)—4 shows; Madhuban (Regent Park)—3 shows

Directed by J K Bihari and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Rekha, Farooque Shaikh, Bindu, Asrani and Kader Khan

• Gunahon Ka Faisla: Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Moonlight (T C. Dutta Street, 254956), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Basusree (S.P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522)

Directed by Shibu Mitra, the film stars Shatrughan Sinha, Dimple Kapadia, Chunkey Panday, Pran, Danny, Gulshan Grover, Ranjeet, Prem Chopra and Shakti Kapoor. The music is by Bappi Lahiri

•Khoon Bhari Maang: New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440)—4 shows; Malancha (Regent Park)—3 shows.

A film by Rakesh Roshan, starring Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shatrughan Sinha, Kader Khan and Sonu Walia. The music is by Rajesh Roshan

•Naa-mumkin: Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)—4 shows; Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352680)—all noon show.

A film by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, starring Sanjeev Kumar, Zeenat Aman, Vinod Mehra, Raj Babbar, Dr Shreeram Lagoo and Om Shivpuri The music is by R.D. Burman.

•Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442)—12, 3, 6, 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• Sagar Sangam: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—3 shows; Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue, 390762), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road; 474403)—4 shows.

Directed by Dulal Guha and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the cast includes Raakhee, Shatrughan Sinha, Mithun Chakraborty, Padmini Kolhapure, Anita Raaj, Utpal Dutt and Nana Patekar.

•Sone Pe Suhaaga: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue; 553046), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417)—4 shows; Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 355059)—3 shows

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon and Kimi Katkar.

•Vijay: Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473)—4 shows.

A film by Yash Chopra, whose cast includes Rishi Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri, Hema Malini, Raj Babbar, Anupam Kher, Rajesh Khanna and Sonam The music is by Shiv Hari.

•Zakhmi Aurat (A): Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Bhavani (Russa Road, 461528), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street, 354450).

Dimple Kapadia, Raj Babbar and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Avtar Bhogal Music by Bappi Lahiri

Bengali Films

•Chhoto Bou: Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S.P Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3, 5.45, 8.30.

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswa-



Chunkey Panday and Dimple Kapadia in *Gunahon Ka Faisla*



A scene from *Shankhachur*

mi, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Amiya Choudhury film. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

•Man Ek Mandir: Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)—3 shows.

Sumitra Mukherjee, Joy Banerjee, Madhabi Mukherjee, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumantra Mukherjee, Rajat Das, Indrani Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das comprise the cast of this film, directed by Sukhen Das. Music by Ajoy Das.

•Punarmilan: Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757), Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road, 355059)—3 shows

Directed by Jayanta Basu, the cast includes Sandhya Roy, Subhendu Chatterjee, Debika Mukherjee, Santu Mukherjee, Ruma Guhathakurta, Dilip Roy, Chinmoy Roy, Satya Banerjee, Jnanesh Mukherjee, Samit Bhanja and Satabdi Roy The music is by Kanu Bhattacharya

Special Events

11 September onwards

Karu-Shilpanm will hold an exhibition of arts and handicrafts in the New Gallery till September 13.

Rabindra Bharati Society will hold an exhibition of paintings of Abanindranath Tagore in the Central Gallery till September 15

Prasenjit Sen Gupta will hold his exhibition of paintings in the South Gallery till September 14

Manick Bhattacharjee and others will hold their exhibition of paintings in the West Gallery till September 16

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 444205)

12-16 September

An exhibition of paintings by Mrinal Kanti Das in the North Gallery

15 September onwards

A week-long exhibition of handicrafts by Pratima Gupta in the South Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 444205).

16 September: 6 pm

To commemorate the 70th birth anniversary of Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder, Indo-American Society and Writers' Guild present a Mohiniattam dance recital by Radha Dutta, student of Kerala Kalalayam, Cochin, and a dance drama, Sadarshana.

At Gyan Manch (11 Prafulla Sircar).

17 September onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Siddhartha Sen Gupta in the New South Gallery.



Radha Dutta

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

TRAVEL

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2) AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0900; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0830.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1856.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1). JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1530; Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240; Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4): IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6, 7): IC-247 at 1510; Arr (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6, 7): IC-248 at 1425

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily): BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340, Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily). BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540 Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5): BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730; Arr (daily). IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-478 at 1045, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-477 at 1005.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1) IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1). IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-410 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4): IC-410 at 0850; Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2235.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7): IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 1535; Arr (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (2): IC-269 at 1535; Arr. (2) IC-270 at 1845.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep. (4): IC-269 at 1800; Arr. (4): IC-270 at 2135.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6). IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625; (7): IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100; Arr (1, 4): IC-240 at 1045, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) 7): IC-227 at 0835, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815; Arr. (2, 4, 7). IC-256 at 1000, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr (daily). IC-222 at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (2, 4): IC-244 at 0810, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Airwork

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

Calcutta-Aizawl: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparize-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	Delhi Kalka Mail	8-30	2
5	19-20	Amritsar Mail	8-05	6
3	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed. up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues , Wed. & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon., & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a week Dep —Mon , Tues , Thurs , Fri & Sun. Arri —Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp. Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues , Fri & Sat Arri.—Tues , Wed. & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	Purbanchal Express Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs. & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	Toofan Express via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	Amritsar Express	15-45	50
11	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	Gorakhpur Express	11-45	20
21	16-05	Mithila Express	6-45	22
57	5-45	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	58
307	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	308
59	17-35	Kamrup Express	6-30	60
309	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	310
305	18-15	Asansol Express	8-45	306
31	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	32
105	23-00	North Bihar Express Dep.—Wednesday Arri.—Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	Jamalpur Express Dep.—Tues., Thurs. & Sat. Arri.—Mon., Thurs & Sat.	6-00	172
15	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-45	16
959	15-25	Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express Dep.—Thursday & Saturday Arri.—Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	Indore Express Dep —Tuesday Arri.—Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	44
53	20-10	Gaur Express	6-15	54
51	13-20	Jammu Tawi Express	16-10	52
33	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	Madras Mail	6-00	4
2	20-30	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express 5 days a week Dep —Mon., Tues , Wed , Fri & Sat Arri —Mon., Tues , Thurs , Fri , & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	Ahmedabad Express	4-10	133
52	22-35	Bangalore Super Fast Express Dep. & Arri.—Wed. & Sun.	13-45	51
30	12-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	Coromondal (Madras) Express	11-15	142
37	23-15	Madras Janata Express Dep Mon , Wed. & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	14
11	6-20	Iapat Express	21-50	12
5	21-50	Sambalpur Express	5-55	6
15	21-30	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-30	16
7	22-45	Puri Express	5-45	8
9	19-00	Jagannath (Puri) Express	7-45	10
45	10-00	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	14-15	46
317	16-45	Purulia Express	11-30	318
902	22-35	Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras) Dep. & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203344-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations in Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 206170 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



KID STUFF! How many children can you find hidden in this nursery rhyme scene? Find 12 or more if you can.

• **EYE SPY!** Decode to fill blanks with numbers: SECRET 123425 AGENT 67285 SENT —. Answer in one minute or less, if you can.

(One two eight five (each letter a number)

	1	2	3	4	5
1	B	A	T	C	H
2	A				
3	T				
4	C				
5	H				

WORD SQUARE PUZZLER!

Five five-letter words corresponding to definitions below complete this word square (diagram above). See how quickly you can fill in the missing words.

Definitions

1. Quantity of cookies, friends, etc. (already inserted).
2. Watchful
3. Less wild
4. Set of beliefs.
5. Droves of cattle, etc., tended by cowboys

Remember, a word square consists of words that read the same across and down.

(1 Batch 2 Aware 3 Tamer 4 Creed 5 Herds)

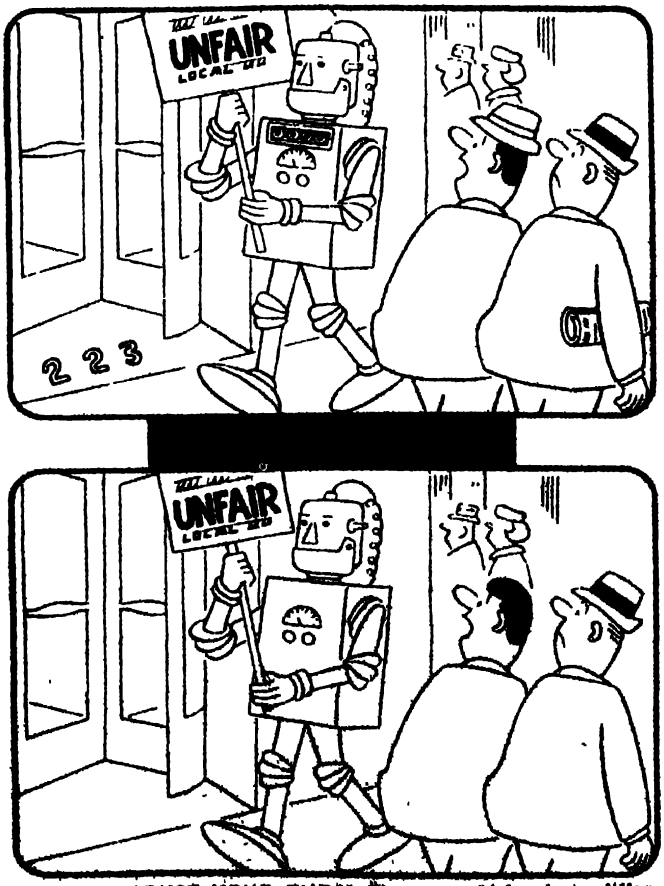
•**BACK TALK!** Challenge someone to count from 10 to 5 backwards, and see if he or she does it right. Also, some technicalities may give rise to debate.

Some contend the count should start with 5. Others say the counter may simply turn around and face the other way.

Try it on your friends and see what they say.



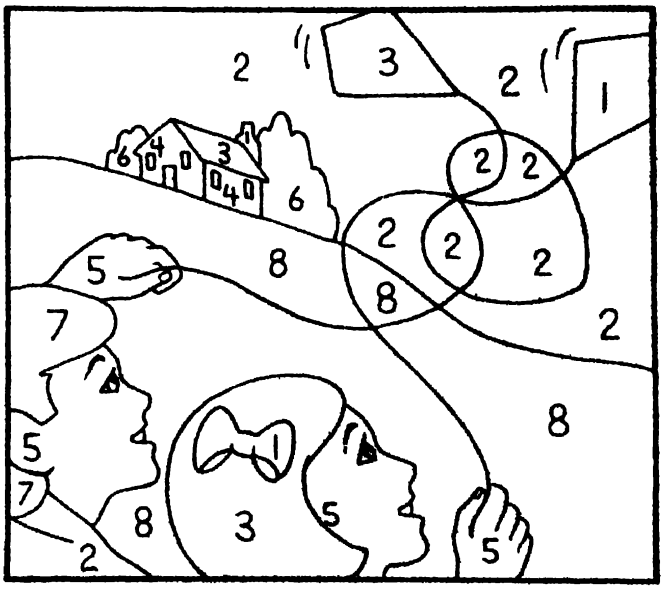
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

(Differences: 1. Number is missing. 2. Sign is blank. 3. Old penny is missing. 4. Ash is moved. 5. Hat is missing. 6. Newspaper is missing.)

FUNSPOT



STRUNG UP! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to this kite-flying scene. Code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Dk. Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Lt. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

GOSSAMER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

(Possible answers: Agree, Ages, Ams, Ass, Ear, Ears, Egg, Eggs, Ems, Era, Eras, Gas, Gear, Gears, Gem, Gems, Gore, Gores, Grease, Mas, Mass, Mare, Mares, Mars, Mere, Meres, Mess, Moss, Oar, Oars, Ogre, Ogres, Ore, Ores, Rag, Rags, Rage, Rages, Rams, Rare, Rares, Rase, Rases, Roe, Roes, Rose, Roses, Sag, Sags, Same, Sames, Sea, Seam, Seams, Seas, Sear, Sears, Sera, Smear, Smears, Soar, Soars, Some, Sore, Sores, Sorrel, Sorrels, Sos, Sower, Sowers, Spar, Spars, Spear, Spears, Spoor, Spoors, Spore, Spores, Sprag, Sprags, Spree, Sprees, Sprig, Sprigs, Spruce, Spruces, Sprue, Sprues, Spur, Spurs, Spurge, Spurges, Sum, Sums, Sumac, Sumacs, Sure, Surer, Surge, Surges, Surra, Surras, Swag, Swags, Swam, Swams, Swarm, Swarms, Swear, Swears, Swore, Swores, Sword, Swords, Sworn, Swum, Swums, Wag, Wags, Wage, Wages, Wags, Ware, Wares, Warm, Warms, Warp, Warps, Wars, Was, Wase, Wases, Wear, Wears, Were, Wheres, Whores, Wore, Wores, Worm, Worms, Worse, Worsen, Worsens, Worses, Worst, Worsts, Wos, Wrap, Wraps, Wrasse, Wrasses, Wreak, Wreaks, Wreck, Wrecks, Wren, Wrens, Wrest, Wrests, Wrong, Wrongs, Wrote, Wrotes)

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The new moon helps you to contact people As a result you will make friends and influence people A promotion is likely The latter part of the week will be good for you Hard work will be rewarded Awards and accolades will come your way This is the time to seek other people s help in getting your work done

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

A week in which you will have just that extra edge over others —be it in romance, sports, speculation, or hobbies Children and pet projects will give tremendous joy Thursday and Friday are the days for communication, correspondence, trips, interviews and matters of the heart You may go on a secret rendezvous with someone special

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

You can expect friends and visitors to help you out The health of parents and in-laws would be a problem but, you will have to tackle them bravely This week renovation and decoration, shifts and transfers can be expected The time is opportune to reorganise your life and get rid of friends who expect favours from you Health may cause concern

CANCER

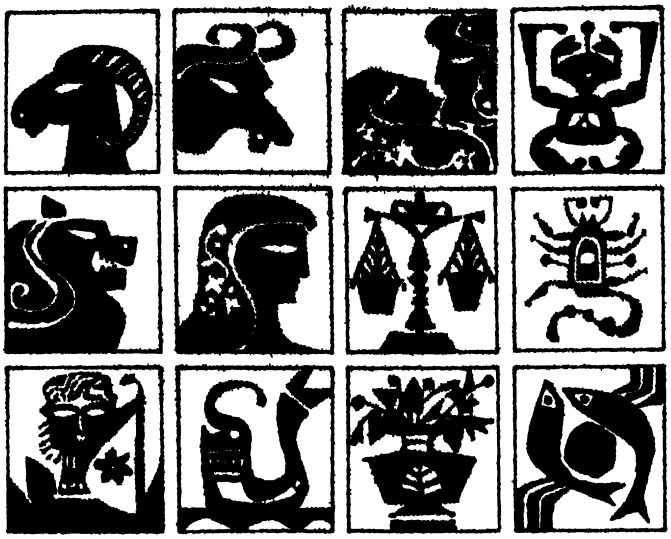
June 21—July 20

Name and fame, publicity and ceremony, friendship and alliance for Cancerians Professors, astrologers teachers, pandits, editors, salesmen, agents, brokers and preachers will win the race The 11th will be important for news and messages You will be able to communicate your ideas and proposals with a new found sense of authority

LEO

July 21—August 21

You will receive an important call or letter or even a message by telepathy Be ready to take the initiative Many of you will wine and dine a bit too well for your comfort Try to be moderate A family get-together is likely Pets will demand much of your time You are likely to enter into an intense relationship with a relative stranger



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

It is the right time to take a chance On Thursday and Friday you will find that people are exceptionally obliging as well as cooperative A trip or a tie will give you the confidence necessary for outstanding success Look after your health Fuse business and pleasure Buying selling, refurbishing your wardrobe renovation and decoration are signified

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

Expenses will definitely mount this week Tie a knot on your purse strings Bad health perhaps hospitalisation or an operation is also a possibility Despite this romance will bloom Rest assured that your friends will look after you

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Marriage, official engagements and socialising are some of the features of this week Those in education, chemicals manufacturing and sales will do wonderfully well On the whole a good week for all Scorpions This is the time to sign contracts and joint ventures

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

Once again, work pressures will be tremendous While it may be slightly difficult to cope, rest assured that you will ultimately do so Monday and Tuesday will be particularly hectic Journeys romance and secret meetings are the highlights of the week Partying and socialising are on the cards Travel research and even courtship are indicated

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Moon conjuncts Plu to the power planet giving you extra mileage and importance A journey a collaboration or a ceremony will give a tremendous boost to your ego This direction will continue next week as well The 15th and 16th will bring you good news Those in education and politics will get a boost in image

AQUARIUS

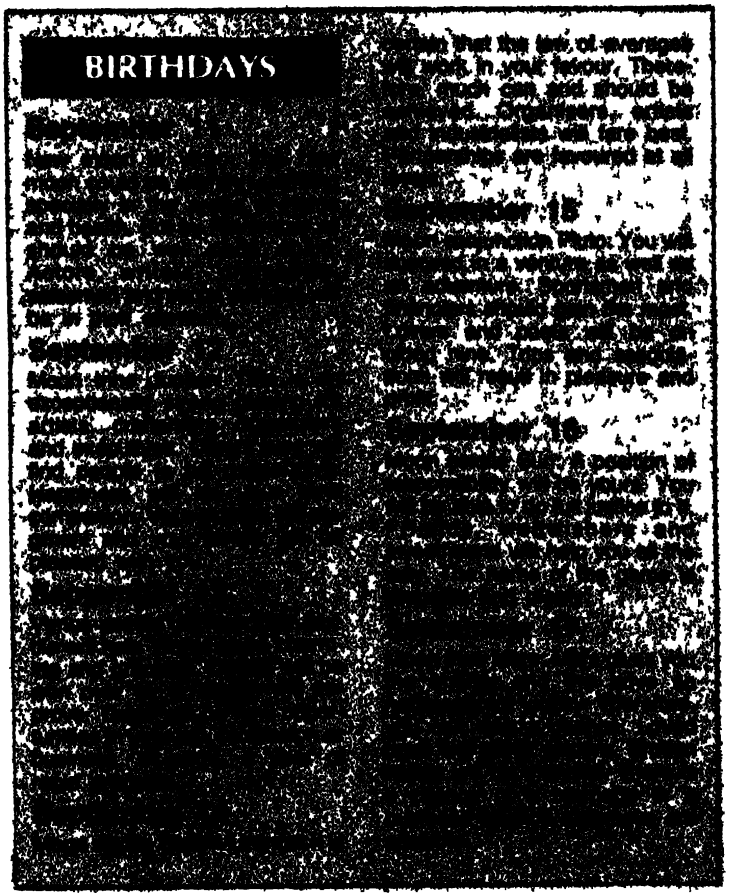
Jan 20—Feb 19

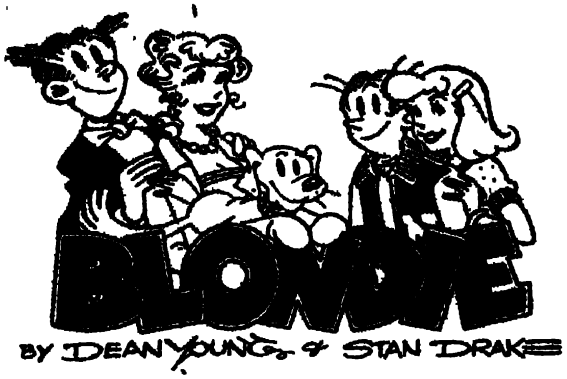
Opportunities loans and funds, intimacies and shifts for Aquarians this week Those in business and industry will be working at full speed It is also certain that rivals will try to put a spoke in your wheels Rest assured they will not succeed after the 23rd Relatives and friends will now make the effort to try and understand your point of view

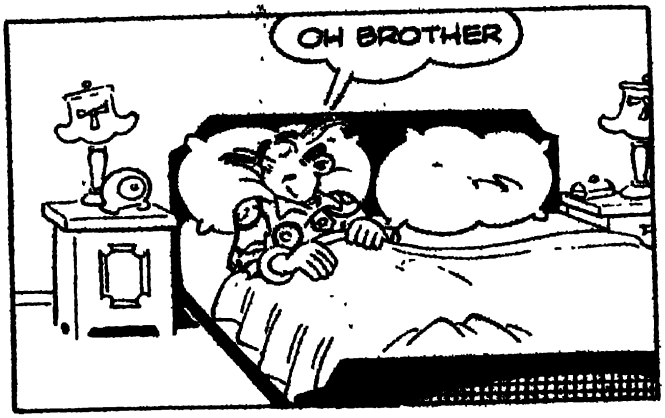
PISCES

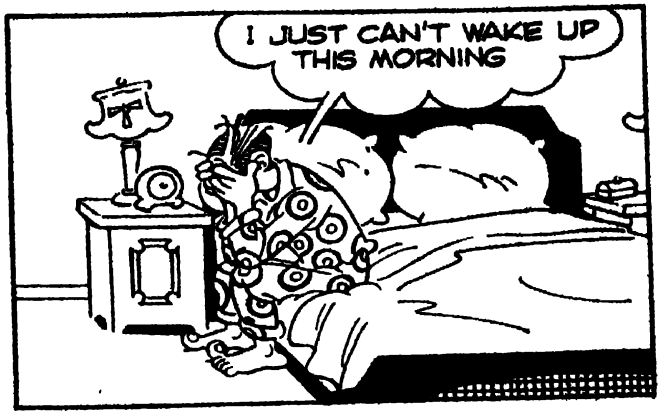
Feb 20—March 20

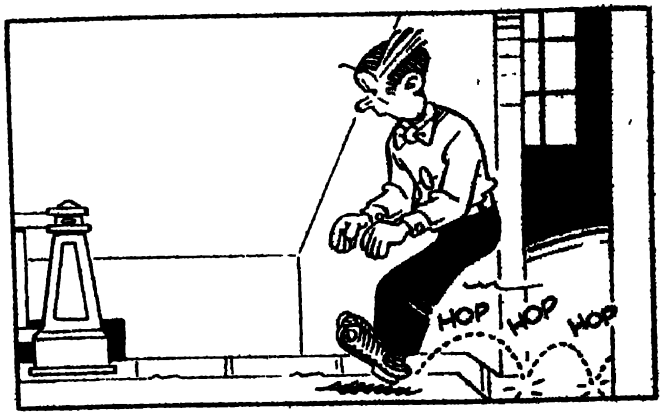
There might be a slight opposition to plans and projects You might feel that your rivals are stealing a march on you But this is only a temporary phase Extra care in health may also be necessary, Mid-week and after you will find your moorings You will shine at meetings and conferences and friends and relatives will recognise your worth

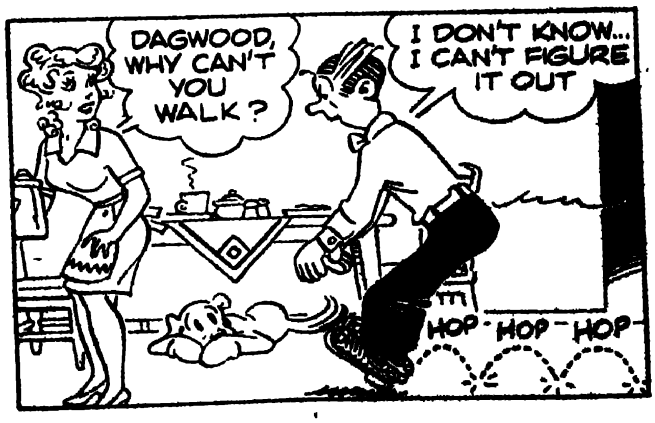


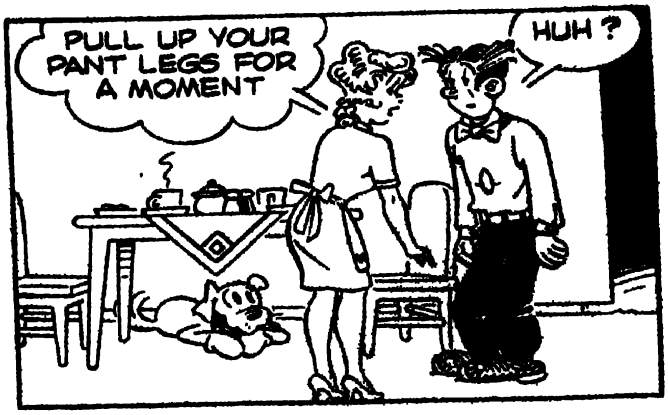

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

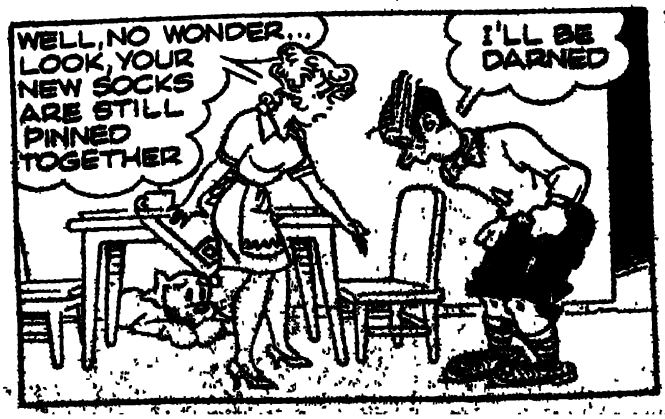

OH BROTHER


I JUST CAN'T WAKE UP THIS MORNING


HOP
HOP
HOP


DAGWOOD, WHY CAN'T YOU WALK ?
I DON'T KNOW... I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT
HOP
HOP
HOP


PULL UP YOUR PANT LEGS FOR A MOMENT
HUH ?

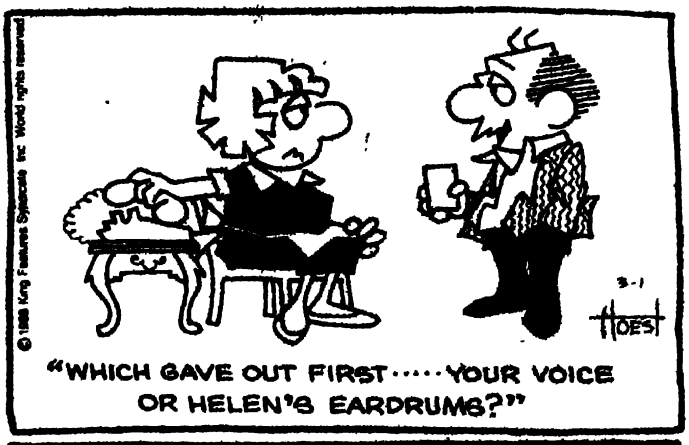

WELL, NO WONDER... LOOK, YOUR NEW SOCKS ARE STILL PINNED TOGETHER
I'LL BE DARNED


HOW DID YOU EVER GET YOUR PANTS ON ?
DON'T ASK

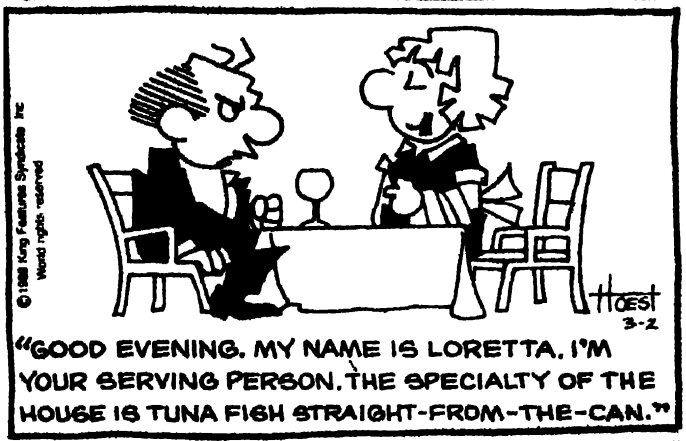

EVIL LYN'S PICKED ON THE WRONG GUY! NOBODY KIDNAPS THE FIRST DATE I'VE HAD IN YEARS AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
BE BRAVE, THALIA! GWILDOR TO THE RESCUE -- IF I CAN JUST FIND THE RIGHT KEY!
A TONAL TRANSVERSOR. AND MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL... OH, NO!! THE GRAVITONIC GRENADE! IT'S GONE!
SOMETIMES FATE CAN REALLY HURT A GUY. MY GIRL AND MY MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON -- BOTH GONE! VANISHED! ON THE SAME DAY!
SURE YOU DON'T NEED AN EXTRA WARRIOR, HE-MAN? I'VE NEVER SEEN SNAKE MOUNTAIN!
JUST GET THESE MEN HOME SAFELY, ERIC WHEN SKELETOR MOVED INTO SNAKE MOUNTAIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WENT RIGHT DOWNHILL
GWILDOR, WHAT'S ALL THE HARDWARE FOR?
THALIA AND MERRIAN AREN'T THE ONLY ONES IN TROUBLE. MY GRAVITONIC GRENADE'S GONE! IT COULD DISRUPT GRAYSKULL ITSELF!
WE RENDEZVOUS JUST IN VIEW OF EVIL LYN'S DEMESNE?
RIGHT! AND GWILDOR, DON'T GET ANY HEROIC IDEAS -- YOU JUST DISARM THAT GRENADE AND LEAVE THE REST TO US
BUT AT EVIL LYN'S HIDEAWAY, MORE TROUBLE IS BREWING.
BEASTMAN! YOU GOT IT! THIS MUST MEAN YOU'VE DECIDED TO JOIN US?
OF COURSE! YOU THINK I'M STICKING AROUND FOR SKELETOR TO FIND OUT THE LAST OF HIS PORTAL POTION'S MISSING?
BEASTMAN, YOU WONDERFUL HUNK OF FUR! YOU'LL SEE -- THIS POTION'S THE KEY TO A NEW LIFE FOR ALL OF US!
BY THE POWER OF BLOOD AND BONE CRUSHED IN TIME OF WAR MERRIAN -- A WORLD OF PEACE -- OPEN NOW YOUR DOOR!



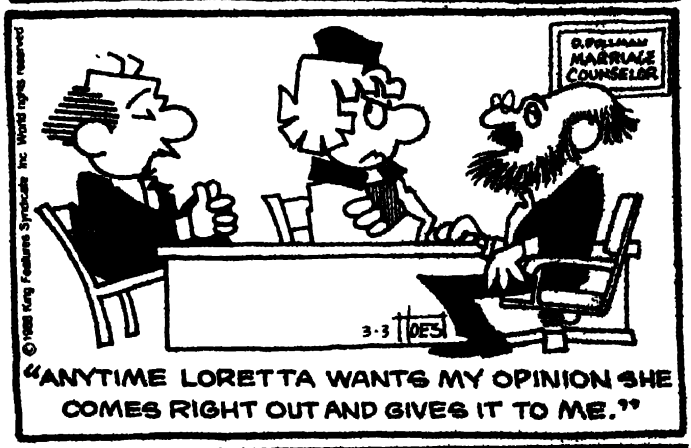
"I KEEP TELLING YOU, LEROY! I HAD TO HIT THAT CAR IN ORDER TO AVOID A COLLISION!"



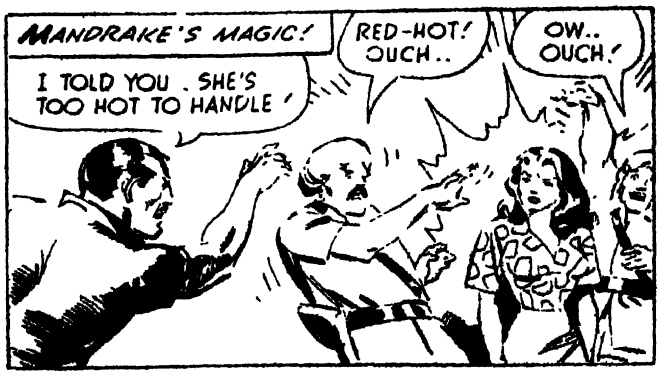
"WHICH GAVE OUT FIRST.....YOUR VOICE OR HELEN'S EARDRUMS?"



"GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS LORETTA. I'M YOUR SERVING PERSON. THE SPECIALTY OF THE HOUSE IS TUNA FISH STRAIGHT-FROM-THE-CAN."



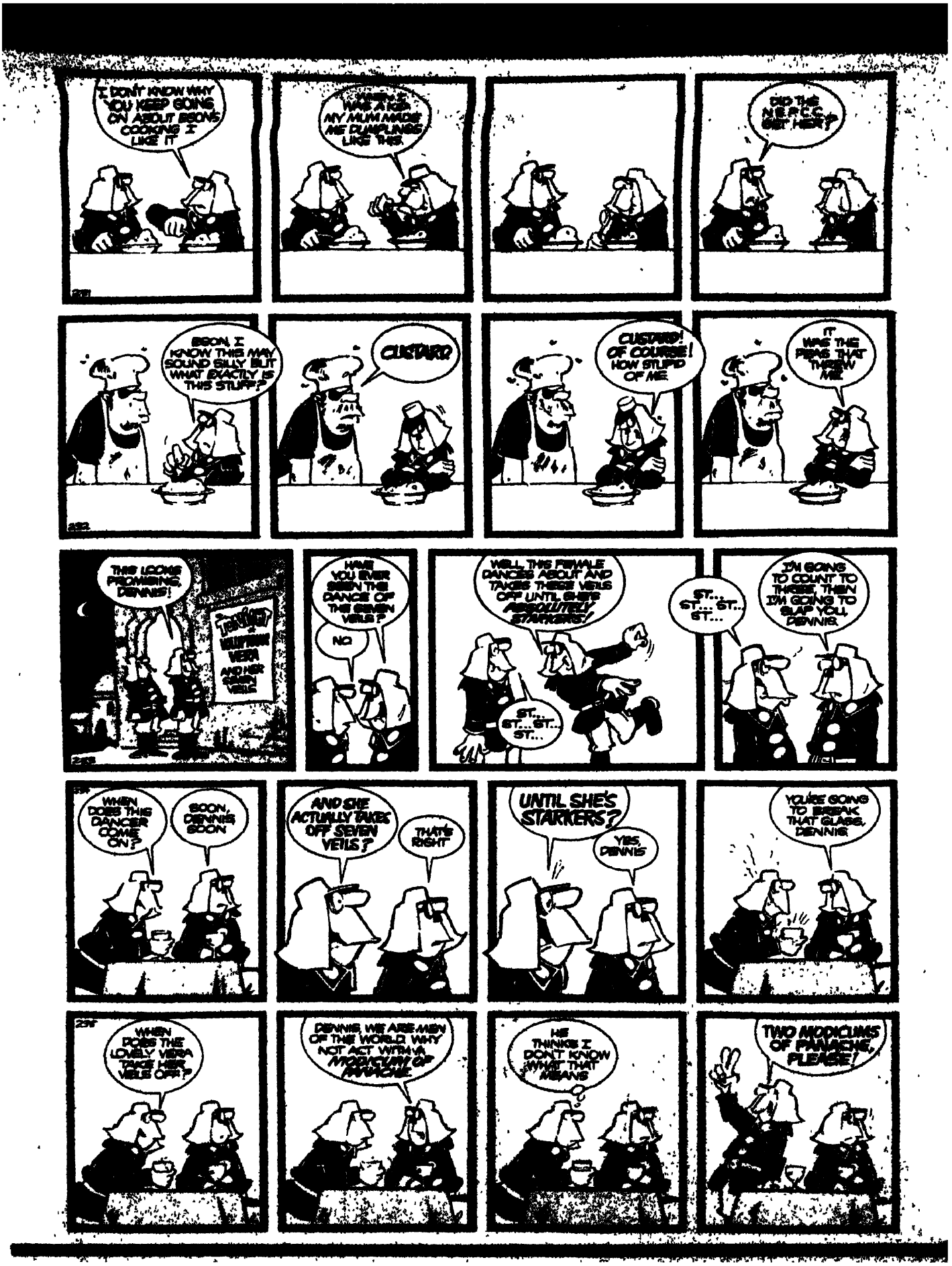
"ANYTIME LORETTA WANTS MY OPINION SHE COMES RIGHT OUT AND GIVES IT TO ME."









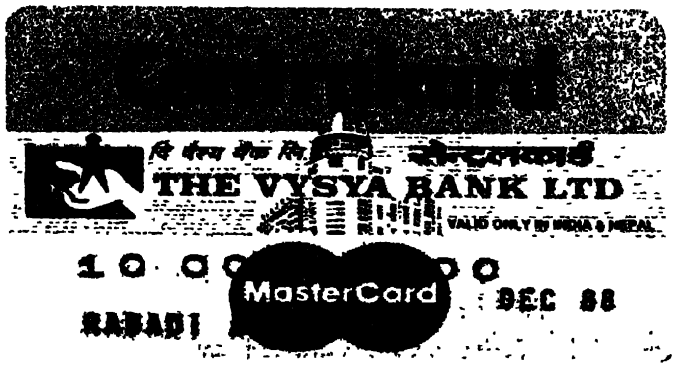

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU KEEP GOING ON ABOUT BRON'S COOKING I LIKE IT
MMM... NICE, MY MUM MADE ME DUMPLINGS LIKE THIS
DID THE N.E.P.C.C. GET HERE?
BRON, I KNOW THIS MAY SOUND SILLY BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS STUFF?
CUSTARD?
CUSTARD! OF COURSE! HOW STUPID OF ME
IT WAS THE PEAS THAT THREW ME
THIS LOOKS PROMISING, DENNIS!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE DANCE OF THE SEVEN VEILS?
NO
WELL, THIS FEMALE DANCES ABOUT AND TAKES THESE VEILS OFF UNTIL SHE'S ABSOLUTELY STARKERS!
ST... ST... ST... ST...
ST... ST... ST...
I'M GOING TO COUNT TO THREE, THEN I'M GOING TO SLAP YOU, DENNIS
WHEN DOES THIS DANCER COME ON?
SOON, DENNIS SOON
AND SHE ACTUALLY TAKES OFF SEVEN VEILS?
THAT'S RIGHT
UNTIL SHE'S STARKERS?
YES, DENNIS
YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK THAT GLASS, DENNIS
WHEN DOES THE LOVELY VERA TAKE HER VEILS OFF?
DENNIS, WE ARE MEN OF THE WORLD WHY NOT ACT WITH A MODICUM OF PANACHE
HE THINKS I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS
TWO MODICUMS OF PANACHE, PLEASE!

ARCHIE


WHAT'S THIS?
A LOVE POEM FOR MY GIRL, ENTITLED, "MY ONE TRUE LOVE!"
Quick Print Co.
COPIES 10¢
RIGHT!
I'D LIKE 20 COPIES OF IT, PLEASE!
MOM, CAN I HAVE A PARTY NEXT WEEKEND?
I GUESS SO!
...BUT KEEP IT SMALL! INVITE 20 PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO THEIR IMPORTANCE!
GOOD IDEA!
I'LL WRITE THE INVITATIONS RIGHT NOW!
BETTY... VERONICA...
NEXT WEEK:
HI, ARCHIE! WE'RE HERE FOR THE PARTY!
GREAT! COME IN! NOW EVERYONE'S HERE!
HEY, ARCHIE! WHERE ARE THE OTHER BOYS?!
BOYS?!
3-6

A Credit Card from the First Private Sector Bank with International Tie-up

It's Surprising how a 8.5 cm × 5.5 cm Card can buy you anything.



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COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP/VB/023

Summer Morality

Those who objected to the pictures of Urmilla Deshpande in the June 12 issue on the ground that it did not fit India's social structure or cultural heritage, should make a journey to the Khajuraho temples or the Ajanta-Ellora caves. The sculptures of women in these places would leave all the Urmilla Deshpandes miles behind. And children and fathers-in-law are not prohibited from visiting these places with their mothers and daughters-in-law. If these sculptures are not part of Indian heritage, I shall re-read my history books with magnifying glasses.

I remember a similar hue and cry years ago when you carried a Tinsel Town picture of Juhi Chawla in a swimsuit. The Colour Magazine is just serving its purpose: to provide light Sunday reading.

D. Banerjee,
Jamshedpur

■ Why did you leave out the gorgeous Sangeeta Bijlani?

Sudipta De Sarkar,
Calcutta

■ I agree that the pictures used with the article, 'Summer Morality' (June 12), were suitable, but they are harmful to teenagers. The same goes for the picture used to show a Goa beach and to illustrate the cover of the Puja Travel Special issue (August 28).

Debasis Ray,
Purbaputiary (W.B.)

■ The pictures were not only suitable, but had class. That is why the whole issue looked so attractive. Don't bother about what some people say. Give us some 'hot shot' pictures every week.

Rajesh Saha and Anita Sur,
Calcutta

Hi-tech Sea Change

'The Call of the Blue' and 'Isles of Joy' in your Puja Travel Special (August 28) were interesting. At last someone made the effort to write factual and comprehensive reports.

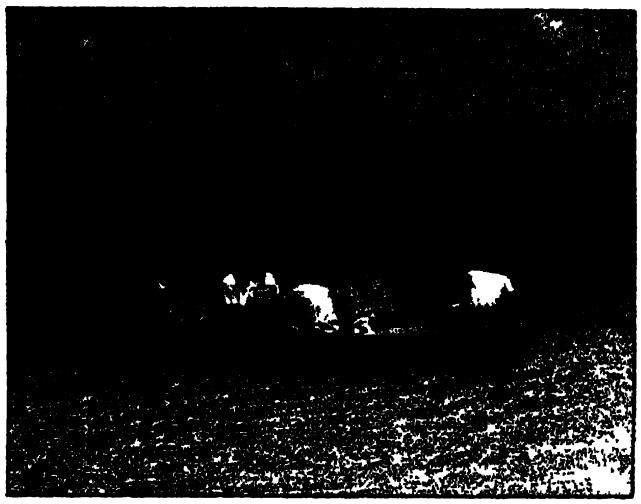
However, 'Destination Port Blair' was not wholly correct. The shipping service matches perfectly with our opinion of the public sector, but the sailing from Madras is much more frequent and better "organised" (if one can at all use such a word for any of our so-called utilities) than those from Calcutta. The standard reason is the age-old Hooghly draft restriction—a universally known problem. It would be interesting to know how we intend to "beat the draft" from the design point of view of the new ships that have been ordered.

Swastik Sandel,
Port Blair

■ We were eagerly awaiting your Puja Travel Special. When it finally arrived, it was most disappointing. It was a Rajiv brand, hi-tech sea change special, an exercise in extravaganza, beyond the reach of 95 per cent of Indians. There was no Puja spirit in the issue except the lovely large eyes of the Divine Mother.

Esray,
Kharagpur

Arun Ganguly



The Andamans

Other MBAs, Too

We feel it is wrong to treat the personal opinion of a couple of IIM(C) students as representative of the views of the entire IIM community ('Future Tense,' May 29). There are four IIMs in the country.

Mr Jayram Ramesh conveniently overlooked the positive values which are ingrained into each student: industriousness, punctuality and clean work ethics. Japan might have succeeded by not bothering about MBAs, but at the same time the USA has prospered by incorporating MBAs in every sphere of activity.

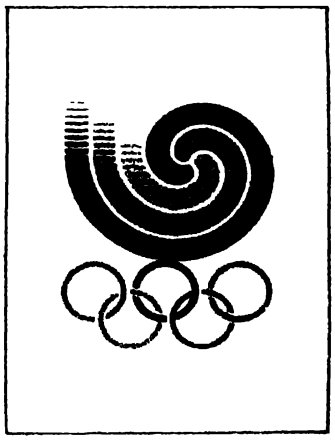
A part of the teaching material may be borrowed from renowned American business schools, but it is totally relevant in the Indian context.

Arnab Guha, IIM Lucknow, **P.S. Grewal,** IIM Ahmedabad and **Saurav Rauth,** IIM Bangalore, Camp: Calcutta

Our Jewellery Special issue will be published on October 2.

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The Telegraph
18 SEPTEMBER 1988



14 The Seoul Olympics opened yesterday. We take a look at the likely stars of this quadrennial event

4 Gurbux Singh assesses the chances of the Indian hockey team

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10 Milkha Singh recounts his most memorable moments

12 A special quiz on the Olympic

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24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Candid Camera

Cover Courtesy *Sportsworld*

HIGH STAKES, FOND HOPES

Will India's performance in hockey wipe out the memories of the 1986 World Cup where we finished last? **Gurbux Singh** assesses the chances

I shouldn't be misunderstood, but it will indeed be a significant achievement if the Indian hockey team qualifies for the round-of-four in Seoul I say this because we haven't done anything of note in the last couple of years

True, we struck it rich in the Nairobi tournament in June, but we had only Pakistan to contend with there. And Pakistan's standing is not much different from ours At least today

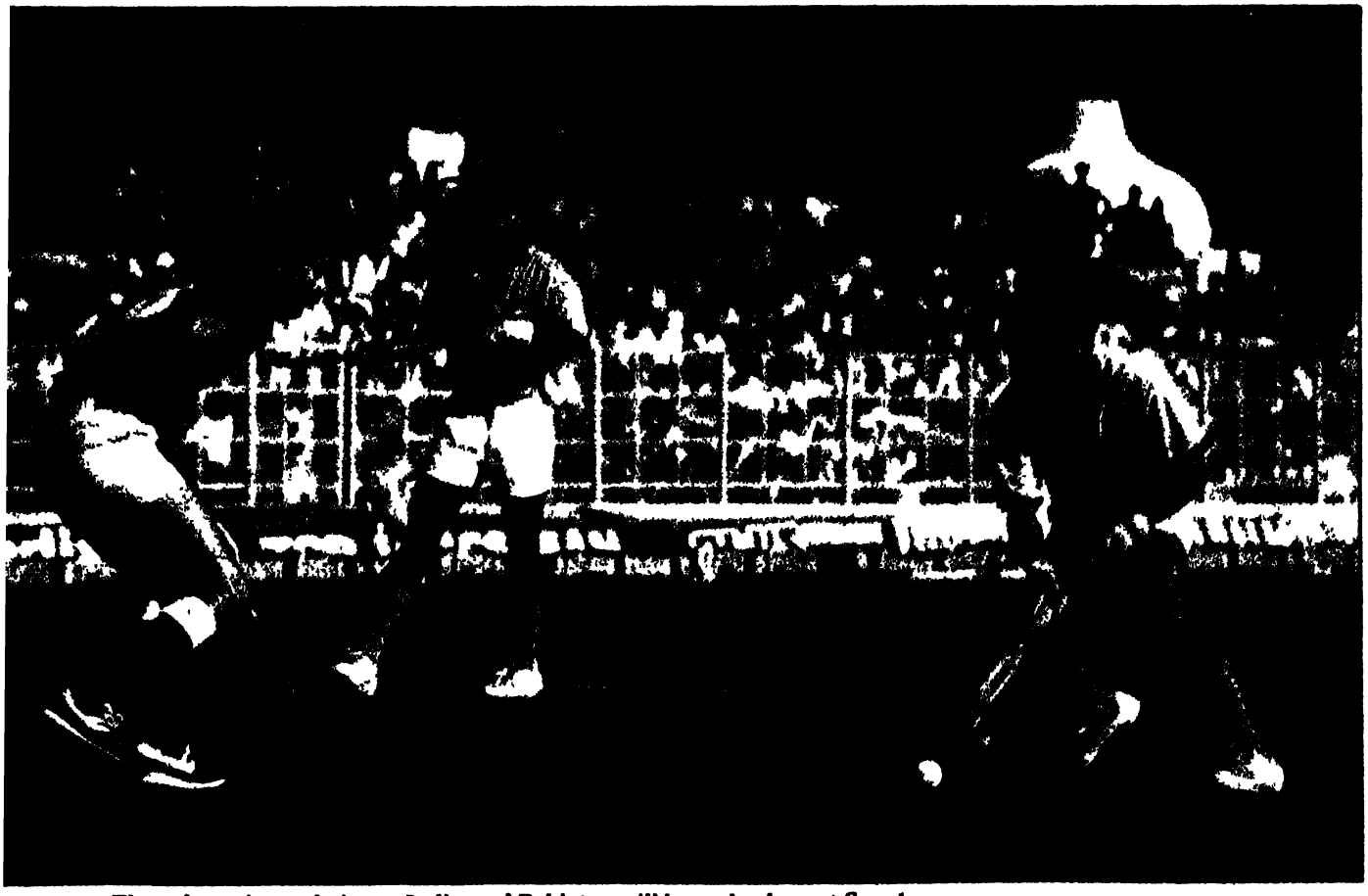
I was highly optimistic on the eve of the last Olympics and had predicted that India and Australia should meet in the final I was proved wrong. And I'm not sticking my neck out this time It's realistic to hope for, at best, a place in the semi-finals

Immediately after the last World Cup (October 1986) one couldn't even hope for a place in the top seven or eight in the Olympics But the team has improved since then Hopefully, after Seoul, memories of finishing last in the World Cup will be buried Forever

Some people have said we have a relatively easy pool (India has been clubbed with West Germany, South Korea, Britain, USSR and Canada), but I don't agree with them fully Remember, except for Canada, we haven't consistently beaten any of our poolmates in recent times So, how does one conclude we have an easy pool? Please, let's not project a rosy canvas

How do I compare the 1984 Olympic side with this one? The Los Angeles outfit was better, chiefly because of the top-drawer forwards. I would like to make one point here. The 1984 side performed with four forwards That was a handicap and it was a tactical disaster to continue with it when we needed to defeat West Germany and qualify for the semis We could even have fielded six men in an improvised forward line .

Of course, we will be attacking with five forwards in Seoul and so there will be more chances of scoring At the same time, we should remember that in a pool-type tournament it's very important not to lose Even three draws and two



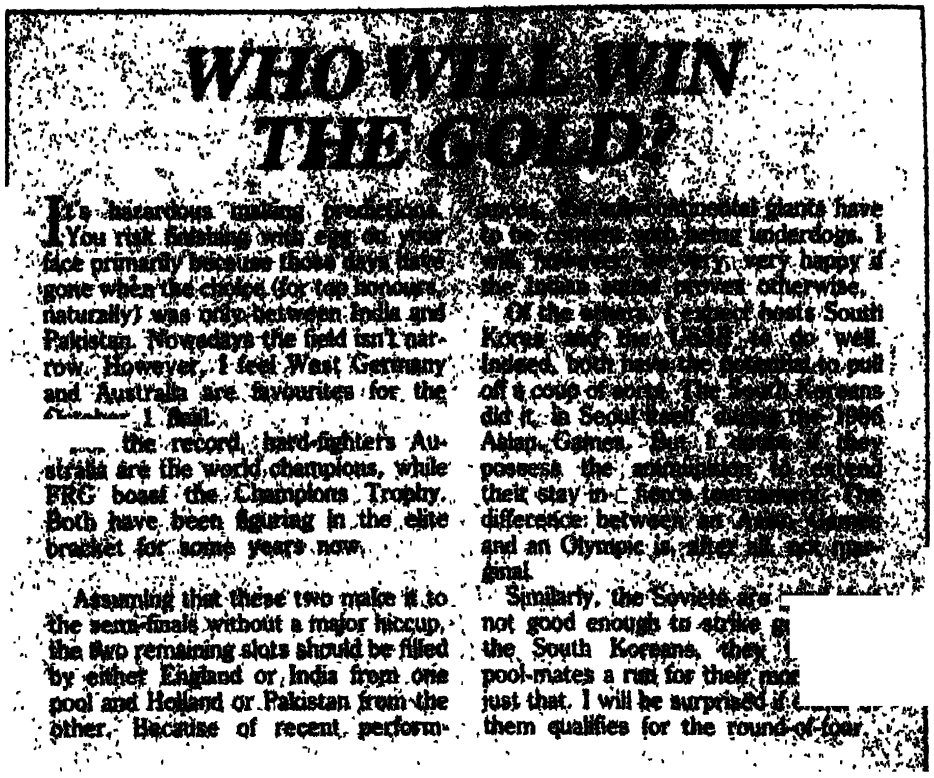
The subcontinental giants, India and Pakistan,will be underdogs at Seoul

victories could see you through. What I mean is our defence has to be sound, too.

To return to the Los Angeles side, despite four forwards, the frontline then was qualitatively superior. We don't have a Zafar Iqbal this time. And both Mohammad Shahid and Merwyn Fernandes were younger and more agile in 1984.

To talk of the halves, the right-half position shows no change. We had Somayya then, we have him now. And he is neither any younger today nor is he playing any better. The present centre-half, Vivek Singh, though, is a definite improvement on the two who were tried out in 1984—Hardeep and Carvalho. Rajinder Singh, the then left-half, was good. But this is not to suggest that Sujit Kumar has been doing a bad job.

I was impressed by Sujit's display against Pakistan in the recent series. He kept the Pakistanis in check, but we should remember that the Englishmen and West Germans are not Pakistanis. Subramani is the other left-half, but he has hardly been tried. In any case, I don't expect him to hit the headlines even when he does get an opportunity.



Talking of full-backs then and now, the present duo of Pargat and Ashok Kumar looks better than the 1984 twosome—Topno and Vineet I would like to mention though that Topno was very safe. We should, however, note that the 1984 full-backs had the benefit of four halves coming to their rescue. The scene will be different in Seoul with three halves.

But the present full-backs are competent and I expect a lot from both Pargat and Ashok. I only wish the impetuous Pargat curbs his tendency to move into attack. The principal function of a full-back is to defend his 25-yard line. If he prevents a goal as well, he has delivered the goods. I'm not pleased with the other full-back in the squad, M.P. Singh. He needs to work hard, both on his game and fitness.

Honestly, I would not like to compare goalkeepers for Indian custodians have not been allowed to really settle down. At least this has been the case after Laxman. Goal-tenders have a thankless job and seem to be the only ones hauled up after a defeat.

My first XI? Actually, I would prefer naming 12, six in the forward line from which five would be picked. To begin with, I choose Mark Patterson in goal. There has been criticism—with plenty of justification—at his handling of penalty corners, but I would still go for him.

The full-backs and halves select themselves. Clearly, there is no debate over fielding Pargat and Ashok, Somayya, Vivek and Sujit.

The tricky situation arises when we reach the forwards. Gundeep Kumar and Balwinder Singh fill the right-winger and centre-forward's slots, respectively Thoiba Singh is the permanent fixture on the left flank Of the three—Merwyn, Shahid and Jude Felix—two have to be accommodated as the inners.

I sincerely hope the brains trust judiciously rotates the two positions among the three. Should this be handled well, the attack will undoubtedly sport menacing teeth.

From what I saw in the series against Pakistan, Shahid did not appear absolutely fit Yet, he is a highly talented player, though individualistic. He can still deliver the goods, at least for one half. At the same time, Felix has forged a neat understanding with Merwyn. But we should remember that Merwyn, too, is unlikely to last the full duration of a match for the entire competition

Once Merwyn gets fatigued, the team management would do well to switch Felix to Merwyn's position and bring in Shahid. Felix, it will be recalled, started off as a right-inside, so he will not feel uncomfortable.

I hope I don't sound too radical, but I would even think of playing Shahid as centre-forward (where he will not have to fall back) if the first choice centre-forward fails to click Shahid can, at any time, get past a couple of defenders and as he is not keen on distributing, so to say, could be a good bet for the most glamorous position. He can be a lethal scorer.

Perhaps, the best forwardline could still be—Gundeep, Merwyn, Shahid, Felix and Thoiba Food for thought for Messrs Ganesh and Govinda, isn't it?

A word about our buildup. I don't think our efforts received an appreciable boost by battling with Pakistan. It was worthwhile competition-wise, not technique-wise. We should have played one or two of the European sides. Even taking on Spain would have helped.

Also, though we hosted three Tests and charity game against Pakistan, none of the fixtures was held in Bangalore which has Polygrass, the surface which will greet us in Seoul. True, we played on the astro in Delhi, Lucknow and Gwalior, but the astro is not quite the same as Polygrass.

I have been asked more than once, what if we don't do well in Seoul? Well, I don't think we should get terribly disheartened The astro is coming up at a number of centres and the boys who will reach the top in the next four years or so would all have played, from the very beginning, on it.

I don't think it will be a shame even if we finish sixth. It will still be a tremendous improvement over our 1986 World Cup showing.■

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

BY DAVID WALLECHINSKY

The story of Harold Abrahams' victory in Paris in 1924 is well told in the beautiful film *Chariots of Fire*. Unfortunately, despite its claim of being "A true story," the film contains several factual distortions. Abrahams did not race around the great courtyard of Trinity College at Cambridge. (It was Lord Burghley who did that.) He did not look at the 100-metre contest as a chance to redeem himself after his failure in the 200, since the running of the 100 actually preceded the 200 in real life. Although Abrahams did feel himself an outsider because he was Jewish, a much more important motivating factor in his quest for victory was a desire to do better than his two older brothers, both of whom were well-known athletes and one of whom had represented Great Britain at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. Abrahams himself had competed in the 100 and 200 metres in Antwerp in 1920, but had been eliminated in the quarterfinals. In the year preceding the Paris Olympics, Abrahams came under the direction of Sam Mussabini, who had successfully coached Reggie Walker to victory in 1908. Among other things, Mussabini stressed to Abrahams the importance of the length and number of his strides. During practice sessions Abrahams would place pieces of paper on the track, to indicate where each stride should end. Then he would try to pick them up on his spikes as he ran. He always carried with him a piece of string the length of his first stride. Before a race he would pull out the string, measure forward from the starting line, and make a mark on the track where his first step should land.

Abrahams was also a proficient long-jumper. One month before the Olympics he leaped 24-feet 2½ inches (7.38 metres) to set an English record which lasted until 1956. For this reason he was chosen to represent Great Britain in the long jump as well as the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay. When an anonymous letter appeared in the *Daily Express*, criticizing the decision to enter Abrahams in the long jump, few people knew that the letter had been written by Harold Abrahams himself. He made his point and was excused.



For the first time Abrahams realized that he had a chance to win the Olympic gold, and for the first time he lost his carefree attitude and began to feel the pressure

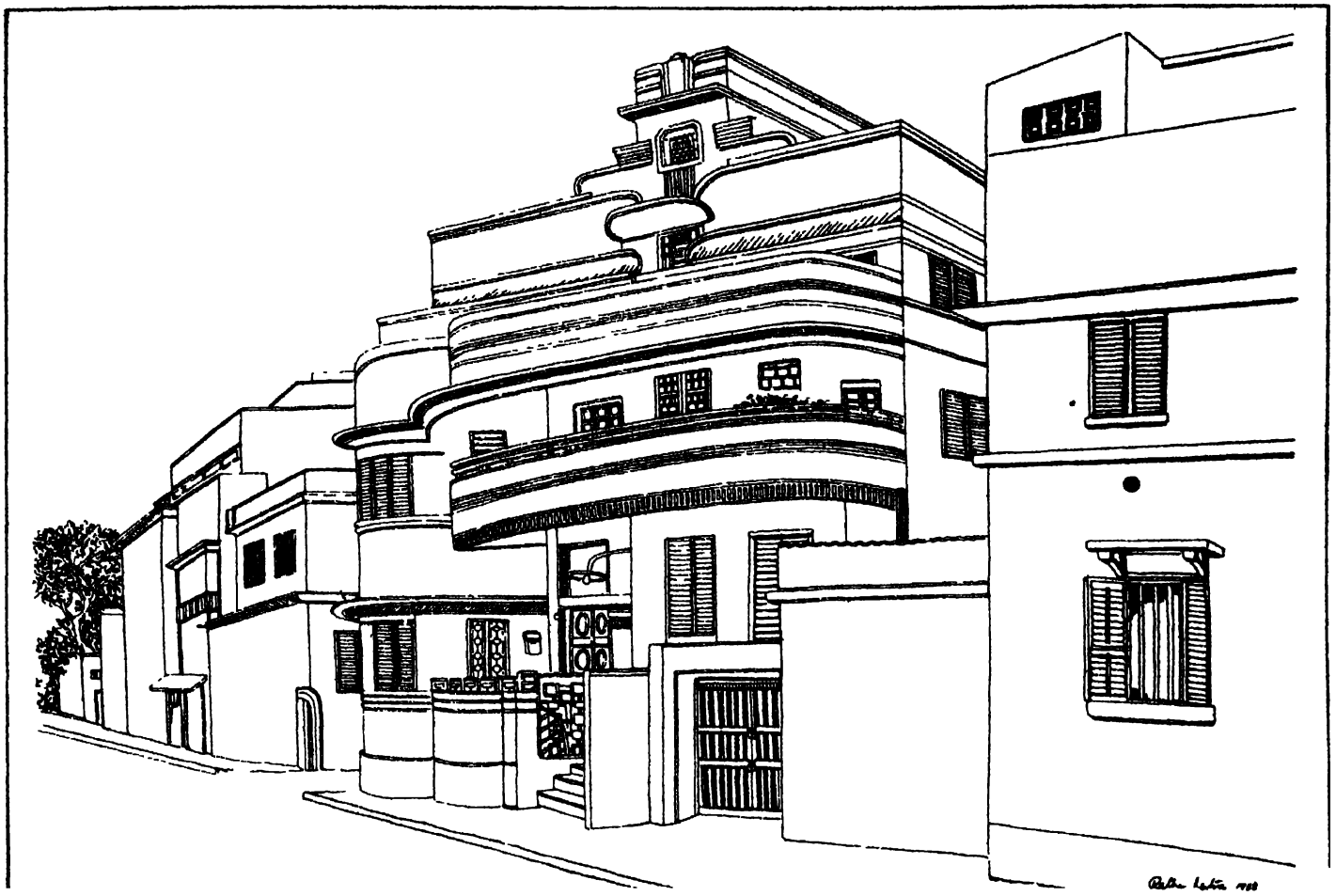
Despite his great feats, the 6-foot ½-inch 175-pound Abrahams was considered a long shot in comparison to the US team, which included defending champion Charley Paddock as well as Antwerp finalists Jackson Scholz and Loren Murchison. On June 18, 1921, Paddock had stunned the track world by running 110 yards (which is actually longer than 100 meters) in the unheard-of time of 10.2 seconds, a record that remained unbeaten for 29 years. Although the Americans were the favourites, it was Harold Abrahams, running faster than he had ever run before, who registered the fastest times in the early heats, tying the Olympic record (10.6) twice, in the quarterfinals and the semifinals, where he overcame an awful start. For the first time Abrahams realized that he had a chance to win the Olympic gold, and for the first time he lost his carefree attitude and began to feel the pressure. For the next 3½ hours, as he waited for the final, he "felt like a condemned man feels just before going to the scaffold." As he went to his mark at 7:05 pm on July 7, Abrahams recalled Sam Mussabini's final words of advice: "Only think of two things—the report of the pistol and the tape. When you hear the one, just run like hell till you break the other." After a perfect start, the runners ran almost even for the first 40 or 50 metres, but than Abrahams began to move ahead, gaining with each stride until he crossed the tape with a two-foot victory.

Harold Abrahams is a perfect example of an athlete who peaks at exactly the right moment. After that day at the Stade Colombes in Paris, he never raced well again. The following year he injured his thigh while longjumping and retired from competition forever. He once wrote, "I wonder if, in a sense, that was not another piece of good bad-luck. How many people find it almost impossible to retire at the right time. Would I have gone downhill, and tried to go on? That was the decision I never had to make; it was made for me. Rather painfully, but it was made." Abrahams went on to great success as a radio commentator, lawyer, writer, statistician and as president of the British Amateur Athletic Association. Arthur Porritt, who took the bronze medal even though he failed to win a single heat, had an even more distinguished career, culminating in a five-year term as Governor-General of New Zealand and 35 years as Surgeon to the British royal family. Until Abrahams' death in 1978, he and Porritt and their wives had dinner every year at 7:00 pm on July 7—the day and the hour of the 1924 100-metre-final. As for Charley Paddock, he died in a plane crash in 1943 while a captain in the US Marine Corps and had a ship named after him.

Extracted from David Wallechinsky's *The Complete Book Of The Olympics*, published by Penguin Books and represented in India by Penguin Overseas Ltd, Nehru Place, New Delhi; Price Rs 155.30



PANKAJ KUMAR MULLICK (1905-78)



Born in a Vaishnav family, Pankaj Kumar Mullick was drawn to music at an early age. He took lessons in Marg sangeet from Durgadas Bandopadhyay. Later, he learnt Rabindrasangeet from Dinendranath Tagore. It was largely due to Pankaj Mullick's efforts that Rabindrasangeet has become so popular. He is also credited with having composed the music of the ever-popular Tagorean lyrics, *Diner sheshe ghumer deshe*. He cut his first disc, *Namechche aaj pratham badal*, with Viyelophone Company in 1926. He was attached to the Indian Broadcasting Company right from its inception in 1927. Till 1975, he conducted the All India Radio's Sangeet Shikshar Asar which gained wide recognition. He was also the music director of Mahisasuramardini—one of the most popular AIR productions—which is broadcast in the early hours of Mahalaya.

Besides singing, teaching and composing music, he proved his talent in acting as well. Initially, he had composed the music with orchestra for the silent films, *Chasar Meye* and *Chorkanta*. After the introduction of the talkie, he scored the music for *Dena Paona*, followed by some of the better known films like *Bhagyachakra, Daktar, Kashinath, Bardidi, Raikamal, Kapalkundala, Mahaprasthaner Pathe* and *Bigalita Karuna Janhabi Jamuna*.

He was closely associated with the New Theatres Company. His performance as a singer-actor in Barua's *Mukti* made him a household name in Bengal. He is remembered for his intelligent use of Rabindrasangeet in films. At Dr B.C Roy's request, he founded the state government's folk entertainment section.

Pankaj Mullick was honoured with the title 'Sur Sagar' by Saraswat Mahamandal in 1932, the Padma Shri in 1970 and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 1973. He died on February 19, 1978.

The sketch above shows his south Calcutta residence on Sevak Vaidya Street.

INDIAN SEOUL-SEARCHING

Ashok Kamath assesses the prospects

The actual size of the Indian contingent will probably not be known till after the Seoul Games. But realistically no Indian—however patriotic—can look beyond the national hockey team while talking about medal prospects. And even for the M.M. Sommaya-led team to figure among the medals would require a good deal of luck and performances that go far beyond what it required to beat defending champions Pakistan in recent months.

The way the national women's relay team was cleared in the last minute showed up the Union sports ministry in very poor light. After yelling from rooftops that the criterion—performances that equalled the sixth placer at the last Olympics or the world championship of the sport involved—Union minister of state for sports Margaret Alva sneaked the women's relay team into the Air India chartered Jumbo that left for Seoul on August 10.

If the government could be very strict about enforcing its own qualifying standards for everyone else, how the women's relay team was cleared will remain one of the biggest blots in its copybooks.

It requires an inordinate dose of optimism to expect the P.T. Usha-led relay squad to figure anywhere near the top ten at Seoul. Consider this: as per the government's own stricture, the qualifying time needed was three minutes 27.51 seconds for the 4×400m relay squad. Not once did the girls come under 3: 31.55 (this was at the last world championship at Rome, which was not good enough to even get the quartet to the final).

In a series of trials that were held between the second week of August and the departure of the team the girls—a permutation of the six eventually cleared, Ashwini Nachappa, Vandana Rao, Shiny Abraham, Mercy Kuttan, Vandana Shanbagh and Usha—not once did they come anywhere near the qualifying time. Yet, they were on the plane to Seoul.

Usha's own chances in her favourite event—the 400m hurdles—are remote. Her injured heels (yes, both of them) kept her out of competition for the better part of the last eight weeks leading up to the Seoul Games. Yet, without touching anything near the qualifying standard of 55.68 seconds, she too was on the plane. Wonders obviously never cease in Indian sport.

The national yachting team which will do battle in the choppy Olympic waters of Pusan was one of the first disciplines that were cleared by the government. The Indian challenge is posed by Farokh Tarapore and Kelly Rao. This is what Tarapore had to say about his and Rao's chances. "In zero to five knots wind force we are bad. In five to 12 knots we are just about alright. But from 12 knots and above we are good. We could have a five per cent chance of coming first." All of India will be hoping that the wind speed in Pusan will be 12 knots and above. There will be 27 starters and according to Tarapore, "Anyone of the first 20 can win a race and that's what gives me hope." India's lone representative at the shooting ranges will be Soma Dutta, the Calcutta girl who has been based in the US for the last three years. It is not entirely clear on what basis Soma was cleared but the fact that her coach, Lenny Bassham, testified to her creditable trials was enough to satisfy the sports ministry. Soma, incidentally, won a silver and a bronze medal at the last Asian Games in Seoul four years ago.

Another Indian member of the contingent who was cleared 'in absentia' was swimmer Khazan Singh Tokas, the butterfly ace who struck silver in the Seoul Asian Games. In Khazan's case the sports ministry went by a testimony by his coach in Australia, Eric Arnold, who declared: "Khazan has returned 1:59.10 for the 200m butterfly." The trial was reportedly held in the Sydney suburb of Newcastle and supervised by Australian national

Khazan Singh Tokas: Butterfly specialist who qualified in absentia



The 4×400m relay team on trial (from left to right): Mercy Kuttan handing over



coaches Bill Nelson and Bob Milton, apart from Eric Arnold himself. Technically, the qualifying mark was 1:59.37, so Khazan was well within it. But this mark is of little significance because the top ten in the world today do 1:57.00 and below for the event. So that gives you an idea of where Khazan Singh is capable of figuring.

The system used to clear Khazan and Soma was not extended to backstroker Ranajoy Punja who, like Soma, is based in the US. Punja got his coach in Florida, Gregg Wilson, to testify to "some excellent trial timings." Coach Wilson, too, had two other American coaches to endorse Punja's timings to enable him to meet the qualifying standard for Seoul. But the ministry ignored the claims.

Tennis—which returns to the Olympic fold—has Vijay Amritraj spearheading the Indian challenge, with back-up from Anand Amritraj and Zeeshan Ali. It was unfortunate that Ramesh Krishnan had to pull out of the squad because of a painful shoulder.

National men's singles champion Kamlesh Mehta leads the table tennis team and no one is expecting miracles from either him or Sujay Ghorpade or the lone woman entry, Niyati Roy.

If officials of the archery federation are to be believed, our three-member archery team should finish fairly high in the standings. But, then, there has always been many a slip between the cup and the lip and there is no telling how off the mark our hopes will turn out to be. Shyam Lal Meena is our biggest hope and is known to



Santosh Ghosh

Zeeshan Ali

have shot a 1312-point score in single fita. While this may not get him anywhere in Seoul, the team (Limbá Ram and Sanjeev Singh are the others) could be expected to vindicate the faith placed in it. Collectively the trio has totalled 3819 points which, according to Vijay Kumar Malhotra of the Archery Federation of India, "should place us pretty high." Alexander Nikolaev, the Soviet coach attached to the Indian archers, is, however, tightlipped. And he should know.

The Indian boxers can scarcely take heart from the fact that a boxing superpower like Cuba will not be at the Olympics this year too. Manoj Pingle (flyweight), John Williams and Sahu Birajdar (both featherweight calss) can be counted upon to gain experience but little else. Interestingly, after initially recommending the selection of Gopal Dewang and Sin Jayaram, the National Boxing Federation dropped their names on the ground that "the field would be beyond them", to quote one official. How the two were recommended in the first place by the very body that pulled them out will remain a mystery

That Indian lifters do not carry much weight in international competition will be underscored at the Games but that has not prevented the government from clearing G. Muthuswamy and R. Chandrasekaran (both 62 kg category).

The only category that did not have qualifying standards to make it to the Seoul bound contingent was officialdom. And here will be no head-count or evaluation of performance even after they return

ıe baton to Vandana Shanbag; Shanbag to Shiny Abraham; Shiny to Usha; and Usha sets off on the anchor lap



ROME: SEPTEMBER 6, 1960

Milkha Singh recalls how he prepared for the memorable day

I have always been ambitious But my dreams of success as an athlete outside the Asian region materialised only after my comfortable victory in the 400 metres at the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo and my surprise win in the 440 yards at the Cardiff Commonwealth Games a few weeks later

It was summer when I seriously started looking at the possibility of a place in an Olympic final Those were good days for Indian athletics and I was fortunate enough to be part of the services squad that spent two summers in Britain and West Germany prior to the Olympic Games One learnt a great deal about combining training and racing then and the experience was to stand me in good stead in the years to come

In June 1960 I arrived in Germany at a time when the track season was in full swing and sprinters were vying for places in the national Olympic squad The scene was dominated by Carl Kauffmann and the younger Manfred Kinder

The two certainly egged me on with each appearance on the track In the earlier races, I was all at sea against them recording 47 seconds plus times However as the summer progressed I was able to hold my own and begin to have an edge, at least over Kinder

By the time I came to London for my final try-out before the Rome Games I was a great deal more self assured and able to tackle opposition more comfortably In any case the British quarter milers and the West Indians who had descended on British soil for their preparation for the Olympics did not seem as formidable as the Germans

On July 16 I won the Amateur Athletics Association (AAA) 440 yards final over the Rawalpindi born British star Robbie Brightwell in 46 5 secs with him clocking 47 0 secs A fortnight later I returned to the White City track to win again this time the 400 metres in 46 3 secs from a good field Then followed the British Games on August 16 which was to be my final outing before Rome I ran virtually as I liked to coast through the 400 metres in 46 5 secs beating a Trinidadian (47 1) Brightwell (47 1 secs) Ted Sampson (48 5) and the European champion John Wrighton (47 3)

It felt good to know that I had got the better of the Caribbean ace as well as three of Britain's 4 × 400 m relay team members in one race

I felt fit and ready to face the heat of Rome

To this day September 6 1960 remains the most important date in my life but one looks back on it with mixed feelings The warm afternoon at Rome's Stadio Olimpico seemed almost unbearably uncomfortable It just wasn't like the relaxed



Courtesy Sportstar

Milkha Singh (right) at the Rome Olympics and (inset) as he is now

atmosphere of the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, two years earlier, when I had won the 440 yards final without much sweat. But this was pressure of a kind I had not experienced before.

As I lined up for the final, I felt very tense indeed. The struggle to reach that stage had been the most challenging effort of my running career. The first heat found me up against Jack Yermen, University of California's History major, and I had virtually folded up in my attempts to keep up with him. As things turned out, this was a blessing in disguise. Six hours later, when I re-entered the track for the second round of the 400 metres, I was a little more confident in my abilities, despite the fact that I was facing a vastly tougher opposition that included Carl Kaufmann. Kaufmann won the event, although both of us were given the same time, 46.5 secs. The semi-finals that followed next day, proved an eyeopener of a sort. It was perhaps the first occasion that I clocked a sub-46 seconds time, in a major race. This time I had struggled to chase the lanky American, Otis Davis, and finished second to him in 45.9 secs to his nippy 45.5. In the process I had beaten Manfred Kinder.

September 6 came next afternoon. I had come close enough to my life's greatest ambition. I could hardly speak. I thought of what Dr Peltser had kept drumming into me all the time, the previous evening: "You must go hard all the way. Remember, those who have been beaten by you before, will be more dangerous than the others. Don't ease off at any stage." How right the good doctor turned out to be—the man I had pipped to victory in the Cardiff Games had come between me and the Olympic medal!

From the very start it was clear enough that there was no stopping Messrs Otis Davis and Carl Kaufmann, as far as the first two places were concerned, with Mal Spence and I as the main challengers. It is difficult to go over the exact sequence of events on that occasion, nearly three decades later. It appears to me that I ran the first 200 metres faster than I had ever done in a 400 metres final, mainly in an effort to keep up with Davis and Kaufmann, and that I lacked that little extra bit required for the final straight when Spence and I were to battle it out for the bronze. The final spurt decided it all and I wound up with 45.6 secs behind Davis' 44.9, Kaufmann's 44.9 and Spence's 45.5. Spence had avenged his defeat at my hands in the Commonwealth Games, and in the process, won an Olympic medal.

(Milkha Singh's time of 45.6 secs (45.73 as electronic time), remains to this day an Indian all-time best for the 400 m.)

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OLYMPIC SPECIAL

FOR THE ARMCHAIR SPORTSMAN

A quiz compiled by **Barry O'Brien**

1. What did the clothing firm Levi Strauss present to all gold medal winners at the 1984 Olympics?
2. What does an Olympian hold when reciting the Olympic Oath at the opening ceremony?
3. What sport was introduced in the 1964 Olympics at the specific request of the host country?
4. Who won the 1960 Olympic light-heavyweight boxing title?
5. Athletes are housed at the Olympic Village At which Games was this done for the first time?
6. What caused 22 African nations to boycott the Montreal Games of 1976?
7. Why did the US Post Office withdraw a set of stamps from circulation in 1980?
8. The "three day equestrian" event is a myth Why?
9. Which is the smallest city to have hosted the Summer Olympics?
10. Where is the heart of Baron Pierre de Coubertin buried?
11. Why will the name of Cristina Cojocaru haunt Indian athletics for a long long time?
12. Who was the captain of the gold medal winning Indian hockey team in 1980?
13. In which film does an American girl win three gold medals at the Moscow Olympics?
14. "The medals weigh more than I thought It was hard to stand up straight when I had them all around my neck Who am I?"
15. The 1956 Summer Olympics were held at Melbourne However, due to quarantine regulations, horses were not permitted entry into Australia. This made it imperative to hold the equestrian events in some other country. Which one?
16. Which Australian athlete won the Olympic men's 1500m title in 1960 before taking up a degree in natural sciences at Cambridge?
17. Which four nations have been represented at every summer Olympics?
18. Who was the only female competitor not required to undergo a sex test at the 1976 Montreal Olympics?
19. How high is the men's Olympic high-diving board?
20. Which was the first Olympics in which West and East Germany took part separately?
21. Which English Olympic gold medallist has been race director of the London Marathon since 1981?
22. Fred Lorz was the first to cross the line in the marathon at the 1904 Olympics. He was, however, disqualified. Why?
23. Who were the two British gold medal winners immortalised in the film *Chariots of Fire?*
24. Who are the only brothers to have won gold medals in Olympic boxing?
25. What was the addition made to the gymnastics event at the Los Angeles Games in 1984?
26. When asked how he ran so fast, who replied: "You see, my wife is a javelin thrower So I have to run faster."
27. "At the Los Angeles Games of 1932 I became the first swimmer to break the five-minute barrier in the 400m freestyle by nearly a second. I later went to Hollywood and played Tarzan, Buck Rodgers and Flash Gordon Who am I?"
28. In the ancient Olympics, if an athlete made a false start how was he punished?
29. There will five exhibition and demonstration events at the Seoul Olympics Name them
30. In every discipline at Seoul there will be one gold, one silver and one bronze medal awarded to the winners In three disciplines two bronze medals will be awarded. Name the three
31. Which is the longest (in terms of distance) athletic event at the Olympics?
32. "Favourite to win the gold at Seoul in the men's high jump, I won the silver at Los Angeles four years ago. In June last year I set a new world record clearing 2 42m Later I jumped 2 38 at the Rome World Championships to take the gold. Who am I?"
33. Florence Griffith Joyner, the women's 100m world record holder, looks good for a gold at Seoul. Her coach and husband Al Joyner won a gold at Los Angeles four years ago. In which event?
34. "I went to the London Olympics of 1948 with a good chance of winning the triple jump event. Besides being the Indian national champion, I had recorded the best triple jump of 1948 (50 feet 2 inches). Unfortunately a hamstring injury put me out of the running. Who am I?"
35. "I'm really excited. I'm looking forward to living under the same roof as Ben Johnson and Daley Thompson " Who is the speaker?
36. Until 1952 what qualification was required in order to participate in the Olympic equestrian event?
37. What is the minimum age for men in Olympic gymnastic competitions?
38. Which was the first Olympics held in the southern hemisphere?
39. 'Johnny won't hit today Douglas' captained the English cricket team early this century. He also won an Olympic gold medal In which discipline?
40. Who set 18 world records as a distance runner, but never won an Olympic title?





41 42 43 44

41. This flame took the pride of place for two weeks at the Los Angeles four years ago. Who lit the flame at the opening ceremony?

42. He won the bronze medal at the 1987 Rome World Championships. At the US Olympic trials this year he ran the fastest 400m at sea level. He then went on to run the fastest 400m of all time in 43.29 seconds. Who is he?

43. Who is the little lady performing, and what was her unique achievement while performing on the assymetrical bars at Montreal in 1976?

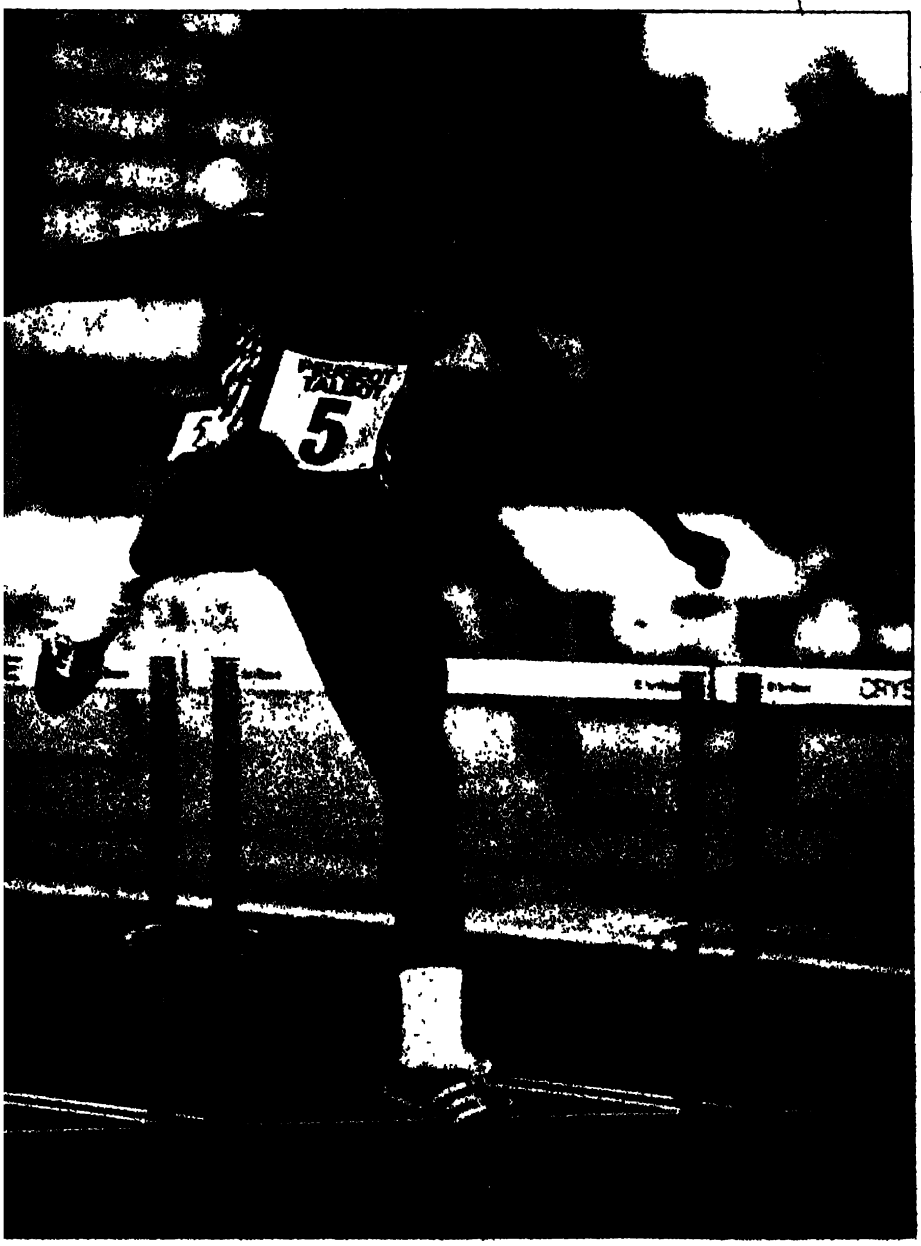
44. The high jumper pictured here became track and field's youngest Olympic champion. Who is she and what was her incredible achievement at Los Angeles four years ago?

ANSWERS

1. A pair of jeans with gold-plated buttons.
2. A corner of his national flag.
3. Judo, for the Tokyo Olympics.
4. Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali).
5. Los Angeles, 1932.
6. A New Zealand rugby tour of South Africa.
7. They depicted the Moscow Olympics, which were officially boycotted by the US.
8. It is actually held over four days. The message lasts two days.
9. Helsinki, Finland, 1952.
10. Olympia, Greece.
11. She beat P.T. Usha, by one hundredth of a second to the bronze medal at Los Angeles, 1984.
12. V. Bhaskaran.
13. *Golden Girl.*
14. Mark Spitz, after winning 7 gold medals at the Munich Olympics, 1972.
15. In Sweden, in the city of Stockholm.
16. Herbert Elliott.
17. Greece, Britain, Australia and Switzerland.
18. Princess Anne.
19. 10 metres.
20. At Mexico in 1968.
21. Chris Brasher, winner of the 3000m steeplechase gold in 1956.
22. He hitched a ride.
23. Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell.
24. Michael and Leon Spinks. Both in 1976.
25. Flyming Squirrels.
26. Emil Zatopek.
27. Clarence 'Bulldog' Chapple.
28. He was hopping.
29. Tae Kwon do, baseball, women's judo, badminton and bowling.
30. Boxing, judo and tennis.
31. The Boston mark. The marathon is 42.195 km.
32. Patrick Sjoberg.
33. Triple jump.
34. Henry Rebello.
35. Bone Backer.
36. All competitors had to be commissioned officers.
37. 16.
38. Melbourne, Australia, 1956.
39. Boxing (middle-weight).
40. Ron Clarke of Australia.
41. Ralph Johnson.
42. Harry 'Butch' Reynolds.
43. She is Nadia Comaneci of Romania. She scored a perfect '10' in the assymetrical bars at Montreal, thus becoming the first gymnast in the history of the sport to do so. She went on to repeat this feat on six occasions at Montreal and was appropriately called 'Miss Perfect'.
44. She is FRG's Ulrike Meyfarth. At 16 she took the women's high jump title at Munich in 1972. Twelve years later at Los Angeles she stunned the world with her second gold in the high jump.

HEART AND

The Olympics. Colour. Spectacle. Pageantry. And endeavour, pride, perfection. **Pradeep Paul** on what the Olympics stand for and who is likely to excel



Courtesy Sportsworld

Edwin Moses: Will 'Whispering Death' do it again?

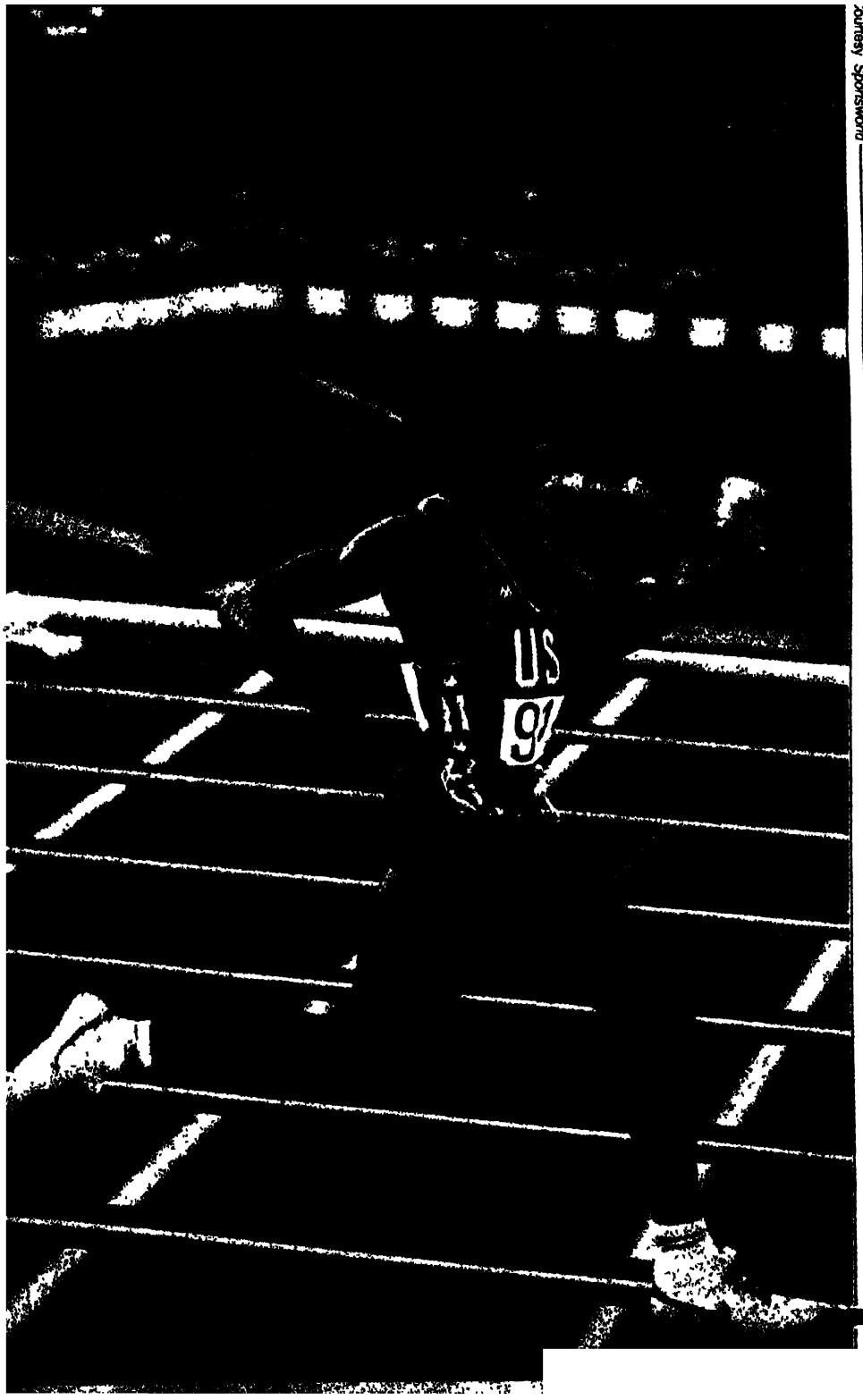
The Olympic Games. Once every four years the world gets swept away in a deluge of sport. While the athletes ride the crest, mortals (you and me) tumble helplessly in their wake. It's quite simple for the athlete really. All he has to do is participate. It's us who have all the hard work. We have to ready ourselves immaculately. Timings, build-ups, training methods, world records, comebacks... they've all got to be on the tips of our fingers. How else are we going to drop those tiny gems of Olympian knowledge while viewing the daily capsule?

Take Olympic history for example. Sure everyone knows Baron Pierre De Coubertin founded the modern Olympic Games in 1896. We even know that James Connolly of America was the first winner at the modern Olympics. But did we know that the ancient Greeks originally used the Olympic Games as a method of worshipping Zeus? That sculpture, poetry and epic were cast aside as the Greeks offered sheer physical achievement at the altar of the gods? How about filing that away for the Opening Ceremony?

Coubertin's concept of letting man settle all differences on the playing field (instead of the battlefield) gained momentum. But not before the Greeks made a desperate attempt at establishing a monopoly. Even as the closing banquet of the 1896 Athens Games warmed up, good King George suggested that all future Olympic Games be held in Athens. Coubertin was offered Hobson's choice: agree or resign. But ever the diplomat, Coubertin pretended he didn't understand the King and wrote him a formal reply. He thanked the King, the city of Athens and the Greek people for their energy and enthusiasm...and announced that the second Olympic Games would be held in Paris in 1900.

Twenty four years and a World War later, the Olympics came back to Paris. Even as Paavo Nurmi and Ville Ritola ran their way to immortality, the Olympic Games gained a motto—Citius, Altius, Fortius. No, it wasn't Coubertin. He was the one who said it was more important to

SEOUL



Courtesy Sportsworld

take part than to win. But Citius, Altius, Fortius or Faster, Higher, Stronger was coined by a priest, Father Henri Didon. One of the few intellectuals who agreed with Coubertin, Didon was a great influence on Coubertin's life. His visualisation of the Olympic movement? An opportunity for man to realise his full potential, to run faster, leap higher, be stronger than ever before.

As the Games rolled on, there were new heroes. Emil Zatopek, Lasse Viren, Jesse Owens, Mark Spitz, Al Oerter. All winners and all offered—like the ancient Greeks—at the altar of the gods. Now, it is time again. It is time for the world to choose its best athletes and send them to the same altar. Who will be the heroes this time? Even as the sweepers clear the Seoul Olympic Stadium of litter...and memories after the pyrotechnics of the Closing Ceremony, there will be a few men and women who will remain in our minds. They'll be the ones who spring to mind everytime we put our memory on rewind. People we mortals will write about, read about, fight about, bet on and idolise.

Carl Lewis: This is one name you're going to keep hearing. We rose in applause when he clambered onto the highest level of the podium four times at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Now, after a couple of tormenting years where he couldn't decide whether to continue with his career on the track or cash in on his LA fame, Lewis is back with a vengeance. The loss to Ben Johnson of Canada at the World Track and Field Championships at Rome in 1987 spurring him to better performances.

The freshly energised Lewis and Ben Johnson's current lack of form (who was it that said 'sport is what happens between injuries'?) makes Lewis an odds-on favourite for the 100m sprint at Seoul. Can't see too much competition in the 200m either. Add to this Lewis' affinity for leaping long distances and his fleet-footed teammates in the 4 × 100m relay and you've got a repeat of LA in the offing.

Edwin Moses: The man other 400m hurdlers call whispering death. Silky smooth strides that float him over hurdles with barely a whisper no doubt earning him that nickname. The Moses-Danny Harris-Harald Schmid rivalry has done as much for the event as it has for this bespectacled hurdler from the US. Now that we know he's human (he lost a couple of times') a few others have dared to take up this event. Harris won't be in the Moses slipstream at Seoul but Schmid's presence will surely have Moses running a whole lot faster. Looks like this is one old man who's going to go out in style.

Said Aouita: The rest of the middle distance runners might as well stay home

This man is awesome: Olympic champion in the 5,000m, and the world record holder in the 1,500m and the 5,000m.

That's the Moroccan Express for you. Matter of fact, in his country, Aouita has become a synonym for anything fast. Pity Steve Cram and Abdi Bile. Not only have they got to run 1,500m fast, they've also got to run it faster than Aouita. Looks like the only way either Cram or Bile are going to get their hands on a gold medal is to steal one.

Daley Thompson: Leave it to this man to provide anything with a flavour of humour. When he's winning, he's a scream with his antics. When he's losing, he's at least got the grace to go down with a smile, however rueful. Like Carl Lewis, Thompson's hurting from his Rome World Track and Field Championship loss. (The decathlon at Rome was won by Torsten Voss. Torsten who?) Like Lewis, Thompson is going to be defending his title at Seoul. Unlike Lewis, Thompson is gunning for his third straight gold. The competition at Seoul is going to be fierce. Voss will be looking to continue from his Rome victory, Jurgen Hingsen and Seigfried Wentz will be there, but Thompson has told the world that he's tasted the feeling of defeat once. And doesn't like it.

Sergei Bubka: He's to the pole vault what Aouita is to middle-distance running. Unbeatable. The only man to break the six-metre barrier, Bubka sets his own limits. Dominating a sport that requires the acceleration of a top-class sprinter, the agility of a gymnast and the tenacious strength of a wrestler, the sky (to use a well-worn cliche) is literally the limit for this superathlete from the Soviet Union. His world record stands at 6.06m now. Watch him shoot for 6.10m at Seoul.

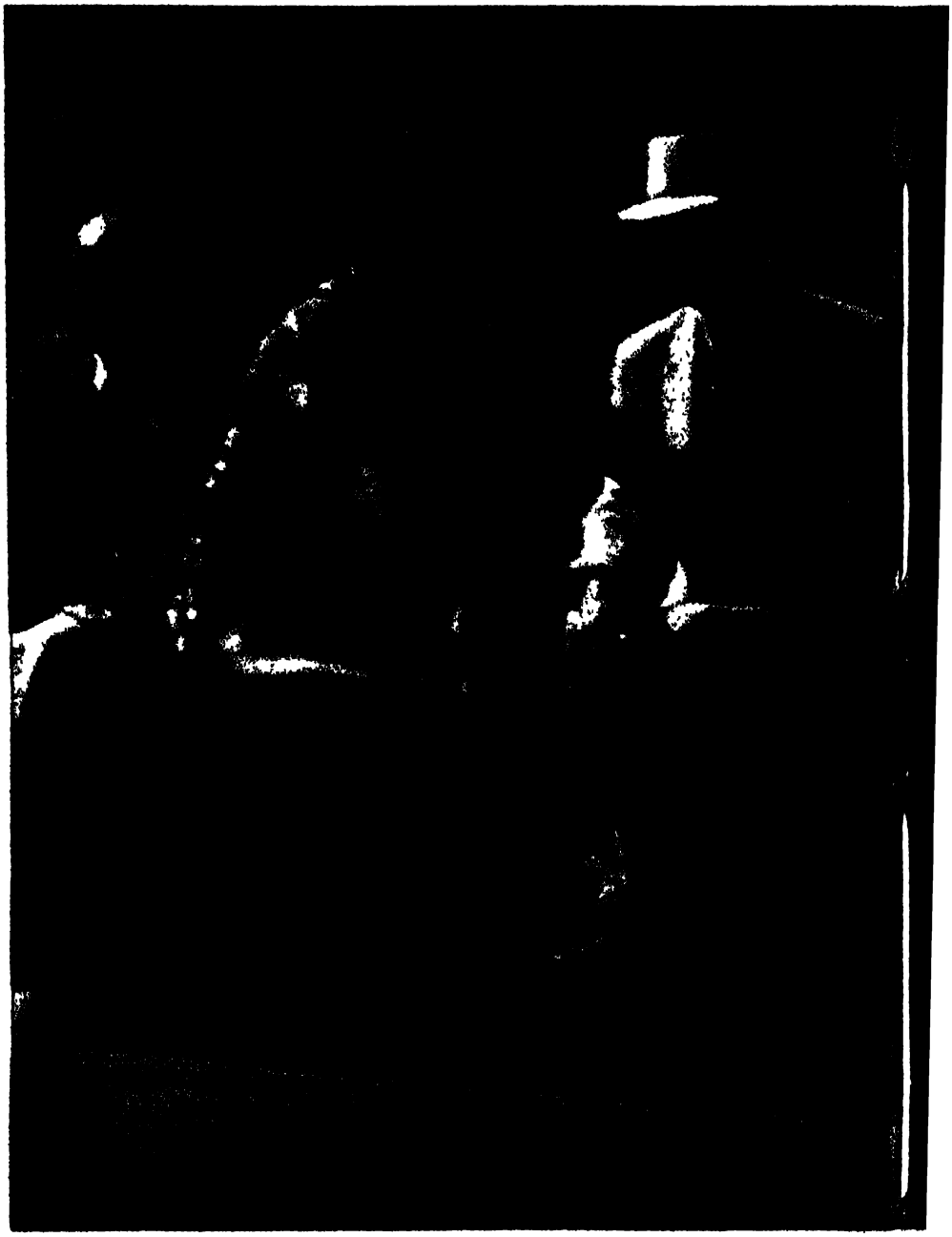
Greg Louganis: In a sport that is described as "aesthetic, it's an art form," this man is a masterpiece. Louganis isn't just the best diver in the world today. He's the fulcrum round which the sport revolves. A silver medal in the 1976 Olympics. Two golds in the 1984 Games. Will Seoul 1988 add to his tally? Injury and loss of form might find Louganis struggling. He's also got exceptionally talented youngsters—Xiong Ni, the 14-year-old Chinese and Vladimir Timoshinin, the 17-year-old Soviet—to contend with. But Louganis, knowing fully well that this could be his swan song, will not be thwarted in his ceaseless quest for perfection.

As one journalist wrote after the LA Games: "There are two categories of divers. There are those who perform with magnificent skill, grace, beauty and courage ..then, there is Greg Louganis." Remember that quote when you see Louganis standing regal on the edge of the platform, the sun glinting off his finely muscled back.

Michael Gross: Nicknamed 'The Albatross' by a French journalist because of his 7 ft 4 and ½ inch 'wing span,' the West German swimmer has shrugged off mid-season injuries to return to Seoul as a favourite again.

After freestyle and butterfly gold medals and world records at Los Angeles 1984, Gross was disdainfully dismissed after the 1987 European Championships where he manged only one title. Injuries continued through to early 1988, yet in a stunning display of prowess six weeks ago, Gross swam the 200m freestyle just three tenths of a second outside his world record. A day later he clocked the second fastest time ever in the 200m freestyle. Now 24, and the self proclaimed Granddaddy of the pool, 'The Albatross' is hungry for medals again.

Matt Biondi: The main threat to Gross' supremacy in the pool will come from this new American hero. Biondi attained instant stardom when he qualified for seven events (four individual and three relays at the US trials) allowing him a shot at the most vaunted feat of the Olympics doing a Mark Spitz.



Carl Lewis in the long jump at Los Angeles: Aiming to repeat his four-gold feat

The pressure on Biondi will obviously be considerable (he is the world 100m freestyle record holder as well), yet as LA 100m champion Rowdy Gaines says "I'm sure he doesn't want to hear this, but I have every confidence in the world that he's going to win seven gold medals. He is the greatest swimmer in the world."

Patrick Sjoberg: Unlike his usually placid compatriots, this Swede, the world high jump record holder, is a rather volatile element. He enjoys fast cars, discotheques--a sort of lifestyle one would never identify a top class athlete with. Yet once at the high jump pit, the long-haired blond is deadly serious.

After a silver medal at the Los Angeles Olympics, Sjoberg with a penchant for showmanship, executed a series of flawless jumps in front of his home crowd at Stockholm in June 1987, to clear 2.42m. His good form continued in the World Championships at Rome where 2.38m was enough for the gold medal. If Sjoberg is 'flopping' well at Seoul, the rest might as well go home.

Florence Griffiths Joyner: Once upon a time Mrs Griffiths Joyner was more famous for being triple jumper Al Joyner's wife. And for her designer finger nails and bizarre running outfits.

Now, she is the fastest woman in the world.

At the US Olympic trials, everyone's attention was diverted from her flashy outfit as she burnt up the 100m track in an outstanding timing of 10.49 seconds.

The 100m records are usually broken by hundreths of a second. Joyner had in one afternoon knocked off a phenomenal .27 off Evelyn Ashford's existing record of 10.76 seconds.

In an effort to prove it wasn't a fluke, Florence clocked another two sub 10.76 timings, in the process surely jolting Heike Dreschler and Silke Gladish, till then the favourites for the gold.

Heike Dreschler: Ever since Marita Koch and Marlies Gohr retired, the East ern Bloc looked for another of its proteges to dominate the sprint section. And East German Heike Dreschler stepped forward.

Leggy and undeniably attractive, Dreschler emerged when at 19 she won the long jump at the inaugural Helsinki World Championships. Since then she has matured into a highly capable and versatile athlete. She held two world records till a few months ago. the 200m is still hers, jointly held with Marita Koch, while her long jump record was broken marginally by Russian Galina Chistyakova.

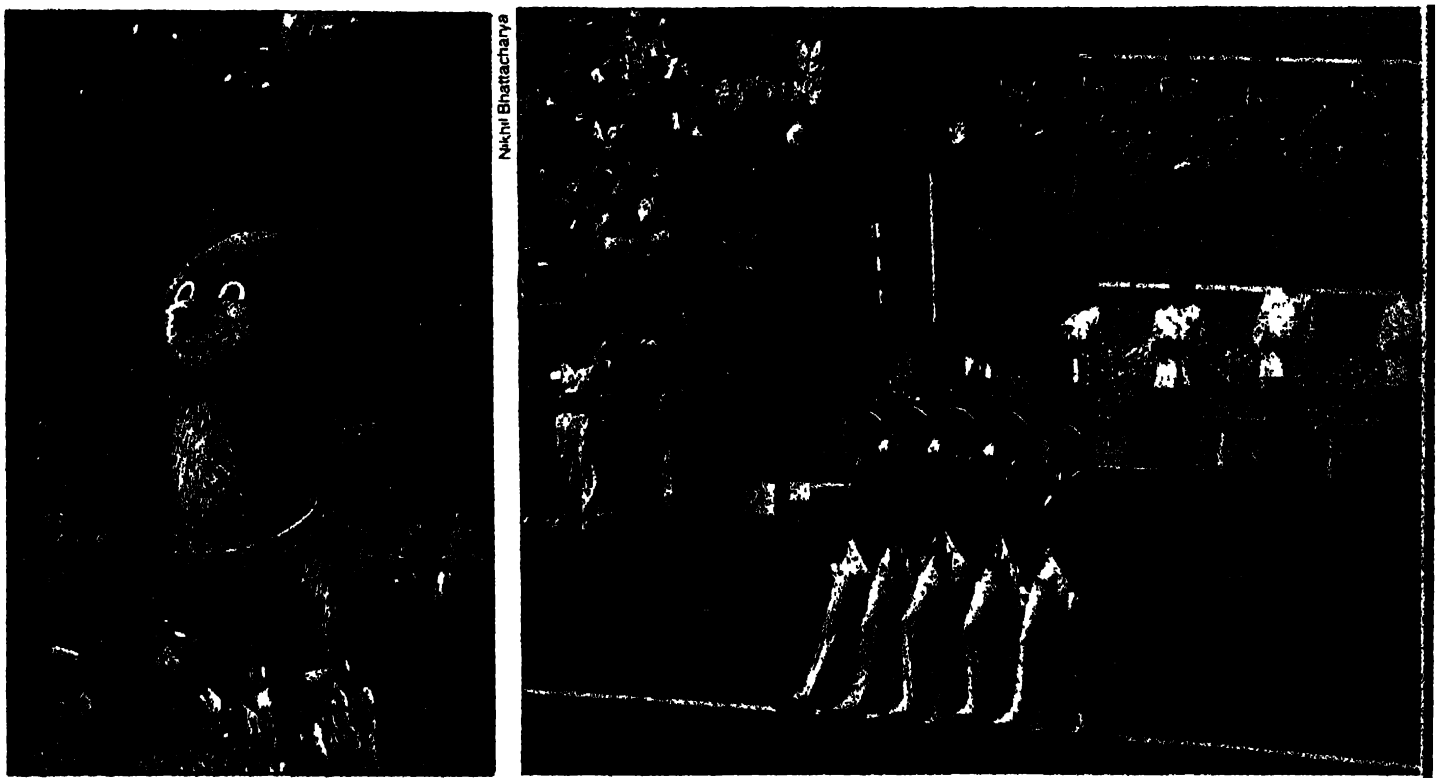
Dreschler nevertheless remains the favourite for the long jump at Seoul, and in an interesting change has opted for the 100m instead of her usual 200m. To give up her pet event only to duel with an in-form Griffiths Joyner can only mean one thing: Miss Dreschler is ready for gold.

Aurelia Dobre: Although always impressive, Romania's gymnasts received a marvellous fillip when Nadia Comaneci, all strength and grace, rewrote the history books. Therefore it is not unusual that Romania's top woman gymnast today, Aurelia Dobre, was initially inspired by Miss Perfect.

A product of her country's ruthless training regime, Dobre began gymnastics when she was 6 years old, yet was never a particularly impressive performer. Ranked a dismal 43 in the world in 1986, Dobre began to train with renewed zest (two to five hours a day at least). She rose through the ranks rapidly, her efforts culminating at the 1987 World Championship at Rotterdam where she won the individual all-round competition.

This victory enhanced her confidence greatly and Dobre has promised herself the gold at Seoul, notwithstanding any competition the Soviets or Chinese may have to offer.

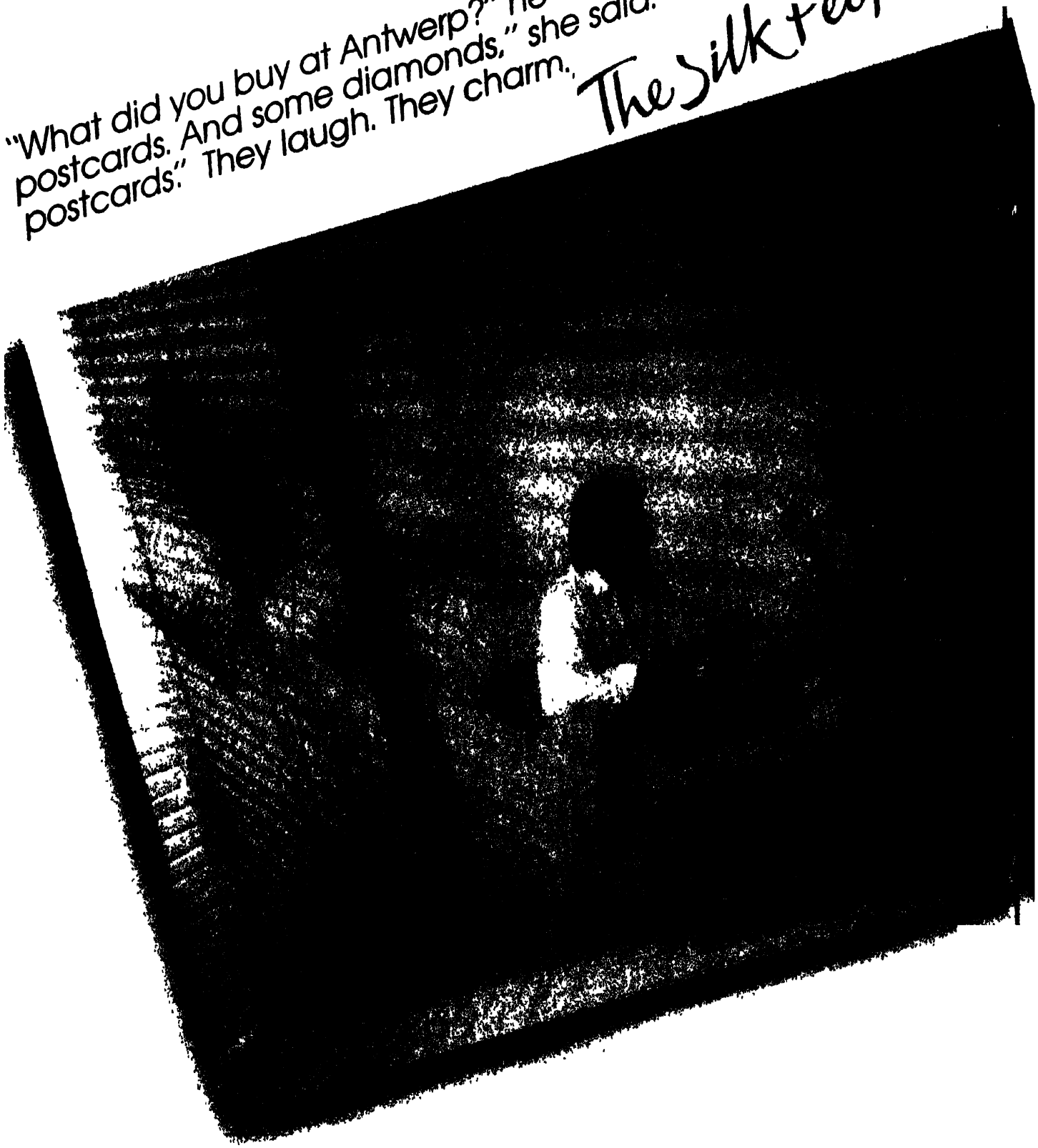
All these people might win. On the other hand, they might not. It's not important. What is important is that in two weeks time we will have a whole new brigade of heroes. People who have excelled and gained selection to the exalted altar of the gods. Some will be going there for the first time. Others have been there before, and rejected? Is that what these multiple gold medallists are all about? Do they have to keep winning till the gods deign to accept them as sacrifice?■

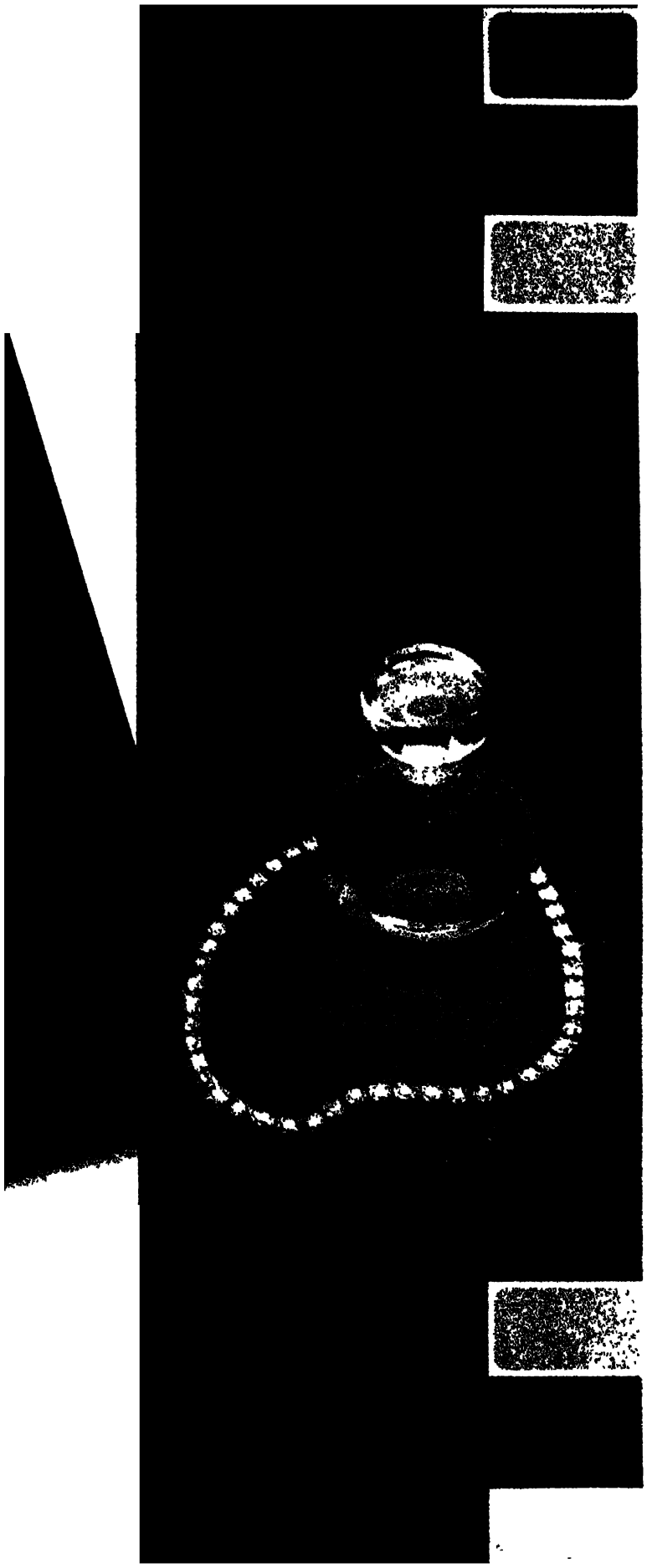


The Olympics are a time for pageantry. Scenes from Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984

"What did you buy at Antwerp?" he asked. "Picture postcards. And some diamonds," she said. "Here's to the postcards." They laugh. They charm.

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All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)–4 shows, Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) 3 shows

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Dr Shreeram Lagoo, Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

• **Biwi Ho To Aisi:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464140), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932) 4 shows

Directed by J K Bihari and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Rekha, Farooque Shaikh, Bindu, Asrani and Kader Khan

• **Geeta Ki Saugand:** Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 241822), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street, 354450)

Directed by Reetu Raaj and with music by Anwar-Usman, the cast includes Hemant Birje, Jamuna, debutante Sahira, Shakti Kapoor and Kader Khan

• **Gunahon Ka Faisla:** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Moonlight (T.C Dutta Street, 254956), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270), Basusree (S P. Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522) 4 shows



Debashree Roy and Tapas Paul in *Surer Akasha*

Directed by Shibu Mittra, the film stars Shatrughan Sinha, Dimple Kapadia, Chunkey Panday, Pran, Danny, Gulshan Grover, Ranjeet, Prem Chopra and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Khoon Bhari Maang:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270117)–4 shows, Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)–3 shows

A film by Rakesh Roshan, starring Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shatrughan Sinha, Kader Khan and Sonu Walia The music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Parbat Ke Us Paar:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) all noon show

Abhinav Chaturvedi and Lubna Siddiqui are the lead pair in this film, directed by Raman Kumar The music is by Khayyam

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285412)–12, 3, 6, 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Sagar Sangam:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141)–3 shows, Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 212266), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue, 390762), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403) 4 shows, Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753)–noon

Sahira in *Geeta Ki Saugand*



A film by Dulal Guha, starring Raakhee, Shatrughan Sinha, Mithun Chakraborty, Padmini Kolhapure, Anita Raaj, Utpal Dutt and Nana Patekar. The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Som Mangal Shani:** Society (Corporation Place, 241002), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828) Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 351382)–regular shows, Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515)–noon

Hemant Birje, Vijayeta Pandit and Kader Khan are the chief attractions in this film, directed by S R Pratap The music is by Annu Malik

• **Sone Pe Suhaaga:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)

Directed by K Bapaiah and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon and Kimi Katkar

• **Zakhmi Aurat (A):** Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090)–4 shows, Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)–noon

Dimple Kapadia, Raj Babbar and Anupam Kher are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Avtar Bhogal The music is by Bappi Lahiri

Bengali Films

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)–3, 5 45, 8 30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Swapan Chakraborty

• **Maa Ek Mandir:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080)–2 30, 5 30, 8 15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282)–2, 5, 7 45; Purna (S P. Mukherjee Road, 474567)–3, 5 45, 8 30.

Sumitra Mukherjee, Joy Banerjee, Madhabi Mukherjee, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumantra Mukherjee, Rajat Das, Indrani Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das comprise the cast of this Sukhen Das film. The music is by Ajoy Das.

• **Punarmilan:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045)–2.30, 5.30, 8.15; Indra (Indra Roy Road, 471757)–2 45, 5.45, 8.30

Directed by Jayanta Basu, the cast includes Sandhya Roy, Subhendu Chatterjee, Debika Mukherjee, Santu Mukherjee, Ruma Guhathakurta, Dilip Roy, Chinmoy Roy, Satya Banerjee, Jnanesh Mukherjee, Samit Bhanja and

Satabdi Roy. The music is by Kanu Bhattacharya.

• **Surer Akashe:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P.. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Abhisek Chatterjee, Nayana Das, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee and Beena are the chief attractions in this Biresh Chatterjee film whose music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

• **Among Wolves (A):** Globe (Lindsay Street; 296665)—12, 3, 5.45, 8.30.

• **Cat People (A):** Lighthouse (Humayun Place, 291299)—12, 3, 6, 8.30.

• **Miami Golem (A):** New Empire (Humayun Place; 291051)—4 shows.

Directed by Herbert Martin, the film stars David Warbeck, Laura Trotter and John Ireland

• **The Girl from Trieste (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715)—4 shows.

• **The Sin of Adam and Eve (A):** Elite (S N Banerjee Road; 241383)—4 shows

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• **Mera Farz:** Society (Corporation Place, 241002), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Madhuban (Regent Park).

Sridevi plays the lead in this film, directed by K. Raghavendra Rao The music is by Ilayaraja

• **7 Bijliyaan (A):** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473)—4 shows, Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—3 shows.

A film by Raju Saigal, starring Tina Munim, Shoma Anand, Neelam Mehra, Prema Narayan, Kajal Kiran, Suresh Oberoi and Raj Kiran. The music is by Usha Khanna.

18-23 September

Siddhartha Sen Gupta's exhibition of paintings in the New South Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 444205).

18 September onwards: daily 2-8 pm

An exhibition of drawings by the members of the Society of Contemporary Artists, Calcutta, till September 30.

At Chitrakoot Art Gallery (Presidency Court; 55 Gariahat Road; 463422/475314).

19 September onwards

British Council Division will hold its week-long exhibition of *A Woman's Place* in the Central Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 444205)

20 September: 6 pm

Yamini presents an evening of classical music featuring Pandit Manoj Shankar (sitar), Ajoy Chakraborty (vocal) and Keya Ghosh (vocal).

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937).

22 September onwards

Photography Association of Belghana will hold its week-long exhibition of photography in the South and New galleries

24 September onwards

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Somesh Roy and Saibal Dutta in the New South Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 444205)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2). AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6). AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1). AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7). SQ-413 at 1530; Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240; Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050. Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110. Dep. (2, 4): IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6, 7): IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6, 7): IC-248 at 1425.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily): BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715 and IC-223 at 1340, Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily). BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC-224 at 1540, Arr (7): IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5). BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7): IC-225 at 1305. Arr (2, 5). BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7). IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr (1, 2, 5): GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7) IC-444 at 2000; Arr. (daily). IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily): IC-265 at 1730, Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-478 at 1045, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1). IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1) IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-410 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4): IC-410 at 0850; Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2235.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7): IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 1535; Arr (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (2): IC-269 at 1535; Arr (2) IC-270 at 1845.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Bombay: Dep (4). IC-269 at 1800; Arr. (4): IC-270 at 2135.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625; (7): IC-220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100; Arr (1, 4): IC-240 at 1045, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) 7): IC-227 at 0835; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815; Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-256 at 1000, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-243 at 0610 and IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (2, 4): IC-244 at 0810, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

* **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi-Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0655; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600, Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-730A at 0850.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun, up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	6-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday & Saturday Arri —Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep — Tuesday Arri —Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

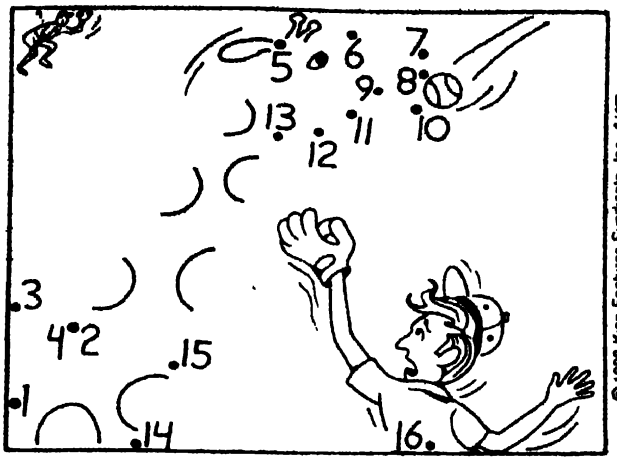
SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21 00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
52	22-35	**Bangalore Super Fast Express** Dep & Arri —Wed & Sun	13-45	51
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5 55	6
15	21 30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	11 10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14 10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep. & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203536-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



WHAT'S UP! Will our outfielder complete the catch above? If no, why not? Add lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc

• KWICKIE KWIZ! If three is the smallest number spelled with five letters, what is the largest? Answer in 60 seconds, if you can

The answer is sixty



VERSE-RIDDLE CHALLENGE

Identify this Canadian city, letter by letter

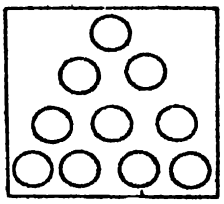
My first is in eve, but not in morn
My second's in tear, but not in torn
My third's in cinder, but not in coal
My fourth's in colt, but not in foal.
My fifth's in goat, but not in ram
My sixth's in mutton, but not in lamb
My seventh's in live, but not in die
My eighth's in wet, but not in dry
My ninth's in rhyme, but not in ditty
My all's the name of a Canadian city
What city is that?

The city is Vancouver

• **SCRUB ONE!** You are given ten balls numbered 0 through 9, and are asked to place all but one ball in the sides of the triangle below so that each of the figure's three sides total 13.

Remember, nine of ten balls figure in answer Place tenth ball at centre as excess baggage.

One way Scrub nine Top 0
then clockwise 8 3 2 4 6 1 5 7



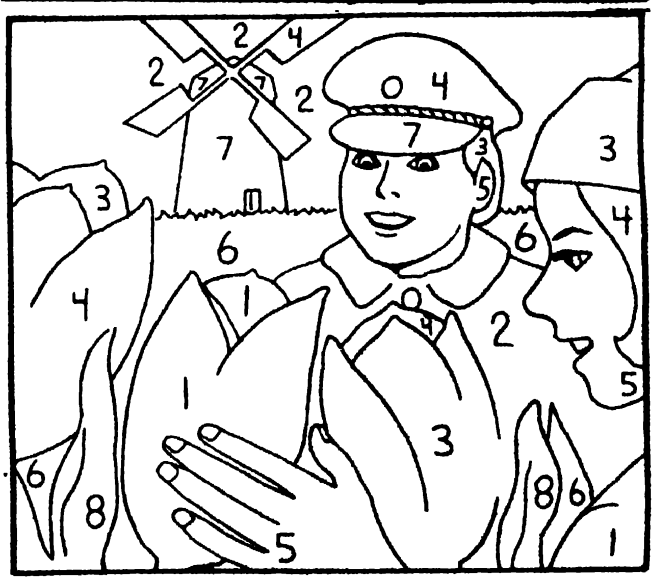
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences: 1. Bed-chart is missing. 2. Wall light is smaller. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Vase is missing. 5. Drawer is closed. 6. Sheet is smaller.

FUNSPOT



TULIP TIME! Apply these crayons or colored pencils neatly to this garden scene: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

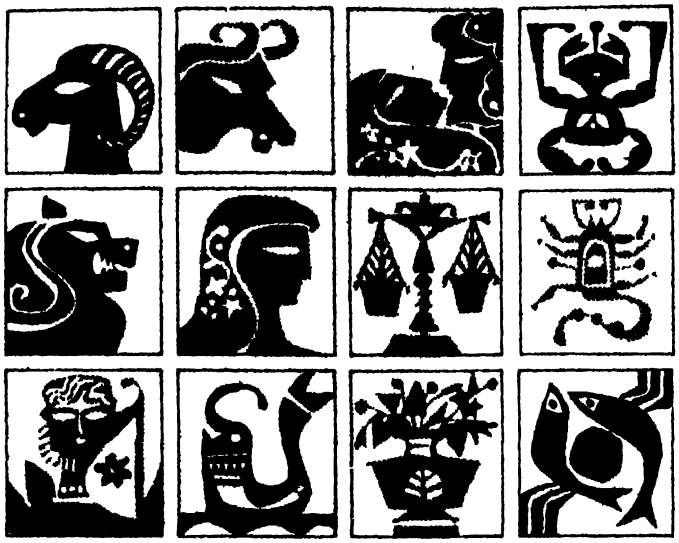
MARTINET

- - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagram: Meat, rim



ARIES

March 21—April 20

This week your professional interest will grow. It is certain that your work will be completed This applies specially to the last three days of the week ahead. Travel, visits, communication and contracts are highlighted. Towards the weekend romance, courtship and alliances are well signified Health hazards may continue to plague you so go for regular checkups.

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Lady luck now favours you. Therefore, your monetary problems should be over. Children, hobbies and pastimes will give you pleasure Industrialists and businessmen will succeed in securing loans and funds A favourable week for those with a spiritual bent of mind.Reach out to people and places.

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

The first quarter of the moon falls in your angle of partnership and travel Therefore, both these aspects are emphasised. There will be some complications in human relationships, but with patience and persuasion these can be ironed out. You should expect a lucky break from September 21 to 23 Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication but take care not to get in people's way

CANCER

June 21—July 20

Health may not be at its best as sun squares Saturn. On the work front, the pressure will increase You will have to communicate at almost breakneck speed. This, in turn, may cause some misunderstandings or misinterpretation of news and messages. It would be best to play it safe and sure. Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way.

LEO

July 21—August 21

Take things as they come. In other words, impatience and eagerness will not speed up your work or solve problems. Get a firm grip on yourself and be totally objective. If you do so, you will not repent at leisure. The last three days signify love and happiness.

VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

Mars square Neptune The emphasis will be on home and property Renovation, decoration, buying, selling and installation of machinery are also highlighted. Your health will improve. However, the health of elders and family members may cause concern.

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

Moon trines sun and this will help you to assert yourself and get your work done Diplomats and those in the pharmaceutical industry, travel, sales, journalism and publicity will do exceedingly well in other words, this is a week for letters, calls, posters, advertisements and announcements

BIRTHDAYS

September 18

Moon sextile Mercury: Despite obstacles and opposition, your work will be done. There is compassion, sales, travel, writing and painting will win laurels. You should your health as sun Saturn.

September 19

Moon conjunction Saturn, Uranus: This conjunction means you need to increase caution and care in human relationships. In other words, do not be hasty. Health safeguards are a must. Also remember that better times are ahead. Plan. Returns next year.

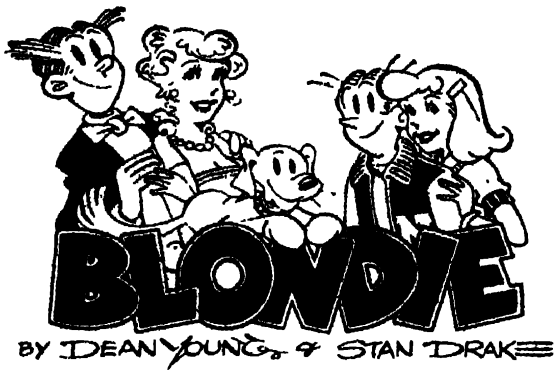
that home and family are in store for you.. Those in government service and large organisations will definitely make a headway. Romance, speculative ventures, adventures and thrills are destined for you.

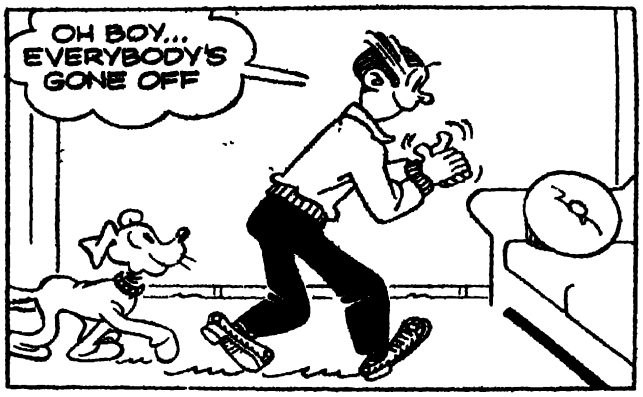
September 22

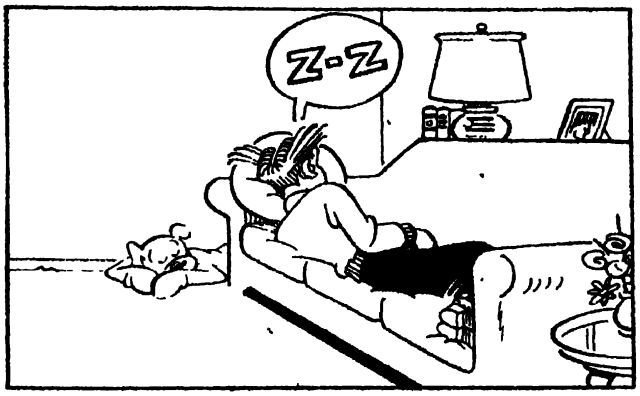
Moon sextile Mars: The energy of Mars and Moon will help you to [illegible] actives, engineers, [illegible] architectures and entrepreneurs will gain the most. Lovers and friends are in for a [illegible]

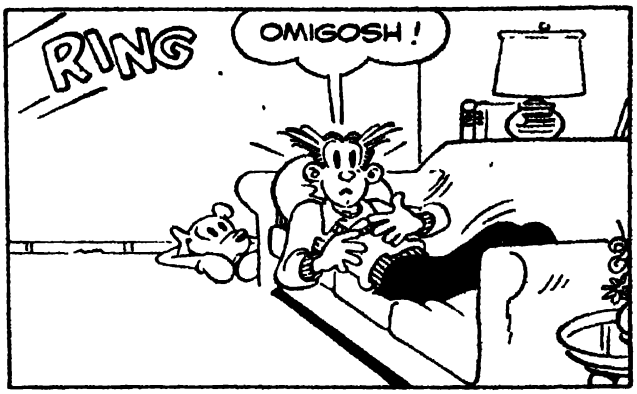
September 23

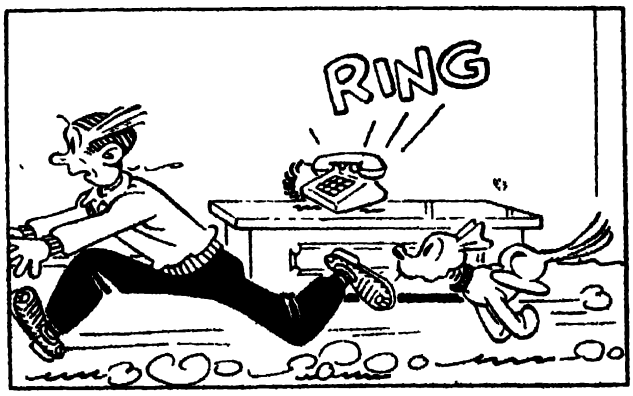
[illegible] Saturn: These in [illegible] travel, trade, [illegible] and aviation will [illegible] health of children and [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

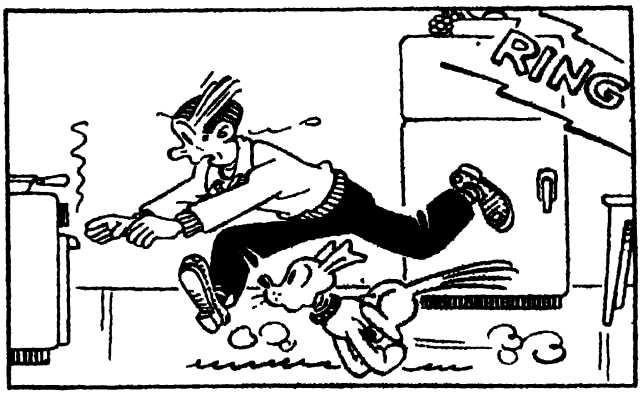


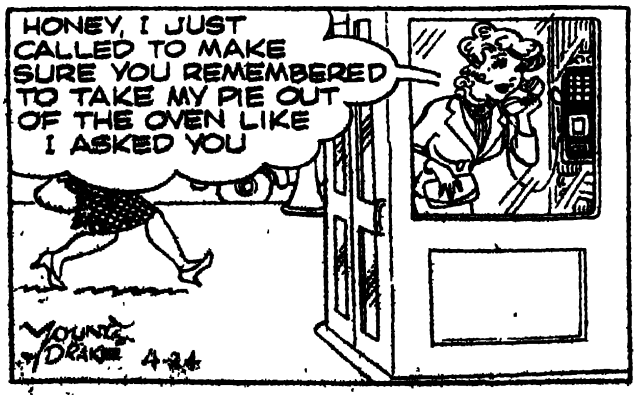




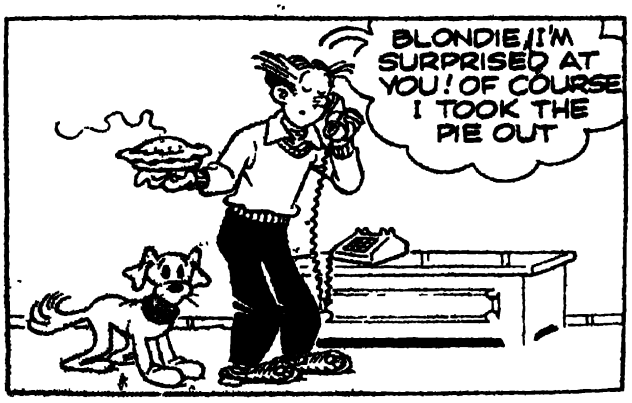








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HE-MAN By G. Fortun and J. Shull





"IT'S REAL EASY TO MAKE. SHE JUST BOILS IT UNTIL ALL THE FLAVOR IS GONE."



"LORETTA ALWAYS SERVES BALANCED MEALS. YOU HAVE A 50/50 CHANCE OF RECOVERY."

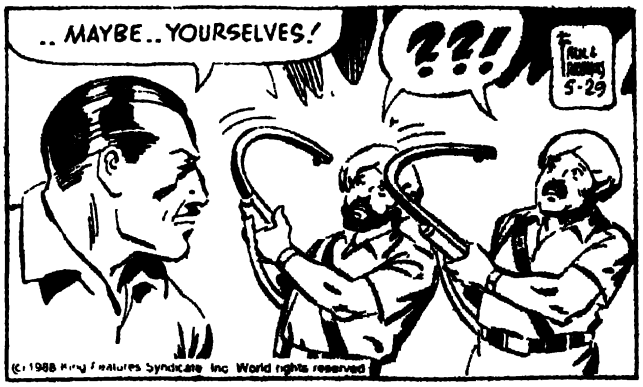


"IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT OUR LITTLE CAR COULD TIE UP TRAFFIC FOR SO MANY MILES!"



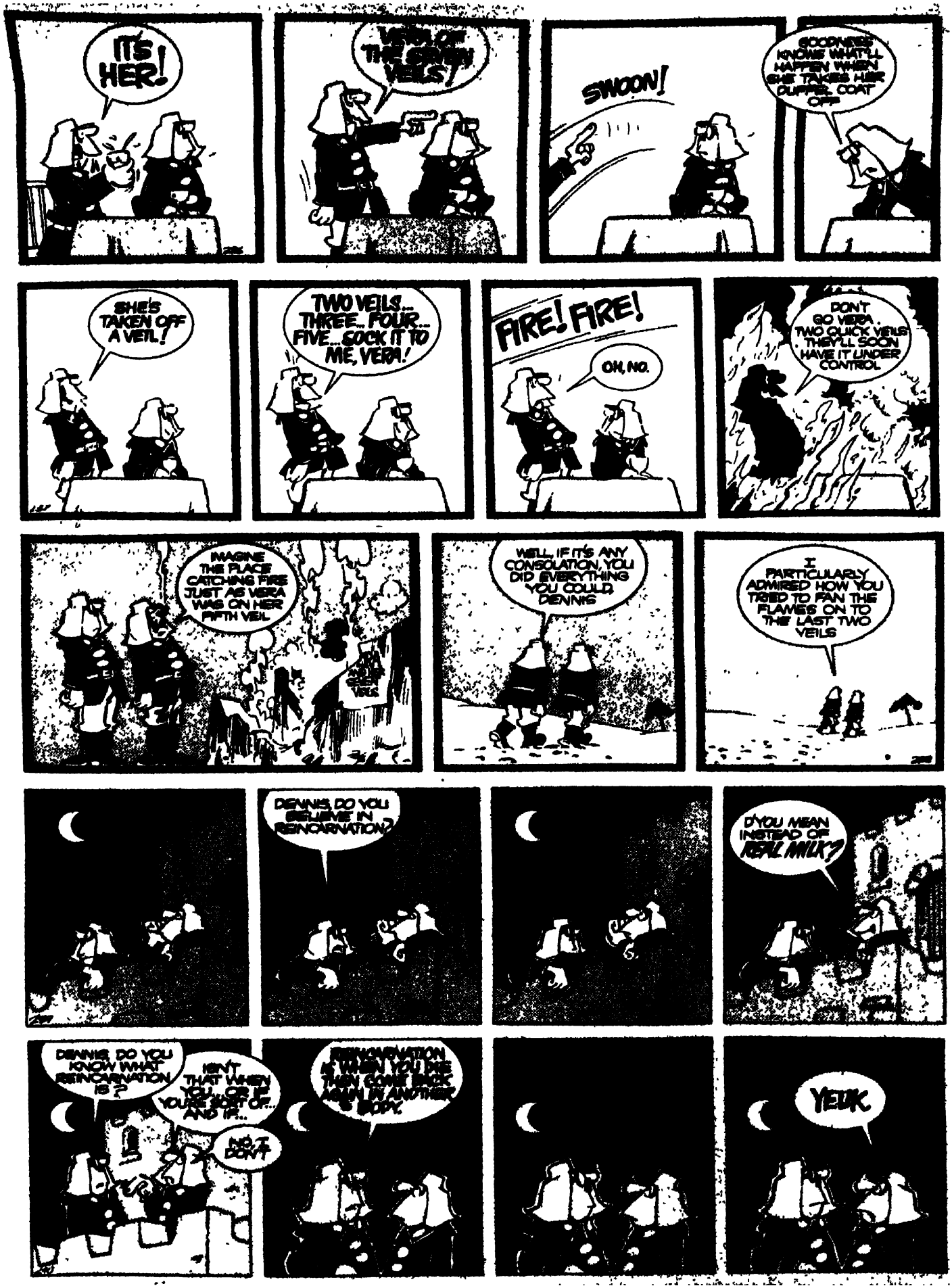
"I'M JUST RAISING HIM BECAUSE HE WAS ABANDONED BY HIS WOLF FAMILY."

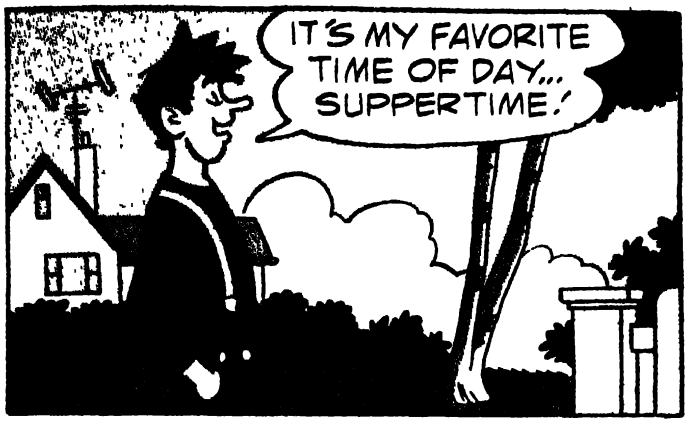


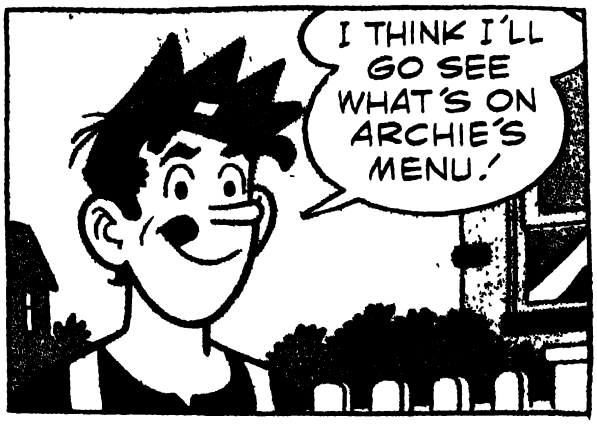


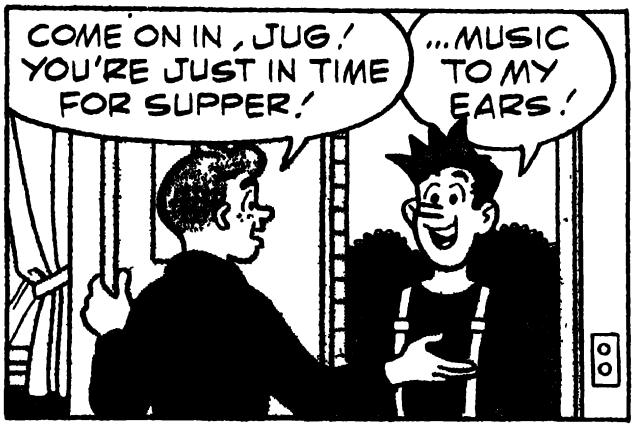


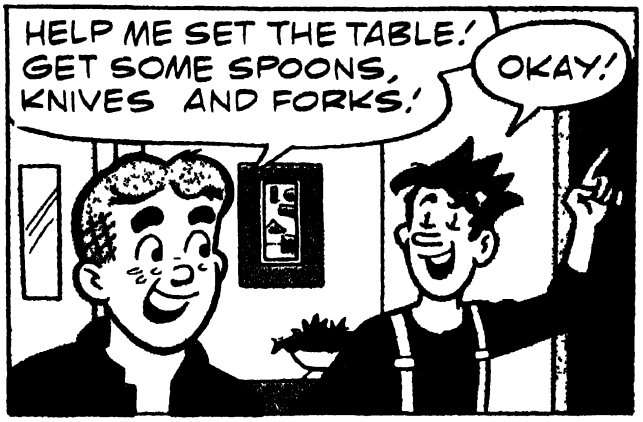



IT'S HER!
SWOON!
GOODNESS KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN SHE TAKES HER OUTER COAT OFF
SHE'S TAKEN OFF A VEIL!
TWO VEILS... THREE... FOUR... FIVE... SOCK IT TO ME, VERA!
FIRE! FIRE!
OH, NO.
DON'T GO VERA. TWO QUICK VEILS. THEY'LL SOON HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL
IMAGINE THE PLACE CATCHING FIRE JUST AS VERA WAS ON HER FIFTH VEIL
WELL, IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD, DENNIS
I PARTICULARLY ADMIRED HOW YOU TRIED TO FAN THE FLAMES ON TO THE LAST TWO VEILS
DENNIS, DO YOU BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION?
D'YOU MEAN INSTEAD OF REAL MILK?
DENNIS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT REINCARNATION IS?
ISN'T THAT WHEN YOU GET OFF AND IF...
NO, I DON'T
REINCARNATION IS WHEN YOU DIE THEN COME BACK AGAIN IN ANOTHER BODY.
YEUK

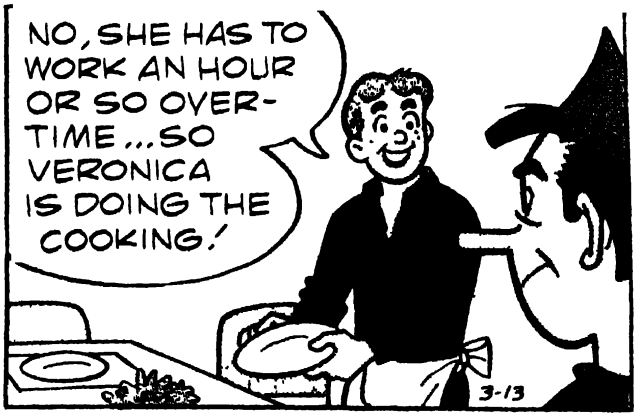








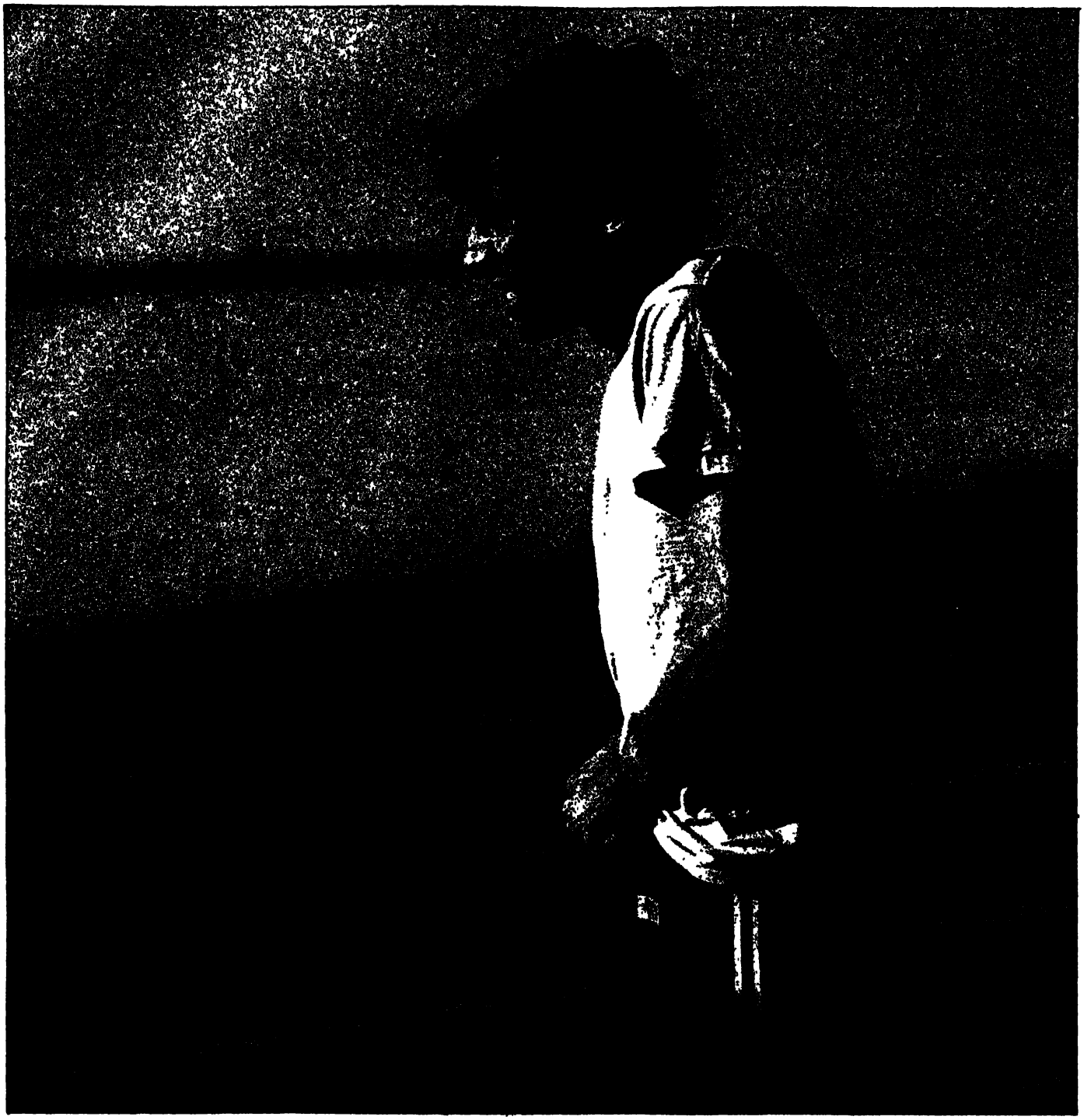






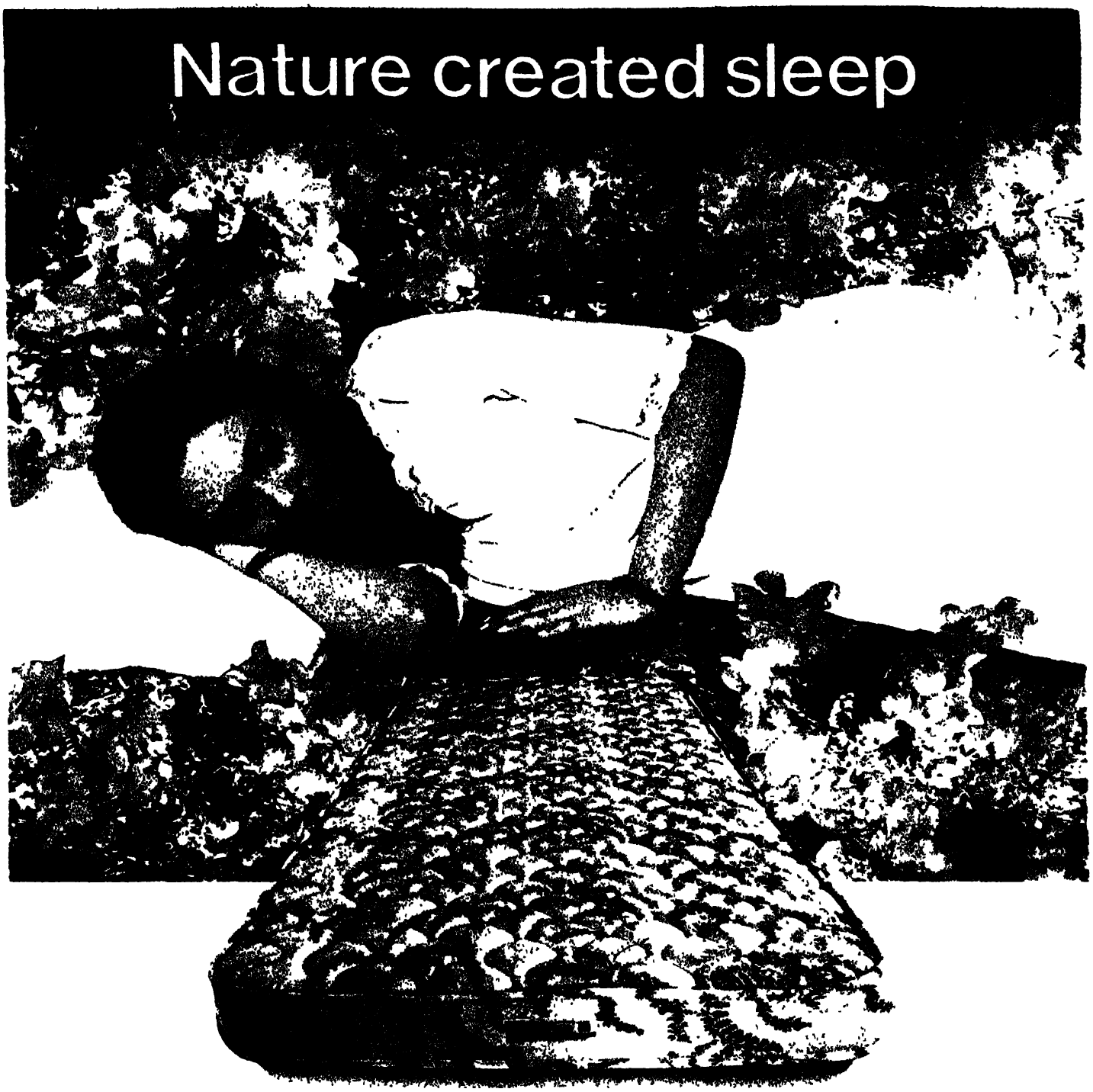


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A world record holder in middle distance events sidelined? Even Ripley's got to believe this one about **Sebastian Coe** of Great Britain. After proving himself an all-time great in the Moscow and Los Angeles Olympics, Coe did not qualify in the trials this time for Seoul. He may not have had the zip when it was needed, but rules are rules and not elastic enough to stretch for anybody, we guess. Photograph by NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

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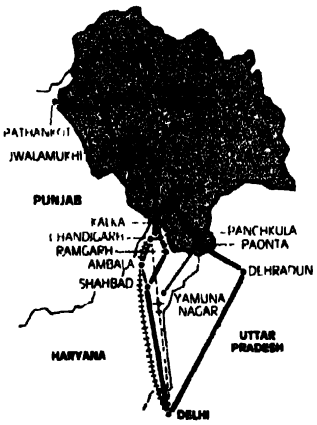
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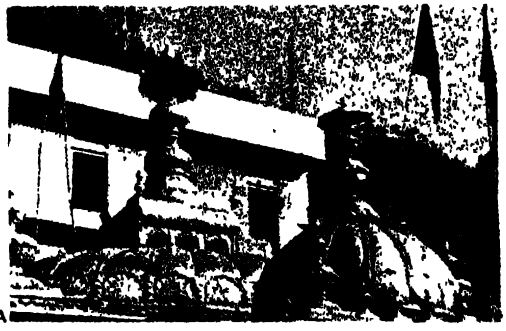
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POST MORTEM

Lady on the Beach

The cover of the Puja Travel Special (August 28) was in bad taste. I am sure any man whose conscience is not dead will be ashamed to see with his child that photograph of the lady on the beach.
Hissan Jaazila,
Calcutta

■ When you published bold photographs of some models in the 'Summer Morality' issue (June 12), I thought it was welcome as a change. But when I saw your Puja Travel Special (August 28) with a cover photograph which was not desirable, I was surprised. Is a swimsuit-clad woman on a beach the only way you can make Puri or Goa look attractive?

Ten out of 18 students in my class (BSc, Physics, III year) take *The Telegraph* regularly, but said their parents would discontinue it if this carried on. They are puzzled by your taste.
Barun Chakraborty,
Suri (Birbhum)

■ Your team has done commendable work on the issue. I read the full magazine at one stretch.
Vinay,
Calcutta

Unity of Rhythm

The article, 'Melody of Rhythm' (July 17), condensed well the colourful history of seven dance styles and showed us that beneath every thought and action there is an inward flow of irrevocable unity.
Soma Majumdar,
Bhilai

The Total Poem

Swati Mitra (August 21) betrays an utter lack of understanding of contemporary poetry. Most of the poems published in the Colour Magazines are much superior to those we find in other English magazines.

As for Boudhayan Mukhopadhyay's poem, she has pulled out the lines and distorted their meaning. She should judge modern poetry by cultivating a deeper feeling which embraces the total poem and not just a few stray lines.
Sushmita Moulick,
Calcutta

To say that I was amused on reading the poem, 'Lament of a Public School Teacher' (May 8) would be putting it mildly. Condescending though Chandak Chattarji may try to appear, the tables seem to be turned on him. For, in his fervour to "shove Shakespeare into the infertile imaginations of legal bastards of tycoons" in the "elite Eton" (in which I now realise I had the misfortune of having been his student), he has probably failed to realise that it is this very "daily chore" that earned him his three square meals. I wish to express my sincere apprehensions for his present students who, he laments, do not deserve a teacher of his calibre.
D. Guha Sircar,
Margherita (Assam)

As It Should Be

For the first time I read an account of the Sahni sisters written in the manner it should be (August 21). Your poems, too, are a pleasure to go through.
Dilnavaz Shroff,
Editor, *Woman's Executive Digest*,
Bombay

Untitled Sabatini and Graf

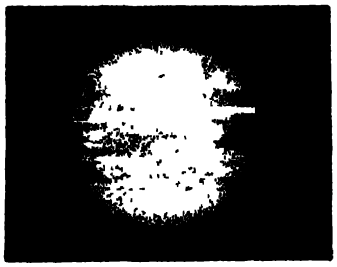
Every Sunday I wait anxiously for the Colour Magazine just for the Candid Camera page. But *when* will you publish a photograph of Gabriela Sabatini and Steffi Graf?
Amrita Sarkar,
Ranchi

Steffi Graf

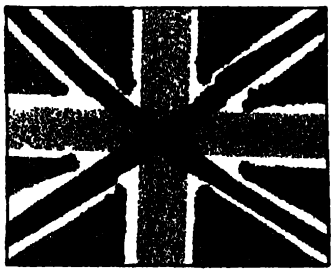


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25 SEPTEMBER 1988



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SECTIONS

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Tapan Das

Coldness

You sent me trailing
Into the fortress of darkness
Where winter in lumps
Gnawed at our breasts
And rats recoiled to holes
In simmering madness
Hopes restless with ease
Dyed with morning shadows
Perked like taunting lilies
Sprawled on a silver plate
And life in unremembered wombs
Threw tantrums in stillness
The keen rush-hour thoughts
In very subdued degrees
Caught cliches in those sleek eyes
That rained a thousand torrents
And ambushed my feelings
That lay on a cold stone
Krishna Bose

Survival

Two dogs are fighting
near the garbage drum,
a pig comes and claims a share
a beggar watches longingly

An out of tune harmonium
from a building nearby
marches on the garbage
The dogs fight undisturbed
The pig squeals
perhaps it needs a tooth-pick

I stand frozen
unable to stir my roots,
the harmonium licks the air
savagely, a dog in heat
C. Raju

The Angry Street

Why the peddlers do not come
to this street, I know
For quite a long time
they do not

Why birds do not rest
on the cornice, I know
It is quite a long time
since they did so.

The peddlers frequented the street
with their offer
Now they turn their backs
from quite a distance

The birds fly away
leaving the deserved street
to burn with anger.
Why the mansion and
the glass window burn, I know.

Some people are burning with malice
even inside the apartment
Each has found faults
in the other's logic
Each is suffering in his own room
from malice, I know

The peddlers, the birds sensed it
long before I did
Nirendranathnath Chakraborty
(Translated by Arun Ghosh)



Nightmare

Tonight,
I woke up to the
smell of burning flesh
emnating from the kitchen,
only to remember,
I am still a bachelor.
Today,
I am filling an application form

for a passport,
to give the stink the slip,
before it engulfs me
Syed Ahmed Shah

Allegorical

Everything comes to shape
And again sometimes
In lack of care
turns intricate -
(2)
Room within room
Broadens the gap
Between mind and eyes
(3)
The bird had a straw
The wind was wild
A lesson was embedded
In living crosswise
(4)
Amidst sun, air, rain
drifted the straw
Before the bird could know
What's recognised
To give things
a concrete shape
Manas Bakshi

Deer Park at Sarnath

It seems impossible to begin
to speak of those gone ahead
intact, fired by breath
Through flowering mustard
they race past a main road
northwards to the deer park
In the terrible kindness of the dead,

they whisper as they pass

Inscribe yourself if you can
on brick or bone or slate
then surrender it all with grace

Rejoice in these trees
jutting windward
A threshold
cut in rock
with seven kingdoms visible
is still no stopping place
Clouds consume the palaces
of the gods
stone chariots stir in soil
all Sarnath is covered in dirt.
There is no grief like this,
the origin of landscape is mercy
Meena Alexander

SEN AND SENSIBILITY

Mahadevi Verma, the great Hindi poet who died a year ago, was always more concerned about others than herself, says P.D. TANDON

Death took away the most dazzling star of the literary firmament on September 11 last year—Mahadevi Verma. Every year, after burning the Holi fire at night, she used to perform some rituals to ward off the evil spirits from her friends. A highly emotional person, she too often wet her eyes, but mentally, she was a determined individual.

She was one of the greatest poets of modern India and a powerful orator. Songs of sorrow came to her more naturally than songs of joy, but behind that sorrow there was no despair. She was ever hopeful. She loved laughter and lived for it, and had faith in the goodness of man. She was not only a great poet, but a writer of chiselled prose and a painter of no mean merit. As a teacher of sterling qualities, she had old students writing, to her from far-off places and often seeking her advice on personal matters.

Mahadevi was always a source of solace to the distressed hearts and a great comfort to the weary pilgrims of life. In *Neeraja*, she has said:

Look to the endless tears of humanity
Not the smile that my lips may hold.
Ignore the shattered dreams in my eyes
Tend to the buds withering in the cold.

(Translated into English by Aruna Sitesh).

Mahadevi could endure pain with calm courage and personal grief left no scars on her soul though the suffering and anguish of others upset her a great deal. Once, near my bungalow, she was involved in a car accident. She had sustained serious injuries, but even at that moment she kept enquiring about the condition of others who were in the car. When I went to see her in the [illegible] she was at peace with [illegible] and a picture of poise. [illegible] said, "When I see others in sorrow and suffering, I must confess, I am very disconsolate."



Sandeep Shankar

Receiving the 18th Jnanpith award in New Delhi from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Mahadevi was a dependable friend and a delightful conversationalist. A dialogue with her was a voyage of discovery. For many, she was poetry personified. She was wide awake to the happenings in the country, and felt that every nation had to pass through such periods of turmoil and unrest. She believed that when the night was darkest, the dawn was nearest. "The dark night cannot keep away the dawn for long and there is no such darkness which can completely devour the light of any lamp," she used to say.

Mahadevi used to celebrate festivals with great and child-like joy. On such occasions, she profusely decorated her drawing room with lovely toys and objects. During Diwali she always kept her most loved book, *Ramcharit Manas*, in her drawing room with all her pens. On that day she wrote nothing. All the visitors to her house on this occasion were asked to sign on the Bhoj Patra. She also loved birds and animals and looked after them with tender care.

Once I asked her if she liked her poetry more or her prose. She said, "Poems are written in a creative mood when the best in me is roused. In poetry, the heart dominates and in prose, the mind. It is difficult for me to compare the two. It is for others to do so." While her lyrics are of a very high order, full of freshness and charm achieved through artistic perfection, her prose is equally scintillating and exquisite.

In her early days Mahadevi went to Varanasi to study the Rig Veda, but the *pandits* there refused to teach her because she was a woman. This hurt her a great deal. She came to Allahabad University and there, too, had to face several difficulties. At that time, the great Sanskrit scholar, Pt Ganganath Jha, was the vice-chancellor and he did not talk to girls, at times even refusing to look at them. But she managed to read the Rig Veda to her heart's content.

Buddhism deeply fascinated her, too, and she decided to become a Bhikshuni and distributed all her belongings. One day she went to a Buddhist *guru* to settle the place where she would get diksha. The *guru*, while talking to her, kept a small wooden fan in front of his face. After the interview, she asked his secretary why he did not look at her. She was told that he never looked at women. This roused the rebel in her and then and there she decided not to have such a person as her *guru*. The dream of becoming a Bhikshuni was shattered.

For 200 years, no girl had been born in her family. Her father was a deeply religious person and when his prayer for a daughter was granted, he named her "Mahadevi" Greatly loved by her parents, she was married at the age of nine.

She came into contact with national leaders at an early age. One day she left her books in a room at Anand Bhawan and when Jawaharlal Nehru noticed them, he angrily enquired, "Whose books are these?" Mahadevi, a little upset, replied, "Mine." Jawaharlal snapped, "What will you study when you leave your books here and there? Very strange." Mahadevi herself had narrated this to me years ago.

Mahadevi saw Gandhiji in 1922. Six years later she went to Bapu and requested him to let her work with him, He said, "Those who don't want to work, or are not capable of good work, attach themselves to others. Those who are capable of doing any solid job, start institutions and take others with them. You are a writer, why don't you do Hindi propaganda?" She accepted his advice and joined the Prayag Mahila Vidyapith, Allahabad.

Her poems are imbued with mellow sweetness and extensive imagery, and are full of delicate charm. Her lyrics abound in great and tender images and are artistically perfect. She was a person of very deep sensibilities, ever awake to the sorrow and joys of life. The nation is very proud of her creative work and generations to come will read her poems and poetic prose with deep respect and joy. ■

JUST



Nikhil Bhattacharya

Graham Gooch: Should have been brought down to his knees

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) has unleashed a tempest. First, by retaining Graham Gooch as skipper to India, and then, by selecting seven other players with rand links.

Actually, this quite measures up to the TCCB standards of bungling, on view Faisalabad onwards. But this is one storm which will not blow over in a hurry. And could devastate the International Cricket Conference (ICC).

Unfortunately, despite repeated pleas, the ICC has done little to discipline players who court South Africa. It has refused to adopt a clear, strict line, and is, to a large extent, responsible for the present mess.

Reams of newsprint have been devoted to the SA issue, as also numerous hours at many ICC sessions. This is because, as West Indies board president Clyde Walcott put it so beautifully, "It is an issue that goes deeper than just cricket."

Indeed, there has been a division among the permanent members of the ICC for some time now. India, Pakistan, West Indies and Sri Lanka versus two founding members, England and Australia, and New Zealand.

Even the associate members are split. Prominent anti-South Africa hawks here are Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. A couple of seasons ago, England B had to call off their tour of Bangladesh and Zimbabwe as English players with SA links would not have passed immigration. Interestingly, Derbyshire's Kim Barnett has the dubious distinction of being at the centre of the storm then and now.

Despite the Gleneagles Agreement, signed in 1977, the presence of a UN blacklist (compiled by the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee) and the Lagos declaration (also in '77), sporting links have not been totally severed with South Africa. It has not been isolated.

(Significantly, the Gleneagles Agreement emerged immediately after the boycott of the '76 Olympics in Montreal by African nations. They were protesting New Zealand's sporting links with SA. The Agreement also became necessary as the '78 Commonwealth Games, too, were threatened by an African boycott)

The Gleneagles Agreement (so dubbed because the meeting venue was Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland) categorically states: "...is the urgent duty of governments (Commonwealth) to vigorously combat the evil of apartheid by withholding any form of support for, and by taking every practical step to discourage contact or competition by their nationals with sporting organisations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa or from any other country where sports are organised on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin..."

Two months later, in August 1977, the UN convened a World Conference for Action Against Apartheid in Lagos. Among other things, the declaration unambiguously stressed: "The conference urges states and international and national sporting bodies to take all appropriate step within their jurisdiction to bring about the termination of all sporting contacts with South Africa."

Rugby and tennis stars have, among others, performed in South Africa, without in the least being bothered about the blacklist of sportsmen. Cricketers, too, have made both runs and money (more of the latter) in the bastion of apartheid. Cricketers from England, Australia, Sri Lanka and, believe it or not, even the West Indies. However, players from India, Pakistan and New Zealand have thus far not succumbed to crass money power. While the West Indies and Lankan cricketers were banned for life by their respective boards, the Englishmen who toured as rebels in 1982 were barred from Test cricket for three years. The Aussies invited a ten-year ban. It is significant that

The selection of the English cricket team to tour India this winter seems a deliberate attempt to step on non-white toes. L.P. Sahi analyses the issue to show that sporting spirit is more than skin deep

Gooch skippered the so-called rebels. Test cricket's most prolific run-getter then, Geoff Boycott, was in the squad too.

The three-year ban ended quickly and the likes of Gooch and John Emburey promptly returned to the England side. The TCCB should have initiated harsher penalties.

Though the South Africa question continued to be debated, not with much enthusiasm always, it regained momentum in May last year, the year of the World Cup. Thanks to Allan Rae, the then West Indies board supremo who, for long, had been advocating a militant, uncompromising line against erring players.

A trifle unexpectedly, Rae announced that his board wanted the ICC to immediately discuss its proposal to "standardise punishment" for players who continue to associate themselves with South Africa.

His announcement was a bombshell. Principally because it was the year of the World Cup, being hosted for the first time

NOT CRICKET

outside England. Though the Cup hosts, India and Pakistan, agreed with the Windies point of view (shrewdly drafted by Rae, a barrister par excellence), both realised it was just the spark that could set the World Cup on fire.

Sure enough, England (not particularly pleased that the Cup wasn't being held in Old Blighty) announced it would pull out if the hosts sought to influence (read: no visas for those with SA links) team selection. Australia and New Zealand, especially the former, backed England.

A compromise was struck, with England gaining the maximum and the highly controversial and very sensitive issue was referred to a select committee. It was an ad-hoc measure, one of convenience really. And such measures only attract more problems.

Though the committee failed to achieve anything extraordinary, it made one significant observation. That immigration laws are supreme and if the host nation objected to a particular player's presence, the affected board "could" replace him. Why not "should" or "must"?

England scored another point at this year's annual meeting of the ICC on July 7, when it manipulated to put off a vote on players' links with South Africa. Instead, a special meeting was scheduled for January 23 next. In other words, around the time the England tour to India would be ending. But the TCCB was being naive in thinking the SA-linked-eight would be accorded the traditional Indian welcome. Curiously, Messrs Gooch, Emburey and others were given visas during the World Cup. And as they had not given any undertaking (at least not in public) that they would terminate contacts with South Africa, such a possibility always existed.

The English pro needs employment in the off-season. Unless he is selected for an overseas tour, he finds it lucrative to either coach or play in South Africa. Or even do both.

According to information available, Gooch donned the Western Province cap in the Currie Cup last winter (after the series in Pakistan) and was headed for South Africa this winter, too. Till he decided to accept the England captaincy for the India tour. Gooch, a brilliant cricketer no doubt, made matters worse by "appreciating" the Western Province gesture in "releasing" him from their contract. Expectedly, this flabbergasted many and was ammunition for the likes of Sam Ramaswamy (SANROC). Despite criticism (and warnings), the TCCB, in a thoroughly insensitive move, went ahead and chose seven others with SA connections.

Mike Selvey summed it up admirably—"The TCCB balanced the team perfectly well. Choosing eight players who were welcome. And eight who would not be welcomed."

Ideally, one wouldn't like politics and sports to mix. But, for various reasons, this is not always possible. After all, had Pat Cash, the '87 Wimbledon champion, not pulled out, the Seoul Olympics could well have been threatened. Cash is reported to have performed in SA.

Keeping the prevailing sentiment in mind, the TCCB should have done better. Instead, it forced New Delhi, which has a high profile anti-apartheid presence on the international scene, to categorically state 'no visas for the blacklisted cricketers.' Everyone anticipated such a response. Except, perhaps, the TCCB.

Once the Indian government's viewpoint was known, some patently absurd thoughts were floated. One such is totally crazy: that England field a different team when they play Australia and New Zealand, and a new outfit when they encounter either India or the Windies, Pakistan or Lanka.

Yet another idea that gained currency was that Gooch and Co. would be cleared if they pledged not to have anything more to do with SA. But will New Delhi be taken for a ride? Unlikely.

Not many years ago, in 1981-82 to be precise, Boycott made a great show of 'I-will-have-nothing-to-do-with-SA' nonsense. Even while he was professing this, he was, quite shamelessly, recruiting players for the rebel tour a few months later.

The Times, in a forthright comment just the other day, wondered, "Was this (selection) a bungle at all? Was not this latest political mess deliberately chosen. India deliberately provoked?" Quite a few are making similar queries here.

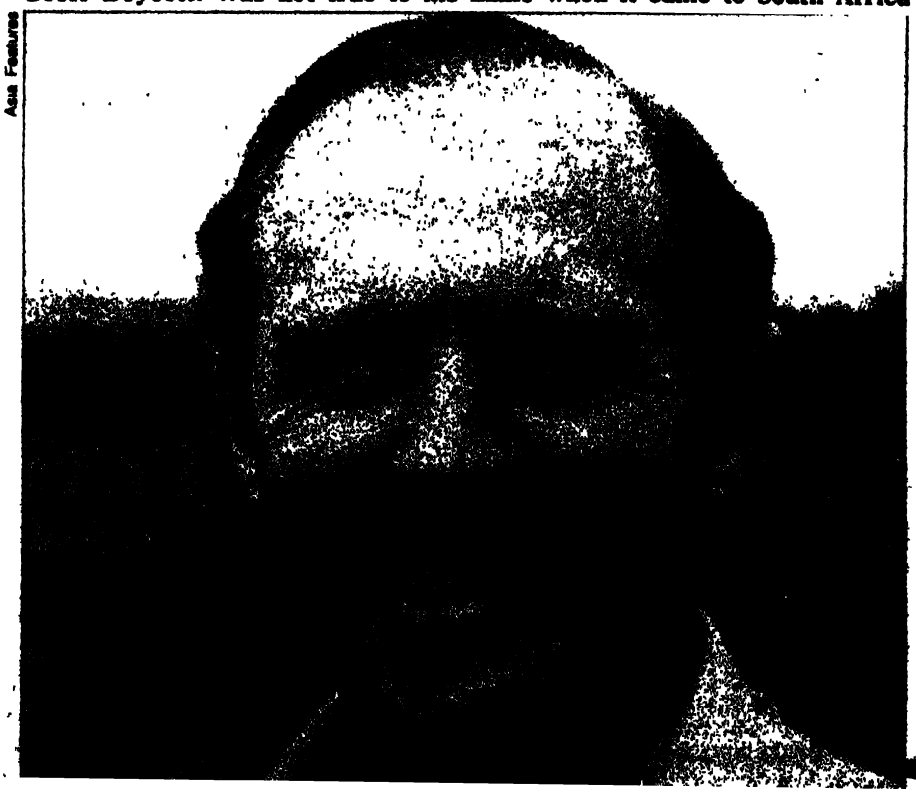
While the tour has still not been called off (at the time of going to press), the cancellation appears certain. The TCCB will not drop eight players, including the captain and vice-captain. And New Delhi's position is also crystal clear.

Immense interest now centres on the January '89 meeting. It definitely will come off. But will it succeed in stalling a split? And if the ICC does split, will the breakaway ICC be headquartered at Eden Gardens, with possibly a secretariat in Georgetown?

Plenty of action is in store. Sadly, it will all be off the field. ■

Geoff Boycott: Was not true to his name when it came to South Africa

Agua Features





A quiz report from Manish Shome and Arindam Sengupta, Shillong:

"Open quiz competitions here in Shillong are very few and far between. So, it is heartening to note the enterprise and improving standards of the various teams The three quiz competitions organised by the Rotaract Club, came as a breath of fresh air.

"In the College Quiz, St Edmund's 'A' team forged ahead from the start, maintained their lead and emerged runaway victors. Kendriya Vidyalaya came second with the Edmund's 'B' team close on its heels in the third position. The quiz was conducted by George Chacko.

"The next event, the School Quiz, turned out to be a rather low key affair. Compered by Professor Agha Ahmed, the roll of honour was. (1) 7 set school (sic); (2) Pine Mount.

"Ultimately, came the showpiece of the series in the form of the Open Quiz on the final evening. The quiz master, Brother Davis, conducted the proceedings with an aplomb that made the quiz a more hotly contested affair than the others. Adolase (St Edmund's) and Nazi Connies (K.V.) eventually tied for top honours."

•

"What is qwerty ?" asks Sudhir Sanyal, Calcutta 19.

Qwerty is part of the series of letters that label the first row of letter keys on typewriters in English-speaking countries. It is also known as Qwert yuiop from the full series in that row.

Typewriters have become so mechanically refined that they almost operate themselves; the qwerty keyboard designed in 1872, however, remains basically the same Some consider the pattern irrational because it gives the left hand a lot of work to do, and its little finger too big a share of that.

The dvorak keyboard differs from the qwerty in several ways, the most important difference being the placement of the vowels a, e, i, o, u, on the home row, off the left hand.

In French the standardised typewriter keyboard is azerty Germans operate qwertz machines, while Italians perfer azerty.

Dr Rumia Bose, Calcutta 29, elabrorates on the 11th question, that appeared on July 31,1988.

"'Ash cash' is the term used to indicate the extra fees to be paid to the certifying doctor in cases where dead bodies are cremated instead of being buried. This is given in order to ensure that the doctor is extra careful in his certification, as in any future dispute about the cause of death there will be no scope for further examination of the body.

"I would also like to take a bash at the 11th question myself."

Thanks for the more detailed explanation and your "bash" qualifies for no. 11 this week.

"Besides Rome, which other European city is famous for its catacombs?" This question comes from Chittaranjan Pal, Calcutta 5.

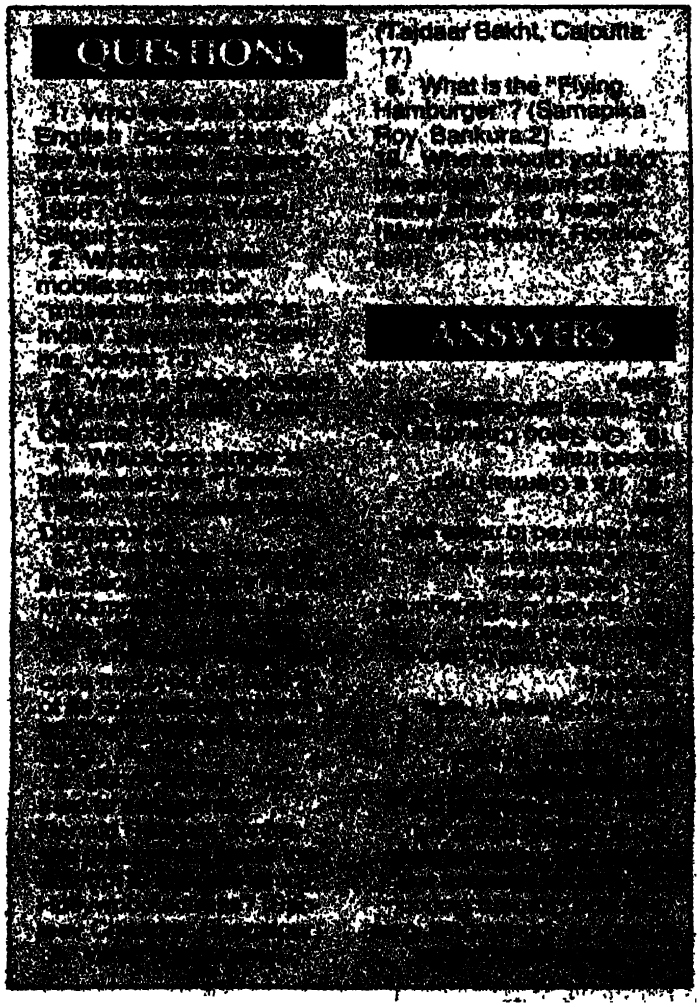
Catacombs are found in several cities throughout the world but those in Paris are the world's largest and eeriest. At the entrance on the Left Bank, as if in warning, a sign reads: "Stop, this is the realm of the dead." Deep within, the bones of an estimated 6 million people are stacked up against the 2,700 ft of catacomb walls. Many are arranged systematically, often in the shape of a cross, with skulls on the walls above them Though a guided tour covers only a small part of the total area of this underground cemetery, a visitor will store up enough macabre memories to last a lifetime. The squeamish had better skip a visit there altogether. Formed by excavations during Gallo-Roman times, the catacombs were originally a series of vast underground quarries. The first bones were brought to them from abandoned cemeteries in 1786. Many victims of the French Revolution and later of the infamous Bloody Week in which the Paris Commune was suppressed were also laid to rest here. On April 1, 1897, as a joke, 50 musicians gave a concert in the depths of the tombs. The programme carefully planned for the occasion, included Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre*, the *Funeral March* from Beethoven's *Eroica*, and Chopin's *Funeral March*. During World War II, the French resistance movement established its headquarters here.

Postscript Entries for the Argus Close Up Quiz close tomorrow.

CBS

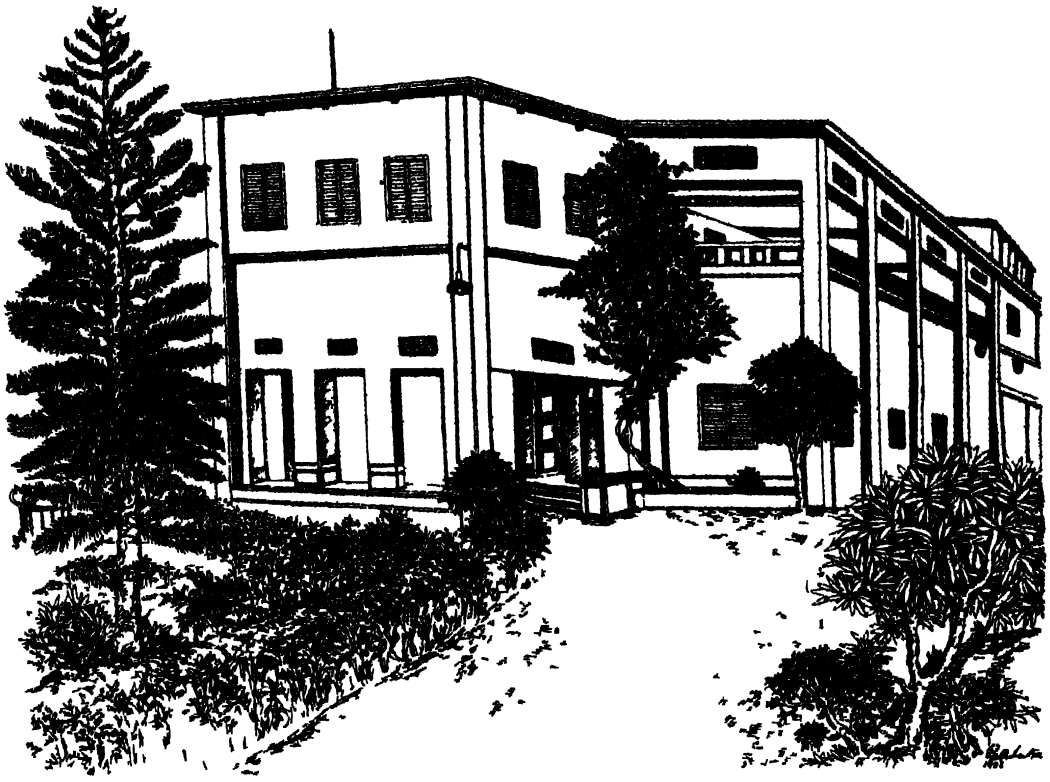
11th Question: **What in Calcutta minibus conductors' parlance, is "*electric'ey chalano*" ("driving on electricity" would be an approximate, if ungrammatical translation)? (Dr Rumia Bose, 43 B, Mahanirban Road, Calcutta 700 029).**

Ans: **It is the term used by the conductor when he advises the driver ("*electric'ey chalao*") to take the bus on to the raised tramtracks in the centre of the road—a trick resorted to on places like Garlahat Road, in order to get ahead of other vehicles on the road. This is specially done when the minibus is "competing" with another bus.**





UDAY SHANKAR (1900-77)



Born to Pandit Shyam Shankar and Hemangini Devi on December 8, 1900 at Udaipur, Rajasthan, this doyen of creative dance was named after his historic birthplace

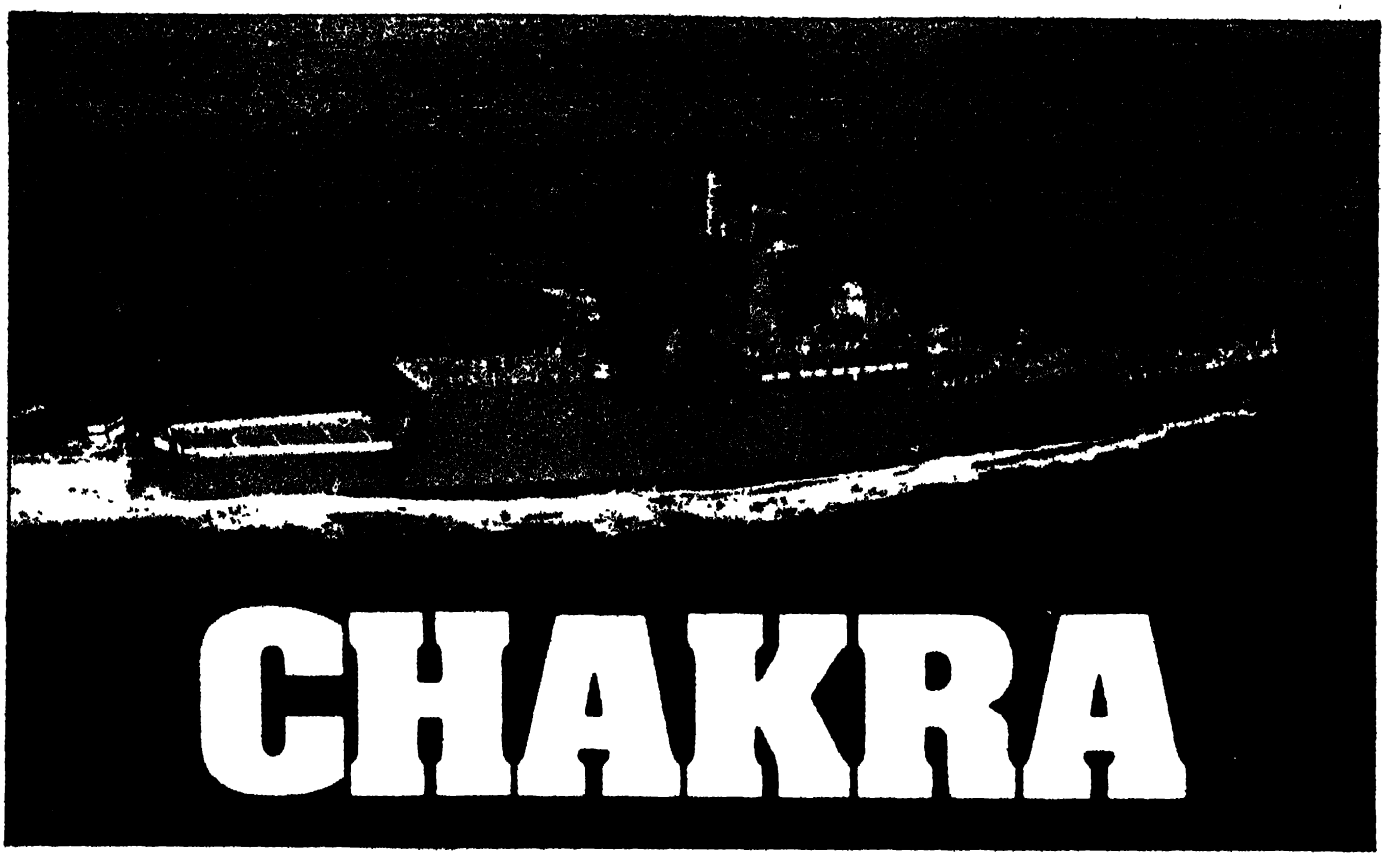
Uday Shankar was introduced to the great Soviet ballerina, Anna Pavlova, at Ivy House in Hampstead while he was stydying painting at London's Royal Art College. When he first danced with the legendary ballerina he had no knowledge of dancing. He soon quit painting; by then dance had possessed him. He stayed on in Europe for another seven years, going through the most trying times and having to dance for survival in cabarets and music halls. It was during this period that he came in contact with Simone Barbier (later renamed Simki by Uday Shankar) who played the piano for his dances. He taught her to dance and thus began the legendary partnership

Uday Shankar formed his own troupe whose dancers included his talented cousin, Kanaklata,and his brother, Debendra Shankar, besides the stunning Simki. His first creative composition, *Tandava Nrityа*, was a runaway success at the Theatre des Champs Elysees in Paris on March 3, 1931. He did not look back thereafter and toured extensively in Europe and the US.

Returning to India, he founded a centre for culture at Almora that began to function from 1939 with renowned gurus in various disciplines. Here in 1942, he married Amala Nandi in whom he found a great danseuse. However, the Centre closed down in 1944.

At the peak of his career, Uday Shankar produced the film *Kalpana*—the only visual document of his creative dances. His ballet, *Labour and Machinery*, is considered to be his most original and creative work reflecting contemporary problems. He choreographed scores of work on various themes of which *The Life of Buddha, The Rhythm of Life, Shiva, Kartikeya, Rasa Lila, Samanya Kshati, Prakriti Ananda* and *Shankarscope* deserve mention. In 1960 he shifted to Calcutta and formed a new troupe. Here he was offered the deanship of the Faculty of Dance, Drama and Music at Rabindra Bharati University, Jorasanko. He died on September 26, 1977

The sketch above shows the Golf Club Road residence in south Calcutta where Uday Shankar spent several years of his life.



CHAKRA

The *INS Godavari*, a modern frigate which is 72 per cent indigenous

Major navies are set apart from the others by the acquisition of fixed-wing carrier-borne aircraft and nuclear submarines. India now belongs to that very select club which has both, and the transfer of a "Charlie" class SSGN from Vladivostock to Vishakhapatnam in February this year is the clearest statement yet that she intends to have a navy which can not only dominate others in the region but also "raise the cost of intervention by superpowers..."

In addition to the SSGN, a third Soviet "Kilo" class diesel submarine has arrived from the Baltic with three more expected at the rate of one a year...the number of Soviet "Kashin" class DDGs continue to increase though there is still no sign of the projected delivery of the first "Kresta" class cruiser. The latest "Godavari" class frigate is said to have raised the indigenous content of the ship to a record 72 per cent and the first "Khukri" class corvettes have been completed with two more being built and a further eight projected. Mine warfare and amphibious ships are also growing in numbers. Whatever the true purpose of the build-up of this fleet...military expansion cannot be excluded...

Our Jewellery Special issue will be on October 2

The Indian Navy has acquired a new punch, making it the most powerful in the region. The recently-commissioned nuclear-powered submarine, *Chakra*, and other sophisticated weapons and communications systems have made international experts sit up and take notice. S. Srinivasan assesses the new power of the Indian Navy

This rather flattering—and somewhat reprimanding—appraisal of the Indian Navy occurs in the latest (1988-89) edition of that Bible of seafaring men: *Jane's Fighting Ships*. Indeed, the significant expansion of Indian naval power over the last year has not gone unnoticed in the ever-paranoid West. Even a year ago, when the latest edition of *Jane's* was rolling off the press, an Australian expert on India, Robin Jeffrey, wrote in the highly respected *International Herald Tribune:*

"There has been an impressive build-up of India's naval power in recent months. Officials and analysts in countries around the Indian Ocean wonder why...some foreign critics saw the expansion, and dependence on the Soviet Union, as indications of sinister Indian designs on everything from Aden to Adelaide. Indian apologists justified the naval expansion unconvincingly, stressing old feuds with Pakistan and China. Critics asked whether a few Chinese submarines in the Indian Ocean, and even sophisticated American missiles in Pakistan, adequately explained the need for two aircraft carriers, a third on the drawing boards, nuclear submarines and construction of major bases."

The article went on to analyse the reasons for the "remarkable success" of India's naval lobby: the 1965 scare of

suspected Indonesian designs on the Nicobar Islands; the menacing presence of the US Seventh Fleet in the Bay of Bengal in 1971; the increase in US arms supplies to Pakistan since 1979; the superpower presence in the Gulf; India's increased investment in oil drilling off the west coast; and her "desire" to deter "united Islamic support for Pakistan."

Jeffrey was kind enough to term these reasons "intelligible" but nevertheless concluded by questioning the "wisdom, not to say morality, of pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into a blue water navy when more than 60 per cent of India's people still do not have supplies of clean water to drink."

The self-righteousness and discomfort of Western analysts apart, it is worth appraising the capabilities of the Indian Navy which is now the eighth largest in the world. It is what experts call "balanced" in the sense that it has consolidated its strike and defensive power in the air, on the surface and underwater.

The modern, vertical-takeoff-and-landing combat aircraft, the Sea Harrier, and the Soviet long-range reconnaissance aircraft, the TU-146, have given the Navy a reach it never had before in the sky. There is talk of augmenting the early-warning helicopter fleet too. The new aircraft carrier, *Virat*, has added to the Navy's core strength while the new super-fast destroyers and missiles give it a punch which few navies outside the US and Europe possess. India is also buying the British anti-ship missile, the Sea Eagle, to counter Pakistan's deadly US-supplied submarine-to-ship Harpoons.

It is the expansion of the Navy's submarine wing that has really attracted international attention. *INS Chakra*, the Soviet nuclear-powered "Charlie" class sub, signifies a quantum leap in the Navy's development. Further, the freshly acquired state-of-the-art German HDWs, which play a hunter-killer role, and the ocean-going Soviet "Kilo" class subs form a lethal combination.

Indian shipyards have long had the capacity to design and build warships indigenously. The Leander class frigates were built under licence; this was followed by indigenous "Godavari" frigates and now corvettes are under construction. This would form the basis for work on a new class of guided-missile destroyers. Added to all this is the latest electronic communications system.

Even geographically the Navy is expanding. The country's biggest naval base is being planned at Karwar in Karnataka. It will have an exclusive naval air station, a ship-building yard and facilities that can berth the biggest vessel the Indian Navy has or is likely to get in the foreseeable future. Work on the Rs 350-crore project named "Sea Bird" has already begun.

But as far as Indian spokesmen are concerned, all this is legitimate expansion and the West has unnecessarily raised its eyebrows. The so-called "sinister Indian designs" are dismissed with the comment, "India can neither afford that capability nor is the government planning for it," by Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, director of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi.

India's justification for her navy's modernisation programme is that she has to keep up with the ongoing global technological race and also make her defence expenditure cost effective. The expansion programme, it is explained, is aimed at filling up inadequacies in the existing defence set up and replacing ageing war machines. Further, Moscow and Delhi neither have any alliance nor a protector-client relationship. Politically, it is stressed, India is a nonaligned nation legitimately interested in safeguarding its resources.

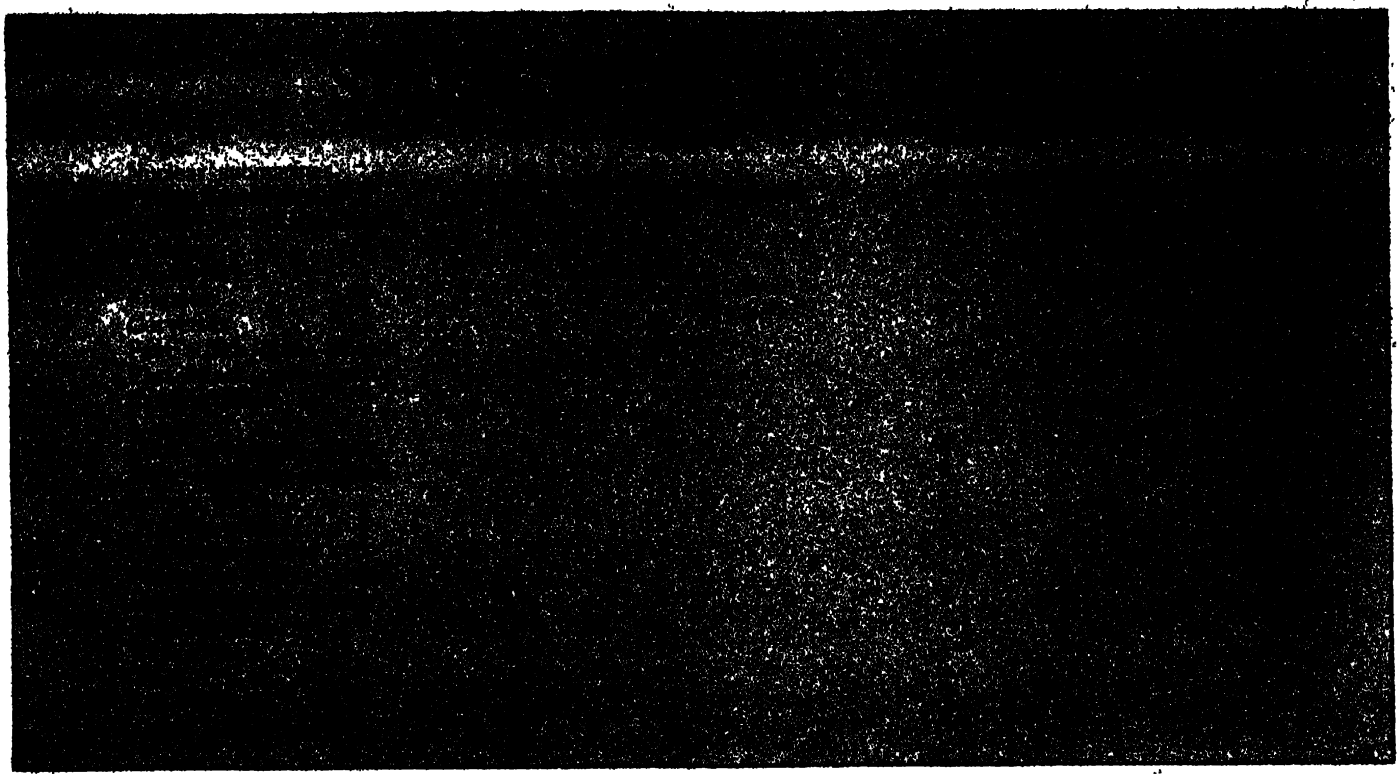
According to Air Commodore Singh, the perception of these imaginary threats from India is sent out for and on behalf of the US, and is directed towards the Asean countries, Pakistan and other South Asian states so that they get the message that it is important to have close links with the US. He questions, "Can't the Indian Navy strive to protect its legitimate sea lanes when the West marches to protect sea lanes in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea with a capability 50 times over ours?"

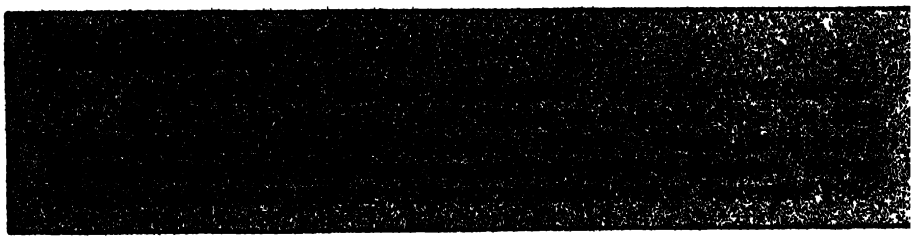
Mr Mohan Guruswamy, a political activist and defence expert, goes to the extent of saying that India's, in fact, is an inadequate navy. At best, he says, it can be called a "Pakistan-fighting navy" which has no deterrent ability against anything larger.

The former chief of the naval staff, Admiral R.H. Tahiliani, dismisses comment in the Western press as "disinformation" asking that if one compared the statistics depicting Indian naval power with



One of India's latest "Petya" class light frigates





those of any other country with comparable maritime interests, could one say we are too big?

Vice-Admiral (Retd) S. Mukherjee too questions, "Why should only the West have strong navies and not us?" He does not see any reason for concern as there has been no phenomenal increase in the number of warships the Navy has now over what it had in 1961. India then had one aircraft carrier, two cruisers, 17 destroyers and frigates and a number of coastal vessels. The technology available was contemporary; why did they not raise any eyebrows at that time, asks the admiral.

The very fact that an international debate has been engendered, speaks volumes for the multidimensional growth of the Indian Navy. In 1947, the British had left behind a handful of old frigates and minesweepers. The next decade saw the expansion of the Navy as the British offered new warships in lieu of the sterling balance in favour of India. Those were the heady days of the Indian Navy. No neighbouring states, including the littoral ones, had comparable naval power. India was way ahead of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Oman, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan and even South Africa. Pakistan had a pathetic "row boat navy." The share of the Navy in defence expenditure was well over 12 per cent.

However, in the 1960s, the Chinese intrusion and the confrontation with Pakistan resulted in the Navy's portion sliding down to just two per cent as the lion's share of the defence budget was diverted to the Army and Air Force. This was a decade of pause in the development of the Navy.

The Indian Navy was also unable to grow into a "balanced power" as the British refused to sell submarines, arguing that the Indian personnel were not competent to handle modern weapons systems. The Soviets, however, stepped in; in 1967 they offered military hardware on easy terms. This included a diesel submarine and surface-to-surface missiles.

In the post-1971 period, defence planners could take a more relaxed view of the land threats following the signing of the Shimla Agreement with Pakistan and the long period of quiet on the Chinese border. The 1971 war also emphasised several home truths. It was not enough to have a navy merely superior to Pakistan's. The arrival of the *USS Enterprise* in the Bay of Bengal had made clear the role of regional and extra-regional power during wartime. Besides, during the 1965 confrontation, Indonesia had offered to supply ships to Pakistan. Even Saudi Arabia and Iran were sympathetic to Pakistan.

Two separate high-powered committees headed by Mr D.P. Dhar and Mr P.N. Haksar reviewed the state of the Indian Navy. On their recommendation, long-term naval planning was initiated. Fleet reorganisation had also become imperative as some ships were reaching the stage of block obsolescence. A programme of indigenisation was taken up with the cooperation of the British and the first Leander class vessel was commissioned in 1972. Five more ships were built in subsequent years. Three five-year plans were also approved for the periods 1974-79, 1980-85 and 1985-90.

Modernisation and expansion were taken up in large measure in the eighties because of the unanimous view that threat perceptions had changed. The British-Argentine war over the Falklands gave India a lesson on the need to protect far-flung island territories. And then there were the obvious strategic considerations and the need to guard the new oil finds. Within the country, therefore, there are few who question the need to expand naval power.

Indian analysts who do not question the need for expansion, however, have expressed reservations about the kind of acquisitions that are being made There has been much discussion over the utility of the aircraft carrier in modern warfare, the argument being that such a large ship can be easily attacked by missiles But the debate about the aircraft carrier's vulnerability is as old as the history of the carrier itself. According to Mr Mohan Guruswamy, the aircraft carriers possessed by India are "a hybrid of paper tiger, white elephant and sitting duck " He argues that instead of "toothless force projection," India should have concentrated on strengthening its forces on the shore and developed a powerful shore-based air arm for the Navy He also pooh-poohs the indigenous ship-building capability of the Indian Navy, saying we are still toying with old Leander technology which has been phased out long ago by Britain's Royal Navy He, in fact, wonders why anybody should "feel threatened by this Navy "

Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, however, argues that the *Vikrant* and *Virat* are not meant for power projection in the traditional popular sense He says they provide protective power on the high seas to safeguard the country's vital interests He also says land-based air power can provide a crucial and powerful supporting punch within a radius of action, but would lack the' staying power of carrier-borne air power The acquisition of a second aircraft carrier was to fulfil a legitimate need as one carrier each can be deployed in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal But even to keep two going, a minimum of three are required And by the time India can commission a third, the ageing *Vikrant* will have to be phased out

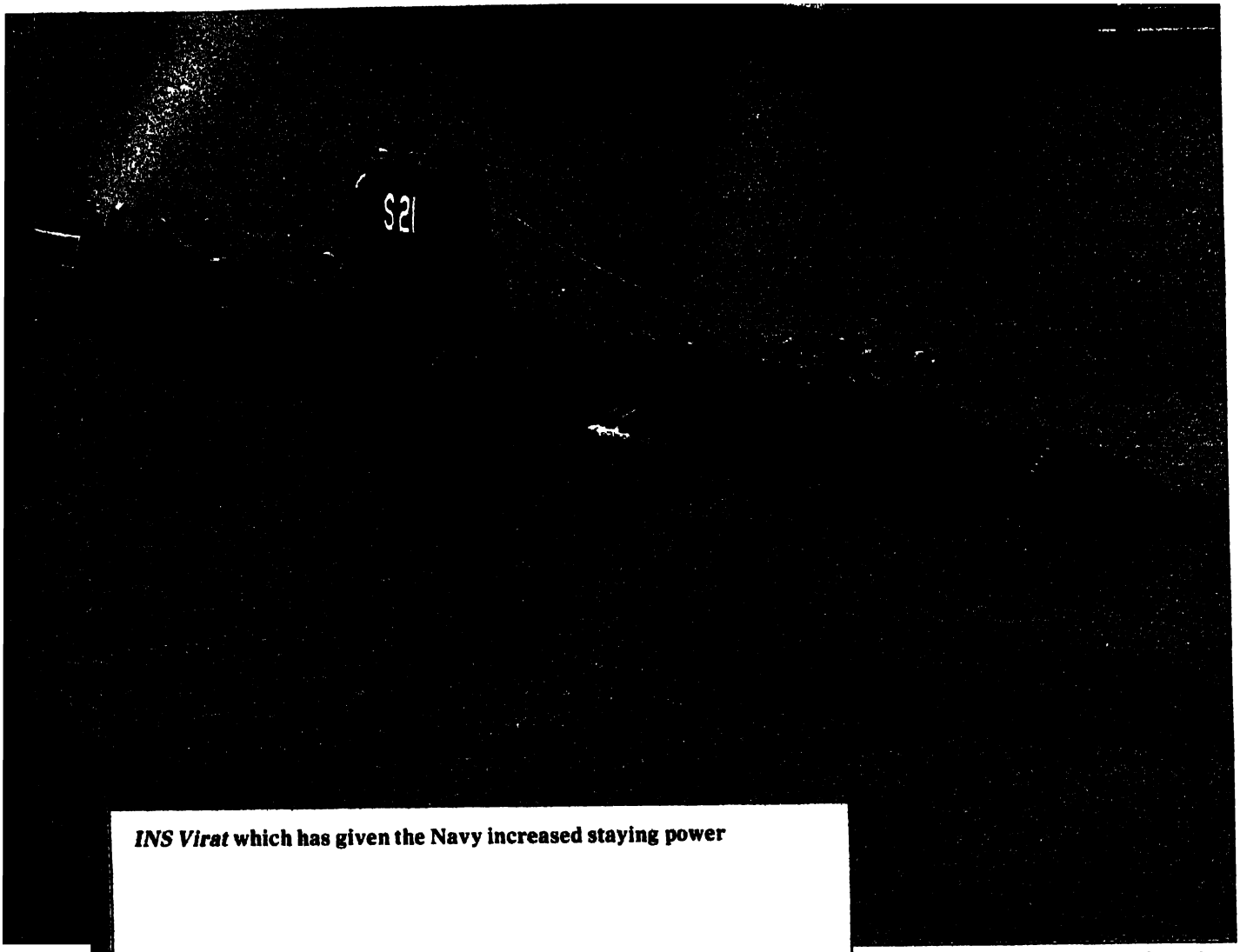
The Air Commodore is of the opinion that the *USS Enterprise* did not intervene in the 1971 war because *Vikrant* blocked its passage He says *Vikrant* could have been easily sunk within two hours by the *Enterprise* but the latter had to cry off as the cost of intervention for the US task force would have been prohibitive He says this is what gunboat diplomacy and the exercise of sea power are all about

Admiral (Retd) Tahiliani also denies that the Indian Navy has any power projection role saying that the aircraft carriers are too small and can only fight a tactical battle at sea. He says they are not large deck carriers which some nations possess for strategic purposes and which can operate aircraft against shore targets with weapons of mass destruction Air Commodore Singh argues in support that real power projection means landing on somebody's shore This would not only need an amphibious capability for the Navy but a huge task force to sustain the attack India, he explains, has only three or four landing ships which can be used to save, at most, an odd island Even the number of Sea Harriers, he claims, are inadequate for any operation

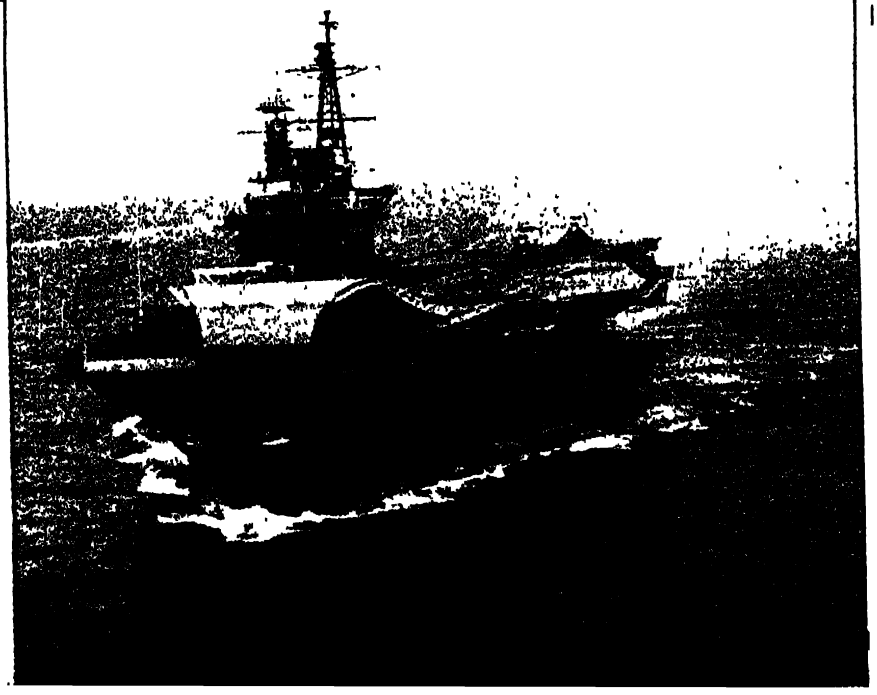
There are any number of arguments for and against aircraft carriers but all experts agree on the need to strengthen the submarine arm While the aircraft carriers are considered weapons for sea control, submarines are termed weapons of sea denial The acquisition of a nuclear submarine is even more important because it is technically, economically and oper-



A formation during exercises



***INS Virat* which has given the Navy increased staying power**



Another Soviet-supplied submarine at Vishakhapatnam

ationally a superior weapons system. All the modern navies of the world are going for it Vice-Admiral (Retd) Mukherjee, who believes that submarines are the core of a balanced navy, explains that these vessels can dive deep and stay there for long periods with limitless endurance They are noiseless, maneouvrable at high speeds and have better detection capability, being able to easily spot surface ships.

With its latest acquisitions the Navy has certainly become a better force with multidimensional capabilities. If Indian spokesmen are to be believed, it is still a long way from the flattering image projected by the Western media Only time will tell which assessment is correct but one thing Indian planners have to be mindful of is that keeping up with technological needs, removing inadequacies and, above all, preventing getting obsolete is a permanent, ongoing exercise. ■

Flower Power





A look at **Rina Pal's** permanent display of flower arrangements at her residence in Salt Lake

Photographs by Rashbehari Das





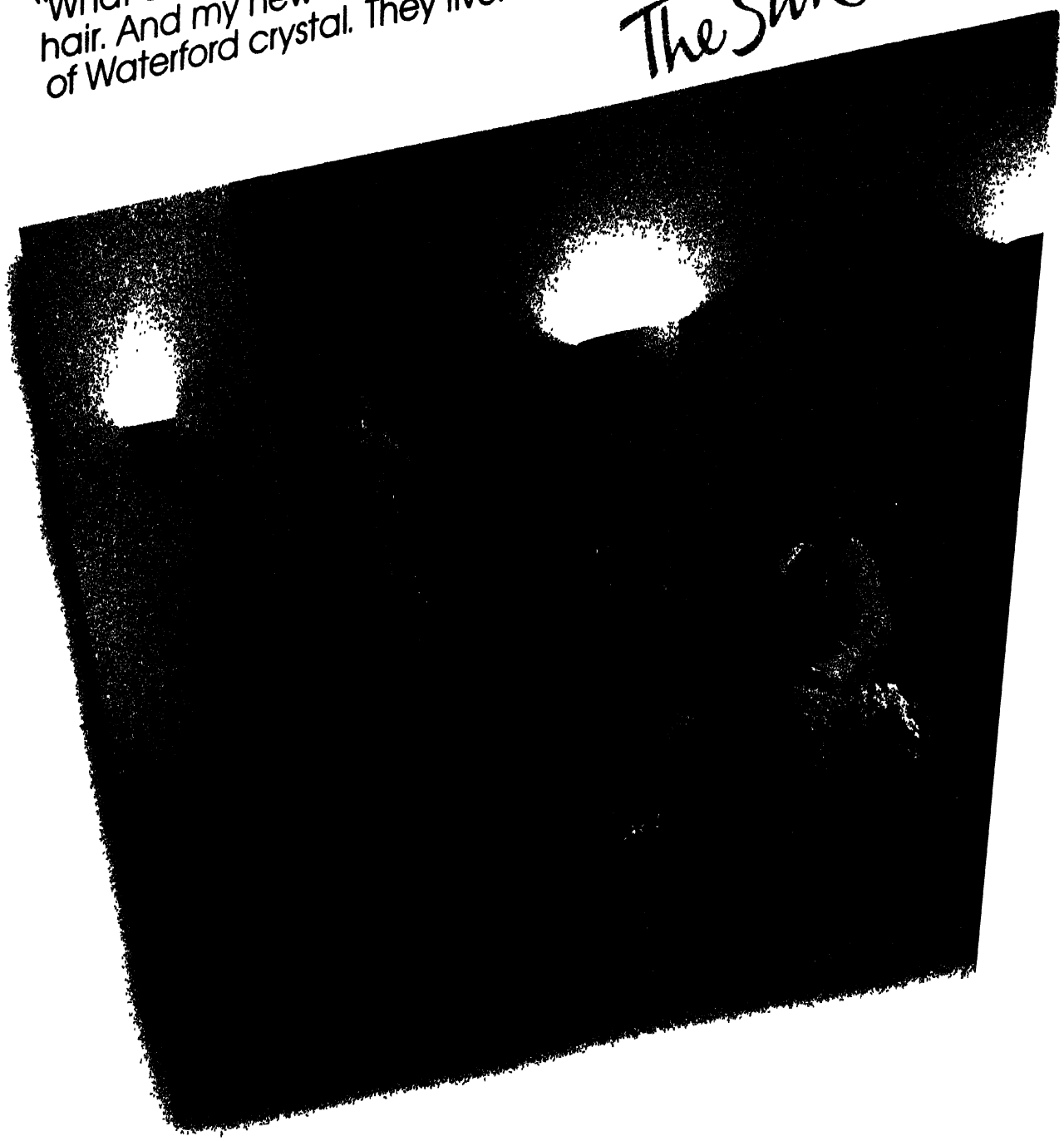
Scarlet roses and pristine white lilies. Delicately hued bougainvilleas and fiery hibiscus. Rina Pal creates them all. What started as a hobby in June last year became an obsession and by September she had a blooming flower exhibition on her hands.

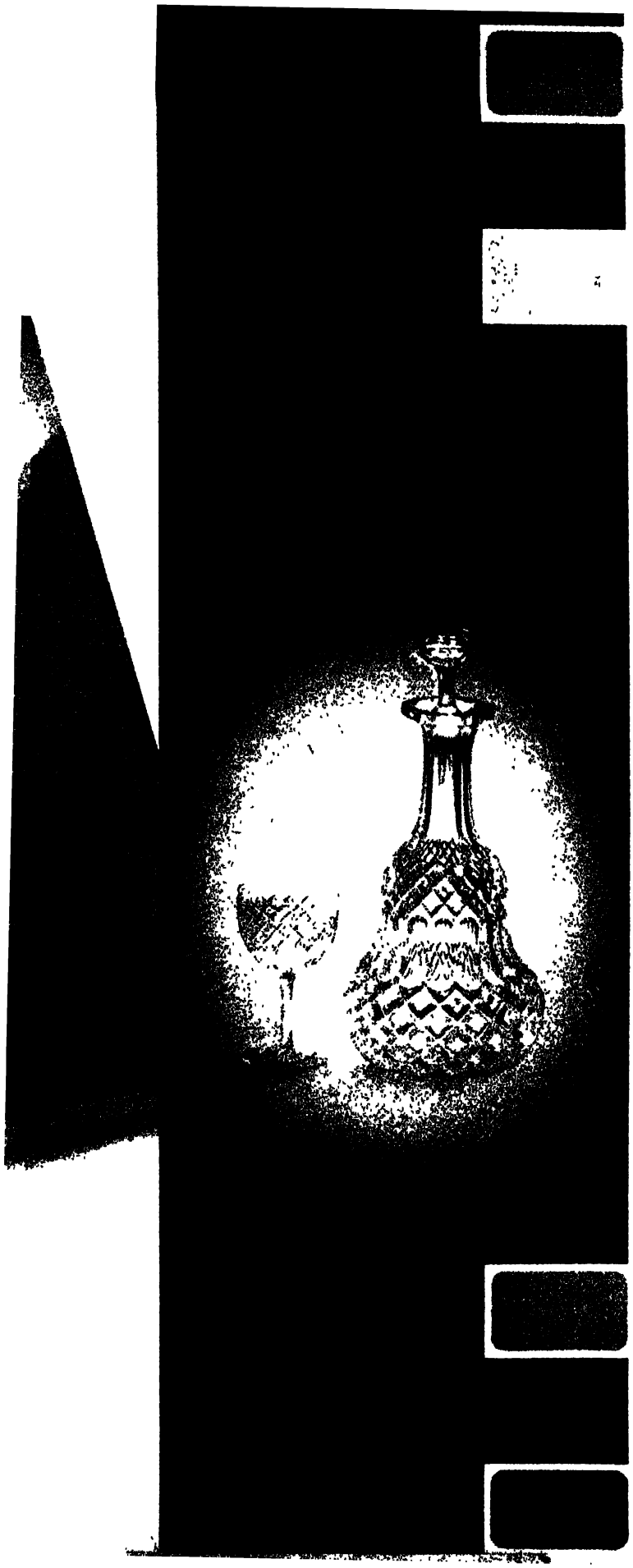
Ms Pal shapes her exotic creations from things as inane as stockings and ribbon. All her arrangements are washable and are priced between Rs 5 and Rs 600. She has also experimented with synthetic flowers and real leaves and wood bark.



"What are we celebrating tonight?" he asked. "Your first grey hair. And my new crystal," she smiled. Their laughter, the tinkle of Waterford crystal. They live. They love.

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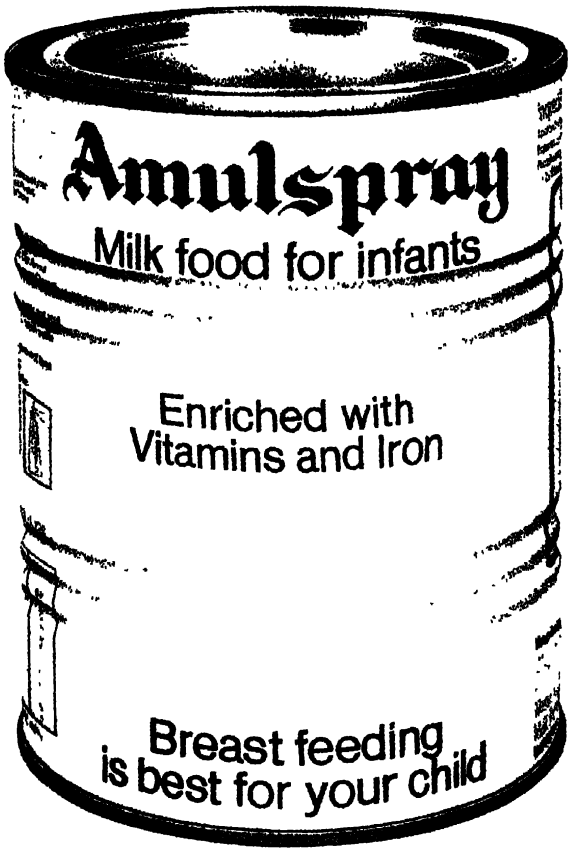
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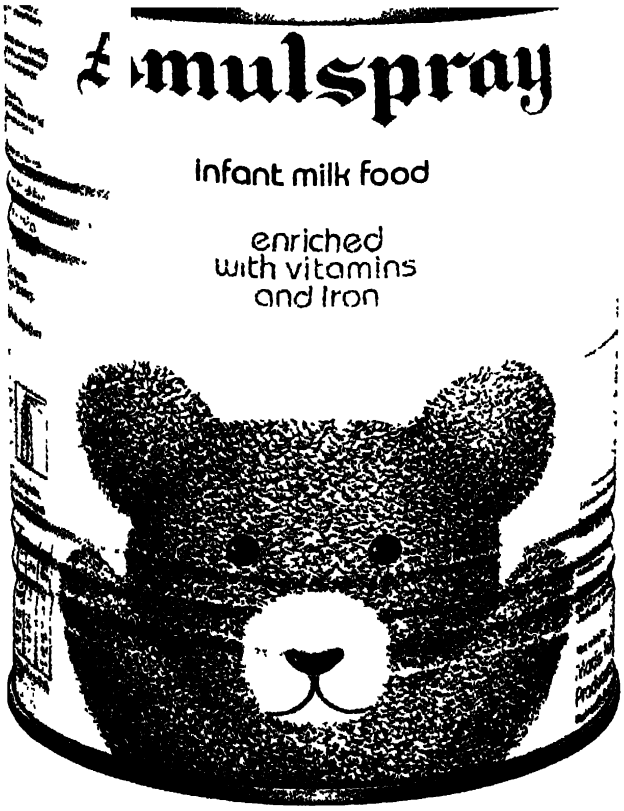
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OPERATION FLOOD

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

•Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani: Roxy (Chowringhee Place 284138), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392280) 4 shows Uttara (Bidhan Sarani 552200) 3 shows

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Dr Shreeram Lagoo Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

•Biwi Ho To Aisi: Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440) Krishna (F C Dutta Street, 250447) 4 shows

Directed by J K Bihari and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Rekha, Farooque Shaikh, Bindu, Asrani and Kader Khan

•Geeta Ki Saugand: Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 244822), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road 277243), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue 553046), Taswir Mahal (Gras Street, 354150), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Indira (Indira Roy Road, 471757)

Directed by Reetu Raj and with music by Anwar Usman, the cast includes Hemant Birje, Jamuna debutante Sahira, Shakti Kapoor and Kader Khan

•Gunahon Ka Faisla: Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Moonlight (F C Dutta Street 253956) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) - 4 shows

Directed by Shibu Mitra the film stars Shatrughan Sinha, Dimple Kapadia, Chunkey Panday Pran, Danny, Gulshan Grover Ranjeet, Prem Chopra and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Bappi Lahiri

•Khoon Bhari Maang: New Cinema (Lenin Sarani 270147) 4 shows

A film by Rakesh Roshan, starring Rekha, Kabir Bedi Shatrughan Sinha, Kader Khan and Sonu Walia The music is by Rajesh Roshan

•Mera Farz: Society (Corporation Place, 241002) Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478111), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033), Madhuban (Regent Park) Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)

Sridevi plays the lead in this film, directed by K Raghavendra Rao The music is by Ilayaraja

•Parbat Ke Us Paar: Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141) & Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) all noon show

Abhinav Chaturvedi and Lubna Siddiqi are the lead pair in this film, directed by Raman Kumar The music is by Khayyam

•Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak: Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442)—12, 3, 6, 9

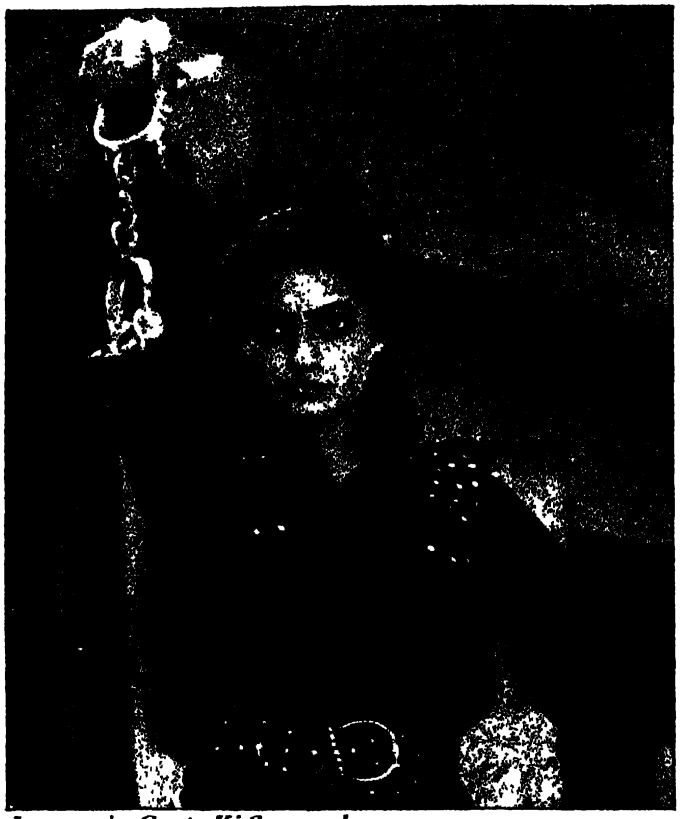
Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film

•7 Bijliyaan (A): Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473)—4 shows; Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—3 shows

A film by Raju Saigal, starring Tina Munim, Shoma Anand, Neelam Mehra, Prema Narayan, Kajal Kiran, Suresh Oberoi and Raj Kiran The music is by Usha Khanna

•Sone Pe Suhaaga: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)—4 shows, Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 551133), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)—3 shows

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon and Kimi Katkar.



Jamuna in *Geeta Ki Saugand*



Chunkey Panday and Dimple in *Gunahon Ka Faisla*



Mona-Lisa Ghosh

Special Events

25 September: 6 pm
Surabhika presents an Odissi dance recital by Mona-Lisa Ghosh and a vocal (light music) recital by Vijay Soni
At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086/432197)
26-28 September: 6.30 pm
Anamika Kala Sangam presents Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*—a play staged by Motley (Bombay) and directed by Nasseruddin Shah who also plays the lead
At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani 449086)
29 September onwards
Visva Bharati will hold their week long exhibition of paintings in the Central, South and New galleries
At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 444205)
30 September: 6.30 pm
The diamond jubilee celebration of the Hindi play *Kunwara Pati* by Sangit Kala Mandir
At Kala Mandir
12 October: 6 pm
On completion of 25 years of its drama department Sangit Kala Mandir presents a week long drama festival with its latest production *Jadu Jangal* being the main attraction
At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086/432197)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 Monday.

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) AI-103 at 0035
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5) AI-306 at 1830 Dep (5) AI 306 at 1930
Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) AI 315 at 1820 Dep (6) AI 315 at 1920
Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) AI-132A (connects AI 132 from London and Rome and AI 152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905 Arr (6) AI 455A (connects AI 108 from London and AI 128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335
Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (7) AI 115A (connects AI 115 for London and New York) at 0145
Amman-Calcutta-Amman Arr (4) RJ 194 at 0500, Dep (4) RJ 195 at 0630
Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr (4) SU 537 at 1555 Dep. (4) SU-538 at 1855
Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1) JU-492 at 0955 Dep (1) JU 492 at 1055
Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU 493 at 0025
Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1530 Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920
Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3 6) TG-313 at 1240 Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355
Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1 3 7) RA-214 at 1110 Dep (2, 4) IC-247 at 1740 Dep (3 6, 7) IC-247 at 1510 Arr (1 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010 Arr (2 3 4, 6, 7) IC 248 at 1425
Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640 Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720
Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920; Dep. (7) IC-444 at 2000
Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG-694 at 1715 and IC 223 at 1340, Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1045 Arr (1, 2 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615 and IC 224 at 1540 Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920
Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2 5) BG 698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC 225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG 697 at 1220 Arr (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555
Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1 2 3 5 6) GQ 102 at 0730 Arr (1 2 5) GQ 101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 101 at 1310

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC 402 at 1710 Dep (7) IC 444 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC 264 at 2210 Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640
Calcutta-Bombay. Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0845 and IC 273 at 1945 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC 274 at 1855
Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC 265 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep (1 3, 5 6 7) IC 478 at 1045 Arr (1 3, 5 6 7) IC-477 at 1005
Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay. Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 295 at 1400 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 296 at 1725
Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC 286 at 1015
Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC 288 at 1235
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-410 at 1110, Dep (2, 4) IC-410 at 0850, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400
Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240
Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720; Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2235.
Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6), IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215 Arr (4, 6) IC 278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC 278 at 2130
Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta Dep (3 5, 6) IC 281 at 1535 Arr (3 5 6) IC-281 at 2120
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (2) IC 269 at 1535 Arr (2) IC-270 at 1845
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3 5, 7) IC 269 at 1445 Arr (3 5 7) IC-270 at 2105
Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320 Dep (1 4) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3 5 6) IC 203 at 0900 Dep (1 3 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4) IC 204 at 1235 Arr (2 3 5 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1 3, 5) IC 250 at 2045
Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130 Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh. Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540 Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040
Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC 219 at 0625, (7) IC 220 at 1105
Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep (1 4) IC 239 at 0825 Dep (2 3 5 6) IC 239 at 1100 Arr (1 4) IC 240 at 1045, Dep (2 3 5 6) IC 240 at 1310
Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) 7) IC 227 at 0835, Arr (1 3 5 6 7) IC 228 at 0805
Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2 4, 7) IC 255 at 0530 Dep (1 3, 5, 6) IC-255 at 0815 Arr (2 4 7) IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1 3 5 6) IC-256 at 1245
Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405
Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC 243 at 0610 and IC 241 at 1440 Arr (1, 3 5 6, 7) IC-244 at 1030, Arr (2 4) IC-244 at 0810 Arr (daily) IC 242 at 1640
Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep (1, 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 238 at 1105

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily) PF-701 at 0930; Arr, (daily) PF-702 at 1300.
Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily). PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.
Calcutta-Aizawl: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-705A at 1300; Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.
Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-707 at 0610; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0910
Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi-Ranchi: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-715 at 0555; Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-716 at 1010.
Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

CLASSIFIEDS

• **Aquarium:** I offer an aquarium with air pump for anything of corresponding value Write to Navin Baxi, 48/1, Purna Das Road, Calcutta 29

• **Stereo tape deck:** I offer a stereo tape deck with two mikes, built-in amplifier and a sound output of 120 watts for a book case of books or anything of corresponding value, Write to Tushar Kumar Mukherjee, State Bank of India, Naihati Branch, PO Naihati, T.S. district Burbhum.

• **Camera:** I offer an Agfa 200 camera in good condition for a wristwatch Contact Apratim Chandra, 10/1/A, Nirupoma Devi Road, District Murshidabad, Pin 742101

• **Stamps and aquarium:** I offer 100 foreign stamps and an aquarium for anything of corresponding value Contact C. Sajit Kumar, C-42, Sector 2, Rourkela 769006

• **Camera:** I offer a 35 mm Japanese camera for a pocket video game or a quartz wristwatch or anything of corresponding value. Contact Partha Pratim Pal, 103, Satyen Ray Road, Behala, Calcutta 34.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0655; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	Delhi Kalka Mail	8-30	2
5	19-20	Amritsar Mail	8-05	6
3	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep—Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep—Sat up to Amritsar Arri—Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep.—Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep—Sun up to Amritsar Arri—Mon., & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a week Dep—Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri.—Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat. & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp. Tri-Wkly Dep—Tues, Fri & Sat Arri—Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	Purbanchal Express Dep—Mon & Thurs Arri—Thurs. & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	Toofan Express via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	Amritsar Express	15-45	50
11	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	Gorakhpur Express	11-45	20
21	16-05	Mithila Express	6-45	22
57	5-45	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	58
307	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	308
59	17-35	Kamrup Express	6-30	60
309	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	310
305	18-15	Asansol Express	8-45	306
31	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	32
105	23-00	North Bihar Express Dep.—Wednesday Arri.—Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	Jamalpur Express Dep.—Tues., Thurs. & Sat Arri—Mon, Thurs & Sat.	6-00	172
15	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-45	16
959	15-25	Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express Dep.—Thursday & Saturday Arri.—Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	Indore Express Dep—Tuesday Arri.—Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	44
53	20-10	Gaur Express	6-15	54
51	11-20	Jammu Tawi Express	16-10	52

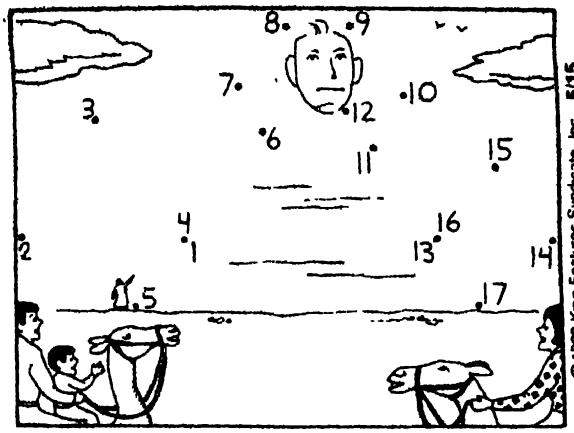
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
33	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	Madras Mail	6-00	4
2	20-30	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express 5 days a week Dep—Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri—Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat.	14-15	59
134	21-00	Ahmedabad Express	4-10	133
52	22-35	Bangalore Super Fast Express Dep. & Arri.—Wed. & Sun	13-45	51
30	12-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	Coromondal (Madras) Express	11-15	142
37	23-15	Madras Janata Express Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	14
11	6-20	Ispat Express	21-50	12
5	21-50	Sambalpur Express	5-55	6
15	21-30	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-30	16
7	22-45	Puri Express	5-45	8
9	19-00	Jagannath (Puri) Express	7-45	10
45	10-00	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	14-15	46
317	16-45	Purulia Express	11-30	318
902	22-35	Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras) Dep. & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

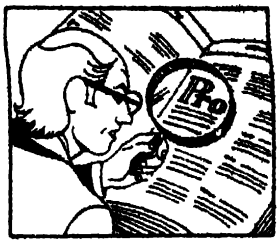
ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 205370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



SEE, HERE! Something is missing from the scene above. To complete the picture, add lines from dot 1 to dot 2, 3, etc.

• **TREE HUNT!** Find a tree in each sentence: 1. She wore a short skirt. 2. Presto, a knife appeared. 3. He's a man of iron. 4. The eel moved away.

1 Ash 2 Oak 3 Fir 4 Elm



WORD SLEUTH PUZZLER

Test your prowess with words by finding a seven-letter term in this very sentence that will provide an answer to the following problem

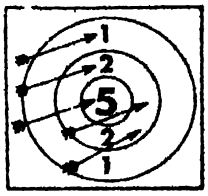
Without my 1, 5, 7, I am a judge's garment.
Without my 2, 4, 5, 7, I am a famous poet.
Without my 5, 7, I am an inquiry
Without my 1, 4, 7, I am a part in a play.
My 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, are a puzzlement.

Keyword is problem Robe Poe probe and robe are words within it

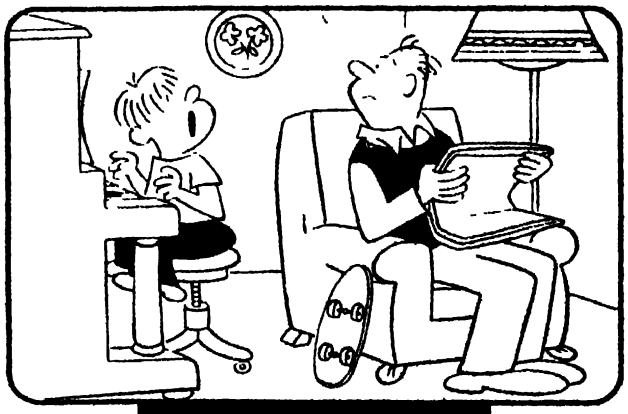
• **HOT SHOT!** Take five shots at the target below, hit each of the numbered circles at least once, and score 15. Can you do it?

Arrows shown are those of another marksman who was given the same challenge with a target total of 12. See how quickly you can fire off the five shots for a total of 15.

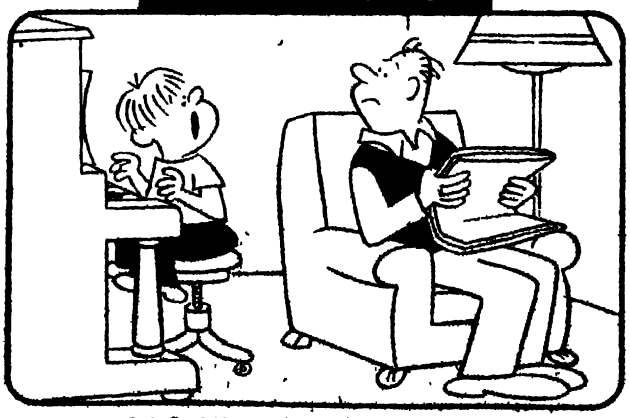
Two fives. Two twos and one one will do it



HOCUS-FOCUS



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Pronoun is different. 3. Skateboard is missing. 4. Neckline is different. 5. Stripe is different. 6. Lamp is moved.

FUNSPOT



SWING SET! Higher, higher! Our young friend is having fun on a playground swing. Apply these colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

BOASTFUL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible answers: Boat, slob

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The sun in your angle of partnership pleasure and profit will make you reach out to people and places take a journey and sign contracts and collaborations You can expect good luck towards the weekend However a law suit or land dispute is possible There may be some discord at home but this is a temporary phase

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

The sun trines Jupiter promising you extra money Those in trading collaborations real estate law multinationals government service and foreign affairs will do well The week is particularly lucky for all matters concerned with romance money links and business deals Health may however cause concern

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

The full moon helps you to earn money win the love of an admired one entertain and socialise Your friends and wellwishers will stand by you At a party or a function you will win people over with your actions A major business deal will now be struck Reach out to people and places by every possible means of communication

CANCER

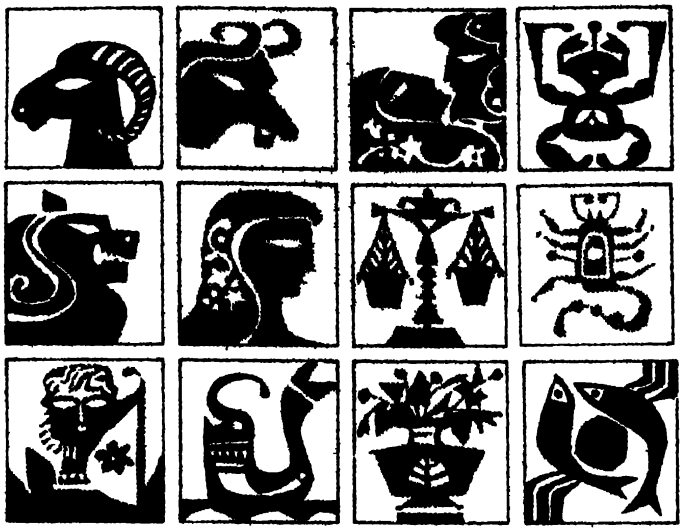
June 21 July 20

Venus trines Saturn giving a big fillip to your profession and business Employed Cancerians can expect a promotion This is the right time to lend borrow and invest You will be making important changes in your working schedule and procedures The health of parents and loved ones may cause concern

LEO

July 21—August 21

The Moon Mars conjunction will make you travel Children will give joy and pleasure Your creativity does a pole vault now This is the right time to entertain and rely on your intuition in all important matters Your opponents will have to bite the dust Contracts will be signed and settlements reached Teachers journalists and students will do well



VIRGO

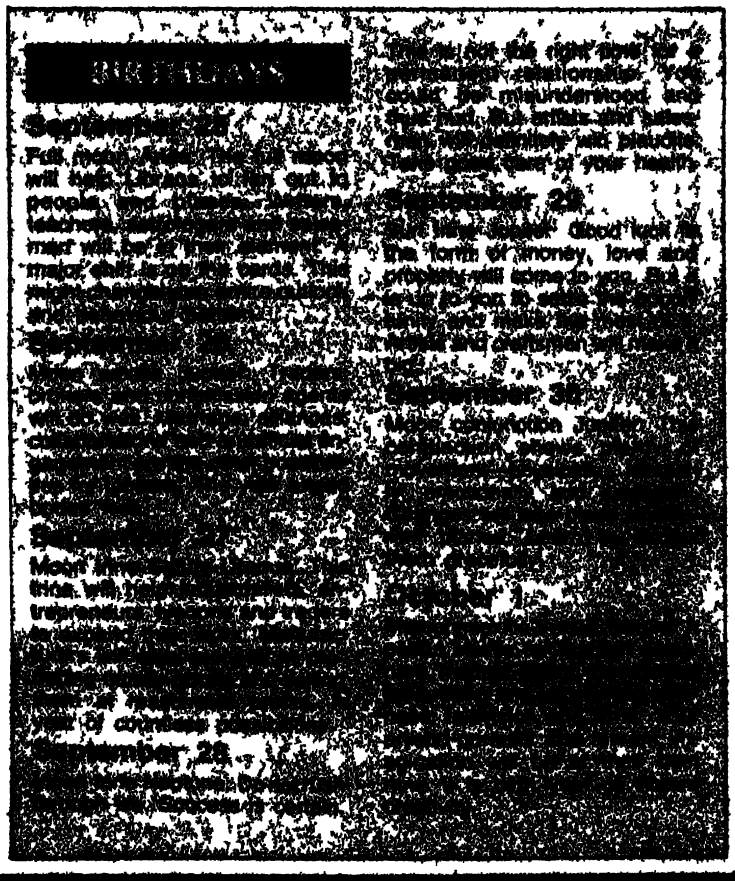
August 22—Sept 22

Moon conjuncts Jupiter helping you to finance a project secure a loan and reach a settlement Intimacy in personal relationships is predicted Matters related to joint finances investments public trusts shifts buying and selling and renovation and decoration are also highlighted Friends and loved ones will stand by you

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

The full moon helps you to contact communicate and correspond Be alert and active Many of you will be going in for an official engagement, marriage, collaborations, business connections and contracts A journey is also on the cards Guard against cheats and strangers



SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Mercury sextiles Venus and makes you work hard But the results and the rewards will be encouraging Consequently you cannot complain Romance and affairs of the heart are possible You will combine pleasure and profit this week Friends and relatives will stand by you

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23- Dec 20

This is the beginning of a better week for you You will be able to handle pressures effectively now Tensions and worries will finally ease Friends and wellwishers will support all your actions Romance is on the cards for the eligible and fancy free

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

Moon trines Sun helping you in property matters Renovation and decoration buying and selling furniture designing , shifts transfers contracts and collaborations will be highlighted Partnerships at various levels are probable Do not hesitate in doing a good turn for someone you care about Functions and meetings will demand a share of your time

AQUARIUS

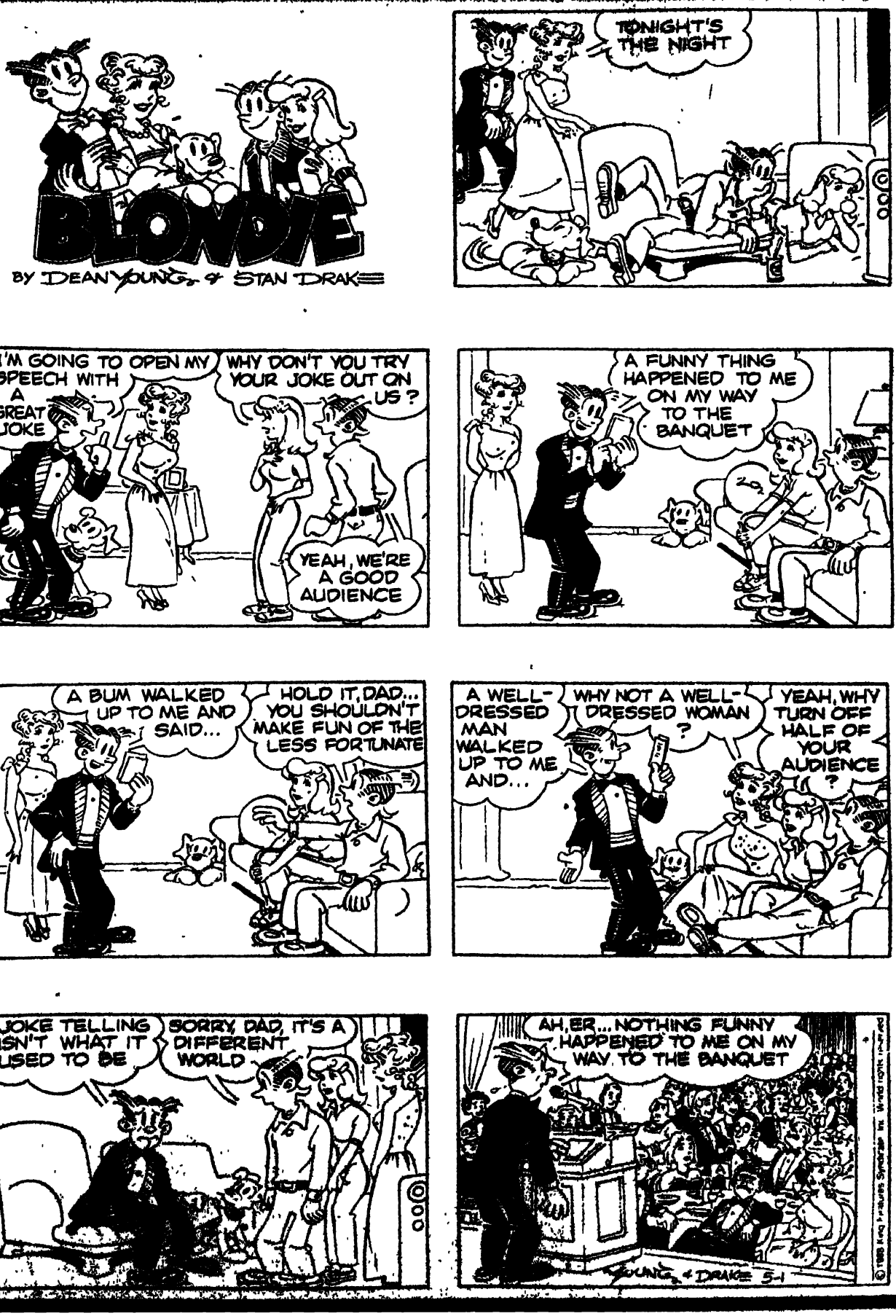
Jan 20—Feb 19

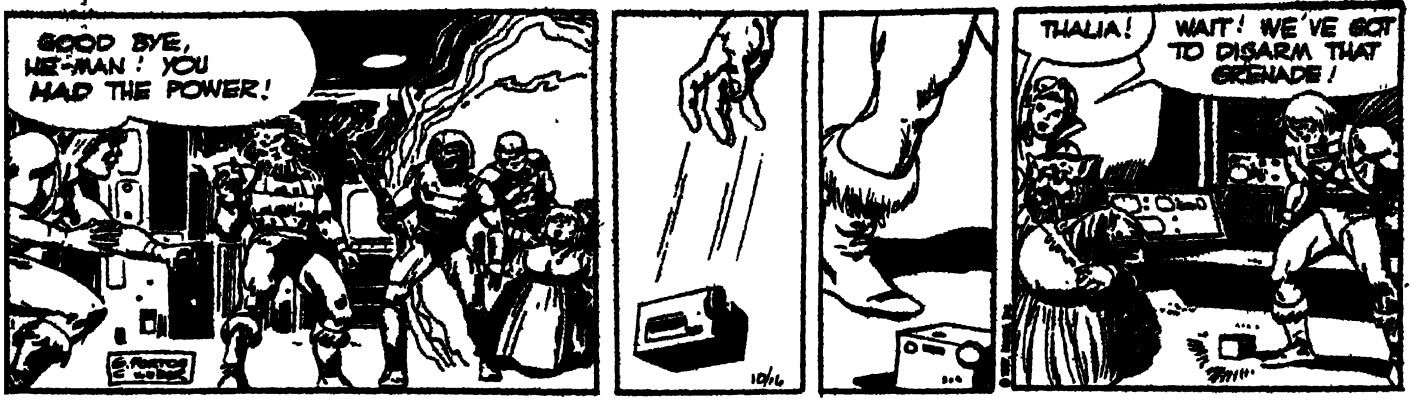
Lady luck will smile at you Editors writers actors directors producers, salesmen religious heads teachers preachers industrialists businessmen those in electronics and computers and students will do well this week You will shine at interviews meetings and group activities

PISCES

Feb 20—March 20

A week to be loved and cherished because moon trines Uranus, the planet of the unexpected Intimate relationships are foretold Money will pour in This is the right time to pick up a bargain Those in trading and commission work will do exceptionally well

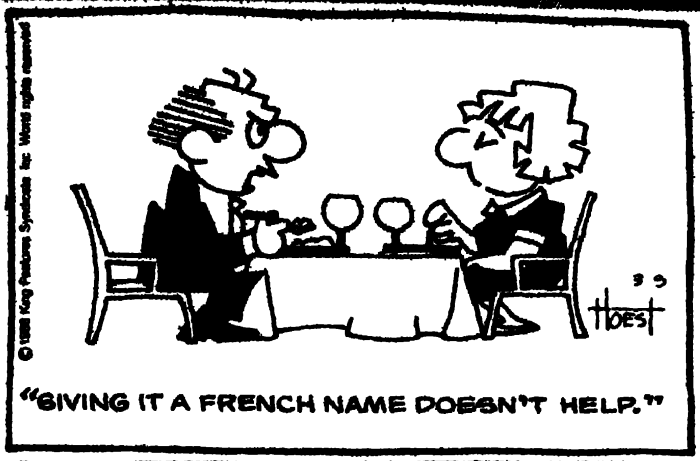

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE
TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT
I'M GOING TO OPEN MY SPEECH WITH A GREAT JOKE
WHY DON'T YOU TRY YOUR JOKE OUT ON US?
YEAH, WE'RE A GOOD AUDIENCE
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME ON MY WAY TO THE BANQUET
A BUM WALKED UP TO ME AND SAID...
HOLD IT, DAD... YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE FUN OF THE LESS FORTUNATE
A WELL-DRESSED MAN WALKED UP TO ME AND...
WHY NOT A WELL-DRESSED WOMAN?
YEAH, WHY TURN OFF HALF OF YOUR AUDIENCE?
JOKE TELLING ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE
SORRY, DAD, IT'S A DIFFERENT WORLD
AH, ER... NOTHING FUNNY HAPPENED TO ME ON MY WAY TO THE BANQUET
YOUNG & DRAKE 5-1


GOOD BYE, HE-MAN! YOU HAD THE POWER!
THALIA!
WAIT! WE'VE GOT TO DISARM THAT GRENADE!


THERE'S NO TIME TO DISARM THE GRENADE!
THEN STEP BACK!
I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE GWILDOR TO A NEW SPORT... "BOOTBALL"..

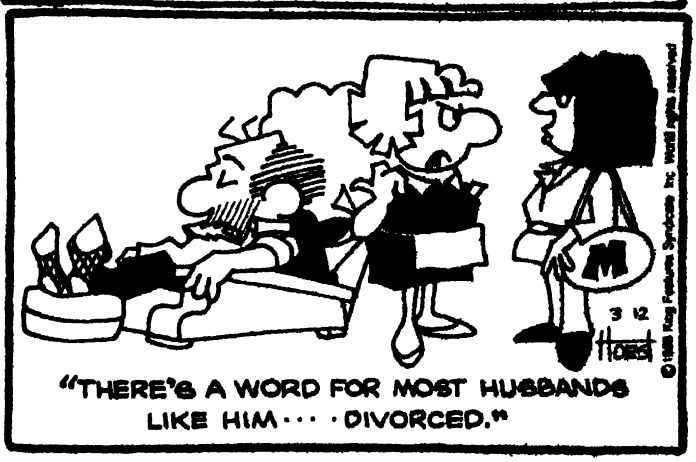

AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, GWILDOR SNATCHES THALIA FROM HER CAPTORS"
THALIA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE! LET ME CATCH MY BREATH!
FOOL! HE'LL LEARN NOT TO MEDDLE WITH THE PLAN OF EVIL LYN!
THE PORTAL-- IT'S GONE!
SO ARE EVIL LYN AND HER FRIENDS. I'M AFRAID MERRIAN'S IN FOR SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE!


THE LAST TRACES OF EVIL LYN'S MAGICAL PORTAL VANISH!
DON'T WORRY, THALIA. YOU'RE SAFE HERE WITH US!
THANK THE DESIGNER FOR THAT!
IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT GWILDOR'LL PAY DEARLY FOR MY "RESCUE"..
I'VE GOT TO REPORT EVIL LYN'S PRESENCE ON MERRIAN TO KING RANDOR. SHE'S THREATENING OUR GREATEST ALLY!
A SHORT TIME LATER, OUTSIDE EVIL LYN'S DEMESNE.
HE-MAN, WAIT! THE COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR ADVICE..
WELL...MAYBE FATHER CAN PULL A GOOD IDEA OUT OF PRINCE ADAM. MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!

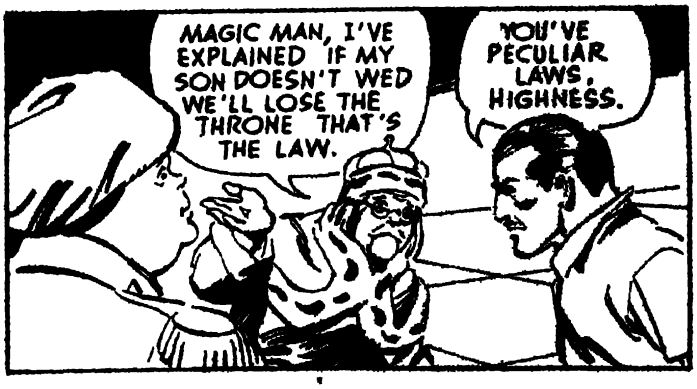

3 9
Hoest
"GIVING IT A FRENCH NAME DOESN'T HELP."


3 10
Hoest
"LORETTA CAN REALLY TELL A SECRET!"


3 11
Hoest
"THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO DO A LOT OF SHOPPING, LORETTA. LEROY CAN ONLY GET SO MAD."

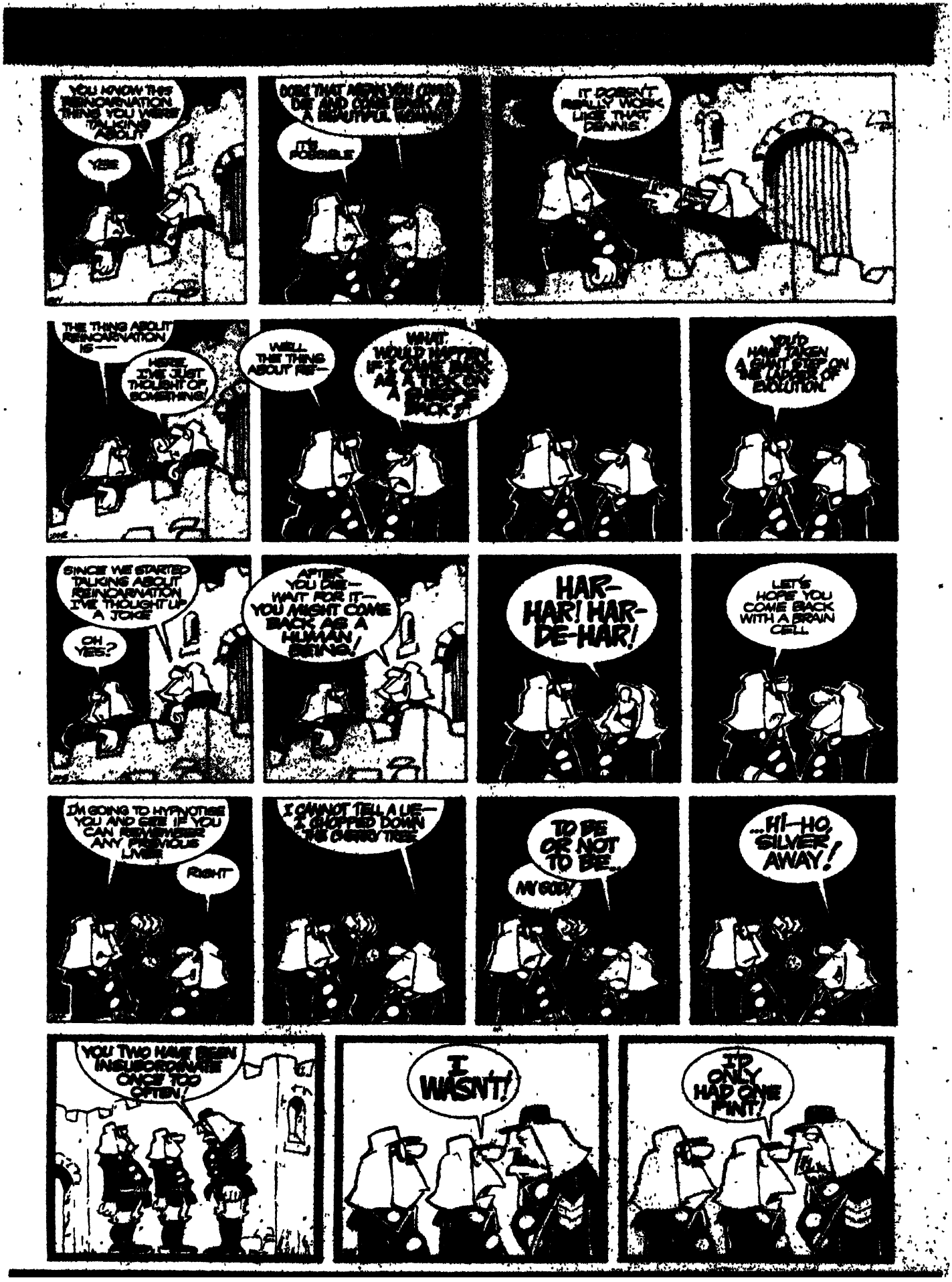

3 12
Hoest
"THERE'S A WORD FOR MOST HUSBANDS LIKE HIM··· ·DIVORCED."

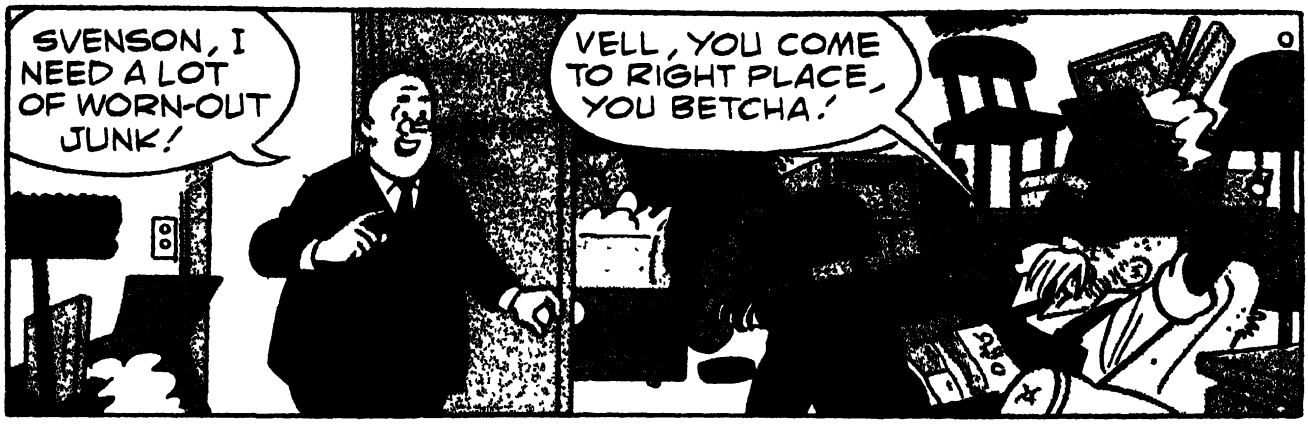

MANDRAKE WAS DUE BACK A HALF HOUR AGO. IF THEY'RE NOT BACK IN TEN MINUTES.. ISSUE RIFLES. WE'LL GO ASHORE!
6-5


MAGIC MAN, I'VE EXPLAINED IF MY SON DOESN'T WED WE'LL LOSE THE THRONE THAT'S THE LAW.
YOU'VE PECULIAR LAWS, HIGHNESS.

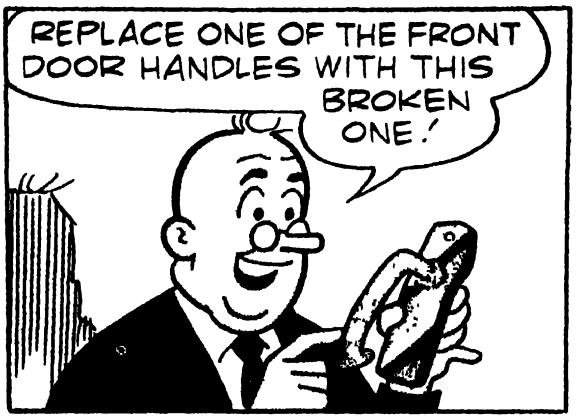

OUR LAW STATES THAT PRINCE BOOBUL MUST WED BEFORE HE IS TWENTY-ONE.
AND HOW OLD IS PRINCE BOOBUL NOW?

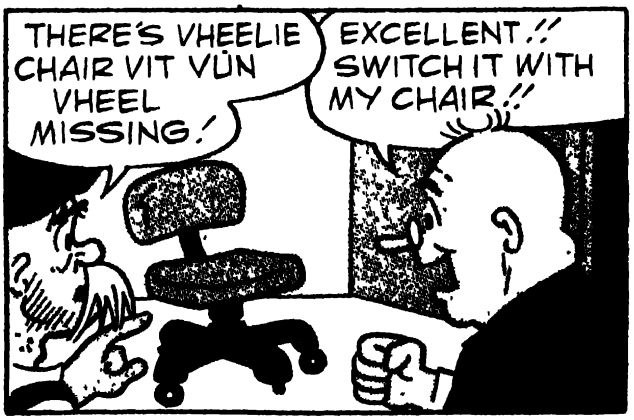

HE'S TEN.
AND A HALF (SLURP)
?!!
CONT'D

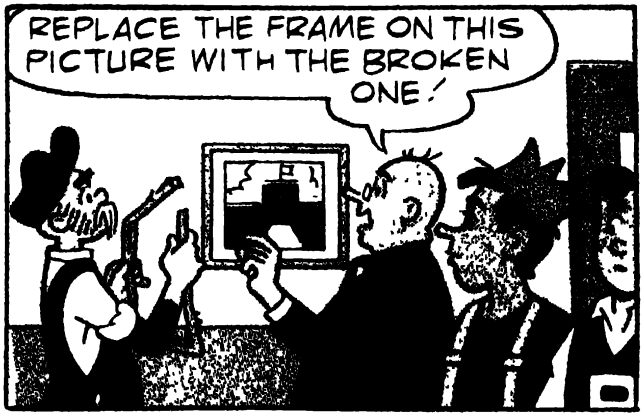

YOU KNOW THIS REINCARNATION THING YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT
YES
DOES THAT MEAN YOU COULD DIE AND COME BACK AS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN?
IT'S POSSIBLE
IT DOESN'T REALLY WORK LIKE THAT DENNIS
THE THING ABOUT REINCARNATION IS—
HERE, I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING!
WELL... THE THING ABOUT RE—
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I CAME BACK AS A TICK ON A DOG'S BACK?
YOU'D HAVE TAKEN A GIANT LEAP ON THE LADDER OF EVOLUTION
SINCE WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT REINCARNATION, I'VE THOUGHT UP A JOKE
OH YES?
AFTER YOU DIE— WAIT FOR IT— YOU MIGHT COME BACK AS A HUMAN BEING!
HAR-HAR! HAR-DE-HAR!
LET'S HOPE YOU COME BACK WITH A BRAIN CELL
I'M GOING TO HYPNOTISE YOU AND SEE IF YOU CAN REMEMBER ANY PREVIOUS LIVES
RIGHT
I CANNOT TELL A LIE— I CHOPPED DOWN THE CHERRY TREE
TO BE OR NOT TO BE...
MY GOD!
...HI-HO, SILVER AWAY!
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN INSUBORDINATE ONCE TOO OFTEN!
I WASN'T!
IF ONLY I HAD ONE PINT!

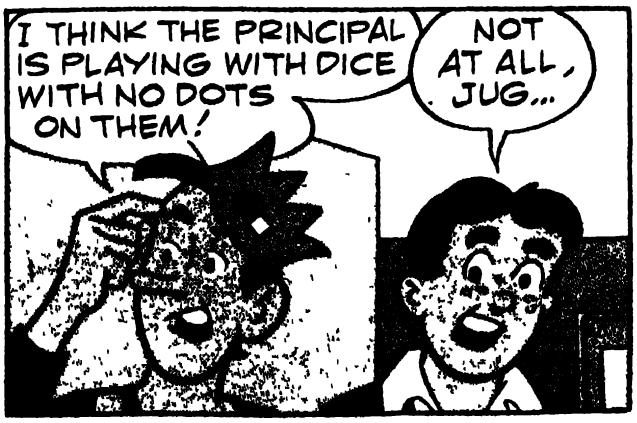

SVENSON, I NEED A LOT OF WORN-OUT JUNK!
VELL, YOU COME TO RIGHT PLACE, YOU BETCHA!


HERE IS SOME OLD, FADED CARPET!
GOOD! INSTALL IT IN MY OFFICE!


REPLACE ONE OF THE FRONT DOOR HANDLES WITH THIS BROKEN ONE!

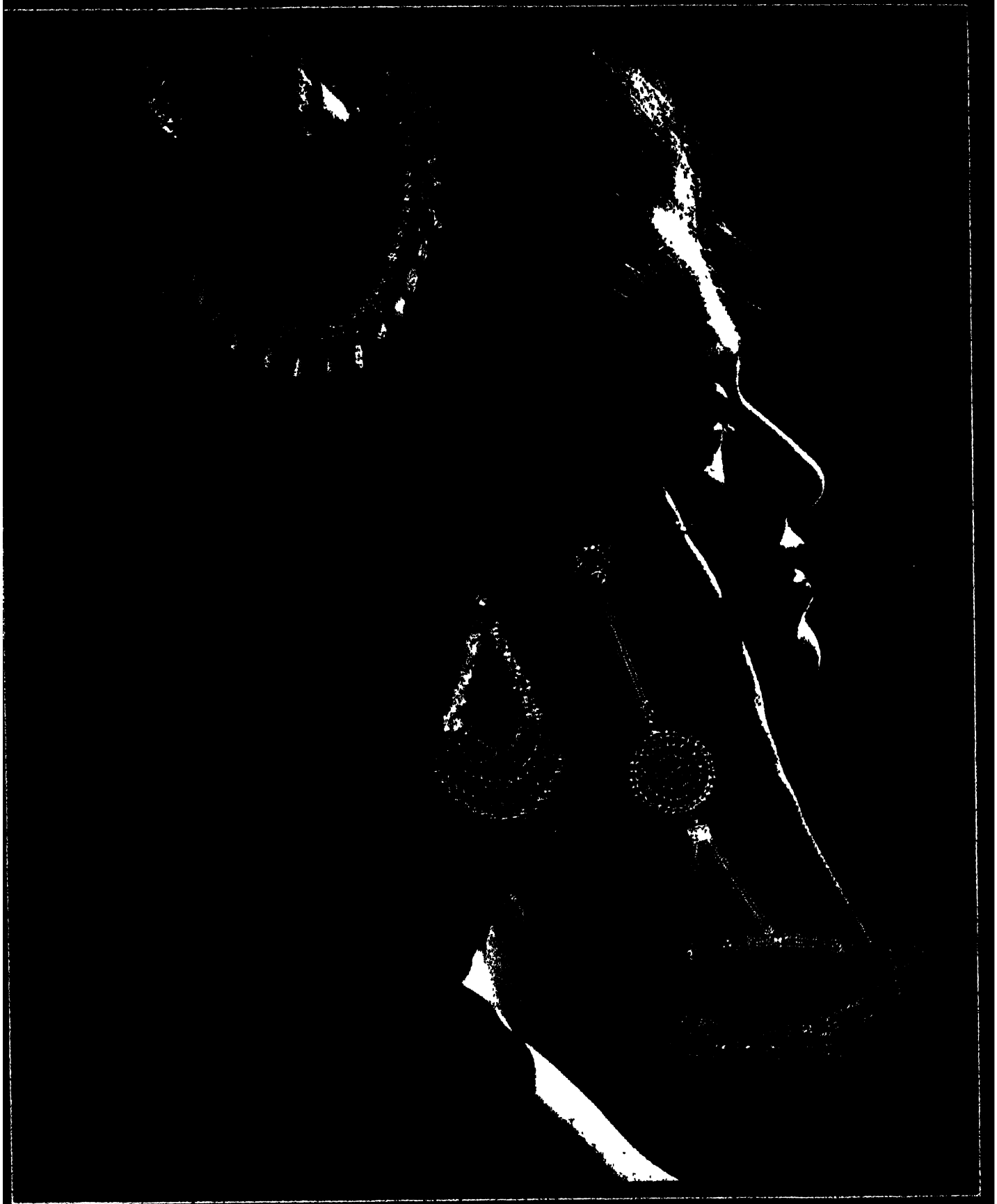

THERE'S VHEELIE CHAIR VIT VÜN VHEEL MISSING!
EXCELLENT!! SWITCH IT WITH MY CHAIR!!


REPLACE THE FRAME ON THIS PICTURE WITH THE BROKEN ONE!


I THINK THE PRINCIPAL IS PLAYING WITH DICE WITH NO DOTS ON THEM!
NOT AT ALL, JUG...


IT'S TIME FOR HIS ANNUAL PLEA FOR MORE MONEY FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD!
3-20

Ornamentally yours



A. Sirkar & Sons Jewellers

The Telegraph
2 OCTOBER 1988



Arjan Ghosh

4 South India has a special relationship with jewellery though the preference has remained traditional.

6 Astrology has an important part to play in jewellery buying.

12 Diamond buying is a tricky thing. We tell you how.

14 Why is Jaipur losing its prime position in the export market?

15 Some light on silver and semi-precious stones.

18 For Indians, gold is all that glitters, really. The reasons why

SECTIONS

8 Quiz
9 Junior Whirl
10 Heritage
21 7 Days
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Candid Camera

Cover. Model Oindrila Chowdhury photographed by Vivek Das. Jewellery courtesy P.C Chandra & Sons

Dolphins' Fate

Fast Food?

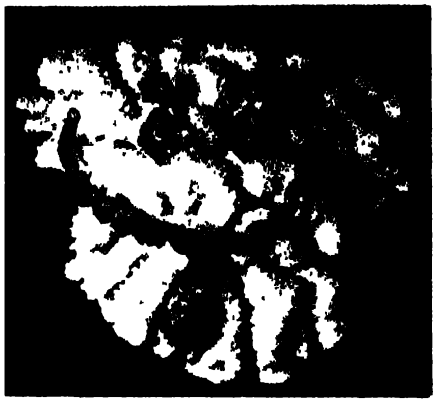
Being a frequent visitor to Tuga, a restaurant in Gol Park, I read with distaste the article, 'The Original Fast Food' (July 31) which purported to analyse the growth and prospects of the fast food industry in Calcutta. One fails to understand how Tuga can be clubbed with the fast food joints merely because it serves light dishes (along with flattened papad).

Demolishing Barriers



The Sparkle of Tradition

There is a special attraction for jewellery in south India and **G.C. Shekhar** finds that the preference is still largely for the conventional style



A ruby necklace and ear-drops in the south Indian style

"We hope you're making a pair of *vaira thodu* for the bride." The statement is allowed to hang and the onus is very much on the bride's parents. The response can make or unmake the alliance. For, such is the power of the *vaira thodu*— a pair of diamond ear studs. It is almost a definite passport to sealing an alliance in most middle-class families, especially in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The demand for a *vaira thodu*, in any marital alliance, represents not only another facet of the commercialisation of marriage, but also a view of an object of skilful craftsmanship and considerable beauty as a mere investment stashed away in some bank locker that may be handy in case of hard times.

"But, then, diamonds are forever," philosophised Vummidi Pradeep, a leading jeweller in Madras and also a graduate gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America.

The diamond stud, put simply, is a set of seven or nine cut diamonds placed in a small flower-shaped gold plate. The sockets are so minutely drilled that the diamond stones stay embedded ever so snugly. Down south it is called the close setting—a craft perfected in this part of the country.

With gold and diamond so perfectly enmeshed, there is absolutely no way a speck of dirt or even a drop of oil can find its way behind the diamond. The result: the unsullied sparkle of the diamonds.

In the south, where it is customary for an ear ornament to adorn a woman right from her first birthday, a pair of diamond ear-studs is considered the ultimate in ear-luxury. A luxury it is at a minimum price of Rs 8,000 for a modest looking pair. "A pair of diamond studs can really enhance the beauty of a woman. It is the most commonly worn jewellery along with the *mangalsutra* and the bangles. If you watch a housewife, every half an hour she'll polish the diamond studs with the edge of her sari, and there is no greater way of keeping the diamonds shining," observed Vummidi Nandagopal, a senior jewellery merchant of Madras.

But, then, the diamond studs are mostly worn after marriage or at middle-age. Till then, it is gold that rules in the form of chains, *jimkis* (ear-drops), bangles and nose-studs. The advent of *churidars* has necessitated a change from heavy gold jewellery to the lighter variety, the astronomical cost of gold also being a cause for this transformation. The short, heavy chains have yielded to the double-rowed

A Bharata Natyam dancer in all her finery



24"-long chain or simply the single chain measuring 36". Contrast this 1.5 sovereign presentday wonder to the solid 50 sovereign *kasumalai* (chain of coins) of yesteryear with 100 gold coins stringed together.

"The urban woman prefers a more dainty piece of jewellery with intricate designs. The rural bias is more towards chunky ornaments. Also, the middle-aged women prefer more gold content since they see it as an investment while the younger age groups prefer the lighter designs. For them, jewellery is truly ornamental," surmised A. Sukumaran, director of Lalitha Jewellery Mart.

Where precious stones are concerned, diamonds are way ahead. The reeling costs of diamonds and gold have taken the fullfledged diamond jewellery set away from the grasp of even the considerably well-off. While the super-rich alone can afford the complete array of a diamond necklace, ear-studs, nose-stud, bangles and ring, the rest are settling for a reasonable but not-so-inexpensive compromise. A diamond pendant that could be suspended from a gold chain is acceptable instead of a fullfledged diamond necklace. Previously, a nine-diamond ear-stud was the standard, but today the seven-stone stud is good enough. Diamond studded bangles are a rarity.

Whereas a diamond necklace proclaims an arrogant opulence, a string of rubies is aesthetically more pleasing and also easy on the pocket. "There is nothing like rubies when you want to make a necklace of thin gold strands. You mix them with pearls and you have one of the finest combinations," said K.V. Raghavan, a jeweller who specialises in rubies.

The muted lustre of pearls and corals has a dedicated fan club. "Many rich women, who do want to dazzle with a display of their jewellery collection, are the chief patrons of pearls and corals. And even the less well-to-do sections with a refined taste show a preference for pearls," added Sumanlal Jain, a pearl merchant in the crowded Sowcarpet area of north Madras.

Yet another favourite down south is the *karugamani malai*—a necklace made of black and gold beads on a gold setting. Unlike in dresses where the mix-and-match phenomenon has caught on, jewellery continues to be staunchly traditional. "Except for a few foreign designs that the NRIs bring with them in the form of drawings or magazine cuttings, the goldsmith continues to be the chief designer of jewellery. For this reason, the traditional appearances dominate the south Indian jewellery scene," said Mr Nanjagopal.

Talking of traditional jewellery brings to the Nattukottai Chettiars into the picture. The Chettiars, the south Indian equivalent of the moneyed Marwaris, can easily be termed 'the golden clan.' "It is unthinkable to talk of traditional Chettiar jewellery these days," said Mr Sukumaran. As a community which believed in spacious mansions and elaborate functions the Chettiar jewellery were also of massive proportions. The *kazhutheeru*, a massive multi-stringed gold chain was a must for every Chettiar woman after her marriage. The average *kazhutheeru* weighed anywhere between 25 and 30 sovereigns. Similarly, the bangles were extra broad, and the diamond necklaces were a matter of routine and there was no compromise on the size.

The size and the heavy gold content in the Chettiar jewellery also has a social angle. "In a society where women are considered inferior and the father's properties are bequeathed to the son, the gold ornaments that a Chettiar widow held on to were her only guarantee to a relatively independent life," observed Dr Ct. Lingappan, an orthopaedician and a Chettiar himself.

Talk of jewellery leads to marriage as those two subjects have become so closely linked. "A decent wedding on these days must consist of a necklace with matching ear-drops, ring and bangles," said Mr Sukumaran.

The influence of astrology, however, is restricted only to the rings. While every jewellery has a chart indicating a customer's birthstone, according to his month of birth, many customers consult their family astrologer while deciding on what precious stone to have on their ring. It is safer for a person to consult his horoscope and find out the planetary position at the time of his birth before deciding on what precious stone he is going to wear," said Mr Nanjagopal. "For example, sapphire can cause irreparable harm if worn by the wrong person. On the other hand, cat's eye is said to have a charm about it—a person wearing it can easily convince others," he added.

In Tamil Nadu, everything has been so politicised that even jewellery has not been spared. It is quite common to see many of the AIADMK bigwigs sporting a massive gold ring with the face of MGR or the AIADMK's symbol, two leaves, embossed on it. The DMK enthusiasts respond with their leader's face and party symbol on their rings. Does that rivalry ring a jewel?

Adding Dazzle to Dance

The best evidence about the importance of jewellery in the south Indian scheme of things can be seen at a Bharata Natyam dance performance. A variety of these shining objects adorn the dancer, right from head to toe, throwing an array of hues and glitter while the peripheral jewels are very much an essential component of Bharata Natyam prescribed in the Natyashastra. They form a part of *aharya*—meaning 'decor'—which a dancer has to ensure while performing. While decor includes the dress, the stage setting and lighting, it is the jewels along with flowers that provide the aesthetic appeal.

A dancer sometimes may wear as many as 12 different ornaments. The face is especially highlighted by such ornaments as a sun-and-moon jewelled disc fixed on the head, a *netti chutti* (a pendant that is suspended on the forehead from a necklace-like object), ear-drops and nose-studs. Then, there are the *attiyal* (precious stone necklace), a long necklace, *kasumalai* (chain of coins), *oddiyanam* (a hipband that tucks in the belly and also holds the sari) and sometimes the long chain from the hips. On the arms there is a pair of bands called *vangi*, a set of bangles and finger-rings. On the feet are the various anklets.

When looked at logically, such heavy jewellery is meant to hinder the movement of the dancer. Traditional jewellery of Tamil Nadu, ... Bharata Natyam is performed, ... dancer was seen in ... Hence, the use of ... goddess, ... exponent Chandralekha, ... Chandralekha, ... jewels the dancer was ... flowers, "the most natural ornaments." Even now, a dancer ... plethora of jewels, ... coured flowers on the top of ... and also in her plaits. But previously a dancer's ornaments were made of uncut or semi-cut stones that helped in accentuating a dancer's face. Today's day ornaments which are mostly synthetic stones, dazzle and distract," complained Chandralekha.

The days of a dancer sporting an entire array of gold and precious stones are out because of the prevailing cost of such jewellery and also due to the weight factor. In fact, a dancer these days need not even possess such ornaments, not even the peripherals. They're easily available for hire at nominal charges.

What the Gems Foretell

Do precious stones really affect an individual's destiny?

Ajay Bharatram (31) businessman under enormous financial stram consulted his family astrologer who advised him to wear a *neelam* (blue sapphire) on the index finger of his left hand A month later he had no more problems He was dead The doctor's verdict heart attack, the astrologer was ex communicated and the *neelam* thrown into the Ganga

Sumitra Devi suffering from intense migraine and mental convulsions was asked to wear the same stone Months later the family fortunes improved Goddess Laxmi smiled upon the family Sumitra Devi s mig raine disappeared and she died at the ripe old age of 82

Mysterious? Certainly not Mental stram brought on the heart attack that killed Bharat ram and perhaps the improved financial fortunes of Sumitra Devi's family were responsible for the change in her health. Yet, it could have been the conjunction of stars at that particular instance which caused such adverse reac tions

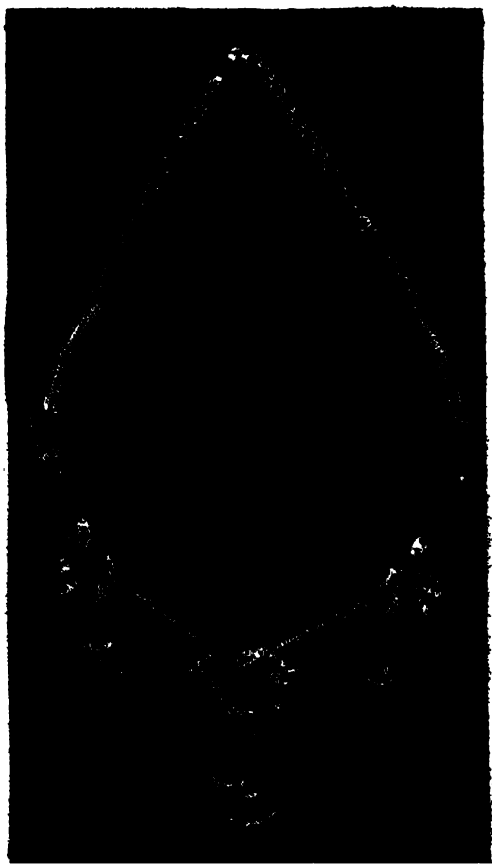
Bijoy Kumar Chandra, director PC Chandra and Sons has studied dermatology and then gemology in England He believes that Hindu astrology is the oldest in the world and definitely has some scientific base However it is only by continuous research and study that the mystery sur rounding astrology can be lifted

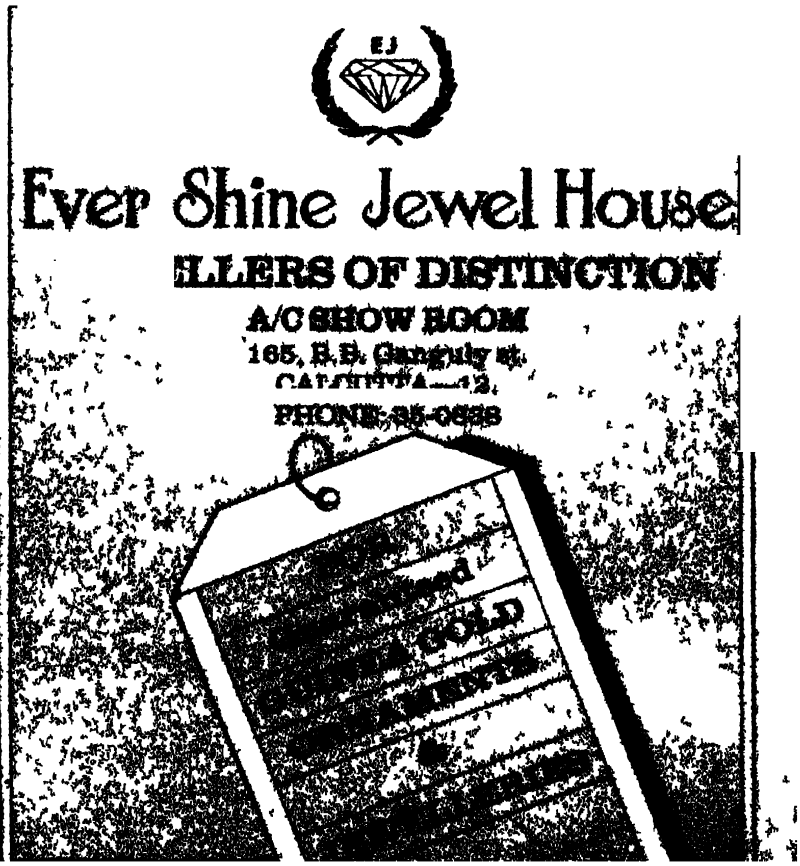
The central theme of astrol ogy is that human destiny is governed by the position of the planets and stars at the time of the individual's birth Thus, it has been assumed that one star, (the sun) six planets, including one satellite (the moon) and two shadows (Rahu and Ketu) influence the course of our lives

Chandra believes that gems have certain curative prop erties 'To understand this one needs to study the evolu tion of a stone—from the gaseous form to the conde nsed and finally to the crystal lised In this process it gathers certain inclusions or impurities Thus when one advises some one to wear a particular stone it is always best if it is a pure or clear one

Talking from personal ex perience Chandra quotes the example of his elder son who was a sickly child Their astrologer advised them to tie a coral or *monga* around the child's arm His health im proved Months later the coral fell off It was recovered and retied but fell off again They went back to the astrologer who told them that the body now healthy, was rejecting the coral 'I believe that particu larly with the pearl and the coral both of which are made out of animal bodies buried deep in the sea the effects are verifiable

As one smart astrologer re marks, Astrology is a scien ce to be used by the people for their benefit but individual in itiative is as important ' Un doubtedly there are a number of instances where predictions

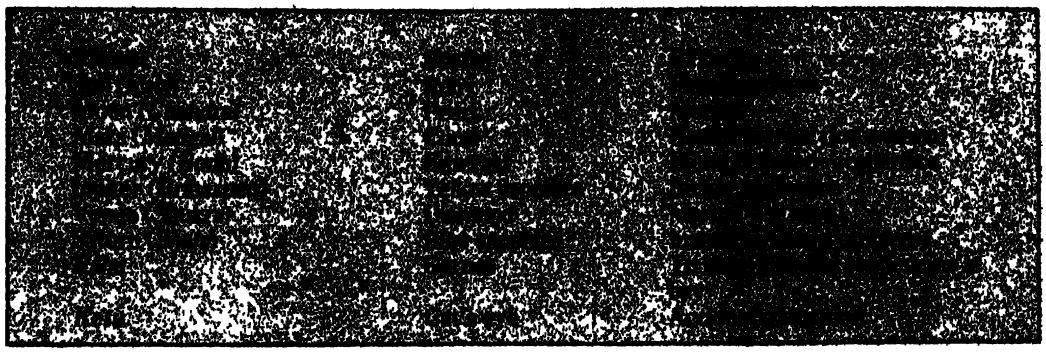




about a person's future (and past) made by astrologers have come true with uncanny accuracy but to believe that these calculations of births, deaths, accidents and job opportunities are made on the basis of planetary positions at the time of birth and on the individual's birth-date is fantasmical.

There are those who agree that their profession works more like a psychological prop; offering consolation and strength, . Laxminarayan Goswami (37) is a part-time astrologer, part-time accountant. He sits in his pokey, little cubicle doling out succour to the troubled. He is a middle-class astrologer, his clientele obviously not in the same class that frequents jewellers. In practice for the last 10 years, he says that if the need arises to prescribe a stone that his client cannot afford, he suggests something cheaper.

An authentic astrologer, is Sankar Mitra. Clad in a white *dhoti kurta*, his



office appropriately smelling of *dhup* and adorned with an image of Kali, he bursts into excited Bengali, trying to convince the unbeliever.

Mitra*babu* explains that each stone has a specific gravity and fulfills the function of refurbishing the particular colour lacking in the body. The colour has to do with a particular plannet and has certain powers. To determine each individual's needs, the astrologer needs to study the birth chart.

Sri Byasdev (R.L. Sarkar) is a senior engineer in a private firm, and practises astrology once a week. He has been doing so for the past 20 years "I tell people to have faith in the All Mighty and to meditate on him but who has the time? They are only interested in quick returns and feel that by wearing a stone the effect will be faster."

Astrology, he says, is an inexact science based purely on experimental, hit and run methods. By prescribing a stone the astrologer can only hope that it will work for there is no guarantee that it will. However, if the stones were truly worthless and had no effect whatsoever they would not have survived the ages, he points out.

How far are stones related to astrology? It is a nebulous question. And ultimately boils down to whether you happen to be a believer or not. Perhaps there is some truth in astrology waiting to be proved. But believers should not stack all their cards on some planet light years away and pin their hopes on the efficaciousness of a particular stone

Nandika Jaitly

Do you need a most reliable and reasonable 22 Karat gold ornament dealer?

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Testing or Refining by Mint: If our ornaments are sent to Government of India Mint, or for testing in Sonapatty (Bullion Market) of any city, purity will come to 22 Karat.

Is it a new system of Ornaments manufacturing? In all advanced countries, it is compulsory, by law, that stamp on ornaments should refer to melting purity. We are the pioneers in adopting this system in retail business in India. Gold ornaments which are being exported from India are also made by this sytem.

How is it possible to solder 22 Karat gold ornaments with 22 Karat gold solder? The melting point of 22 Karat gold is approx. 1000°C, so the solder's melting point should be lower than 1000°C, as solder should melt before the skin metal starts to melt. Therefore, while preparing 22 Karat gold solder, 2 parts of low melting point metals are melted with 22 parts of pure gold. The melting points goes down to approx. 800°C, while purity remains 22 Karat. This 22 Karat solder can be used for soldering 22 Karat gold ornaments. In this way, purity remains 22 Karat even after melting, as skin metal is 22 Karat gold and solder used is 22 Karat.

Nemichand Bamalwa & Sons

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You will feel — why did you not contact us earlier!

nath



Debasis Sanyal, Santragachi, writes: "Please enlighten me about the Spanish Civil War."

On July 17, 1936, Civil War broke out in Spain, bringing to an end the country's five-year experiment in democracy. The forces at work were the mirror image of conventional revolts and resulted in confusing language. The Loyalists were a coalition government of assorted liberals trying to preserve the current form of government, which was then undertaking sweeping political and social reforms. The rebels, on the other hand, included the military, the heirarcy of the Catholic Church, and the aristocracy, who wanted to restore the old pre-1931 Spain complete with feudalism, mass illiteracy and blind obedience to the dictates of the Church.

About 96 per cent of the military rallied under the banner of the insurgent Gen. Francisco Franco, then governor of the Canary Islands. With Italian planes and Moroccan troops, he stormed Spain in what was expected to be an easy conquest of a government bereft of armed forces. But the Loyalists stiffened their resistance as thousands of civilians flocked to the ramparts overnight. Republican Loyalists held onto the capital, eastern Spain, and most of the southern coast, despite Franco's merciless seige of Madrid and atrocities elsewhere. Hitler and Mussolini both pumped arms and ammunition into the Franco effort. By 1937, 9,000 German technicians and 65,000 Italian troops were on Spanish soil.

Nevertheless, the Western countries refused to equip the Loyalists. Only the Soviet Union sent a few weapons, but even these came too late to make any difference. Still, Spanish Republicans managed to recruit about 20,000 adventurers, idealists, and anti-Fascists from all over the world and scored some battle victories, most notably against the Italian forces near Guadalajara in 1937. Finally in March, 1939, under intense shelling which levelled a third of Madrid, Loyalists surrendered their last bastion, and Spain settled uneasily into the arms of dictator Franco.

CBS

11th Question: **Which place is known as the "Third Rome"? Give the reason. (Sailesh Kumar Singh, Room no.13, BIT, Sindri 828123).**

Ans: **Moscow.**

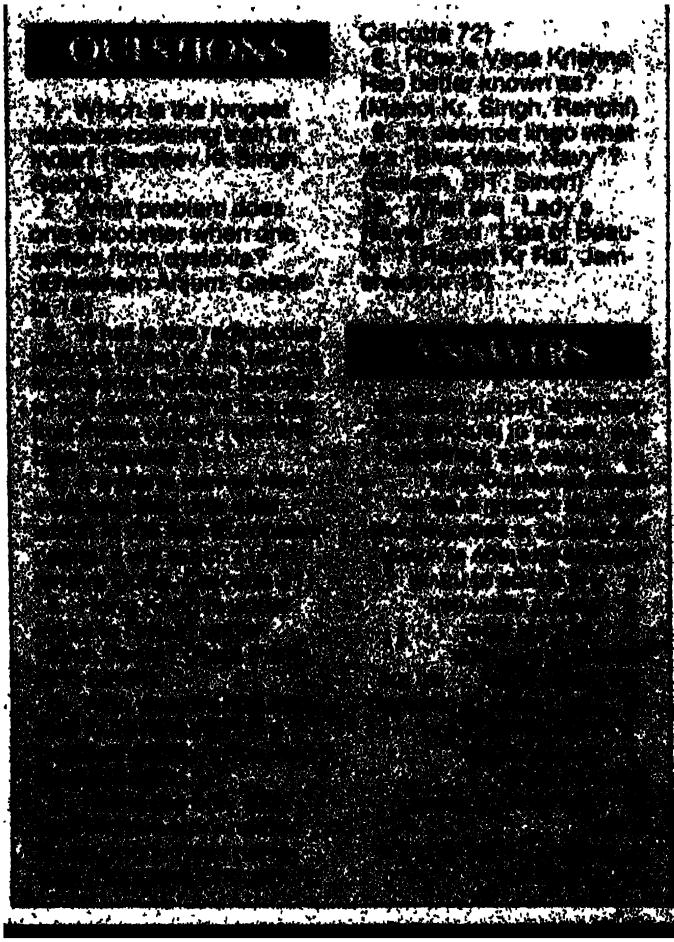
The Russian orthodox church believed that the first Rome had fallen in heresy. Thus, it was punished by the attacks of barbarians. The second Rome, Byzantium, had also become heretical in acknowledging the supremacy of the Pope at the council of Florence in 1438 and it was overrun by the Turks. So they expressed the idea that the *Third Rome* was Moscow and declared it the capital of the last truly Christian nation under the rule of the Tzar.

Soumitra Majumdar reports from Patna:

"Quizzing has come to stay at Patna—so proved the Seventh Round Table Quiz at Hotel Chanakya which was attended by a 'house-full' audience and eight participating teams.

"All the teams started off well but after the first few rounds, last year's winners, Nitwits, forged ahead. They were followed by Li'l Folks, Tell Tales and Quax. But after reversing the order, the scenario changed completely. Quax first caught up with and then whizzed past the leaders and by the start of the last round, it had built up a sizeable lead of 5 points. There was an interesting battle for second place and by the end, three teams' Li'l Folks, Money Changers and Wise Cracks,were tied at 18 points each. The Doctors' team, Quax, comprised Anil Kumar Singh, Sagar Bhattacharya, Sumantra Sarkar and Arnab Mitra. The tie-breaker resulted with Li'l Folks coming second. Defending champions, Nitwits, had to settle for a disappointing 5th place.

"The quiz master, Barry O'Brien, a Round Tabler from Calcutta, mesmerized the audience with his witty remarks and hilarious jokes."



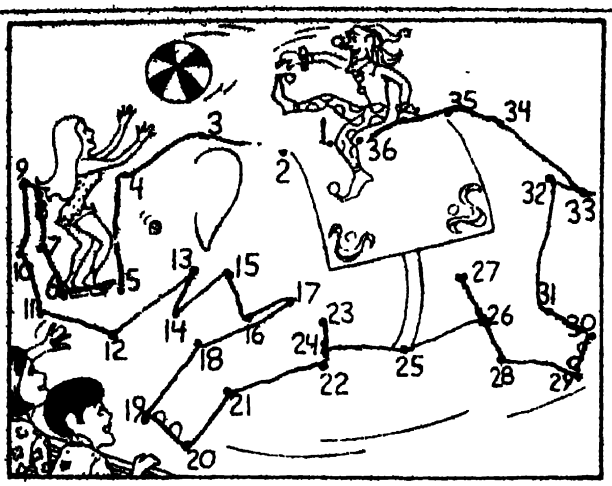
Shantanu Chakravarty writes from Chaibasa:

"Leo Club of Chaibasa organised its second inter-school quiz contest with four teams reaching the finals. Right from the word go it was a close battle between the D.A.V. and St Xavier's teams. However, the real fun started when the quiz master Partho Pratim started directing questions at the audience. Some of the questions were quite obviously taken from *The Telegraph* quiz section. Ultimately, D.A.V. emerged victorious."

Feraz Rahman reports from Ranchi:

"The Alumni Association of St Thoma s School, Ranchi, conducted an inter-school quiz. Teams form eight schools participated. The winners were Loreto Convent, Ranchi. St Xavier's School and St Thomas' School were tied for second place towards the end, but St Xavier's School finally took the runner-up berth in the tie-breaker. The quiz was conducted by Aditya Dutta."

Postscript: The Argus Close-up Quiz takes place this week. Preliminaries on October 5 and 7 at 5.30 pm. Final on October 8 at 6 pm. Venue: Dalhousie Institute. Quiz Master: R.M. Bhn.



KNOW SHOW! An important performer is missing above. To complete the picture, draw connecting lines 1 to 2, 3, etc.

• **SAY FAST!** Say fast and repeat: A canner exceedingly canny, one morning said to his granny: "A canner can can anything that he can, but a canner can't can a can, can he, granny?"



SALTY LINGO TO FATHOM

Lots of things we know by one name on land are known as something else by a sailor. For instance, a rope is a line, a mop is a swab, etc. How much of the following salty lingo can you translate?

1. Ahoy	6. Hands
2. Aweigh	7. Helm
3. Abaft	8. Galley
4. About	9. Brig
5. Avast	10. Gangway

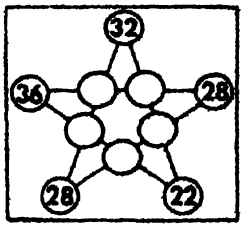
No fair peeking

1. Hello there! (taking call) 2. Anchor raised 3. Toward the rear 4. Opposite direction 5. Stop 6. Crew 7. Steering wheel 8. Kitchen 9. Prison 10. Boarding passageway

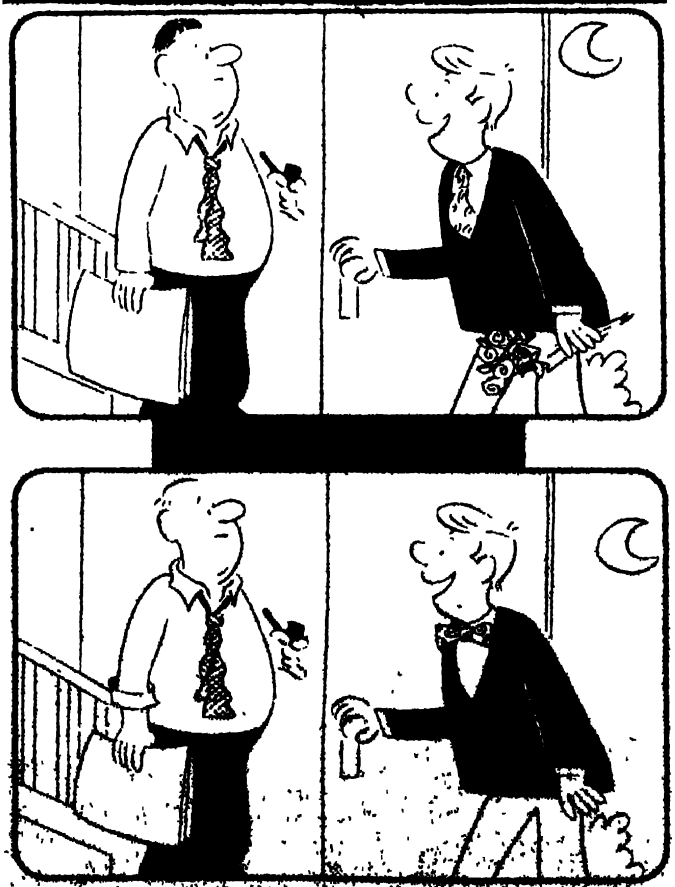
• **SUM STAR!** Insert the five numbers 16, 18, 20, 24, 28 in blanks below so that each row of four numbers in a straight line totals exactly 100.

For starters, add row ends 32 and 22. Sum: 54. Now, find two unassigned numbers whose sum is 46. Insert these two numbers by trial and error, etc.

Top left blank: 16 then clockwise—20 28 18 24 and do it

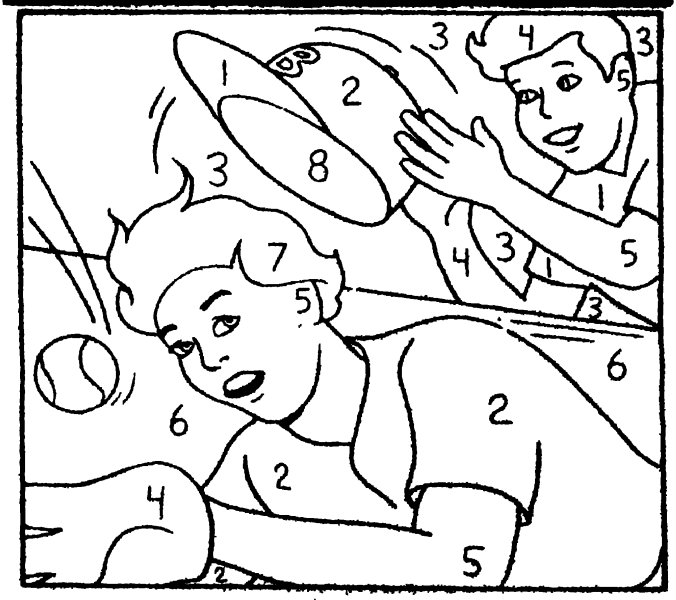


HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between the two bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

FUNSPOT



HANDY CAP! One thing leads to another in the baseball action above. Add these colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Dk. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELL BINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

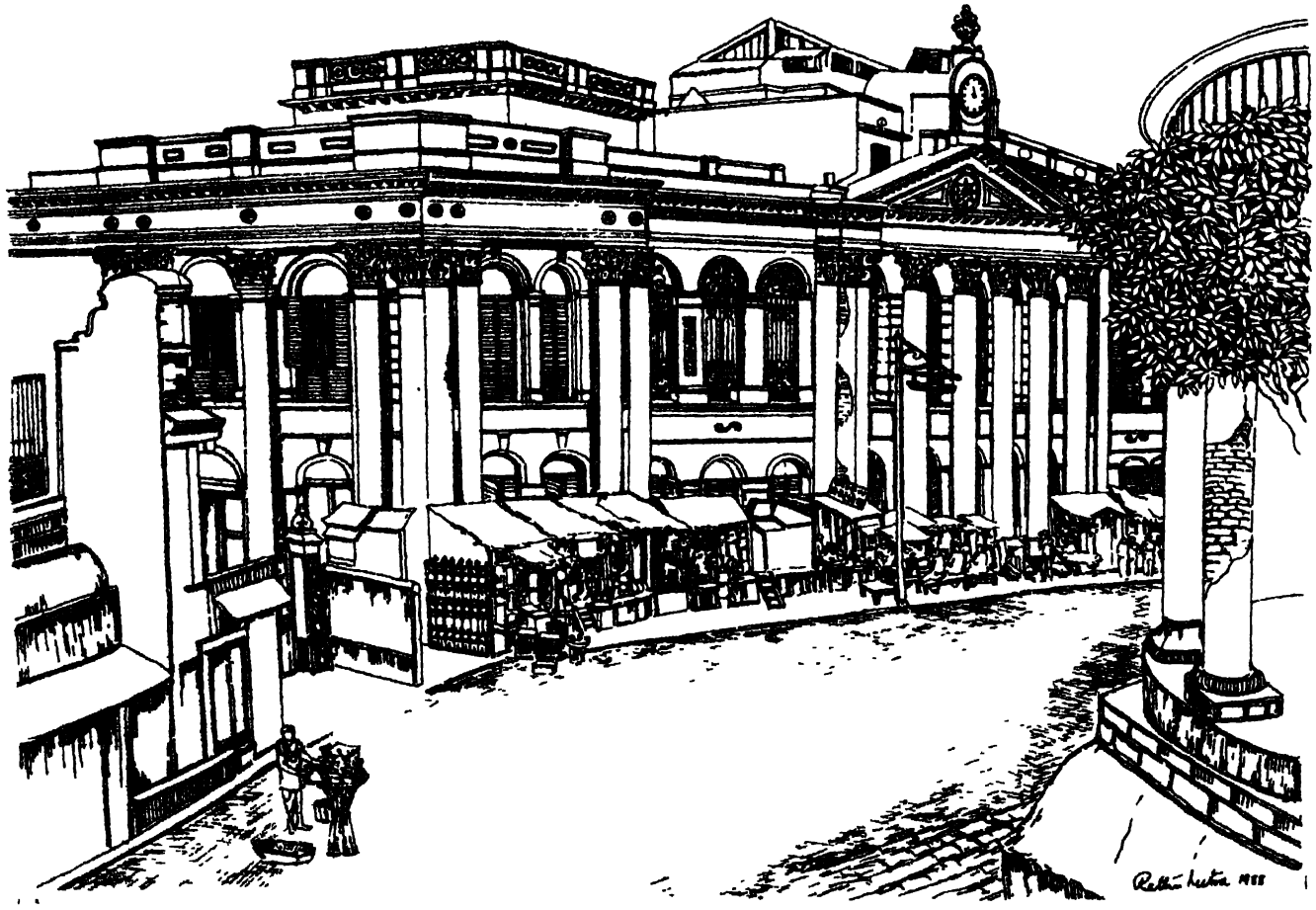
MEMORIAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found within the letters.

Top-of-table total in points:



GHARIWALA MULLICK HOUSE



The building (sketched above), situated at 365 Upper Chitpore Road (now 279 Rabindra Sarani) in Jorasanko opposite Lohia Matri Sadan, derives its name from the various grandfather, tiny, mini and antique clocks that adorn its large rooms. The clocks—a priceless collection of Motilal Mullick—announce their presence by the succession of chimes and bells through the day and night. However, the local people call it "Ghariwala Mullick Bari (House)" because of the huge, round-shaped ancestral clock made by Cooke and Kelvey that is fixed on the top of the building facing the road.

Originally the building was owned by Madhusudan Sanyal who had let the courtyard of its outer block to the Calcutta National Theatrical Society on a monthly rent of Rs 40. The first professional theatre in Bengal functioned from this place, adding to its historical importance.

Around 1876-77, Ashutosh Mullick purchased the house from Madhusudan Sanyal and its renovation work was carried out by Mackintosh Burn & Co. The last show of the National Theatre in this house was staged on March 8, 1873. The courtyard where the first show of *Nildarpan* was staged still exists. The house is now occupied by the descendants of Ashutosh Mullick's brothers.

The beauty of Gold is a joy for ever



Distinguished Jewellers

R. Chowdhury & Sons

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The Stone of Fortune

Of all nature's bounties, it is the diamond which has the greatest value. **Shantanu Datta** guides you on how to buy a diamond so that it truly is forever

Marilyn Monroe in her own heart stopping voice had said it all in the song from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

Men grow cold as girls grow old
and we all lose our charms in the end
but square cut or pear shape
diamonds are a girl's best friend

Today India has emerged as one of the leading exporters of cut diamonds Mr B K Chandra of P C Chandra & Sons (Bowbazar and Gariahat) says In 1977 78 India exported diamonds worth Rs 516 68 crores and in 10 years the figure has escalated to Rs 1 959 73 crores

The domestic market scenario is also very encouraging says Mr Raj Mahtani of Satramdas Dhalamal (Park Street) Today trends have changed and younger people are showing a greater preference for diamond jewellery Earlier one would scarcely come across a Bengali buying diamonds during marriages unlike Sindhis to whom diamonds are age old favourites In almost all Bengali marriages nowadays the groom s diamond buttons are an absolute must

In the case of gold **carat** denotes quality but for diamonds it is the unit of weight Till 1910 a carat varied from country to country Uniformity was reached when in that year an international congress of weights and measures resolved that 200 milligrams (007 ounces) would be one carat (Thus 1 gm is equal to 5 carats) Keeping with the decimal system a carat was further divided into 100 cents or points

Some jewellers advertise their stones as weighing about one half carat or approximately one carat but as every cent is worth a lot of money the buyer is advised to know exactly how much he or she is buying

Generally speaking a one carat stone of average cut is about a fourth of an inch in diameter The larger the diamond the more rare it is and the more is its price per carat Thus a one carat diamond costs more than two half carat diamonds and similarly one half carat diamond is costlier than two stones weighing 25 cents each provided the quality remains the same

At times jewellers quote some ridiculous price for a half carat diamond ring and perhaps add in a footnote that this is the total weight of all the diamonds in the ring In reality the centre piece may weigh only 30 cents with four other small stones in the setting contributing to the total of 50 cents Thus it is extremely important to ascertain the exact weight of the centre stone as this is where the bulk of the money goes with the smaller stones working out to a much lesser price per carat

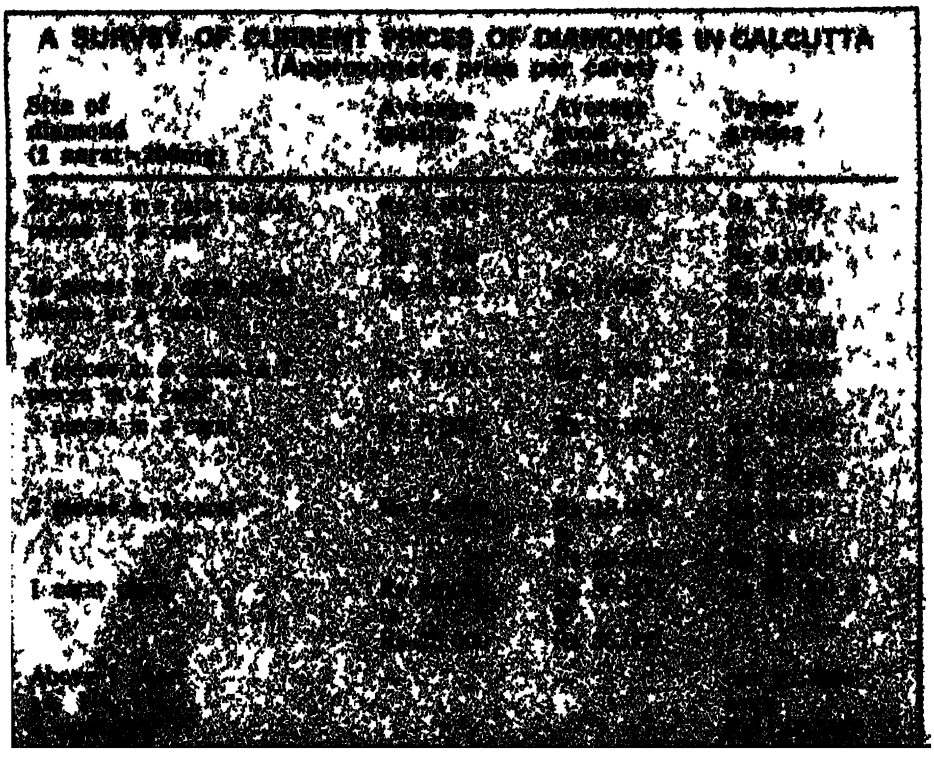
Clarity, the second of the four Cs denotes the absence of natural imperfections in the stone Ninety per cent of diamonds weighing more than half a-carat have some internal imperfections These are called inclusions and may vary from a tiny white spot to large and numerous other marks They may be transparent or coloured and the more visible the inclusion the greater its affect on price

The general beauty and brilliance of a stone are not affected by inclusions unless they are large enough to be seen by the naked eye However it is important to keep in mind that even the tiniest flaws lower a stone s value

Among all the Cs human skill is involved only in **cutting** A diamond cutter improves on nature by cutting and shaping a rough stone to bring out the brilliant fire that goes to make it the most prized of all gems Precision is the goal in this art which in India is primarily concentrated in Gujarat A diamond must be cut in such a way that light entering the different facets (faces) is reflected through the top of the stone in a highly concentrated form Cutting also brings out the diamond s ability to disperse white light into the many colours of the spectrum and a well cut diamond will reflect a dazzling array of brilliant rainbow hues A fully cut diamond has either 57 or 58 facets Small diamonds in the one, two and three cent sizes are generally cut with only 17 facets This is called a single cut.

As in all professions, there are some who do not hesitate to take advantage of the innumerable tricks known to the trade When a salesman explains that the diamond is perfectly cut" because it has 58 facets it means absolutely nothing If a potential customer is told that a certain two-carat diamond looks like a three-carat stone, then that would be the very reason for him not to buy that diamond. A two carat stone of good proportions should look like a two-carat stone and not like a three-carat one

A diamond's **colour** certainly has more bearing on its value than its cut. A poorly cut stone can, if it is large enough, be cut again, but there is nothing much that can be done about faulty colour.



Diamonds come in tints of pink, blue, green, canary and other hues. Even though these stones are cherished because they are rare the white or colourless stone is perhaps the most beautiful The finest colourless diamond may be compared to a drop of distilled water—totally devoid of colour except for the rainbow hues it flashes as it separates the light spectrum

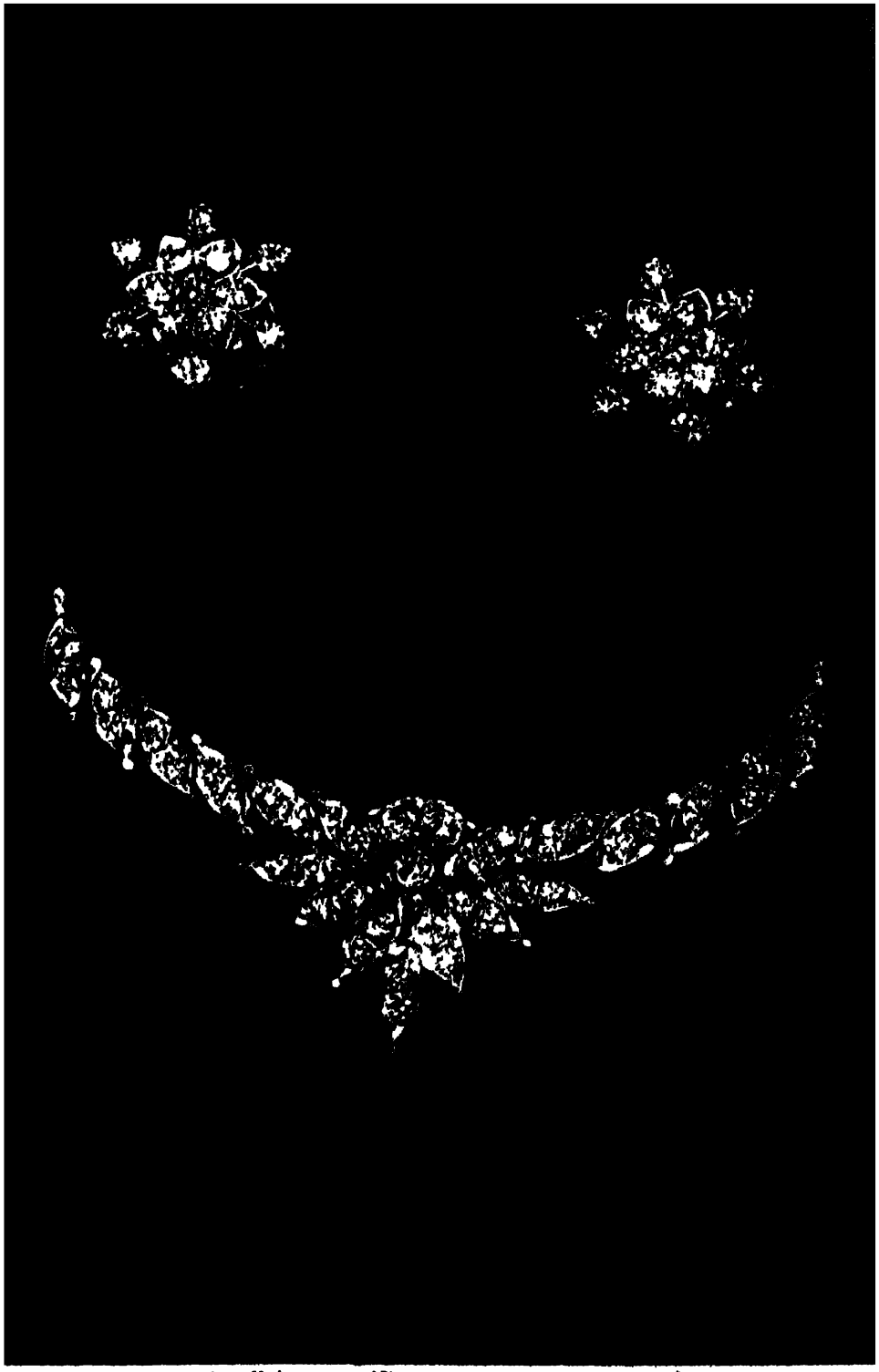
The diamondlite, a colour meter, provides an artificial light equivalent to the light that enters a north window on a clear day and it is with the help of this instrument that a gem is examined for colour It is placed under the meter and then compared to a series of standardised gems of known colour. Evaluation of colour is an extremely tricky matter and if a dealer lacks a colour meter then the buyer would be well advised to examine the diamond in the light from a north window on a cloudless day (North sunlight is used because it has constant wavelength)

A diamond should be viewed from the sides as any yellow content is more noticeable than when one looks down into the stone Practically all diamonds have a yellow or brown tint At the same time diamonds with a very slight degree of yellow are very beautiful and valuable stones, equally brilliant as the whitest, but the general rule is -the less the yellow the finer the quality and the more valuable the stone

As in clarity, the absence of absolute standards has led to unfortunate and misleading terms being applied to colour Thus "blue-white" can mean almost anything and it is useless to describe diamonds thus Mr Raj Mahtani is waiting for the day when all Indian jewellers would resort to the internationally accepted form of grading diamonds "Most of us jewellers here classify diamonds as average quality, average good quality and thereafter upper grade and so on. But since this makes no sense to the customer there is no way that the buyer knows exactly what he is buying. It is for the jewellers' guild to get together and make prevalent here the widely accepted, more scientific, international grading system," he says.

Here are some other terms to be careful about. Stones that are "over blue" turn out to be somewhat brown under artificial light. "Top silver cape" is used for stones that have colour but which look white when placed in setting. A good trick would be to breathe on a diamond. This at times tends to bring out any yellow tint that otherwise would not show up. Again, diamonds reflect the colour of their surroundings so the buyer will be ill advised to look at a diamond under a jeweller's blue lamp.

Diamonds are sometimes artificially whitened to hike their value but these stones do not retain the colour for long.



The king of stones in all its magnificence

They can also be given green, gold or other hues by exposing them to irradiation from a cyclotron, and although these colours ae permanent, the stones lose some of their brilliance in this process.

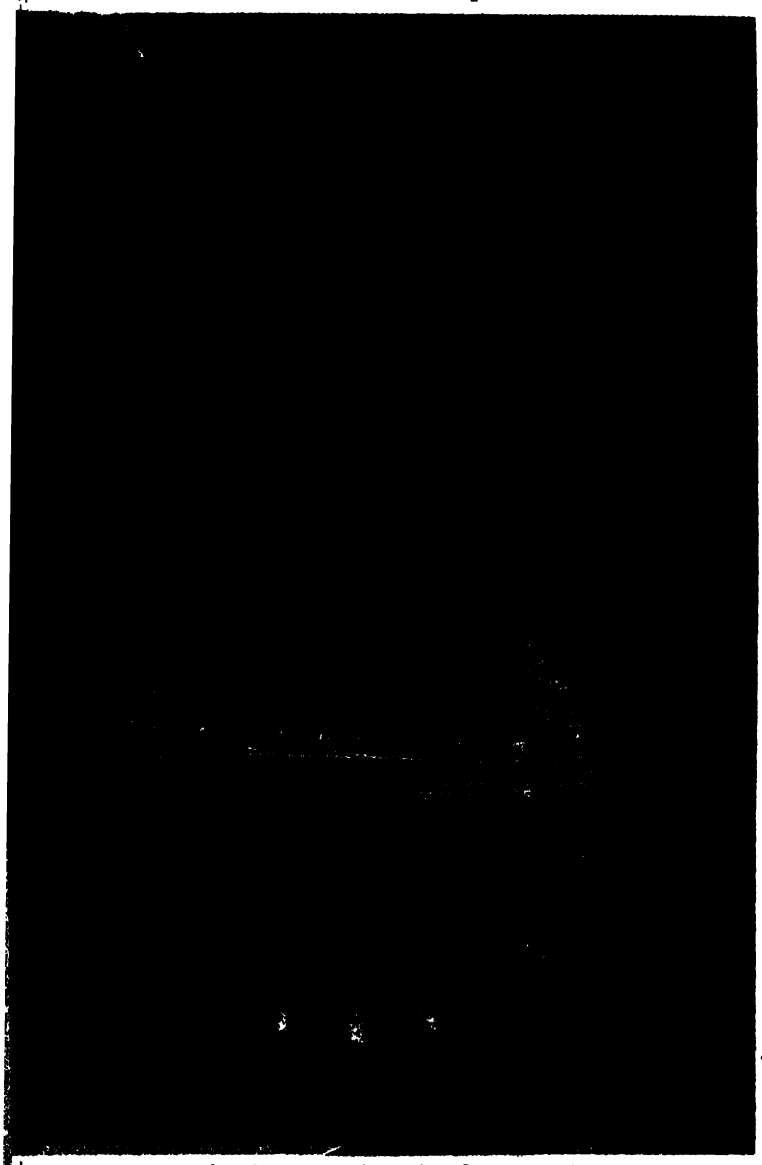
In spite of these guidelines thre is still bound to remain an element of doubt and uncertainty during and after a diamond purchase is made. So the best advice to top it all would be to, "make the purchase from a reputed, trustworthy dealer, one who has withstood the test of time and been around for years."

Mr Mahtani insists that, "We are fully aware of the trust bestowed upon us by our customers and constantly strive to see that this trust is not betrayed As an assurance we are always ready to take back diamonds from our clients at the same price Lakhs and lakhs of rupees are spent on diamonds and therefore this guarantee helps to alleviate the fears and doubts in a customer's mind."

It is amidst these doubts and uncertainties that diamonds are sold, bought and re-sold. But the final question remains- is the prurchase of a diamond always a terrible, risky adventure? Well, adventure it certainly is and always will be, no matter how well one tries to gather expertise a

No Longer a Shining Example

Jaipur occupied the prime position once in the 'sparkle sector,' including exports. But it has steadily been losing ground



Suraj N. Sharma

Jaipur has been a traditional home of gems and jewellery. For centuries, the dexterity of local craftsmen in cutting, shaping, polishing and setting of coloured gem stones like emerald and ruby as also in manufacturing gold ornaments and kundan work were unparalleled. Jaipur-made jewellery was considered a matter of aesthetic pride. Affluent buyers from all over the world used to frequent Jaipur to bring gems and jewellery for personal possession and also for trading.

Till only two decades ago, Jaipur used to be the largest [illegible] jewellery from India Today, it has been relegated to an insignificant position In 1966, when the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council was set up, the country's total export of this item was only Rs 22 crores out of which Jaipur's share was Rs 12 crore. Most of the exports from Jaipur consisted of coloured stones, specially emerald But the situation has now completely changed. Neither does Jaipur top the list of exporters nor do the coloured stones occupy the first position As against the total exports of gems and jewellery worth Rs 2,600 crores in the year 1987-88, coloured stones was a measely Rs 85 crores Precious stones thus slid down to third position behind gold jewellery which had a figure of Rs 100 crore against it

The greatest challenge to precious stones has, of course, come from diamonds but other factors like commencement of processing of coloured stones in raw material producing countries like Brazil and other non-traditional countries have also contributed to the fall in business in Jaipur. The business circles, however, feel that the gem and jewellery trade, specially the precious stones industry of Jaipur, would not have suffered such humiliation in the world market but for the impractical tax policies pursued by the state government.

Another factor contributing to the fall in the trade is the invasion of latest technological developments. The artisans in Jaipur used to give shape to the raw gems with their hands and the art passed on from generation to generation. Now with the development of modern [illegible] machines and equipments have taken the place of the artisans' fingers and old-fashioned tools

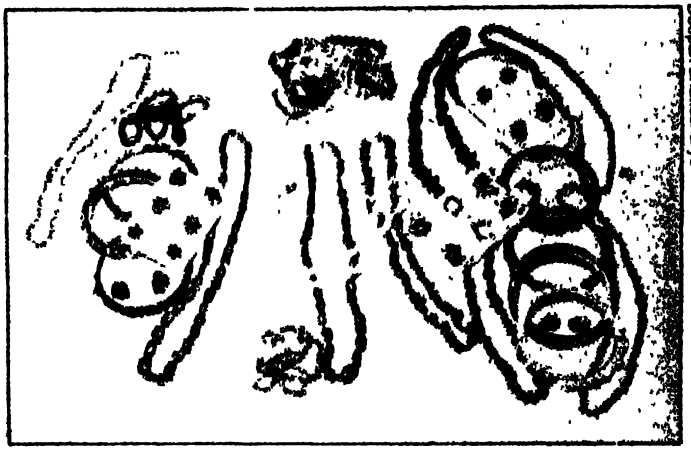
The gem and jewellery sector contributes significantly to the overall export kitty of the country The planners hope that this sector will be able to hit the Rs 20,000-crore mark in the next plan period "The figure is a misconception and there is hardly anything to be satisfied about," qualifies Rashmikant Durlabhji, India's topmost exporter of precious stones Mr Durlabhji who had been the chairman of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India and is currently the first vice-president of the International Coloured Gemstones Association with headquarters at California, argues that we must not forget that out of the total export of finished goods worth Rs 20,000 crores, the country will gain only Rs 4,000 crores as it would have to spend Rs 16,000 crores on importing raw material to achieve the export target. This means that, in real terms, the sector will contribute only Rs 4,000 crores to the whole plan period. "Earlier India had the monopoly in production of gem stones like emerald, ruby, sapphires and even diamonds. Today, we are almost entirely dependent for raw material on other countries." Mr Durlabhji says that originally South Africa, India and Australia belonged to one geological mass and in the same belt. South Africa and Australia are today big producers of diamonds but India, which was the originator of diamond mining from Golkunda and Panna, is producing nothing.

Milan Chand Dadda

Of Sheen and Glint

Silver and semi-precious stones have their own special clientele


Sunil K. Dutt


Deepak Bhattacharya

The charm of silver (left) and semi-precious stones (right)

If you can't get gold, settle for silver. Or at least, that is what any young college girl will tell you. Gone are the days of heavy gold *kangans* and necklaces. Silver bangles and *kadas* form an essential part of every young woman's toilet as most shop owners in New Market, Calcutta, will bear out.

So, it is all the more surprising to encounter the apathetic attitude that plagues most jewellery shop owners in so far as designing, pushing sales and even organising active window displays are concerned. In fact, most shop keepers spoken to admitted that they simply copied from foreign and Indian catalogues or adapted designs from gold sets.

Raj Mehtani of Satramdas Dhalamall (on Park Street) epitomises the attitude of some likeminded jewellery traders when he says that dealing in silver was not very rewarding as his was not really the silver buying clientele. He was almost dismissive about his silver stocks but admitted that "rich girls" are wearing silver now-a-days. Varsha Mehra, an honours student from a city college, however, hotly denied this. "Most of us from college go off on regular jaunts to New Market on our off days or during free periods. And I can tell you that most of us come from just middle-class homes. We can hardly be called rich".

Tshering of Chamba Lama bears out Varsha's views and says her most regular customers are college girls who are not too fussy about the design but the price—provided "it is trendy and in fashion."

Silver sets comprising a chain and pendant (in some shops the chain can be substituted for a *mangalsutra*), a ring and earrings or tops cost between Rs 350 and Rs 750. Bangles if bought separately cost between Rs 45 and Rs 350, earrings (tops and danglers) are in the range of Rs 30 and Rs 300 and a chain pendant can cost anything from Rs 55 to Rs 250. Payals and toerings are between Rs 75 and Rs 750 and filigree kurta buttons for ladies cost between Rs 200 and Rs 250. Key rings in assorted designs are between Rs 110 and Rs 450.

Silver sets dipped in gold are available between Rs 650 and Rs 1,250. Navratan sets are also available in the same range. Bracelets for men in several chain patterns with identity discs can be bought within a range of Rs 85 and Rs 550. White and gold dipped kurta buttons for men cost Rs 145 and Rs 160 respectively.

Bowbazar Street, the heart of Calcutta jewellery centre, is dotted with several silver shops but their grilled bars and dim lighting is, to say the least, extremely depressing. It is unfortunate that the delicacy and finesse that silver is capable of attaining is hardly to be seen here.

In direct contrast is the boom in the sale of semi-precious stone jewellery that was among one of the top five export items from India. Yet, there are very few professionals in the business in Calcutta. Most of the traders act as middlemen and are not really interested in promoting or designing semi-precious stone jewellery, says Yogesh Karia, an upcoming semi-precious stone dealer.

Once every two months Yogesh makes a trip to Jaipur—the Mecca of semi-precious stones. He buys stones worth about Rs 35,000 and has them assembled by *karigaars* in Calcutta. Designing is fairly straightforward. Necklaces are just stones strung together on a string. But the returns are good, particularly for lower priced stones. In Calcutta, golden topaz, garnet, gold stone and rose quartz are the most popular. Uncut, triangular and square. The tops are generally round.

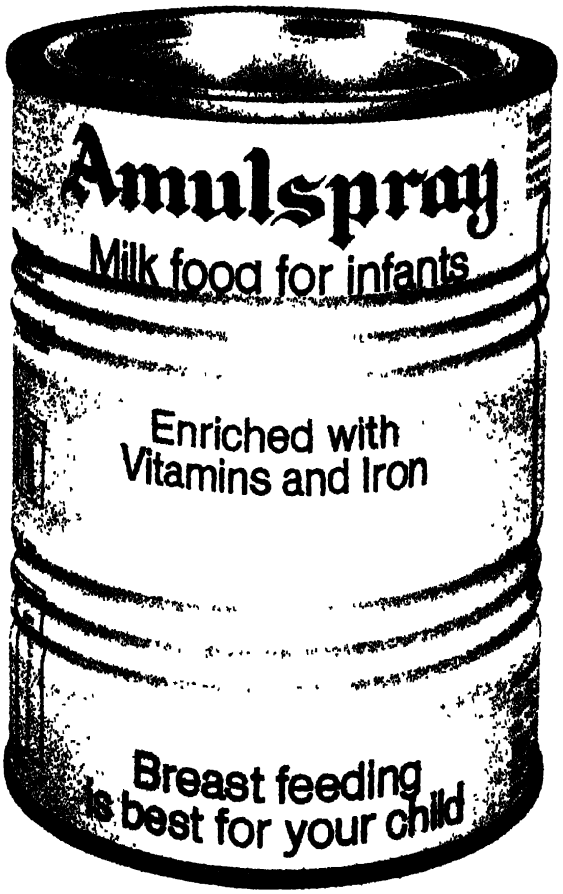
Twenty-two varieties of semi-precious stones are available in the city. Dealers here get their stock from Joohari bazar, Gopalji gali and Paharganj in Jaipur. The stones are imported from Singapore, Thailand, Australia, West Germany, Brazil, France, Switzerland, Japan and some mines in Orissa which yield small stocks of garnets. These stones are polished and cut in Jaipur by traditional Muslim *karigaars*.

To recognise a good quality amethyst, agate, blue quartz, goldstone, jasper, peridot or smoky topaz is simple. Says a dealer, "What looks best to the eye is the best stone". A good quality stone when examined in the sunlight must be unflawed, very shiny and perfectly smooth to the touch. Several white or transparent stones like white quartz, moonstone and opal are even dyed to rainbow colours by enterprising traders. According to Yogesh, "Sleekly cut stones are preferred here in contrast to the bigger stones liked abroad."

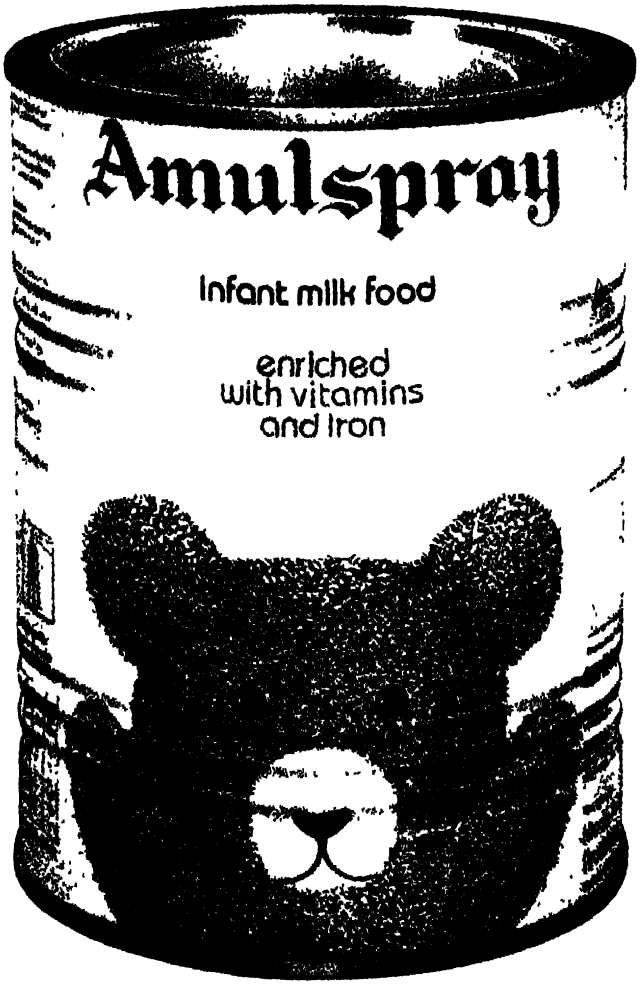
There is undoubtedly a booming market for the beauty conscious and aesthetically inclined woman of today. Now, it is only for designers and traders to tap the market and explore it fully.

Shoma Bhowmik

BEFORE


Amulspray
Milk food for infants
Enriched with
Vitamins and Iron
Breast feeding
is best for your child

AFTER



Sure, the new Amulspray looks stunningly different from the old one

But that's all that has changed

Inside, it remains as good as ever

Sweetened

Enriched with vitamins and iron

And of course, easy to digest
Because of the fat content that's just right.

So rest assured, the change is just in the looks

How Good is Gold?

Barnali Mitra-Ray takes a look at the trade in the most alluring of metals and examines whether it really is a good investment

Gold. It's a four-letter word and, characteristically, brings out the best in some and the beast in others. Its power remains undisputed internationally; it makes economies work, creates jealousies, enmities, desires and law and order problems. And even while the World Bank castigates India for being the biggest borrower among the developing countries and for our double-digit inflation rate, the demand for this precious metal is on the up and up.

Though the price of a *tola* (approximately 11.6 gms) of gold fluctuates around Rs 3,500, people in the jewellery business and gold trade have not experienced a downward trend in its demand. "It is untrue that our business is suffering," said a goldsmith. "In fact, we have noticed an upward trend, which is not surprising if you consider that the number of customers has also increased." Obviously, Calcutta's increasing overpopulation is benefitting one section of society, at least.

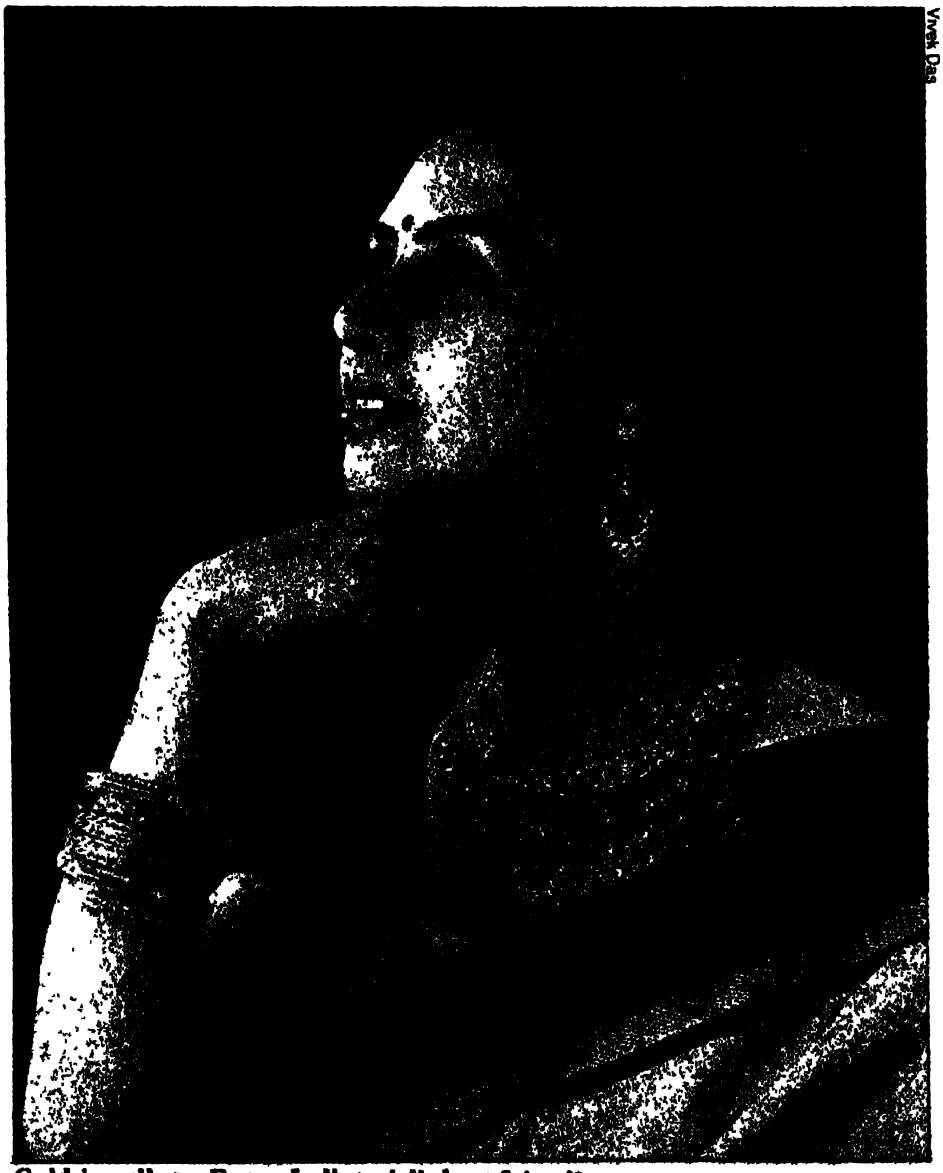
Obviously when the subject is gold, old values prevail, traditions reign supreme and sentiments come to the fore. People still consider giving gold ornaments during a daughter's wedding because they believe the jewellery will remain an asset for her. "Gold is worth its weight," they insist. So parents start saving and investing in gold for years with the objective of ensuring the security and happiness of their offspring.

"I could have bought shares for my daughter with the money I had kept aside for her ornaments," said Mr S K. Neogi, a resident of south Calcutta, "but that is no security. She would get her returns probably in time but who knows what can happen to a company in the future? Gold remains gold. Its value will definitely increase, there is no scope for speculation. Moreover, it's a question of prestige. I'm sure I've done the right thing." His views sum up the reason for the perennial demand for gold ornaments.

The flourishing business in gold in the city has a chequered past. Ever since Calcutta became the main trading centre and capital of British India, gold trade became a worthwhile business. The Bengali craftsmen, renowned for their workmanship, found their hands full with orders from the *memsahibs*, anxious not to be outdone by the wealth of traditional ornaments which seemed to adorn every Bengali housewife, whether rich or middle-class.

It is said that Goranhata in north Calcutta became the main centre of the business, in which the Subarnabaniks and Karmakars played the leading role. Other communities were yet to venture into the highly specialised field of jewellery-making. Gold, of course, was used mainly, diamonds, gems and stones or silver were second contenders; imitation jewellery had not yet made its mark.

In 19th century Calcutta, Hamilton & Co. were the most-reputed jewellers. It is believed that the majority of the rich and influential families in the city had ornaments designed by them. The Tagore family, too, had jewellery from Hamilton & Co.



Vivek Das

Gold jewellery: Every Indian girl's best friend?

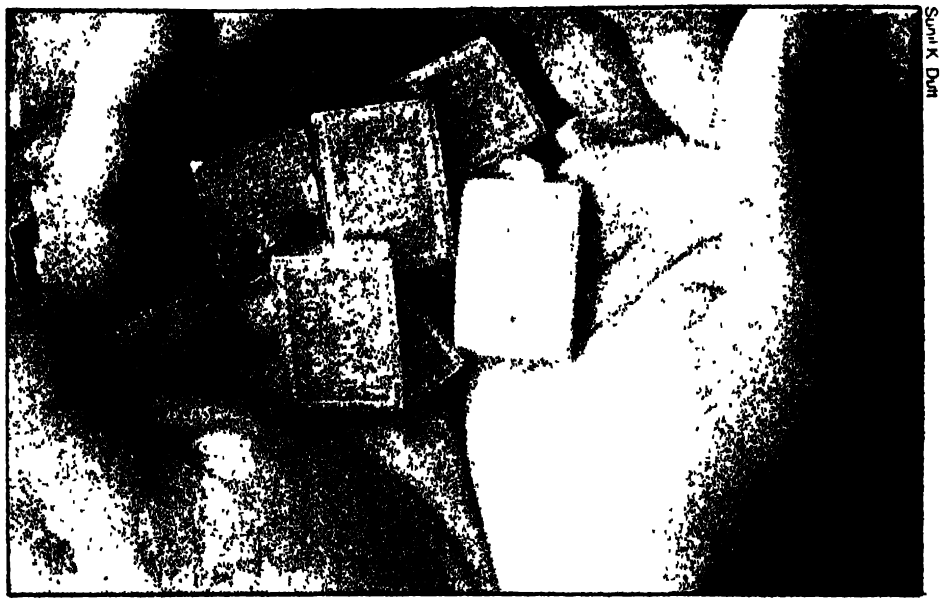
It was not long before the lure of gold and the money accruing from it drew the attention of other business communities to Calcutta. The trickle of north Indians into the trade soon started worrying local Bengali goldsmiths, but their resentment softened when it became obvious that they did not want to make inroads into the gold ornaments business—it was essentially the "non-Bengalis" who built up the diamond and silver trade in the city.

With the influx of outsiders, however, competition grew and so did the volume of business. The Bowbazar area near Central Avenue developed into a leading centre of the gold ornaments business and Gariahat started asserting as a contender for second place. Today, Bowbazar has nearly 300 shops dealing in gold ornaments The present owners are mostly third or fourth generation businessmen, as are the goldsmiths and craftsmen they employ or retain on a contractual basis

Till 1960-61 it was good being in the gold business But 1963, the year following the Indo-China war, saw a turning point for the trade On January 9 that year, the Indian government passed the Gold Control Act, severely curtailing private gold holdings and limiting the amount of gold on which trading could be done. Gold jewellery was to be made henceforth only with the addition of alloys, making the caratage less With gold prices plummeting, "we had to keep our shop open 24 hours a day with hordes of people coming to sell their ornaments," said a veteran jeweller in north Calcutta "Ten grams of gold was fetching about Rs 80 only. People were panicstriken and goldsmiths and traders frustrated." However, once the prices stabilised, and market forces exerted their influence, things, went back to normal. But from then onwards gold prices have seldom gone down.

In 1978, the Centre gave permission to export gold jewellery but the restrictions were stringent. And the policy "bureaucratic." The exporter would have to import the gold, which would then have to be deposited at the mint He would then have to buy indigenous gold, make the ornaments and send them abroad. Only then would the government replenish the amount of gold used. In the bargain, not only did he have to incur double expenditure—once while importing the gold and again while buying it in the domestic market—he also had to wade through a plethora of red-tape. It was quite obviously "cumbersome," to say the least.

However, in May 1979, at the Indian jewellery exhibition organised by the State Trading Corporation in Kuwait, Indian workmanship and designs drew international acclaim as did the Indian jewellery exhibition that toured Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait in December the same year. In



Sunil K Dutt

Still considered the best investment

October 1980, the government withdrew taxation on gold import from the foreign buyer, boosting the field further Within the next three years India was exporting gold jewellery worth Rs 85 crores, a quantum leap from the initial export of Rs 5 crores

In Bombay and Delhi, the major centres of gold jewellery export, cut-throat competition led to a fall in quality Foreign buyers started complaining of less caratage than specified In some cases, the alloys used—copper, silver and cadmium—were more than the gold Large-scale raids and arrests were followed by stringent quality control measures Hallmarking became a must.

And yet the gold jewellery industry experienced an unprecedented boom in 1984 with a record consumption of 145 tonnes of gold—40 tonnes more than 1983 and nearly double the 1981 level The unusually heavy demand for gold in domestic markets was because of the second successive year of good harvests in the agricultural sector Indians at almost all levels, it appeared, wanted to make the most of the increased earnings by investing in gold jewellery The farmer bought it for security, the rich to launder black money. So great was the demand that an astounding 95 tonnes of the 145 tonnes of gold consumed was brought into the country illegally.

Bullion merchants and jewellers feel that if the government took away export restrictions, smuggling would wane. Gold is much cheaper in international markets than in India, and gold smuggling thrives because of this, they say. Though the government has recently liberalised export laws considerably, a customer still cannot buy gold in India as easily or openly as, say, in Hong Kong. So, though India could make for itself a prestigious place in the world gold market, it lags far behind several less developed countries Our exports are only 0 3 per cent of gold jewellery exports worldwide The government, which appears to have woken up to the potential of this commodity, has set up some export-oriented gem and gold jewellery complexes in the country and hopes to reach a Rs 1,000-crore export target by 1990-91

Gold ornaments are made from standard gold supplied by the government via the mint and banks. The gold which is 99.995 per cent (also called 24 carat gold) is mixed with alloys and chemicals to harden it. The 24 carat gold comes in bars according to weight and it is illegal to keep it in personal possession. Jewellers obtain these bars from banks in exchange of old ornaments. Ornament making machinery is indigenous and the government has now opened a centre at Rohtak in collaboration with an Italian firm to impart training for operating the machines.

The desire to adorn himself has been evident in man ever since his cave days. Then it was leaves and flowers, today it is jewellery The evolution of jewellery and ornamentation finds documentation in primitive art and cave drawings. The discovery of precious metals and stones revolutionised the concept It gave birth to an organised industry and trade which specialises in making a woman look more beautiful, a man more wealthy

"A middle-class Bengali would with his purchasing power, buy a greater number of items in gold but each very light in weight, while a rich person would spend the same amount probably buying one solid set only and supplementing it with diamonds and other precious stone sets," is the experience of Churadeep Sirkar of A

Sirkar & Sons of Gariahat. "For the salaried person, buying gold is often a necessity like a gift to a close relative. People usually spend a few years accumulating items like a necklace, earrings, bangles and rings for a set they are making for a daughter's wedding. Many customers make two sets from one old, traditional set which probably belonged to the girl's grandmother but which is solid gold."

"Gold is an asset forever. Its depreciation is negligible, there is no question of worries over speculation of a sudden fall in prices," reassures Debnath Sen of north Calcutta, a fifth generation jeweller and bullion merchant. "People can double their money by buying Indira Vikas Patras within six years, but that is a single example. Playing the share market is not the same thing as buying a piece of gold jewellery. Once the ornament is yours, you have none of the worries that would automatically plague a serious speculator. Security is and will remain associated with gold," he adds.

But there are people who would rather buy property or something requiring a large investment for their married daughter instead of "letting the stuff (ornaments) lie in a bank locker for years and rarely even seeing it," as S.K. Ray of Swinhoe Street put it. "Why not invest the money in some business? Not only would there be steady returns, maybe you could save enough to buy some gold ornaments as well!"

A large section of girls agree. "I would accept ornaments if my mother gifted them to me at my wedding, but I would never opt for them myself. I'd rather have a few essential but expensive things bought for my new household," said Smita Hazarika of Hastings. But she is aware that gold ornaments might come in handy in times of sudden need. "I would not hesitate to sell my jewellery to get money, say, if my child was in hospital and I needed money desperately or for something equally serious and sudden. I wouldn't borrow for such occasions."



Sudhir Nath

A craftsman at work

But can one ever be sure that the ornaments they have bought will fetch them an equal return some day? Have there not been instances when people go to a valuer with their ornaments and find they have been cheated by a goldsmith who has used less gold than its weight? "It can not only be embarrassing for the jeweller, for he often gets his work done from independent or contractual goldsmiths who are not his employees, but can be a source of shame for a person who has given such a flawed ornament as a gift to someone," said Chiradeep Sirkar, who has had to often handle such situations. "Though we have strict quality control measures and even chemical tests, an item or two could slip a person's notice. And it is irritating because you have to take the blame for the customer does not have to deal with the craftsman at all. It could affect a jeweller's reputation, too. But such cases, thankfully, are few and far between, and we usually stop accepting the work of such a goldsmith." A director of P.C. Chandra & Sons, however, said that he was yet to come across any such transactions during his long career. "We have several checks and can guarantee against cheating. After all, we happen to be one of the leading people in the business and our reputation has been built on the premise of fair exchange."

Some of the leading jewellery shops in Calcutta are P.C. Chandra & Sons, M.B. Sarkar, M.P. Jewellers, A. Sirkar, Senco, Ram Lakshman and Lalchand Dhalamall.

Chokers and necklaces, bangles and bracelets, armlets and *payals*, rings-for fingers and toes, earrings, tiaras, cummerbands, hairpins, brooches, clips and chains: they glint at passers-by from their velvet lined boxes under glass table tops. Windowshopping only serves to increase the urge to possess more ornaments and then depression sets in, for it is not possible to buy them all.

But, gold ornament designers in the city have come up with a variety of inexpensive, light but elaborate fare which is easy on the pocket as well as pleasing to the eye. There was a time when one would shudder to think that a three-tier necklace in gold did not contain even half a *tola* of gold. But those days are long past. Trendy, fashionable jewellery, which can be mixed and matched, even reversibles, are available now in most jewellery shops in the city. Ananya, a budding designer, says she enjoys making inexpensive ornaments for daily use, party wear and formal occasions. "Simple but innovative changes can make even a traditional, old piece of jewellery look modern. And there are always foreign designs to go by. But we still have a deep reserve of designs in our ethnic, rustic jewellery," she says frankly.

According to Gostho Kumar, the renowned designer, it is not the ornament alone which adds the last touch to a woman's beauty. The proper accessories also makes a difference. Also, he feels, a woman's physique should dictate the style of jewellery she wears. For instance, he says, a choker would look awful on a woman with a short neck as would a tiara on a small forehead.

Prices continue to soar but the demand grows unabated. And it is profits all the way, even from the dust that is swept from the floor of the workrooms. The yellow metal takes on several forms—ornaments, "guineas"—that exchange hands over a counter, travel under strict security and end up in dark lockers to see daylight only once in a while. ■



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aag Ke Sholay:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147)—4 Shows.

Directed by S.R. Pratap and with music by Vijay, the cast includes Sumeet Saigal, Vijayeta, Hemant Birje, Sriprada and Gulshan Grover.

• **Akhri Daao:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 392250), Rupati (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, 474403)—4 shows.

A re-release, starring Jeetendra, Saira Banu, Ranjeet and Danny.

• **Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 sows

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Dr Shreeram Lagoo, Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

• **Jawani Ka Rog (A):** Society (Corporation Place, 241002)—12.30 3 15, 6 15, 9.

The film is directed by K Sankaran Nair

• **Mera Shikaar:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Basusree (S P. Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133)—4 shows, Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Malancha (Regent Park)—3 shows.

Dimple Kapadia, Kabir Bedi, Danny and Prem Chopra are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Keshu. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue; 553046), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666)—4 shows; Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 351382), Madhuban (Regent Park)—3 shows.

Directed by K.R. Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain, the film stars Dharmendra, Anita Raj, Govinda, Farha, Tanuja, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Shakti Kapoor, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Anupam Kher.

• **Qatlaam Ke Qatlaam:** Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442)—12, 3, 6, 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Sone Pe Suhaaga:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)—4 shows

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon and Kirti Katkar

• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A):** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Moonlight (T.C Dutta Street; 254956), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033), Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Taswir Mahal (Gas Street, 354450)—4 shows.

Rajesh Khanna, Farha, Moon Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the main attractions in this film, directed by B.R Ishara and with music by Anand Milind



Vijayeta and Sriprada in *Aag Ke Sholay*

Foreign Films

• **Black Rose (A):** Elite (S N. Banerjee Road, 241383)—4 shows.

• **The Armour of God:** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—4 shows.

• **The Exterminator (A):** Globe (Lindsay Street; 296665)—12, 3, 5.45, 8.30.

Bengali Films

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—3 5.45, 8.30.

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

• **Maa Ek Mandir:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080)—3 shows.

Sumitra Mukherjee, Joy Banerjee, Madhabi Mukherjee, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sumnatra Mukherjee, Rajat Das, Indrani Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das comprise the cast. The film is directed by Sukhen Das and music is by Ajoy Das.

• **Punarmilan:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2.30, 5 30, 8.15.

Directed by Jayanta Basu, the cast includes Sandhya Roy, Subhendu Chatterjee, Debika Mukherjee, Santu Mukherjee, Ruma Guhathakurta, Dilip Roy, Chinmoy Roy, Satya Banerjee, Jnanesh Mukherjee, Samit Bhanja and Satabdi Roy. The music is by Kanu Bhattacharya.

• **Surer Akashe:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

Tapas Paul and Debashree Roy are the lead pair in this Biresh Chatterjee film. Others in the cast are Abhisek Chatterjee, Nayana Das, Anup Kumar, Subhendu

A scene from *Black Rose*



Chatterjee and Beena. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

2 October: 10 am

The second annual function of Darbari, organised by the students of Rabindra Bharati University in aid of chief minister's relief fund, features songs, dance-drama and play

At Girish Mancha (Bagbazar)

2-5 October

Visva Bharati will hold its exhibition of paintings in the Central, South and New galleries.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 444205)

7 October: 6.30 pm

Alliance Francaise's conference on "Remarkable Sequences in Painting" by Yves Charnay, painter and professor at l'Ecole des Arts Decoratifs (Paris), will be illustarted by K7 video screening.

At Alliance Francaise Auditorium (19 & 24 Park Mansions, 29879374)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep: (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7). SQ-413 at 1530; Arr. (2). SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4). SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr. (1, 3, 6). TG-313 at 1240; Dep (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6): IC-248 at 1425, Arr. (7): IC-248 at 2055.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily). BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715, Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-223 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-223 at 1800, Dep. (7). IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily). BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-693 at 1615, Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-224 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-224 at 2000, Arr. (7) IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep. (1, 4, 7): IC-225 at 1305; Arr. (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr. (1, 2, 5): GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr. (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily): IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-478 at 1045; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-477 at 1005.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 1110; Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-377 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7): IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-261 at 1535; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-262 at 2005.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1): IC-269 at 1630, Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800; Arr. (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-270 at 2020.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625; (7): IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100; Arr. (1, 4): IC-240 at 1040, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) 7): IC-227 at 0835; Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815; Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-256 at 1000, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (2, 4) IC-243 at 0830, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-243 at 0610, Dep. (daily). IC-241 at 1440, Arr. (daily). IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-706 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

Calcutta-Aizawl: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi-Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0955; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

BARTER BANK

• **Digital pH meter:** I offer a new digital pH meter for anything of corresponding value. Write to Samaresh Datta, P-2, South End Garden Extension, Garia, Calcutta 84.

• **Books:** I offer two volumes of *Said in German, the German Tutor by Radio Language Course* by Rudolf Schneider for a flash gun or anything of corresponding value. Contact P.K. Maitra, 13/71, B.N. Road, Parnasree, Calcutta 60.

• **Television:** I offer a Solidaire black and white television for anything of corresponding value. Contact Samrat Dutta, 54/1A, Anjuman Aoza Begum Row, Calcutta 33.

• **Camera:** I would like to exchange an Agfa Click III camera for anything of corresponding value. Contact Rakesh Swaika, 15, Ram Swaroop Khettry Road, Calcutta 53.

• **Camera, slide projector and automatic record changer:** I offer a 35 mm Konica camera, a Minolta slide projector and a Garrad automatic record changer for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sunil Sarawgi, Vandana, Main Road, PO and district Puruha.

• **Study material:** I offer study material for the chartered accountancy entrance examination for *Cost Accountancy* by B. Banerjee and *Management* by Koortz and O' Donnel or anything of corresponding value. Contact P.S. Datta, 37, Joynuddi Mistry Lane, Chetla, Calcutta 27.

• **Comics:** I offer six Tintin comics for any other Tintin comics. Contact Suleman Zakaria, c/o Zakaria Khan, Nurruddin Road, Nurruddin House, Asansol 713303.

(2, 4, 6). PF-717 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6)- PF 718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5)- PF-729 at 1130; Arr (1, 3, 5)- PF 730 at 1610

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight) Dep (2 4, 6, 7) PF-729A at 0630; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7)- PF-730A at 0850

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-727 at 0940; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-728 at 1610

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat. Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-731 at 0555 Arr (1, 3, 5)- PF 732 at 1000

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep (2, 4 6) PF 737 at 0630 Arr (2, 4 6) PF 738 at 1235

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-723/724 at 1915

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF 709 at 1800, Arr (daily) PF 710 at 1935

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily) PF 701 at 0700; Ar (daily) PF-702 at 0900

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back. Dep (1 3 5, 7) PF-735 at 0930- Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF 736 at 1610

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back. Dep (2, 4, 6) PF 735 at 0930; Arr (2, 4, 6)- PF-736 at 1620

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	Delhi Kalka Mail	8-30	2
5	19-20	Amritsar Mail	8-05	6
3	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	12 55	4
81	8 45	Air-Cond Express Tri Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8 45	Air-Cond Express Bi Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon & Fri	18 20	104
101	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10 55	102
173	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp Tri Wkly Dep —Tues Fri & Sat Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 15	Purbanchal Express Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4 15	948
9	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7 10	10
7	9-45	Toofan Express via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 05	Amritsar Express	15-45	50
11	20 45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21 10	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	Gorakhpur Express	11-45	20
21	16-05	Mithila Express	6-45	22
57	5 45	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	58
307	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	308
59	17 35	Kamrup Express	6-30	60
309	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	310
305	18 15	Asansol Express	8-45	306
31	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	32
105	23-00	North Bihar Express Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	Jamalpur Express Dep —Tues Thurs & Sat. Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-45	16
959	15-25	Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express Dep.—Thursday & Saturday Arri.—Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	Indore Express Dep.—Tuesday Arri.—Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

45	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	44
53	20-10	Gaur Express	6-15	54
51	11-20	Jalpaiguri Toofan Express	16-10	52

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
33	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12 50	34
303	18 25	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10 25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20 45	Madras Mail	6-00	4
2	20 30	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13 50	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Wed Fri & Sat Arri —Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sat	14 15	59
134	21 00	Ahmedabad Express	4 10	133
52	22 35	Bangalore Super Fast Express Dep & Arri —Wed & Sun	13-45	51
30	12 30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	Coromondal (Madras) Express	11 15	142
37	23 15	Madras Janata Express Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4 30	38
13	17 30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	14
11	6-20	Ispat Express	21 50	12
5	21 50	Sambalpur Express	5 55	6
15	21 30	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-30	16
7	22-45	Puri Express	5-45	8
9	19-00	Jagannath (Puri) Express	7 45	10
45	10-00	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	14 15	46
317	16 45	Purulia Express	11-30	318
902	22 35	Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	22 15	—
—	14 10	Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14 10	Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22 15	940
952	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras) Dep & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For report the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 202540-54 for in-coming trains; 202539-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The home and property fronts will be in the limelight The moon s last quarter falls in your property and domestic angles Parents and elders will take up a great deal of your time Partying socialising renovation decoration and refurbishing are also highlighted Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible Money will come in and you will be able to start any projects that you may have in mind A busy week ahead

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Journeys shifts transfers collaborations and contracts are in the offing Venus trines Uranus and you can expect a visit from loved ones or a close friend soon Ceremonies rites rituals and festivals will keep you busy now A major contract will be signed in your favour Lady Luck will smile on you and all your problems will ease

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Money will pour in from unexpected sources The focus is now on buying, selling loans funds mortgages refurbishing and decoration You can expect things to work out in your favour so go ahead and take risks Good news will reach you by the weekend Friends and relatives will take the trouble of remembering you

CANCER

June 21—July 20

The moon s last quarter in your sign will help you to resolve personal posers Property and real estate disputes will be settled soon Your relationship with parents and elders will undergo a remarkable improvement Be more tolerant in all your dealings and work with determination and self control Take care not to antagonise influential people

LEO

July 21—August 21

Moon trines Sun and expenses are bound to rise You will soon embark on a journey An important negotiation or settlement will work out in your favour Children love, hobbies creative pursuits partying socialising, renovation and decoration will be highlighted Romance is on the cards An official engagement and even marriage is foretold for some



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

Friends wellwishers loved ones and colleagues will support every move that you make All deals that you sign now will have a high rate of success Do not take any chances with your health and go for regular checkups There are bright job prospects for the unemployed and the underemployed Guard against cheats

LIBRA

Sept 23 -Oct 22

Do not skirt around important issues The best policy would be to approach them and deal with them without delay Romance blooms for the fancyfree and entertainment and socialising are on the cards Do not antagonise important people and try to put up a friendly exterior to those who matter Do not neglect business affairs

BIRTHDAYS

October 2

Cancer,moon quarter Plan your strategy thoroughly before embarking on a new project or enterprise Deals and investments will keep you busy You may change your job

October 3

Moon square Mercury Pay attention to minor details There are chances that you will bag a foreign assignment However, keep you options open and do not put too much by any single contract Domestic tensions are likely to get to you However, learn to be patient Rites and ceremonies are foretold

October 4

Moon trines Mars This is a lucky day for doctors, lawyers, police officers, executives and [illegible] who will [illegible] lors, film producers, directors actors, chemists and students will do well.Buying, selling and a major investment are highlighted This is the time to reach out to people and places through all possible means of communication

October 5

Moon joins Saturn-Uranus Gains, profit and glamour are foretold A job leap or transfer [illegible] A promotion is also a distinct possibility. Children, [illegible] positive pursuits are highlighted.

October 6

[illegible] Those in [illegible] research, [illegible] [illegible] and copywriting [illegible] Travel is [illegible] [illegible] This is the [illegible] your favour

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Journeys shifts and transfers are foretold as moon sextiles Pluto Look up to elders for guidance This is the time to enrol in a course if you are so inclined Collaborations contracts and contacts will work out finally Property affairs will keep you busy Land disputes will eventually work out in your favour

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

Jupiter sextiles moon and romance is in the offing for some of you Loans and funds to start new ventures will now be available Investments and deals can be finalised in your favour so sign on the dotted line without wasting any time A sudden journey or visit by close friends or relatives is a likelihood

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

This is a week of mixed fortunes Clashes with opponents cannot be ruled out At the same time romance and partnerships are also on the cards Moon trines Neptune and loans and funds will be available to start new ventures Journeys to distant lands are likely so get your travel kit ready

AQUARIUS

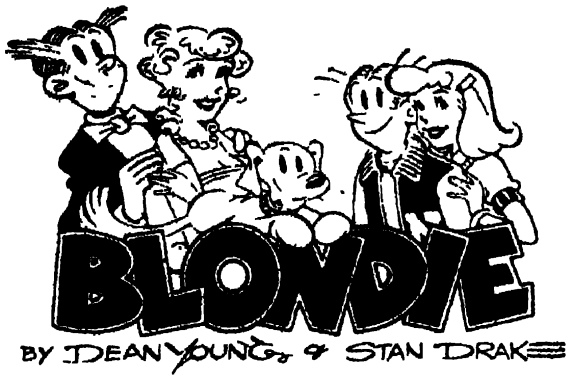
Jan 20 Feb 18

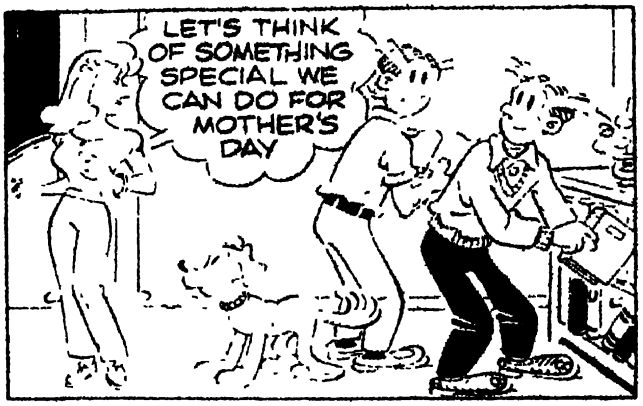
Health will be suspect so do not neglect even minor ailments Relationships with family members and colleagues at work may cause concern New ventures are on the cards and there is the possibility of an official engagement and even marriage for the fancyfree and eligible A long standing problem shows signs of being resolved so do not let minor troubles make you feel depressed

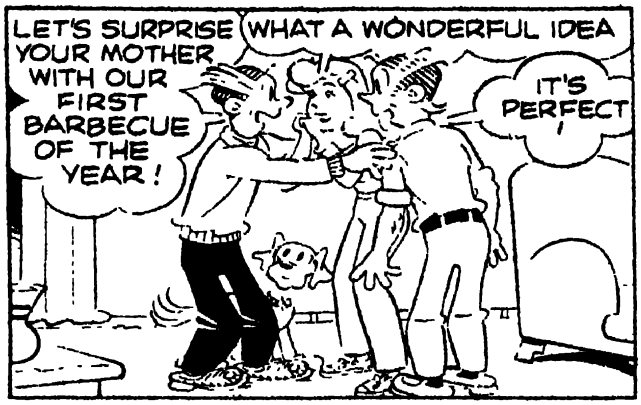
PISCES

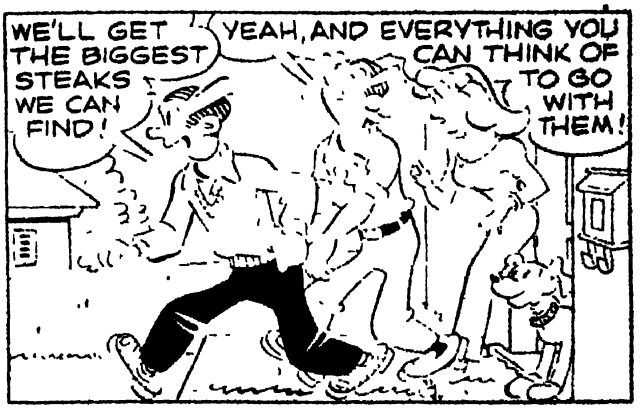
Feb 19—March 20

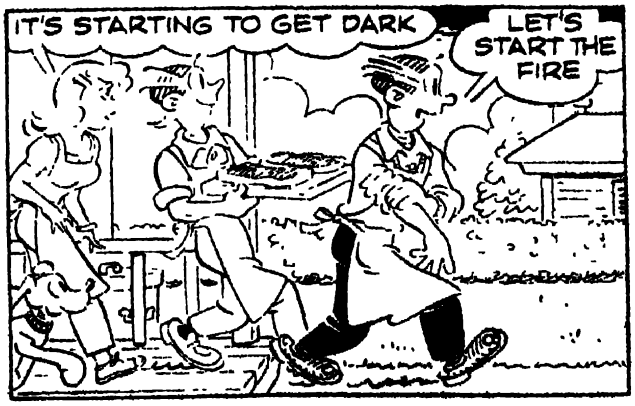
Moon sextiles sun and there are chances that you will give vent to your creativity and imagination However a visit to a clinic or hospital cannot be ruled out Money will come in within the next few days Investments property disputes and legal issues will take up a great deal of your time Buying, selling, dislocation and refurbishing are highlighted.







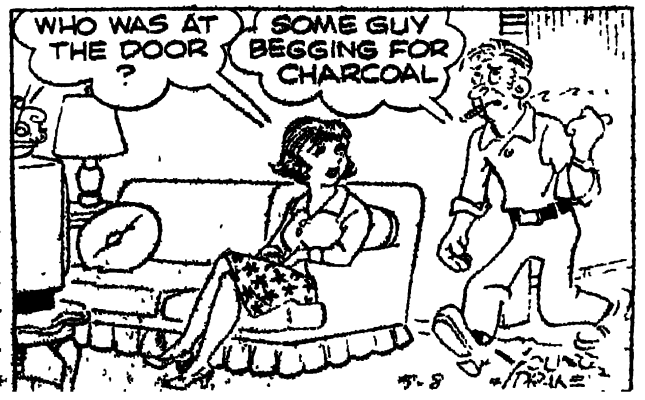




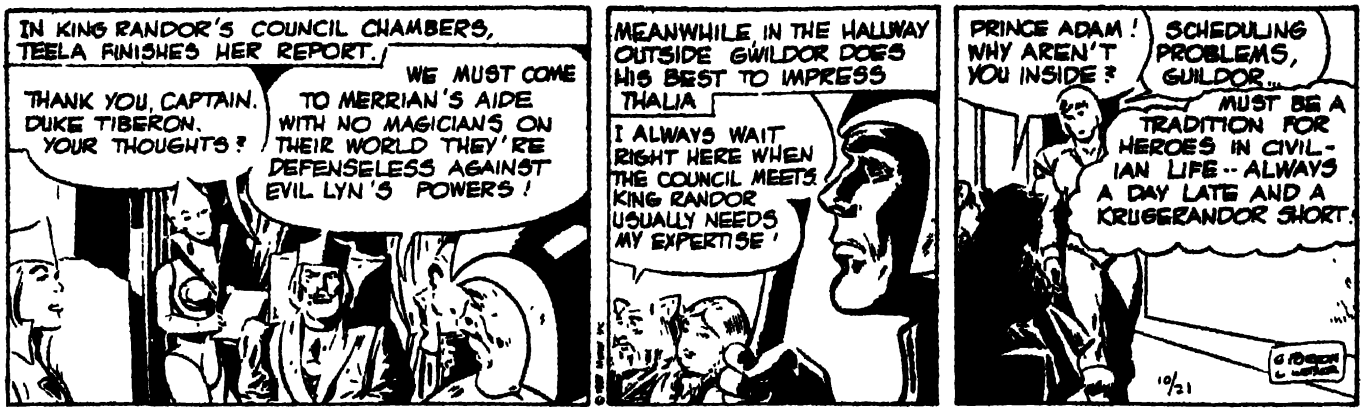




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HE-MAN By G. Fenton and J. Shaw



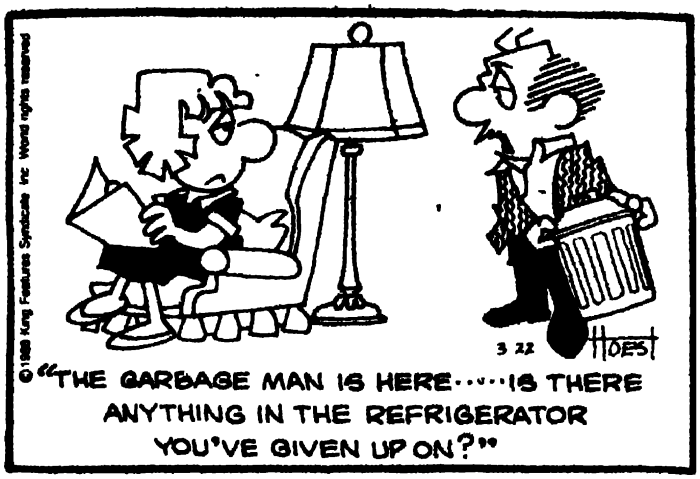








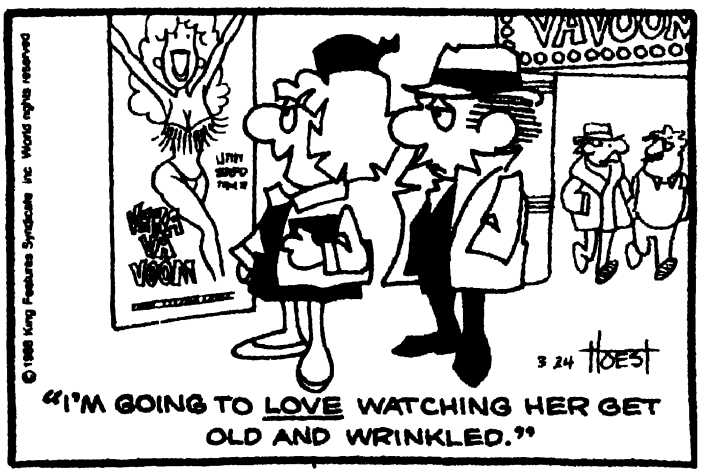
"AND NOW, FOR A WELCOME BIT OF COMIC RELIEF·····DESSERT."



©"THE GARBAGE MAN IS HERE·····IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE REFRIGERATOR YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON?"



"I'LL CALL YOU BACK, HELEN. 'LUST FOR LIFE' JUST CAME IN."



"I'M GOING TO LOVE WATCHING HER GET OLD AND WRINKLED."

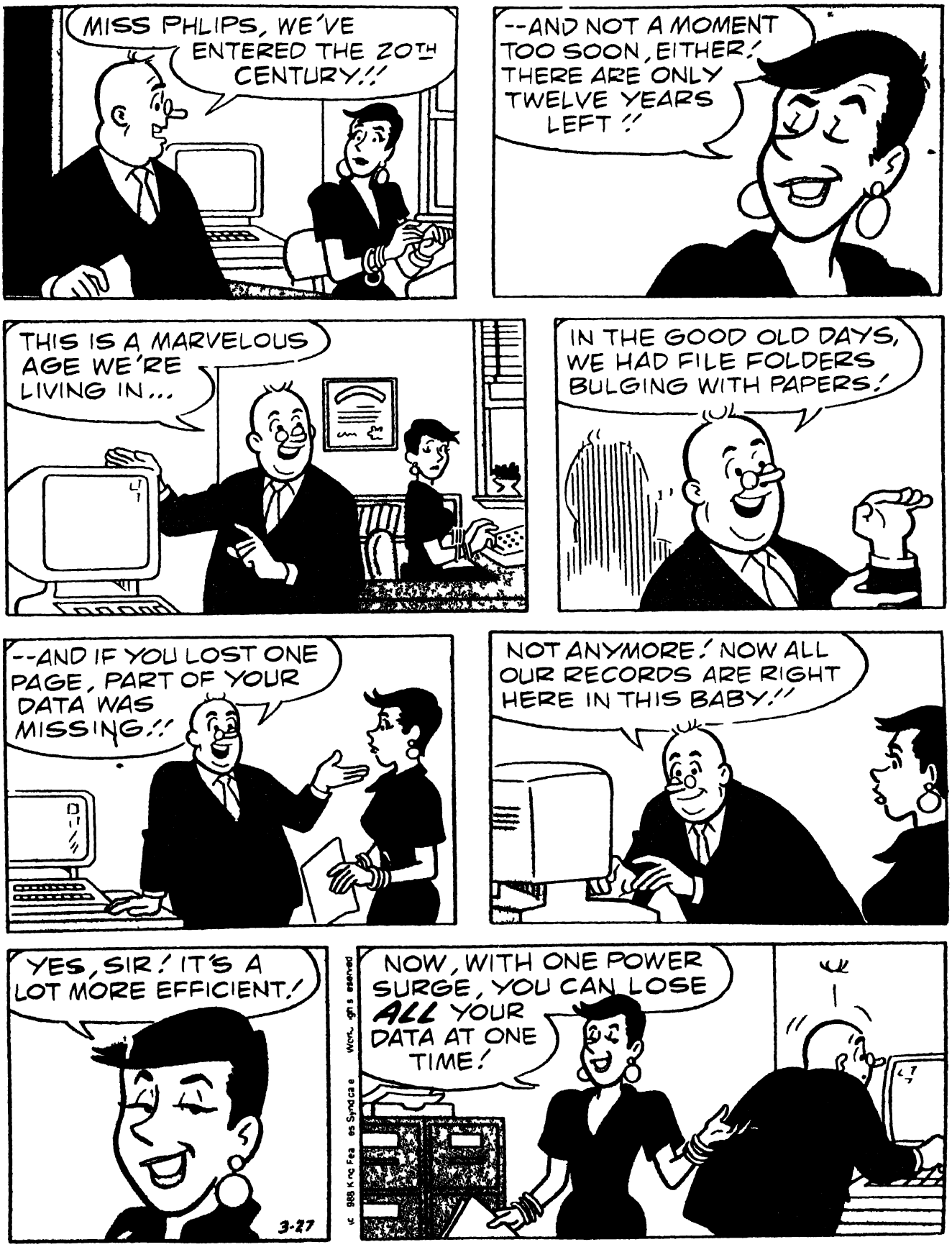


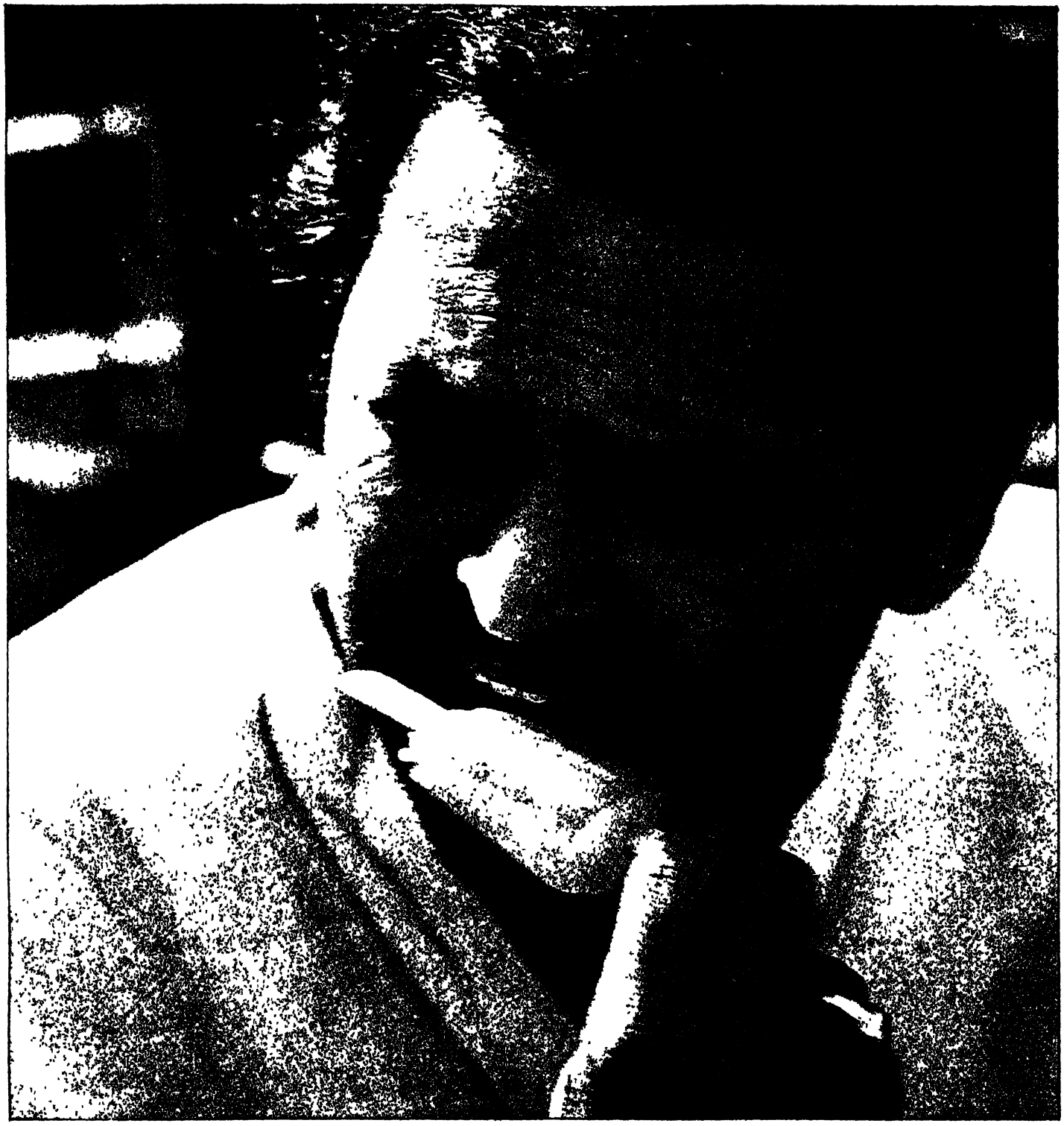







WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THOSE TWO BACKS, FREP?
THEY'RE FULL OF ROCKS
VERY GOOD, FREP! AND GUESS WHO'S GOING TO CARRY THEM ON A TEN MILE HIKE?
LISTEN, SERGEANT I INSIST I GET ONE OF THE LADS TO HELP YOU
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M NOT GOING ON ANY TEN MILE HIKE WITH A SACK FULL OF ROCKS
BUT BUT..
CERTAINLY NOT WITH TIDDLERS LIKE THIS HELP ME FIND SOME BOULDERS, DENNIS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF CARRYING A SACK FULL OF ROCKS HALFWAY ACROSS THE DESERT?
IF THE SERGEANT WAS HERE I'D TELL HIM WHAT TO DO WITH HIS ROCKS!
"FILL MY KIT-BAG TILL IT BURSTS," I'D SAY, "LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!"
GAWD THESE ROCKS ARE HEAVY!
ER, TELL YOU WHAT DENNIS WHY NOT CARRY MINE? WITH TWICE THE LOAD IT'LL TAKE YOU HALF THE TIME
COO! THANKS, BEAU!
IT'S ONLY TILL I GET MY BREATH BACK- HONEST!
ANY SIGN OF THEM YET?
NO SIR.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SENT THEM OUT ON A TEN MILE HIKE ESPECIALLY WITH THEIR KIT-BAGS FILLED WITH ROCKS!
THE ROCK TREATMENT CAN BREAK THE HARDEST OF MEN I HOPE THEY'RE OKAY
1
2
3
4
5


MISS PHLIPS, WE'VE ENTERED THE 20TH CENTURY!!
--AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON, EITHER! THERE ARE ONLY TWELVE YEARS LEFT !!
THIS IS A MARVELOUS AGE WE'RE LIVING IN...
IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS, WE HAD FILE FOLDERS BULGING WITH PAPERS!
--AND IF YOU LOST ONE PAGE, PART OF YOUR DATA WAS MISSING!!
NOT ANYMORE! NOW ALL OUR RECORDS ARE RIGHT HERE IN THIS BABY!!
YES, SIR! IT'S A LOT MORE EFFICIENT!
3-27
NOW, WITH ONE POWER SURGE, YOU CAN LOSE ALL YOUR DATA AT ONE TIME!
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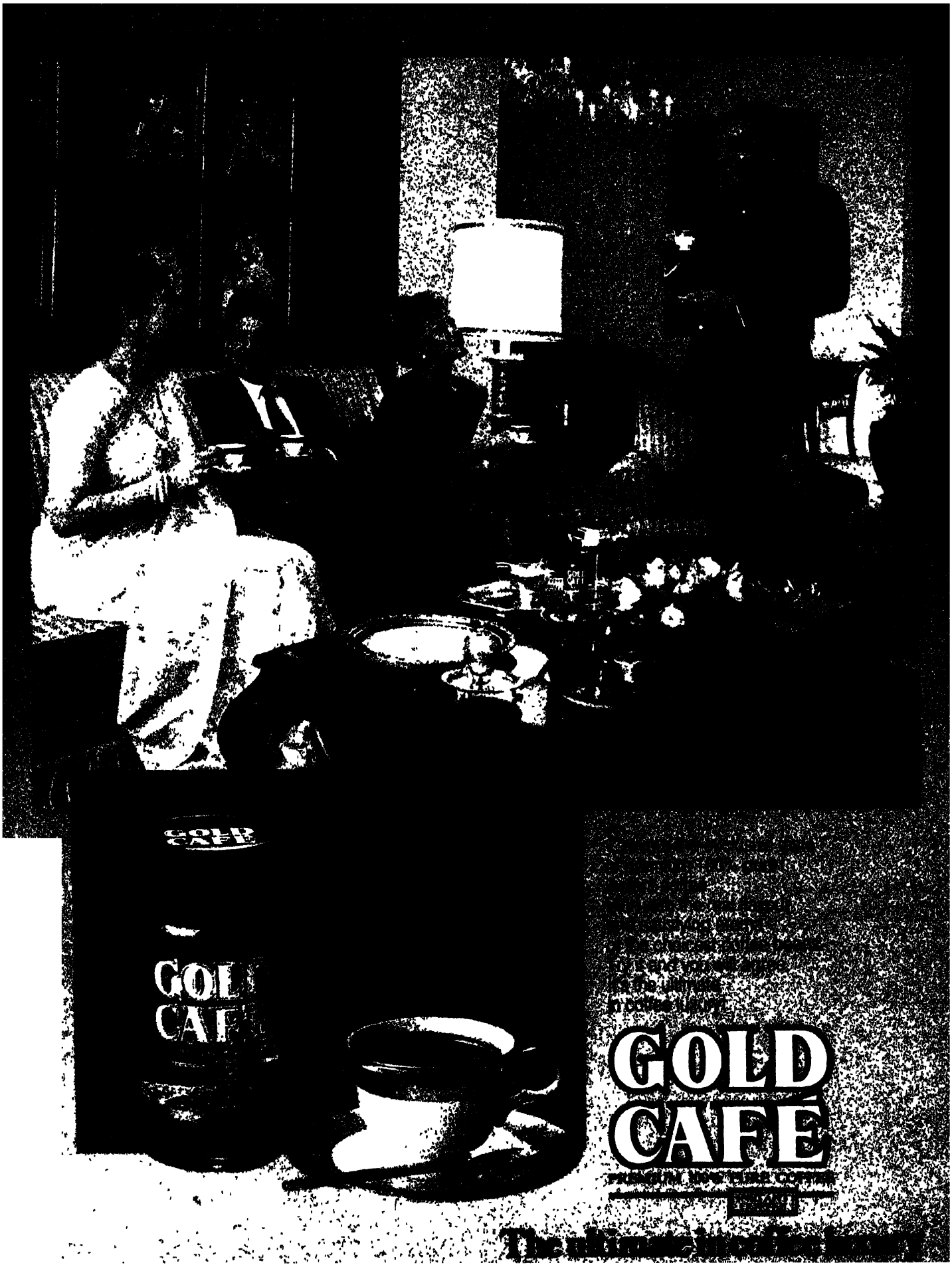


Subrata Mukherjee is a cat, one with nine lives. But this time, he seems licked. The sharp-tongued Congress(I) MLA attacked the party chief whip, Mr Gyan Singh Sohanpal, only to find his colleagues in the Assembly turn on the heat. Caught unawares, Mr Mukherjee had to try all ways to cool things down. Photograph by SANTOSH GHOSH



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GOLD
CAFÉ
GOLD
CAFÉ

POST MORTEM

Boon for Readers

Your Puja Travel Special (August 28) was a boon for the readers who are preparing for their Puja holidays. Your reporters should be thanked for the extensive work done.

But, generally, I am sorry to say that the quality of your articles has really dropped. The short stories have almost disappeared. At the moment it seems a magazine only for the aged and not for all age groups.

Sanjay Agarwal,
Calcutta

Festive Darjeeling

The photofeature on the festive mood of Darjeeling on Independence Day (4 September) was heart warming. But will Darjeeling be able to regain the harmonious relations between the people of the hill areas and of the plains? Will the accord be able to suppress forever the volcano of violence lying under the calm and beautiful Kanchenjunga?

Sirajus Salekin,
Khanakul (Hooghly)

The Remedy

Shivjeet Kullar's 'The Graduate' (July 17) was thought provoking, but why should the picture be so gloomy as has been portrayed? Presently parents are so busy chasing material opulence and social climbing that they tend to ignore some very important aspects in their own family. I know of parents who, although they did not even finish their matriculation, have become [illegible] and have their children [illegible] and unable to fight back.

Jagannath Chatterjee,
Bhubaneswar

Poetry

[illegible]

particular direction and/or goals in life.

Dignity of labour should be inculcated and young men should be convinced that there is all the advantage in doing something by themselves.

The remedy certainly lies nearer home.

Ennae,
Calcutta

Thompson Again?

Your Olympic Special (September 18) was great cry little wool. Except for Barry O'Brien's quiz, it contained nothing worth preserving.

It also seems you are obsessed by 'Thompsonmania'. At the time of the 1984 Los Angeles Olym-

on the cover while the August 19, 1984 issue had Gina Hemhill on the cover —Editor

Taking the Cake

Of all the arguments and counter arguments that have been offered about the reliability of our doctors, Dr Asok Ganguli's letter (May 29) takes the cake. It serves as a reflection of the present state of affairs itself when he seeks to rationalise the corrupt practices of doctors on the plea that people in other professions are also corrupt.

Does it mean that we should take corruption for granted and not fight it? Things become easier for the corrupt when the victims are financially weak



[illegible]

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The Telegraph

9 OCTOBER 1988



Ashoke Chakraborty

4 Recently Jatin Chakraborty once again sent feathers flying. A look at what makes him and other stormy petrels of Bengal politics tick

14 Monika Ruhmkorff, the only registered lady goldsmith in Agra, tells of the German who has adopted Calcutta as her home

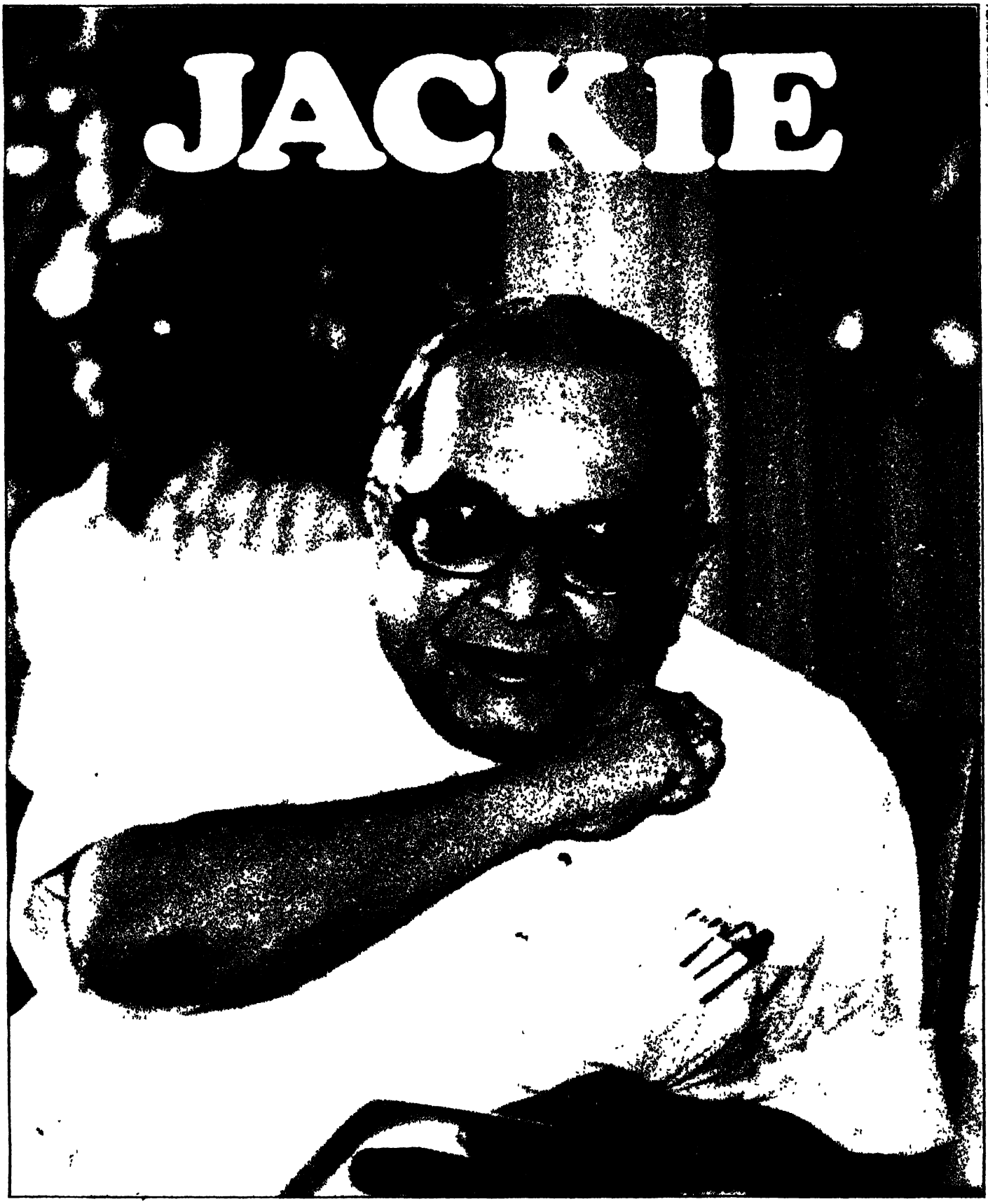
18 A photofeature by Tom Owen Edmunds extracted from his book *Bhutan: Land of the Thunder Dragon*

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Cover: Anup Ra

JACKIE



Ashoke Chakraberty

You can criticise Jatin Chakraborty but you just cannot ignore him, says TARUN GANGULY of West Bengal's gadfly minister

He is short; he is squat. He goes off the rails at the slightest provocation, but breaks into loud guffaws immediately afterwards. He has an opinion on everything under the sun, but is intolerant of contrary points of view. The ever-present cheroot in his mouth, the spotless *dhoti* and the *kurta* with sleeves folded till the elbows are his trademarks. That, in a nutshell, is Mr Jatin Chakraborty, the irrepressible PWD minister, who at 78 still prefers to remain at the vortex of all controversies that bedevil the Left Front government in West Bengal.

His latest caper revolves around an official note in which he charged the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, of promoting the business interests of his son, Chandan. The reactions so far have been electric: Most of his Cabinet colleagues are up in arms against him and even his own party, the RSP, is unhappy with him. Nonchalantly, Jatinbabu faces the storm in his own irrepressible style, his motto, "give 'em hell" apparent to all.

Though a politician, his first love is football and that too the brand catered to by the Mohun Bagan Club. An athlete and boxer (in the paperweight class) in his youth, Jatinbabu says, "I am in politics by accident." A first class graduate in law, he did not get a nomination for the post of a munsif in the thirties, and with nothing better to do, he joined politics Maybe the player in him occasionally gets the upperhand, and tactics learnt on the football ground often land him in trouble in the political field. He knows his shortcomings, but then he is determined not to change his stance. "At this age why should I change myself at all," he says. He believes in the dictum, "Abuse me, but don't ignore me."

Charlie Chaplin, the film genius, had a say in the making of Jatinbabu, who is better known to his friends and admirers as Jackie or Jackieda. It so happened that the diminutive village boy from Comilla (now in Bangladesh) came in touch with the late Balaidas Chatterjee, the force behind Mohun Bagan Club in 1926 (East Bengal Club was yet to be born). Balaibabu took a liking to the young lad, whom he nicknamed Jackie after Jackie Coogan, the child artiste in Chaplin's film *The Kid*, then a roaring success in Calcutta. Jatinbabu was introduced to boxing and football by Chatterjee. Since he was so slight, Balaibabu invented a new category for him, the "paperweight".

Since he is a *Bangal* from East Bengal, why does he support Mohun Bagan? Jatinbabu replies, "Supporting Mohun Bagan those days was an act of national prestige since the club was the first among Indian football outfits to annexe the IFA shield in 1911." A man of strong habits, he has stood by the club for the last 52 years.

Jatinbabu was with the student wing of the terrorist organisation, Anusilan Samity, since his student days. He first went to jail on the anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1932. Subsequently, he has made trips to jail as many as 20 times. Since the job market was very bleak in the 1930s, during the Depression, Jatinbabu studied law from Calcutta University with the fond hope that he would get a nomination for the post of a munsif in one of the lower courts. But in 1936, the then law minister of undivided Bengal, Nawab Musharraf Hussain, did not nominate Jatinbabu for the job. In desperation, he joined a stockbrokers' firm and continued to dabble in politics. Twenty years later, when Jatinbabu became a member of the Legislative Council (the Council was abolished by the first United Front government in 1967), he found Nawab Musharraf there. Then in the Opposition, Mr Chakraborty, as was his wont, often pushed the ruling Congress into a tight corner. One day, the Nawab asked him, "Jatinbabu, why are you after us?" Pat came the reply, "Nawabsaheb, you did not give me the job of a munsif, so now I am here by accident, and I will continue to do what I am doing."

During the 1940s, it was in and out of jail on a regular basis for Jatinbabu. During the 1942 movement, the RSP and the Communists were pitted against each other. He was sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment in the Howrah thana loot case, and in jail, he came in touch with Dr P.C. Ghosh, Basantalal Murarka, Sitaram Seksaria and other freedom fighters. Out of jail, he was detained at home from where he continued his job with the stockbrokers firm of J.M. Dutta.

How did Jatin Chakraborty come in touch with Jyoti Basu? Jatinbabu pauses a little before saying, "I was in Hare School with Santipriya Basu, a cousin of Jyotibabu. It was through him that I came to know Jyotibabu after he returned from England in the early forties. Later during the anti-famine movement of 1943, we came closer." Jatinbabu skips a few years, and says, "We worked together during the 1958 movement." It was the 1966 movement that really brought them closer. The Congress rule under Mr P.C. Sen was drawing to a close. Jatinbabu along with Mr Manoranjan Roy of Citu, became convenors for the alliance of the Left and democratic parties, then known as the Rashtriya Sangram Samity or RSS in short. Jatinbabu revelled in this role. Every other day, he would issue statements in the press and get sizeable coverage in all the newspapers published from Calcutta. Since the mainstay of the movements of Left parties was organising strikes (*hartals*) and bandhs, Jatinbabu came to be known as "Hartaldada." There were cartoons and editorial comments on Jatinbabu almost everyday in the press, and he basked in this new found glory.

In the meantime, Jatinbabu's financial problems somewhat eased after his marriage. His wife was the headmistress of Deshabandhu Girls School. She, according to Jatinbabu, contributed largely to the family coffers, so much so that he could engage more in politics. Did not his wife object to this preoccupation? "No, not a chance. Early in our marriage she had reconciled herself to her lot and that saved us a lot of problems." But then how could he go on day in and day out with politics? Didn't it affect his health? "Nonsense. I am a strict vegetarian and take regular exercise in the morning. That has kept me fit all through my life. But then," he admits, "I am somewhat undiplomatic. I trust people very easily."

In those days Jatinbabu lived on Aswini Dutta Road in south Calcutta, close to Jyoti Basu's house in Hindusthan Park. "I had no car. So every day, I used to ring up Jyoti Basu to get a lift to our party office, which is close to the CPI(M) office on Alimuddin Street." They were good friends and left home and returned together in Mr Basu's car. "Jyotibabu was a family friend, he even settled our family disputes several times." It so happened that Jatinbabu had a tiff with his wife one day, and in a huff left home to stay at the party office. Jyotibabu came to know of it, and the two families met for lunch at the Ballygunge Kwality restaurant. The dispute was settled and Jatinbabu returned to marital bliss. It was the same good relationship between Mr Basu and Mr Chakraborty which solved the problem of ministry-making after the 1982 Assembly elections.

Jatinbabu is adamant about two things. He will never leave the RSP and will never stop supporting the Mohun Bagan Club. In 1972, during the tenure of the Siddhartha Shankar Ray ministry, Tarun Kanti Ghosh, newspaper magnate and Cabinet colleague of Mr Ray, asked Jatinbabu to join the Congress since the Left parties had been totally drubbed at the hustings. Mr Chakraborty was not tempted. Similarly, more than 90 per cent of the voters in Dhakuria, his home constituency are *Bangals* and

THE OTHER JACK IN THE BOX

September 23. Twelve noon. Main gate of Writers' Buildings. Policemen on duty are taken aback to find a handful of demonstrators gathering there almost out of the blue. All of them have tube lights in hand and leading them is Mr Subrata Mukherjee, the ebullient Congress(I) MLA who, many of his party leaders confide, thrives on controversy. A master of giving bloody turns to any trifling party congregation, he was definitely not at his best that day. The demonstration against the Bengal Lamp deal struck between the state PWD department and the private sector company ended only with Mr Mukherjee's arrest. But what amazed the guards—and Congress(I) supporters in the state as well—was his role as a demonstrator in the first place. For it was he who amazed all Congressmen by giving a clean chit to the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, by telling the CPI(M) daily *Ganashakti* that being a sick unit, Bengal Lamp, rightly deserved Mr Basu's special attention and that his son's pleading for the same favour was immaterial.

It thus came as no surprise to Bengalis when Mr Mukherjee took to the silver screen. And it was his nemesis, Mr Sadhan Pande the Congress(I) MLA who remarks on every move Mr Mukherjee makes, who opined that the decision could be attributed to only the fall of his popularity curve. That Mr Mukherjee was nevertheless agile—at least as far as flaticuffs are concerned—was proved when the politician-turned-actor refused to opt for a stuntman while dealing with rogues in the video film.

An NCC captain whose ambition to become an army officer was thwarted because he was underweight, Subrata decided to make it in politics when he joined the students' movement in 1964. However, the violence that marked his brand of agitation over the next few years proved that he was not really such a fighter [illegible] again, he always chose to [illegible] the wrath of the bosses to attract the media. It was the then chief minister of West Bengal, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray, [illegible] whom he had a serious [illegible] when he was the state [illegible] minister in the Centre. It was [illegible] the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, came to Calcutta with [illegible] colleagues for an [illegible] logue on the state's development with chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, Mr Mukherjee preferred to stay back home while the entire PCC(I) flocked to the airport to receive the party president. His excuse, "jet lag" hardly convinced anyone as he had reached the city at the end of a mere fortnight-long foreign tour. At a time when his open support to the CPI(M)'s trade union wing CITU helped him earn enough displeasure from Delhi, this one act almost sealed his fate in the state Congress(I). What followed was his outright defiance of the PCC(I)



Subrata Mukherjee

chief, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, [illegible] who defended the policies [illegible] Minister in West Bengal. [illegible] only placed him in the [illegible] of the ruling CPI(M), a record that he still finds very difficult to smudge out. His on-again-off-again truce with Mr Das Munshi whom he officially admits is his mentor, makes his case interesting enough for any psychoanalyst.

His capriciousness is at its best when he declares that he will quit a post, as yet [illegible] performing for a brief [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

support the East Bengal Club, but that has never prompted him to leave the Mohun Bagan Club. In case East Bengal defeats Mohun Bagan in a football match, "I stop visiting my constituency, since most of the voters try to tease me. But leaving Mohun Bagan—that has never crossed my mind." Jatinbabu's detractors say that he, as PWD minister, saw to it that floodlights for night football facilities were never installed in the East Bengal grounds. Jatinbabu, in typical style, simply brushes aside the insinuation.

What is Jatinbabu's greatest achievement in life? Pat comes the reply, "Whatever job I have to do, I do it wholeheartedly. Nobody can mislead me. I personally visit all the work sites. I think this way one can fulfil one's duty or obligation." What does he want to have in life? "I want to work honestly with dignity and without any compromises. I believe in clean politics." Definitely a very tall order, because Mr Chakraborty's sense of values often clashes with those of his comrades and colleagues. Perhaps that is why Jatinbabu often gets entangled in issues which should not concern him at all. Take for example his tiff with the noted singer, Usha Uthup. Jatinbabu considered Ms Uthup's musical soirees to represent a degenerate culture (*apasanskriti*), and accordingly refused to let the Rabindra Sadan, which was under his department then, for one of her functions. It created a hullabaloo, and somehow Mr Chakraborty did not come out in a good light. The chief minister, Mr Basu, expressed his dissatisfaction with Jatinbabu by attending one of Ms Uthup's soirees.

As a Left Front minister, Jackieda had a running battle with Dr Ashok Mitra when he was the finance minister, over allocations for his ministry. Time and again, he had tiffs with Mr Prasanta Sur, when the latter was the urban development minister. And on most occasions Mr Jyoti Basu had to solve the tangle. In fact, Jatinbabu came out unscathed after a tiff with Mr Prasanta Sur over the allocation of a government flat way back in 1967, immediately after the dissolution of the first United Front government. A two-room flat, having a monthly rental of Rs 77, was available at the Karaya government estate. Jatinbabu convinced the then Governor, Mr S.S. Dhawan, to give him the flat. Why has he not shifted his residence since? "It is cheap and I can afford it even if I am not a minister," is the candid reply.

In fact, Mr Chakraborty's exaggerated sense of "rights and wrongs" quite often lands him in unnecessary trouble. Some time back, he wanted to throw a journalist out of a government flat. The scribe went to court and the PWD department was fined 17 guineas. In his tiffs with his ministerial colleagues, the chief minister has often come to his rescue. But his latest indiscretion, namely charging the chief minister himself of nepotism in the Bengal Lamp scandal, has made things difficult for him. The chief minister called him a liar, and at a Left Front meeting he vaguely hinted that he had a "lot of material with him" about Jatinbabu. As advised by his party, Jatinbabu has so far kept his cool since the Left Front has decided to gloss over the matter for the time being (the next Front meeting is scheduled for October 26). But one should not be supressed if Jatinbabu suddenly breaks out of his silence and creates further controversy. For that is the true Jatin Chakraborty. But perhaps this time, he has gone just a little too far and has alienated his only benefactor in the Cabinet, the chief minister, who is understandably miffed.



He has been a boxer, a footballer, an employee at a stockbroker's firm, a freedom fighter and a trade union leader before becoming a political leader and minister. He hops from issue to issue and leaves his own mark on everything

Jatinbabu has come a long way in life. He has been a boxer, a footballer, an employee at a stockbrokers' firm, a freedom fighter and a trade union leader before becoming a political leader and minister. You can abuse him but you cannot ignore him. He cared two hoots for the adverse press publicity when he visited



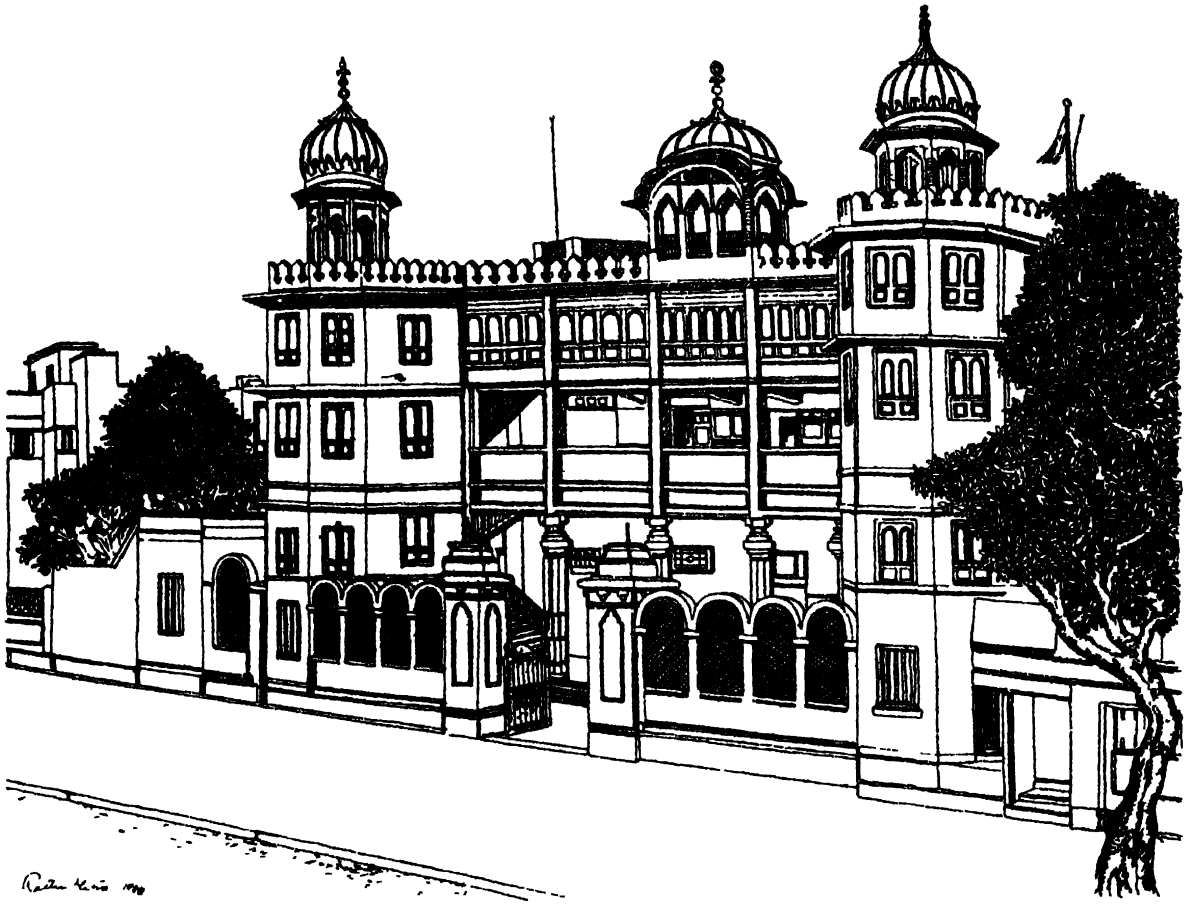
Spain for the World Cup football in 1982 or the Olympics at Los Angeles and Moscow in 1984 and 1980. He did not care for the political fallout when he reverentially carried the urn containing his party's arch rival, Indira Gandhi's ashes, or for that matter when he visits various Ramakrishna Mission establishments. A man who joined politics under the aegis of the terrorist Anusilan Samity, Jatinbabu has complete faith in Swami Vivekananda and Karl Marx despite the inherent contradictions. Like a gadfly he hops from issue to issue and leaves his own mark on everything.

A few years back, Jatinbabu visited his comrade and leader, Makhan Pal, at his residence in the party office at night. Both wandered about Dalhousie Square for some time, and around midnight Jatinbabu told Makhanbabu, "Let us migrate to England, we will sell snacks there." Somewhat flabbergasted, Makhanbabu inquired about the immediate provocation for such an outlandish idea. Apparently, Jatinbabu had had a family tiff. They walked down to Jatinbabu's house around 1 in the morning where Jatinbabu's wife told Makhanbabu. "We had a tiff since I never see him at home, when I go to school in the morning he is asleep, and when he comes back late at night, I am asleep. Our daughter is sick I had asked him to bring some medicine and he has not done that." A pale Jatinbabu told his friend, "I have no money, how can I get all those costly medicines. So I leave home early and return late."

Though a politician, his first love is football...maybe the player in him occasionally gets the upperhand, and tactics learnt on the football ground often land him in trouble in the political field

That is Jatin Chakraborty, who despite his bluster and acerbic tongue, is a devoted father and typical middle-class family man, and who just happens to be caught in the vortex of West Bengal politics. A delight for cartoonists and leader writers Jatinbabu lends colour to the mundane political scene. Indeed, one can him, but none can ignore him. ■

GURDWARA JAGAT SUDHAR (Estd 1930)



In the early twenties, Calcutta's Sikhs had a small place of worship in the premises of the city's military camp. Though it was meant primarily for Sikh soldiers, other communities used to frequent it too.

During the non-cooperation movement, Sikhs and other communities of Calcutta discarded their foreign-made turbans and clothes and burnt them in front of the temple in the military camp. The British government retaliated and declared the holy place illegal. Thus the temple had to be shifted to a garage run by Sardar Mangal Singh in Bhowanipore, as no other suitable place was available then.

On April 13, 1930, Baisakhi Day, the foundation stone of Gurdwara Jagat Sudhar was laid at its present site at 31, Rashbehari Avenue (sketched above) by five Khalsas including political leaders, priests, businessmen and contractors: Baba Gurdip Singh Kamagata Maru, Sant Bishen Singh Kanjhla, Sant Mastan Singh, Baba Ladha Singh Bedi and Kartar Singh Jhabbar. These Panch Piare selected the 10-cottah plot. In those days the entire area was full of jungles. The present building was constructed in two phases: the ground floor in 1933 and the remaining portion three years later. In the beginning, a Khalsa primary school was run here which later shifted to Puddapukur Road near Jadubabu's bazar.

Some of the distinguished visitors to this Gurdwara were Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, C.R. Das, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Sarat Bose and Dr Farooq Abdullah. The Gurdwara has six guest rooms open to all communities—from hippies to Harijans all are provided free shelter and food. The oldest member, Giani Gurbachan Singh, looks after the management under its present committee president, Rajendra Singh Dhaka, and general secretary Sardar Avtar Singh Dhaka. The head priest, Sant Dalip Singh, has been performing his duties for the last 25 years.

The Gurdwara committee also serves the public through its 'hearse' van which carries deceased persons of all communities. It was introduced by Sardar Lab Singh Khalsa in 1948.

THE GREAT DIVIDE

It certainly did not occur to me in those days, but it is quite clear to me now that all my schooldays were a continuing battle between Ma and the school system Baba chose for me; a battle for control of my mind and attitudes. I was caught young between two contradictory ways of thinking; and to complicate matters, Ma believed in the Protestant work ethic which coloured out of recognition Indian culture and Indianness as she preached and practised these. She was out of place in a totally un-Anglicised, truly Indian milieu, but didn't know this. She despised missionaries and missionary talk and attitudes and wanted her children to be Christian but without missionary taint, and glory in our Indian heritage. But Baba had this transferable job so he put us into schools which prepared us for the Cambridge School Certificate examination, uniform throughout India and Ceylon instead of into schools which prepared pupils for provincial matriculation examinations which differed in curriculum and standard from province to province To add spice to matters in our home, Baba was an ordained high-churchman. Ma, in church matters, was a Dissenter who did not think churchgoing particularly important

Bain's and Ewart's schools in Madras, though missionary-run were not too bad in Ma's opinion because they were not Anglo-Indian schools. But the Cathedral School, Lahore, was a church school which stood in the close of the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection, and run by missionary Grey Ladies, was Anglo-Indian in thought, word and deed. The pupils were 90 per cent Anglo-Indian and, except for one or two missionary teachers, the rest—till 1942 when some Indian Christian teachers were taken on—were all Anglo-Indian, too. Ma disapproved mightily of everything including the other Indian children, who, in her opinion, were no

A young mind is caught between contradictory attitudes and discovers that India had forgotten much more than the West had ever known

better than Anglo-Indian—or Feringhi as she often phrased it—in the Cathedral school. Even the fact that we learnt dressmaking, embroidery and knitting of a very high standard, she dismissed as being missionary accomplishments. She also dismissed in high-handed, cavalier fashion the fact that whether we learnt to play an instrument or not we were given a superb understanding of Western music. For, in our singing lessons we were thoroughly grounded in tonic sol-fa and not only taught to be proficient in that very English preference part-singing, but also to read and write music, and music appreciation.

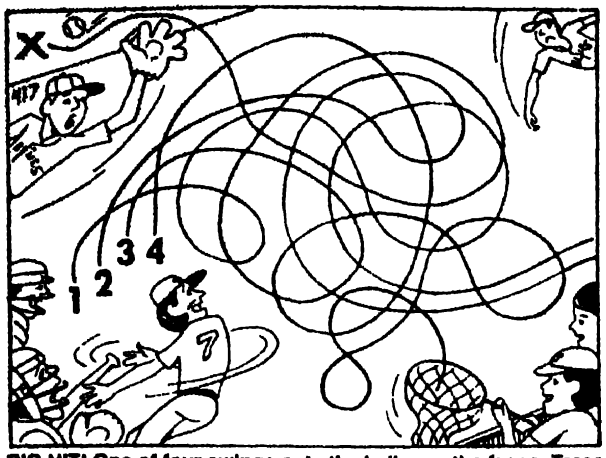
In point of fact, Ma was quite right in classing the majority of Indian children in the Cathedral School as 'just like Feringhis' because many of the Indian Christian children came from homes which idealised and emulated the British way of life to an unbelievable extent, so much so that some of their mothers wore dresses and spoke Hindusthani with an English accent. However, many, many Indian children came to the Cathedral School from conservative Indian homes, and their school life did not affect their Indianness one whit. And though school started at 9 am the several Bengali children in this school clung to the habit of a rice meal in the morning such as Ma had forced into me when I went to Ladies College in Colombo. Albeit it was in the Cathedral School, Lahore, that I spent the years from 1937 to the end of 1944: years that encompassed World War II as well as rising Indian nationalism and the Quit India movement of 1942. And it was in the Cathedral School that I learnt to pronounce 'floor' and 'door' correctly. At first I had pronounced these words in the Madras fashion to rhyme with 'dough' but pronouncing the 'r'. Then Miss Tilly taught me to say them correctly and Ma sneered at my English accent.

Till I reached my penultimate form in Cathedral School, if it hadn't been for my parents, I would have been quite ignorant of Indian achievement through the ages. As it was, despite my parents, I unconsciously disregarded all such achievement, and wished with all my heart when I was 10, 11 and 12, that I'd been born an English girl. Stories in all the various schoolgirl annuals and magazines which I read voraciously, about the adventures of English schoolgirls and of how they foiled the Hun in the 1914-18 war, excited my imagination to fever pitch In vain did Ma try during Cathedral School days to teach me Bengali singing, Indian dancing, yoga. Considered odd and forward by my Anglo-Indian teachers because I retailed in class this and that bit of information about Indian attainment—like the zero—school influence was too strong for me to enjoy anything Indian other than food, and later on, clothes

I must tell you, however, that despite the fact that my parents were ardent patriots who, it seemed to me in those days, didn't stop talking about Indian culture and our Indian heritage, they were 'at home, gave garden parties and after-dinner parties and were thoroughly conversant with the visiting card ritual. This last, very few Indians even in those days knew about, or bothered to follow if they knew. Whether all this was done as tongue-in-cheek parody, I do not know. However, often when they invited foreigners to dinner, the guests resplendent in formal evening clothes were happy to sit down on mats on the floor and eat off banana leaves with their fingers. And my teacher, Mrs Ross, taught us that sitting on the floor and eating with the fingers were dirty Indian habits.

After 1942 and the Quit India movement there was a subtle change everywhere in the country, and at school our Anglo-Indian teachers no longer spoke derogatively of 'natives' and their habits and customs. No longer were Gandhi and Nehru and Patel and Rajagopalachari —all imprisoned now—sneered at as 'bloody nationalists.' No longer did the missionary teachers denigrate all things Hindu. At the same time between '42 and '45, my teacher, Mrs Ross, referred with pride to her class as a miniature League of Nations. For, with refugees from Burma and people of mixed Indian and European parentage from everywhere converging on Lahore, we had in class, Burmese, Anglo-Burmese, Chinese, German-Jew, Indo-German, French, English and of course Anglo-Indian and Indian children. Each of us learnt from the others far more than we realised, invaluable lessons in international relations and accentuating the positive. And Charles Mendelsohn, a German-Jew classmate, coloured my perspectives on history with his assertion, 'Hitler is a donkey,' when the other boys in class teased him with anecdotes of Nazi atrocities in the newspaper. He pronounced 'donkey' as 'thoonky' with the 'th' as in 'the'. Then during '43 and '44 I was taught history by an Anglo-Irish woman called Miss Bozman who'd come to India for a holiday and couldn't go back because of the War. She made me realise that my parents' opinions were not as inconsequential as I'd hitherto thought them to be, and that India had forgotten a great deal more than the West had ever known.

Rani Sircar



BIG HIT! One of four swings puts the ball over the fence. Trace through lines to discover flight path of the big hit

• **WORD PLAY!** I'm a three-letter word meaning to spoil. Reversed I'm a male animal. Transposed I'm a human limb. What word am I?

The word is mar (reversed, ram; transposed, arm)



BEWARE OF S-CURVES!
Take S from a five-letter word for a rascal, get a four-letter word for a cluster of tents. Answer: Scamp, camp

Now try these

1 Take S from 20, get part of an apple

2 Take S from an odor, gets a US coin

3 Take S from ooze, get a citrus fruit.

4 Take S from chimney, get a small nail

5 Take S from a country, get an ache

6 Take S from a driver, get a country.

7 Take S from a girl's name, get a friend

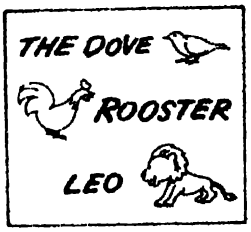
1 Score; cote 2 Scent; cent 3 Shine; hine 4 Slack; lack 5 Spain; pain 6 Scuba; Cuba 7 Sally; ally

• **NAME GAME!** The name of a colourful US President, born October 27, 1858, is concealed in this pictorial anagram. To find it, re-arrange the 17 letters of the four words shown.

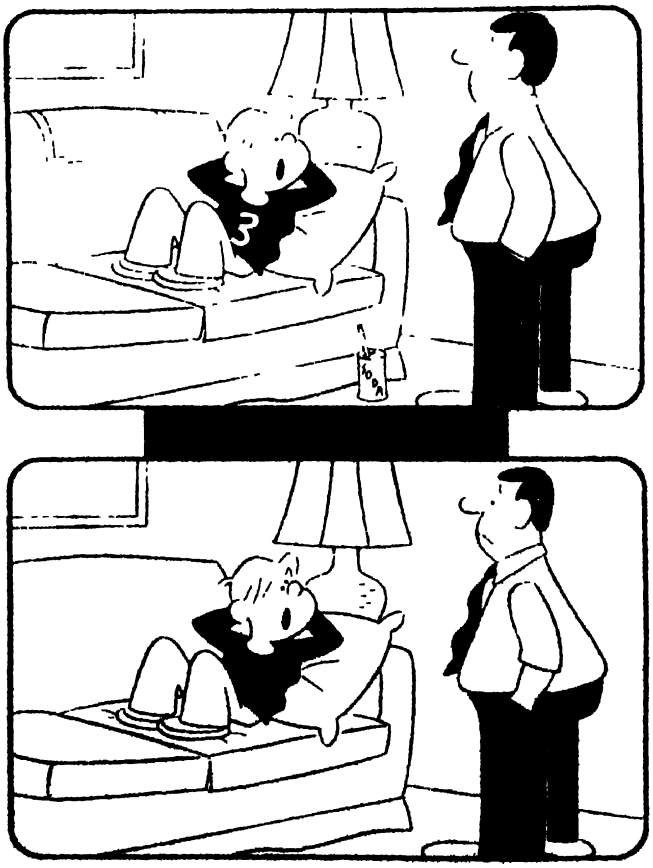
P.S.: He became the nation's youngest President at age 42, served in office from 1901-1909.

State his full name.

His name: Theodore Roosevelt



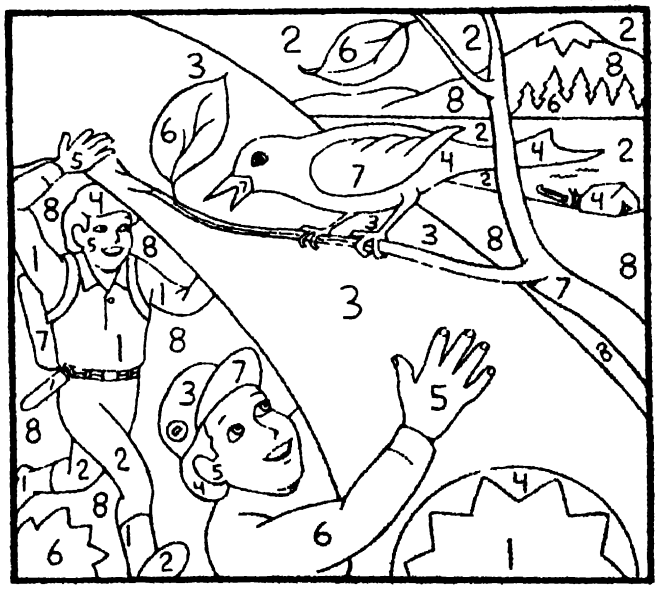
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference: 1. Covered is missing. 2. Number is missing. 3. Lamp base is different. 4. Can is missing. 5. Hair is different. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

FUNSPOT



TOTE SWEET! A songbird is serenading the canoe-toting campers above. Add these colors neatly: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SOCIABLE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagrams: Oak, base.



Jaspreet Singh Pal reports: "An inter-school quiz was held as a part of the festival, Spardha '88, organised jointly by the Leo Club of south west Calcutta and the Leo Club of Calcutta, Pragati. It was an exciting quiz with the winners undecided until the last question 'Who stays at 70, Clifton Road?' The winners finally were Hindi High School. St Xavier's came in second followed by Assembly of God Church School. The favourites, La Martiniere for Boys, surprisingly finished fifth. Barry O'Brien did a good job as quiz master. Incidentally the answer to the last question was, 'Benazir Bhutto'."

"What is the origin of the word cowboy"? asks Sudhir Sanyal, Calcutta 19

Cow-boy, hyphen and all, dates back to at least 1725, when it was used to refer to a boy who tended cattle. The word resurfaced during the American Revolution, this time to describe the Tory guerrillas who rang cowbells in order to lure unsuspecting American patriots into the bush. In the 19th century, of course, cowboys worked on ranches in the American West; the word was either translated from its Spanish equivalent, *vaquero* or was a revival of the old "cow-boy." (By the time Hollywood was through, the heroic gunslinger of the silver screen had little to do with cattle or boys, but that is another story.) The suffix "boy" may sound curious today, but at that time it was neither restricted to youth nor degrading. Nineteenth century compound words commonly used "boy"—even fire fighters were called fireboys—and Columbus called his sailors *muchachos* long before that

A brief resume of the North Star Quiz so far:

"Billed as 'India's most popular quiz,' the new All-India North Star Quiz '88 got off to a splendid start last month.

"First stop: Guwahati. Ninety two teams. Guwahati Medical College were easy winners, earning themselves a second consecutive trip to the All-India final. Quiz master Derek O'Brien with his interesting questions and slick presentation had to share the spotlight with a five-second earthquake which rocked the city. An earthquake during a quiz! What next?

"Next, Madras. 'We are overwhelmed.. Madras perhaps is India's new capital of quizzing', announced Derek O'Brien as he quizzed 437 teams, (1748 participants), a record by open quiz standards. The hall was packed and there were many who had to be content with just hearing the quiz on the PA system installed outside the hall. Bata, the sponsors, had good reason to smile. As did Quiz Foundation of India 'A' who beat their 'B' team to first place on the last question (If Indira Gandhi's slogan was 'Garibi Hatao,' what was Bhutto's slogan? Answer *Roti, Kapada aur Makaan*)

"September 18. The North Star Quiz caravan lands in Hyderabad, YMCA (Secunderabad) are the pick of the 130 teams and become the third team to qualify for the All-India final.

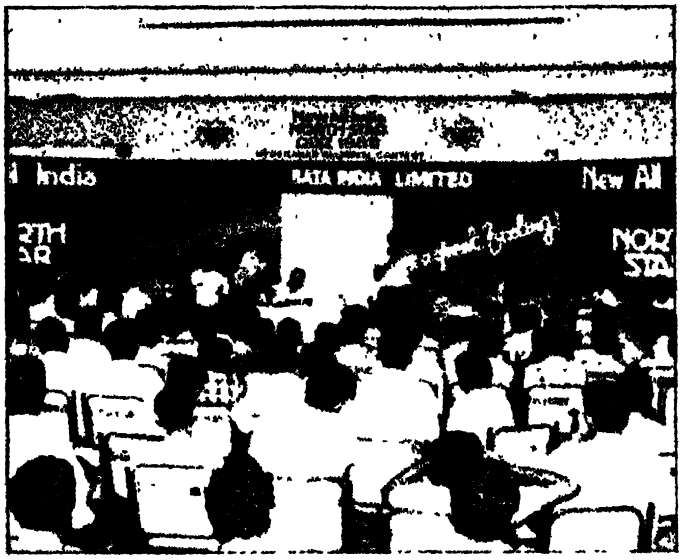
"As you read this, the North Star continues its successful 'Intellectual Olympiad' (so called by the vice-chancellor of Madras University). On to Bombay, Bangalore, Delhi and Calcutta."

Postscript: Persons from outside Calcutta are writing to say they are not receiving any intimation of the prizes they have won for the weekly 11th Question.

THE TELEGRAPH sends outstation winners the 11th question coupons by registered post. There may, therefore, be slight postal delays, so please bear with us.

CBS

11th Question: **What is narco-terrorism? (Shailesh Kela, second year (Mech), BIT, Sindri 828123)**
Ans: **Terrorist activities conducted with the help of money received by selling drugs**



The new North Star quiz in progress

QUESTIONS

1. Which cricketer's autobiography is *All Round View?* (Manoj Agarwal, Rourkela 1 and Subhasis Bose, Durgapur 4)
2. *Where Angels Fear to Tread* was the first novel of which famous author? (A. Prasad, Calcutta 19)
3. Who recently changed her T-shirt in front of spectators at Wimbledon? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
4. It used to be called Upper Volta. What is it today? (Tarique Hussain Rizvi, Calcutta 13)
5. Which athlete was the "Black Gazelle"? (Himaiya Kr Sarkar, Asansol 1)
6. Why might Russian ballerina Lydia Lopokova be remembered by economists? (Neelanshu Jamuar, Patna)
7. How was footballer Manuel Francisco Do Santos better known? (Mohan Kumar Agarwal, Bargarh 28)
8. Who is regarded as the first science fiction writer in English? (Aruna Chandrarāju, Calcutta 29)
9. Who owned a parrot called Pedrito? (Ranju Ajitsariya, Guwahati 1
10. What is anemophily? (Samarendra Nath Khara, Hooghly)

ANSWERS

AFTER FAITH, INDIGNITY

"He was a good looking fellow, wasn't he," queried Dinesh Trivedi, a travel agent in Calcutta, as he flipped through some photographs. The "fellow" in question was Trivedi's alsation, a truly gorgeous specimen, with muscled flanks, silken, chestnut brown hair and eyes the colour of honey.

For Trivedi, the nightmare started when six-year-old Pablo suffered a massive heart attack one evening. "It was like a bolt out of the blue. Only that morning I had taken him for his daily jog to the maidan," recalled Trivedi. "Doctors were summoned, injections administered but Pablo died." And with that started Trivedi's desperate and somewhat bizarre search.

"Will you believe it, there was no place in this city where I could bury or cremate my Pablo? I got in touch with countless political bigwigs, municipal councillors, friends who had dogs, and vets but they all told me to let the Corporation take care of Pablo. Some of them advised me to consign him to the Ganga. The Corporation, of course, takes all animal carcasses to Dhapa. And as a member of Concern for Calcutta, I know the pollution hazards of dumping dead bodies in the river. I was a bundle of nerves. I did not know what to do."

When all else failed, Trivedi contacted the *doms*, Corporation employees, to help him dispose Pablo's body. 'They took me to the dirtiest possible places beyond Number Four bridge, to slums and spots adjacent to community bathrooms, but I remained adamant. Finally, they led me to a grass-covered road divider in Kankurgachi where they dug a grave for him. Curiously, they kept insisting that we leave and against my better judgement we did. However, I went back a little later and found to my horror that they hadn't buried Pablo there at all. One *dom* claimed that the Corporation truck had carried him off to Dhapa. Something inside me snapped and I drove to Dhapa where I found Pablo lying among festering carcasses and rotting garbage. By a quirk of fate, I met two nuns who offered me space in their compound. Finally, my dog had a burial that befitted him," Trivedi concluded his harrowing tale.

Trivedi was lucky. Other dog owners who probably love their pets as much if not more, have no choice but to hand over their furry companions to the Corporation authorities. Others go to the Ganga to bid them a watery farewell while the lucky few dig a small grave in their backyards or gardens of understanding friends.

Strangely, a huge metropolis like Calcutta does not have a secluded corner in which to bury departed pets. The current methods of disposal are not only undignified but also unhygienic

"Something should be done. This is a truly harrowing choice to make," said the administrator of All Lovers of Animals (ALOA) S N Biswas. "In Chandannagar we bury our patients in the society's compound but here there is no alternative besides the Corporation."

Should not, then, the civic authorities provide a cemetery or at least a plot of land where people can give their pets a decent send off? "Yes," agreed R N Lahiri, a doctor at ALOA. "Those who do not want to give their pets to the authorities end up burying them in the Ganga."

Sona Murshed, member of the charitable organisation, Friends of Dogs, echoed Biswas' exasperation. "We are tired of the platitudes that the chief health officer of the municipal corporation doles out. '*Kichu kora uchit*, a cemetery must be made' is repeated endlessly. Actually, the Corporation feels that alloting land for a cemetery will be a waste of valuable government property. What they don't seem to realise is that a dog's body decomposes very fast and a small space will suffice."

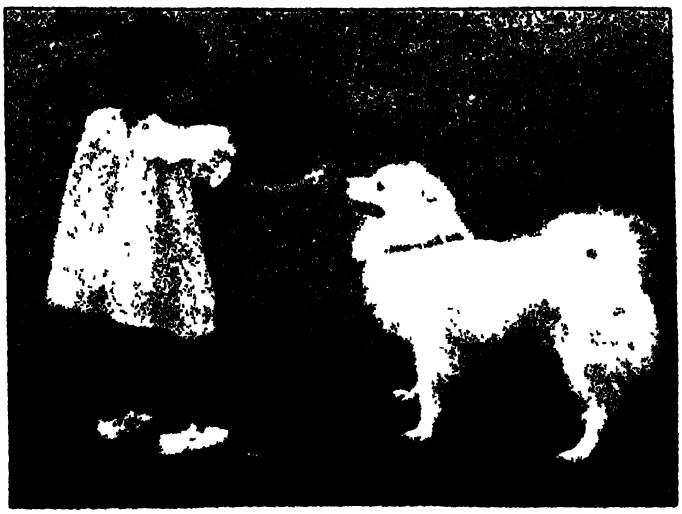
Friends of Dogs, a brainchild of Keya Gupta, was launched in 1979 when she took it on herself to sterilise bitches to control the burgeoning canine population in the city. Soon the word spread and people rallied around.

S C Choudhury, the Corporation's chief health officer, on his part, told our reporter about the plans for the Rs 15-lakh complex the Corporation is building at Mathpukur near Dhapa. "We have already spent Rs 5.5 lakh on a building which will house the dissecting rooms and officers' quarters. Water and electricity connections have still not come through and we hope to complete the work by the year end." While he insists that the grounds will contain a cemetery also, knowledgeable sources scoff the claims. "The Mathpukur complex is being built primarily as a compound to house the strays before putting them to sleep. For some time now the authorities have been complaining that their compound at Acharya J C Bose Road is too small. This is only an attempt to mislead the public," said a Friends of Dogs spokesman.

The chief health officer only seemed to justify the accusation when he said, "One can always contact the chief engineer, motor vehicles, or the conservancy officer to remove a dead pet. The animal is buried along with garbage in Dhapa. However, it is a punishable offence to throw pets in the Ganga. Besides, it is a big pollution hazard." But aren't the festering carcasses of pigs, dogs, rats, cats and larger animals from the zoo, many of them dismembered, that are left to decompose at Dhapa an equal hazard?

Trivedi does not want to keep another dog. "I went through sheer torture. I think it is in the interests of the Corporation to give us some place for use as a cemetery for animals. I'm sure no dog lover wants his pet buried in Dhapa. I have contacted some influential people in the city and we are going to approach the government for land." The optimism is touching but the outcome seems ominously predictable.

Madhavi Irani



Rashbehari Das

The Golden Lady

YANA BANERJEE-BEY meets Monika Ruhmoller De, the innovative young German goldsmith who has adopted Calcutta as her home

Tall, almost klutz like Monika Ruhmoller De would be formidable if she were older and less fey. It is the last quality, combined with a wonderful capacity to warm to a person's personality, that has made Monika, in her late twenties, perfectly suited to her profession. Calcutta's only licensed woman designer cum-goldsmith enjoys the privilege of being trusted without reserve by her clients to design the right jewellery for them. Armed with a professionalism and knowledge rare in our country and devoting a perfection to her work that is rewarding not only in truth but also in terms of proportion, line and texture, her innovative design, exclusive handcrafting and strictly confidential service set her apart from most Indian jewellers.

Growing up in the city of Munster, in "the most beautiful part" of Germany, Westphalia, Monika was trained early in painting and drawing. She also sculpted in stone and metal, fashioning such objects as iron mirror frames and brass fruit bowls. But "those things need muscles" and she turned first to miniatures which were partly metal and partly wood and then to jewellery. Apprenticed for three-and-a-half years to a master goldsmith, she would work five days a week under his guidance in his workshop and spend the sixth day in a vocational school studying mathematics, chemistry and geology which help one a lot in understanding about metals and different kinds of stones." She has been in the profession now for 12 years, in the midst of which she met her Bengali husband, a documentary filmmaker who was in Germany to study animation. She came to India briefly as a tourist, in 1981 and then settled here in 1984. Last year, she acquired a goldsmith's licence from the Gold Control Authority of India.

Starting trade was difficult at first but, 'Women are by nature curious,' she laughs. She made a few pieces for friends and acquaintances "and then their friends and acquaintances asked them where they'd got the jewellery, and word spread. Avoiding absolutely western designs and yet being fairly avant garde, she has built up a range of styles which are becoming increasingly popular among the Bengali middle-class. "You'd be surprised how many of them want to try out un-Indian designs. They bring me their old jewellery or some stones and tell me their budget and ask me to design something new for them." As a rule, she has discovered, Indians prefer to have many variously coloured stones in a set. Specialising in leaves – "no two that I make are ever the same" – she has also perfected the technique of shaping a plain sheet of gold or silver into a very fluid form to achieve a strikingly 20th century look.

Occasionally she incorporates unorthodox material like wood and stainless steel and has been requested for 'crazy, jazzy' designs by teenage friends. Sometimes, while shopping for stones, she comes across discarded ones and brings them home to fashion pieces such as pendants cum-brooches which can be worn with either light chains or tiered pearl necklaces for gala occasions. Though she has yet to draw from Indian tribal jewellery, she finds much of value in it and particularly likes Santhal silver jewellery – "the real thing, mind you," which, she comments sadly, "will fade out because of commercial production for tourists."

One of the several differences in working in the West and in the East, she details, is that "there, an 18 carat piece will have shoulders (in India they call it *pan*) of 18 carats also but here it is not so. Also here they are very generous with the size of the shoulder, so after melting I find the gold is no longer of 18 carats." She adds, "In Germany they are very strict about using the same carat. And they have guilds, so if you are caught using less carat the guild will know and you won't get any more work. The major working constraint, she cites, is lack of time. Working without an assistant, she takes about two weeks to complete an order which other goldsmiths would normally deliver in four to six days. The lack of an assistant is also the reason why she only works to order. Is "to make on-the-spot sales to my range of clients with different hair, clothes, complexion and taste in stones. I would have to keep at

Monika at work



Hirak Sen

least 100 sets readymade

While she plans to take on an assistant soon and work for what would be her first exhibition in Calcutta (she had held some back home), teaching is not even remotely possible in the near future. "I would love to have organised classes where I would teach craftsmanship, engraving, stone cutting, and the theory, of course, but I would need other premises and I would need people with a certain basic education." She is particularly interested in training girls as, she feels, "women are better for this kind of thing than men. I can tell you bluntly that the earrings you've set your heart on are just not for you but it's not so easy for a man to say that to female clients."

Talking about the lack of women in the business here, she describes the incredulous reactions of dealers when she goes to buy stones. "I tell them that I am a goldsmith and I'm looking for such and such type of stone because I've got such and such design to make and they stare at me, it's beyond their comprehension. And, before I got my own polishing machine, I used to go to a shop to do it and all the workmen would come and stand round and watch and after I'd finished they'd take it into their own hand to see how well I or how badly I'd done it."

But the best anecdote of the occasion when some handmade gold chains in a shop in New Market caught her eye and she walked into the shop and asked to examine them. "The salesmen crowded round me because they thought I was a foreigner with lots of dollars to spend. Then the proprietor came over and I explained that I was a goldsmith and wanted to see how those chains had been made." He asked to see her left hand, examined the balls of her thumb and index finger and nodded and then showed her the chains. When filing, the piece is held between those two fingers, she explains, and the skin there grows hard.

Bare of jewellery herself, save for an innocuous bangle, Monika comments ruefully that she never gets gifts of jewellery. "People think that since you are in this line you must be having so much jewellery. As a matter of fact, he has given a few pieces which are worn to weddings once in a while. As to making jewellery for herself, "Well, I don't have the time and then I can't really make up my mind as to what to make for myself." Slim and athletic, with spikily cropped hair, he enjoys swimming and as a young girl went climbing in the Dolomites with an uncle. Now, though, she prefers to stay away from harsh physical activity, fearing injury to her hands and eyes which are needed for her work.

Monika's devotion to work also keeps her from missing the lack of social life in Calcutta. "When my family and friends heard that I was going to live in Calcutta, they thought I was mad. You see, there are a lot of TV programmes on Calcutta in the West but they're always about slums, drought, floods. If I told people back home about the cultural activity here, about the museum, the football stadium, the planetarium, they wouldn't believe me. But though it's not what those TV programmes make it out to be, there is not much to do here. In Germany, every city has big parks, swimming pools where everybody goes. Here going to a movie is no pleasure. The TV programmes are not that exciting. You can't go anywhere except to a club and I'm not a member of one."

Even as creative herself, Monika remarks on the lack of change in traditional Indian jewellery. "One can wear one's grandmother's jewellery," she points out. But in Europe the fashions change very fast. clothes, shoes, handbags, jewellery, everything's old by the next season. The ultimate, she feels, keep ahead of the fashion in Europe. "I used to visit Italy once a year because of that. What was in fashion there in 1986 became the fashion in Paris in 1987."

Her belief in the value of aesthetics and craftsmanship leaves her unimpressed by the collections of such personalities as Queen Elizabeth and Liz Taylor: the first has inherited jewellery which is too traditional and the second has "just expensive stones in conventional settings. The modern trend is not to buy jewellery to show that one can afford it. Consciously or subconsciously, people now buy jewellery to underline personality. For instance, Martina Navratilova is squarish so she wouldn't buy bangles which make her look too feminine. That's the only way to buy jewellery today," she asserts.

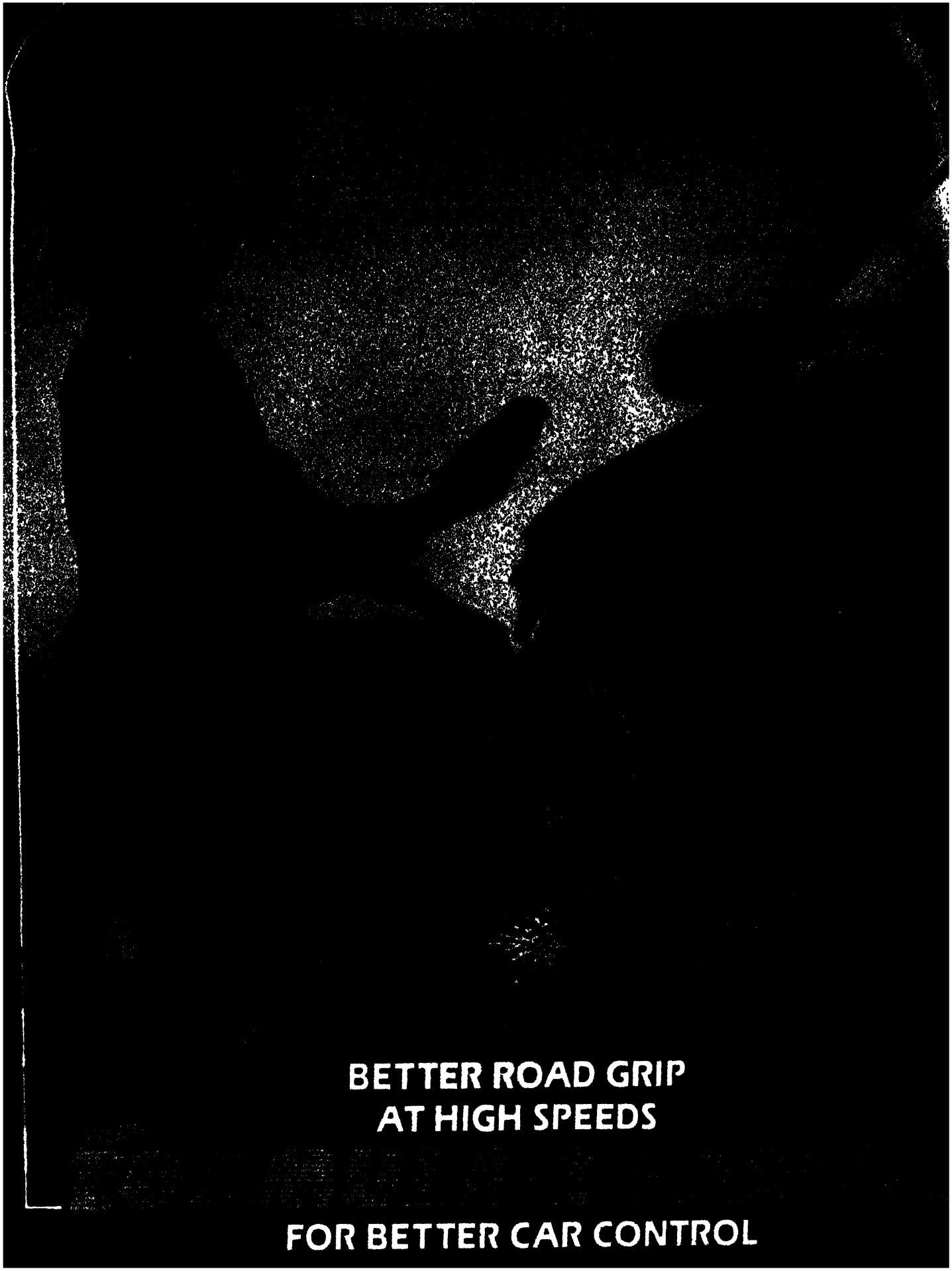
She refutes the idea that for a man wearing a chain or bracelet, deters from his masculinity. "In south Europe every man wears one." She used to make chain rings, money clips, monogrammed brooches, keyrings, cuff links and tie pins in Germany but says simply, "there's no market here."

Happily for Monika, the market for women's jewellery is expanding. This year, she has extra orders for the Puja. And lately, more wedding orders have been coming in. At present she is working on an ambitious set chosen by a mother for her prospective daughter-in-law. "It's when you get orders like this that I know you're established," she says with an impish smile. ■



Two samples of her creativity

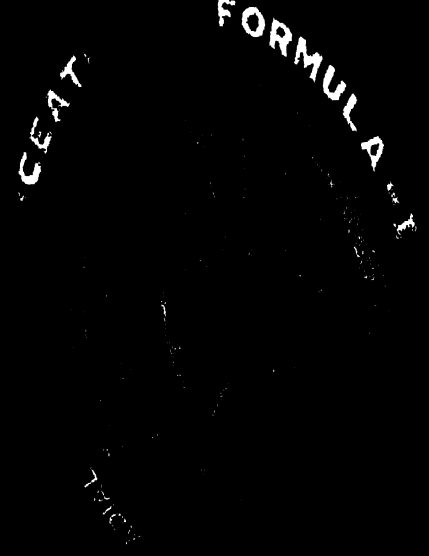
Hiranmoy Sen


BETTER ROAD GRIP
AT HIGH SPEEDS
FOR BETTER CAR CONTROL

GET A FIRM GRIP

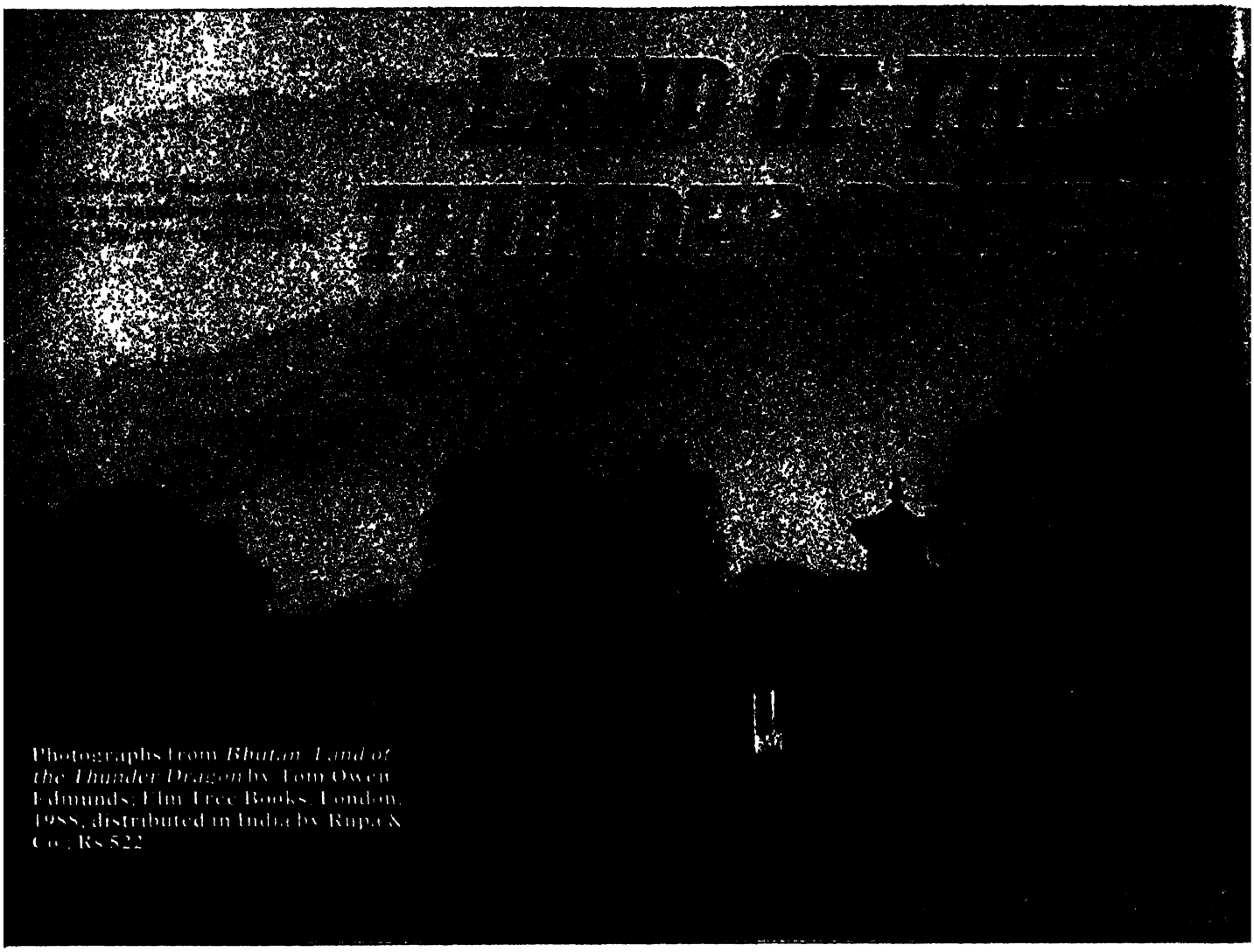
0 to 60 in 7.28 seconds. The tempered steel belts in the wider, squat tyres bite into the dirt. Hold on for life. And more than your pulse races.

Get the unrelenting control of CEAT FORMULA-I RADIALS.



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born tough



Photographs from *Bhutan: Land of the Thunder Dragon* by Tom Owen Edmunds; Elm Tree Books, London, 1988, distributed in India by Rupa & Co.; Rs 522



Monks of all ages delight in the Tsechu festival from a vantage point on a balcony overlooking the courtyard

The golden roofs of Gangte







The Bhutanese national crest, with the Thunder Dragon encircling crossed thunderbolts, in Tashichho Dzong, Thimphu

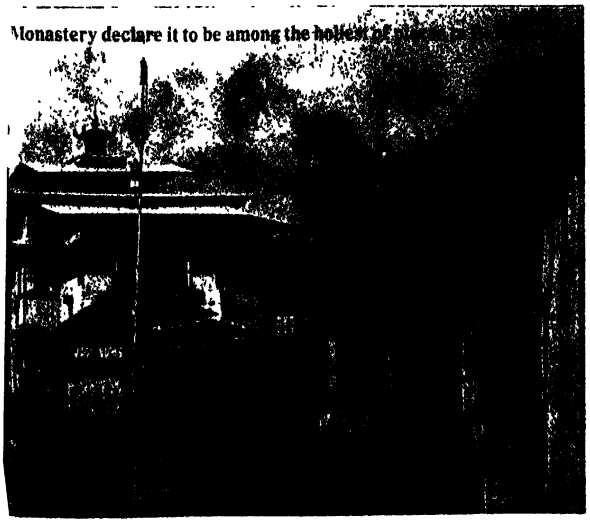
According to photographer **Tom Owen Edmunds,** the mystical mountain kingdom of Bhutan may not be Shangri-la, but it comes very, very close. Here, he captures some of its spectacular beauty and a way of life which is still firmly rooted in medieval tradition



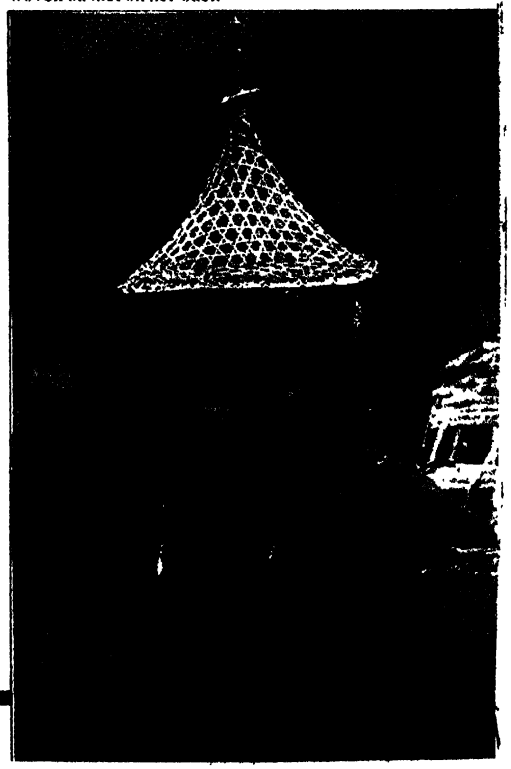
To avoid possibility of its fading, the Thanka, displayed just once a year for a few years, must be put away before the sun can strike it

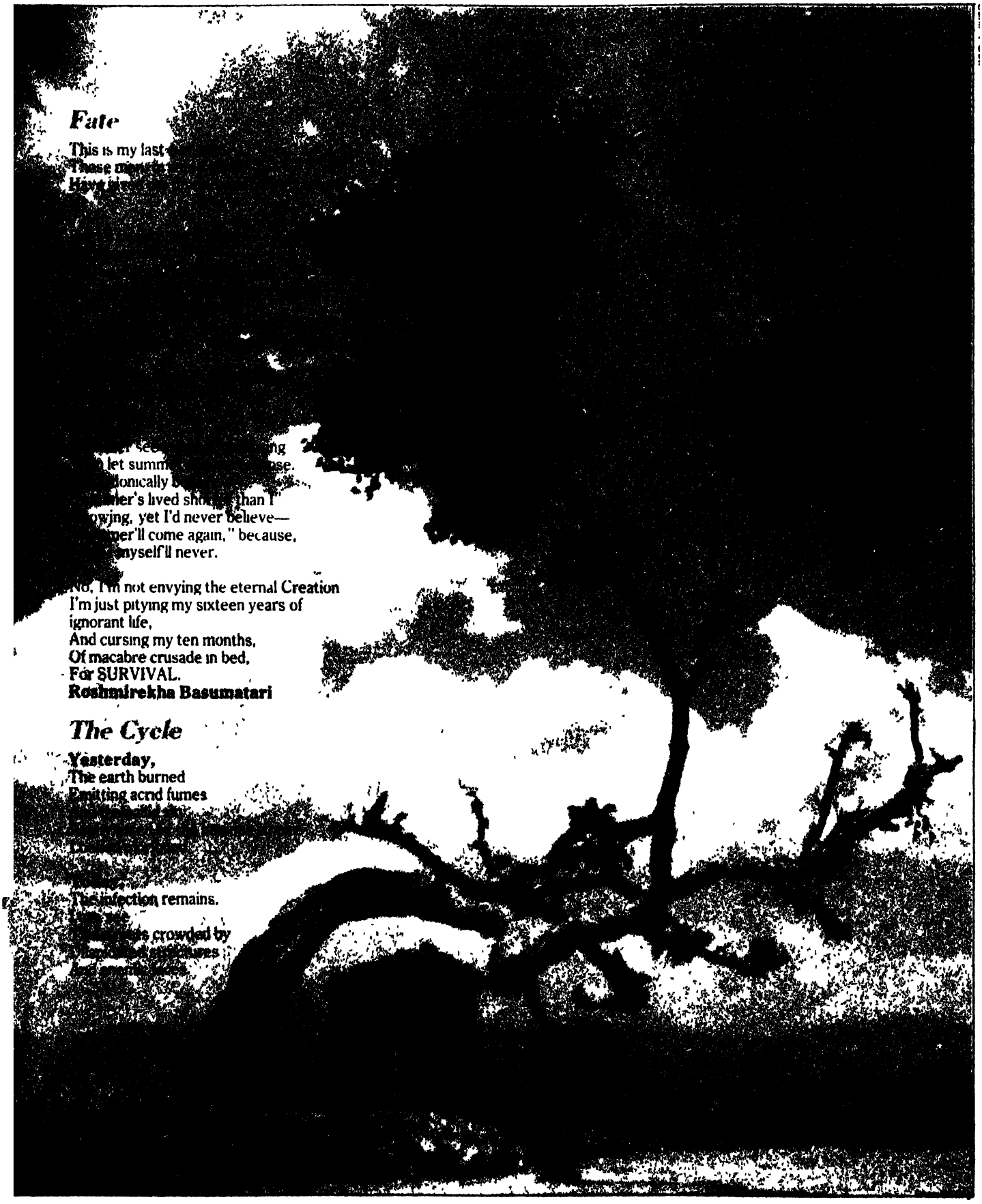
■

A fierce wet wind whips hair across the face of a young girl carrying manure to the fields in a woven basket on her back



Monastery declare it to be among the holiest of





Fate

This is my last
Those
Have

ng
let summ se.
onically
her's lived sh than I
wing, yet I'd never believe—
er'll come again," because,
myself'll never.

No, I'm not envying the eternal Creation
I'm just pitying my sixteen years of
ignorant life,
And cursing my ten months,
Of macabre crusade in bed,
For SURVIVAL.

Roshmirekha Basumatari

The Cycle

Yesterday,
The earth burned
Emitting acrid fumes

The infection remains.

crowded by

All information given in these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani:** Roxy (Chowinghee Place, 284138)—4 shows

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Dr Shreeram Lagoo, Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

• **Jawani Ka Rog (A):** Society (Corporation Place, 241002) - 12.30, 3 15, 6.15, 9

The film is directed by K Sankaran Nair.

• **Mera Shikaar:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917) 4 shows

Dimple Kapadia, Kabir Bedi, Danny and Prem Chopra are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Keshu The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani 552200), Punjabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Upahar (Russa Road, 478666) - 4 shows, Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 351382), Madhuban (Regent Park) —3 shows

Directed by K R Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain, the film stars Dharmendra, Amita Raaj, Govinda, Farha, Tanuja, Kulbhushan Kharbanda Shakti Kapoor, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Anupam Kher

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442) —12, 3, 6, 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Amir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film. The music is by Anand Milind

• **Sone Pe Suhaaga:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132)—4 shows

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon and Kimi Katkar

• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A):** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street, 254956), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567), Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828)—4 shows

Rajesh Khanna, Farha, Moon Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the main attaractions in this film.



A scene from *Black Rose*

directed by B R Ishara and has music by Anand Milind

Foreign Films

• **Aliens are Forbidden (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715) 4 shows

• **Black Rose (A):** Elite (S N Banerjee Road 241383) 4 shows

• **The House where Evil Dwells (A):** Lighthouse (Humayun Place 291299) - 12, 3, 6, 8.30

• **The Towering Inferno:** New Empire (Humayun Place, 291051)- 11.45, 3 15, 6.30

Bengali Films

• **Surer Akashe:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 55341), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road; 174686) 1, 4, 7

Tapas Paul and Debashree Roy are the lead pair in this Bitesh Chatterjee film Others in the cast are Abhisek Chatterjee, Navana Das, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee and Beena The music is by Swapan Chakraborty

Theatres

•**Jay Jayanti:** Rangana (153/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 556846)—Thurs. & Sat at 6 30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

Subhendu Chatterjee and Basabi Nandy along with Premangshu Bose, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Dipika Banerjee, Arindam Ganguly, Gita Dey, Nandini Malleya and Abhishek Chatterjee comprise the cast. Drama and direction Ganesh Mukherjee

•**Kalanka:** Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street)—Thurs at 6.30 pm, Sat., Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

Supriya Devi, Chinmoy Roy, Samir Majumdar, Jiten Banerjee and Sulata Chowdhury are the chief attractions in this play, whose music and direction are by Samir Majumdar

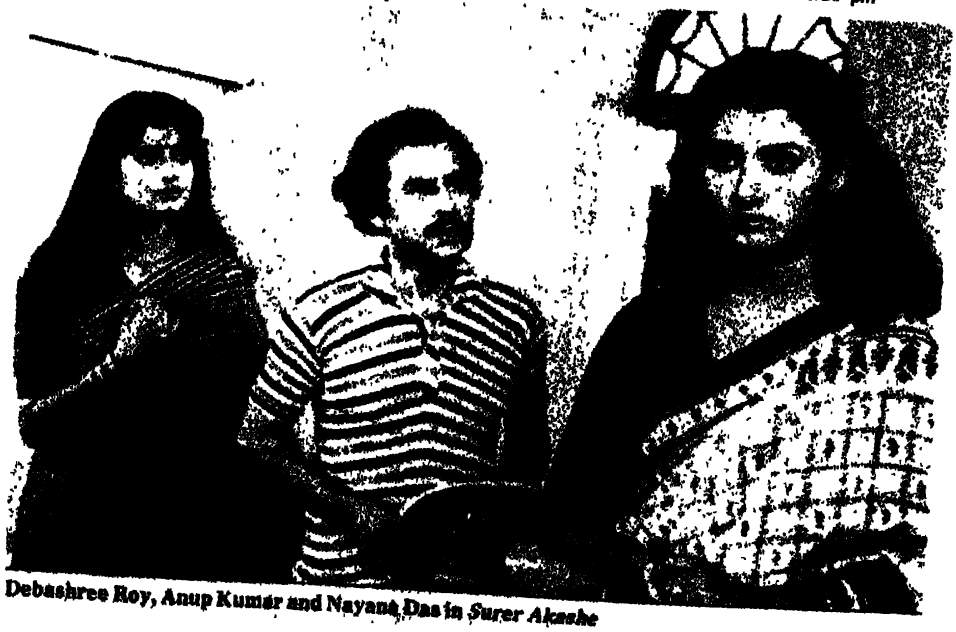
•**Nesha:** Protap Mancha (opp. Rajabazar tram depot)—Thurs. & Sat at 6.30 pm, Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

Directed by Tarun Kumar, the cast of this play includes Dilip Sinha, Saikat Pakrashi, Taruna Sen, K Debraj and Miss Shefali.

•**Neelkantha:** Rungmahal (76/1B Bidhan Sarani, 551619)- Thurs at 6 30 pm, Sat , Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

Soumitra Chatterjee, Goutam Chakraborty, Ajit Banerjee, Nirmal Ghosh, Sumita Chatterjee, Debika Mitra, Sumanta Mukherjee and Sayani Mitra comprise the cast of this play Drama, music and direction Soumitra Chatterjee.

•**Rater Kuheli:** Boys Own Hall (P-29, CIT Scheme, Dalimtola Lane, near Biswaroopa; 552757)—Thurs. at 6 30 pm; Sat , Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm



Debashree Roy, Anup Kumar and Nayana Das in *Surer Akashe*

Rakhi Mukherjee plays the lead in the drama.

•Sukher Thikana: Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road; 355598)—Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

The chief attractions in this play are Deepankar De, Biplab Chatterjee, Lily Chakraborty and Jnanesh Mukherjee, who also directs.

•Sukhi Grihakon: Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street; 557293)—Thurs. at 6 30 pm, Sat & Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Kali Banerjee and Subrota Chatterjee are in the lead.

•Tanaya: Biswaroopa (2A Raja Raj Kissen Street; 553262)—Thurs & Sat. at 6.30 pm, Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Dilip Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Debraj Roy, Kaushik Banerjee, Arun Banerjee, Srirup Mitra, Anamika Saha and Shoma Chatterjee comprise the cast of this play, based on Ashapurna Devi's story.

TRAVEL

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-198 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1). JU-492 at 0955, Dep. (1). JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1530; Arr (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4). SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr. (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep. (2, 4, 7). IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4, 7). IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6): IC-248 at 1425, Arr. (7): IC-248 at 2055.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-223 at 1800, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-693 at 1615, Arr (2, 4, 6). IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-224 at 2000 Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr. (1, 2, 5): GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7). IC-444 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily). IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily): IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily) IC-266 at 2225

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-478 at 1045, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-477 at 1005

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545, Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-410 at 1110; Arr (daily). IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7): IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 1535; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1) IC-269 at 1630, Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6): IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily). IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr (daily): IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625; (7): IC-220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100, Arr. (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) 7): IC-227 at 0835; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815, Arr (2, 4, 7). IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr (daily): IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4): IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-243 at 0610, Dep (daily) IC-241 at 1440, Arr. (daily) IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Excursion

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

• Calcutta-Aizawl: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0655; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

• Steel chairs: I offer two folding steel chairs for a Walkman or a double screen video game or anything of corresponding value. Contact Sanjeev Adlakha, P-200, CIT Road, Scheme TM, Kankurgachi, Calcutta 54.

• Video game: I offer a Nintendo double screen video game, *Donkey Kong 11*, for a 50 m air rifle or anything of corresponding value. Contact B.C. Law, C/o C.G. Law, 306, B.B. Ganguly Street, Calcutta 12.

• Camera: I offer an Agfa click III camera for an amplifier of not less than 10 watts. Write to Suman Verma, C/o Umesh Verma, Jugsilai, Naybazar (west), Jamshedpur 831006.

• Stamps and coins: I offer 100 Indian and foreign stamps and 10 foreign coins for a Unicef Walkman without headphones. Contact Sonal Kumar, Sadar Bazar, PO Chaibasa, dist. Singhbhum, Pin 833201.

• Car and scooter: I offer a Maruti car (800 delux) and a Kawasaki Bajaj (KB 100) in excellent condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sanjay Banka "Manish," 152/1, Varanasi Road, Mansarovar, third floor, Salkia, Howrah 711106.

• Journals: I offer 50 issues of *Chartered Secretary* from 1980-83 for anything of corresponding value. Contact Vinod Kukal, 3-B, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta 71.

• Coins: I offer a wide range of foreign and Indian coins for other foreign and Indian coins. Please contact Rafikul Islam, Kazi villa, Chapra, Bangaljhi, Nadia.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep.—Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13 15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat. Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday & Saturday Arri.—Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tuesday Arri.—Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
52	22-35	**Bangalore Super Fast Express** Dep & Arri —Wed. & Sun.	13-45	51
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep. & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 206370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The moon's last quarter suggests trips, collaborations and visits to hospitals. Reach out to places through all possible means Business affairs, professional interests and employment opportunities will prosper You will combine pleasure and profits An official engagement is probable for the fancyfree and eligible

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

You will be busy throughout the week Handsome returns will come in for all your hard work Perks and promotions are predicted as Sun unites with Mercury Salesmen, professors, executives, journalists, entertainers, artists, students and entrepreneurs will do well Remember to safeguard your valuables and health Parents will take an undue interest in your affairs

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Good times lie ahead as Venus trines Neptune This trine means that you must follow the dictates of your heart Romance, hobbies, creative pursuits and pastimes will provide tremendous joy and delight Children add to the fun and spice of life Money will come in but your expenses will also rise proportionately

CANCER

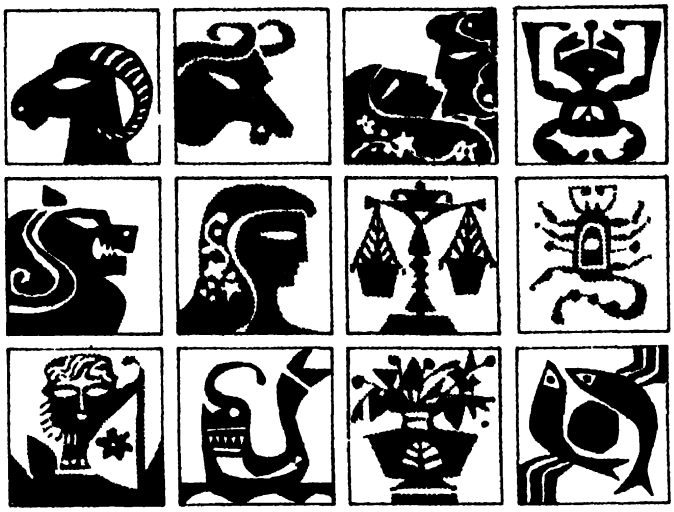
June 21 July 20

Moon conjuncts Pluto and gives you a much needed boost Once again, home and property, renovation and decoration and parents and in-laws will demand attention Your work will be duly appreciated Expect hectic correspondence, good news and a major assignment within the next 21 days Lady Luck will smile on everything that you now set out to do

LEO

July 21—August 21

Moon and Uranus are in a sextile placing. This means that contacts and contracts will be finalised Interviews, visits, meetings and conferences are foretold Travel is on the cards for some of you You will emerge a winner in anything that you do—romance, business, sports, socialising or even simply entertaining.



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

This is the right time to buy, sell, invest, mortgage or take a loan Many of you will finalise deals and contracts Traders, brokers and editors will be working at an almost feverish pitch It is certain that your plans and campaigns will be successful Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

The new moon in your sign gives you charisma and class This in turn helps you to persuade people to your point of view and thus gets your work done Your ideas and enthusiasm will also help you in work and at play Overcome all obstacles with a resolve that will astound even your strongest rivals

BIRTHDAYS

October 9

Moon trine Jupiter, square Saturn: The going may be just a bit difficult in the beginning, but the final result should be a rewarding one. You will require imagination as well as patience, so do not lose your cool. Relationships may undergo a sea change.

October 10

New moon Libra: This formation will help you to be charming and vivacious. You will succeed in building a lasting relationship. There will be a few obstacles at work but they will be overcome by February.

October 11

Sun conjunction Mercury: This is likely to be a good year for journalists, editors, actors and students. Your enemies will have a hard time competing with you. It is also certain that your efforts will be appreciated.

October 12

Moon conjunction Pluto: This conjunction helps resolve all financial and domestic problems. Travel is destined. It is certain that a long standing wish will be granted. This should make you reasonably happy Children will give satisfaction.

October 13

Moon semi-sextile sun. Those in the government service and large corporations get a handsome promotion or perks. Your loved ones will be sincere and devoted Friends and well-wishers will stand by you. You will feel much more secure before your next birthday.

October 14

Venus sextile Pluto: This is the time to reach out to people and places. Those in sales, publicity, advertising, travel, trade, commerce, films and television will do well. Collaborations, contracts and matters pertaining to import and export are highlighted.

October 15

Moon sextile Mercury: You will succeed in your plans and ambitions. Progress and justifiable encouragement will come your way. Matters of the heart will gain prominence. Children and grandchildren will contribute to your happiness.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Expenses will mount but work will get done because Venus sextiles Pluto. Pluto also helps you in travel, collaborations, business deals, negotiations and settlements Your efforts will bear fruit towards the weekend Romance and creative pursuits will give immense satisfaction Family members and friends will support your actions wholeheartedly.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

You are now on a winning wicket Romance, partnerships, awards, rewards, name, fame, travel, leisure and intellectual pursuits are highlighted This is the right week to embark on any new ventures that you have in mind The health of elders may cause concern

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

You will be under tremendous pressure to perform well and deliver the goods Success is certain because moon sextile Saturn, your main planet Work with a will and be firm about your purpose Keep your objective clear You are bound to win respect and admiration even of your enemies this week Love is on the cards for the fancyfree

AQUARIUS

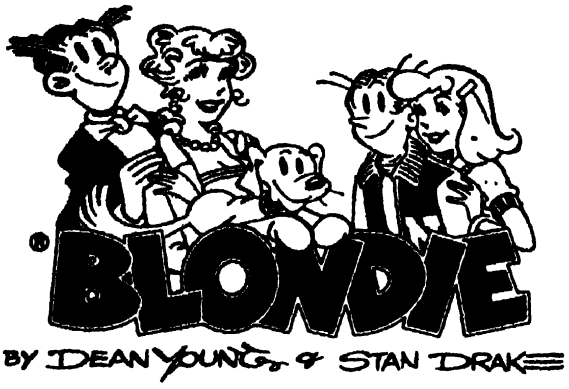
Jan 20 — Feb 19

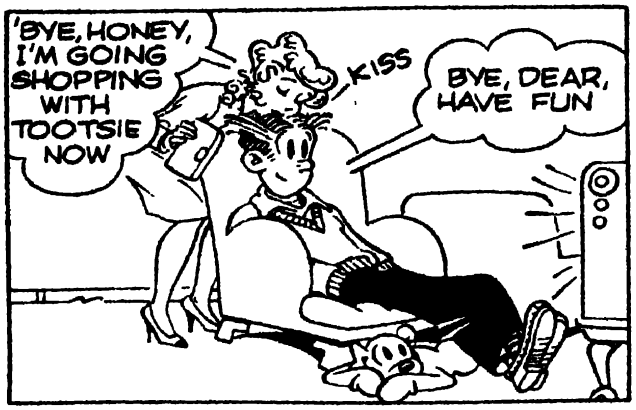
Both Mercury and Mars will affect you favourably and success and victory will be yours Whether an artist or a simple housewife, you will receive tremendous support in all that you do Travel, propositions, assignments and collaborations are destined. Put your best foot forward and grab all opportunities that come your way.

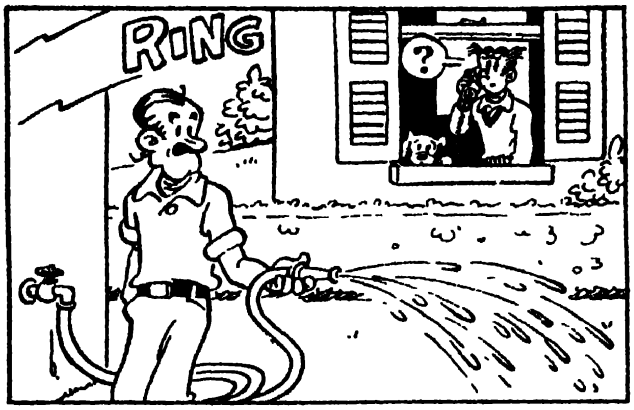
PISCES

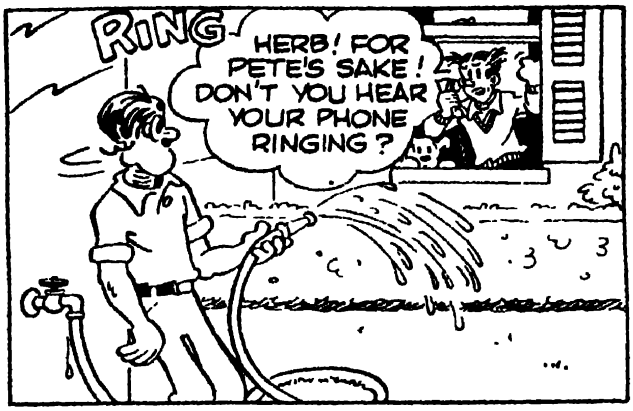
Feb 20—March 20

While health safeguards are still necessary, you will certainly succeed in your work Finances are once again emphasised Matters pertaining to loans, funds, mortgages, investments and buying and selling are highlighted. Yet, you will find the time to entertain and socialise A hectic week is foretold for most.



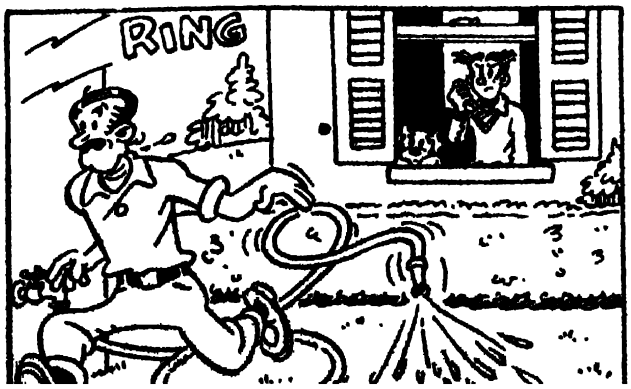








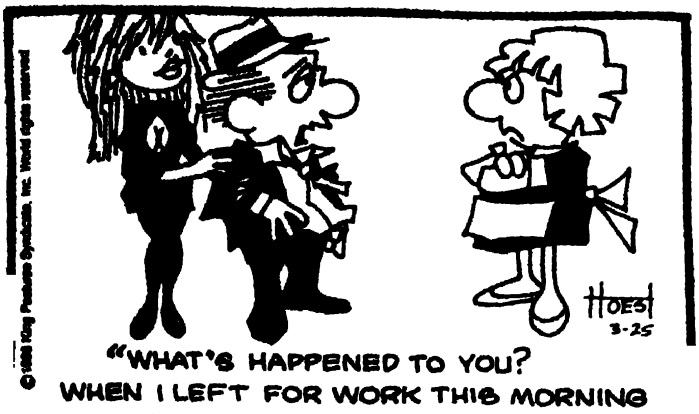




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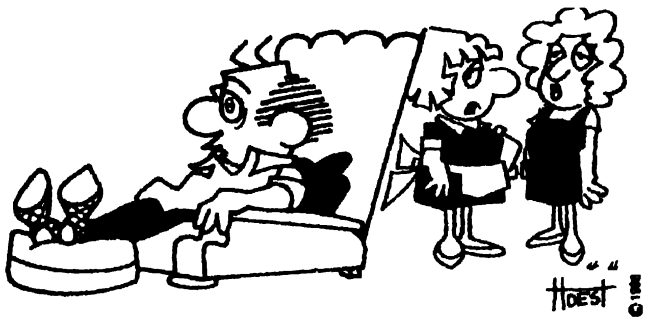

GWILDOR'S PLAN MEETS KING RANDOR
RANDOR'S SWIFT APPROVAL
DUNCAN AND GWILDOR -- PREPARE YOUR SHIP. ADAM WILL SEE THAT YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
C'MON, TEELA. I'LL NEVER EVEN FIND FATHER'S SHIPYARDS WITHOUT YOU!
YOU'RE JUST THE DISTRACTION HE-MAN NEEDS TO JOIN THIS MISSION.
OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER...
TOLD YA, THALIA! KING RANDOR LOVES MY ADVICE! WE'RE HEADING FOR MERRIAN AFTER ALL!
GWILDOR, I'M SO PROUD OF YOU! YOU'VE FALLEN FOR MY CHARMS -- RIGHT INTO MY PLAN OF CONQUEST!
THE SOUNDS OF FEVERISH WORK ECHO FROM MAN-AT-ARMS' LABORATORY..
MIRANDA. WHERE'S THAT SUB-DIGITAL MICROSPANNER?
DID YOU CHECK YOU WORKBENCH? THAT'S WHERE YOU USUALLY LOSE THINGS!
DUNCAN -- HELP ME! I NEED AN EXCUSE TO LEAVE!
THE SHIP'S ALL SET! BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO HEAD FOR MY WORKSHOP IN ETTLAIN TO PROVIDE "GROUND CONTROL"!
SHINE MY STARS! GWILDOR'S JUST INVENTED SOMETHING NEW "ALIBIS TO GO?
KING RANDOR THINKS HIS SON IS ON HIS WAY TO GWILDOR'S LAB BUT HE-MAN HAS OTHER PLANS.
PRINCE ADAM'S GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING TO ETTLAIN!
BUT HE-MAN'S NEXT STOP IS THE PLANET MERRIAN -- AND A REMATCH WITH THAT ROGUE, BLADE!
WHAT ABOUT A CREW? SOMEBODY'S GOT TO FLY THIS BUCKET OF BOLTS!
I CAN'T RISK HAVING MIRANDA JOIN US.. I COULDN'T STAND IT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HER!
LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN?



"WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WHEN I LEFT FOR WORK THIS MORNING YOU WERE VERY FRIENDLY."



"YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMEMBER LAST NIGHT... YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT IT IN COURT."



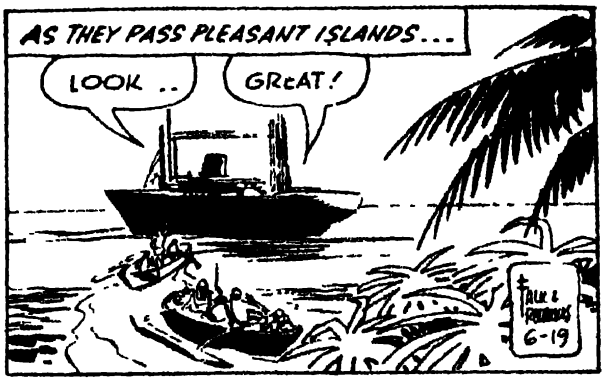
"I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM THE SET'S BROKEN."

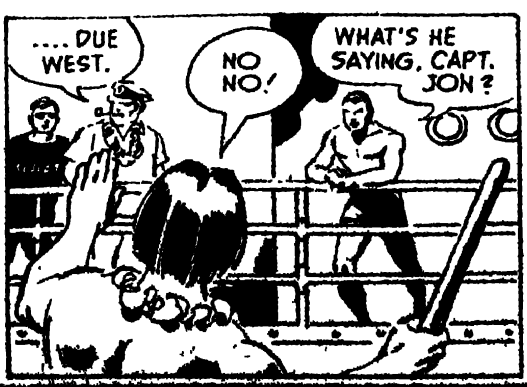


YOU HAVE HAPPY HOUR YOUR WAY AND I'LL HAVE HAPPY HOUR MY WAY."

STRANGE VOYAGE By Lee Falk



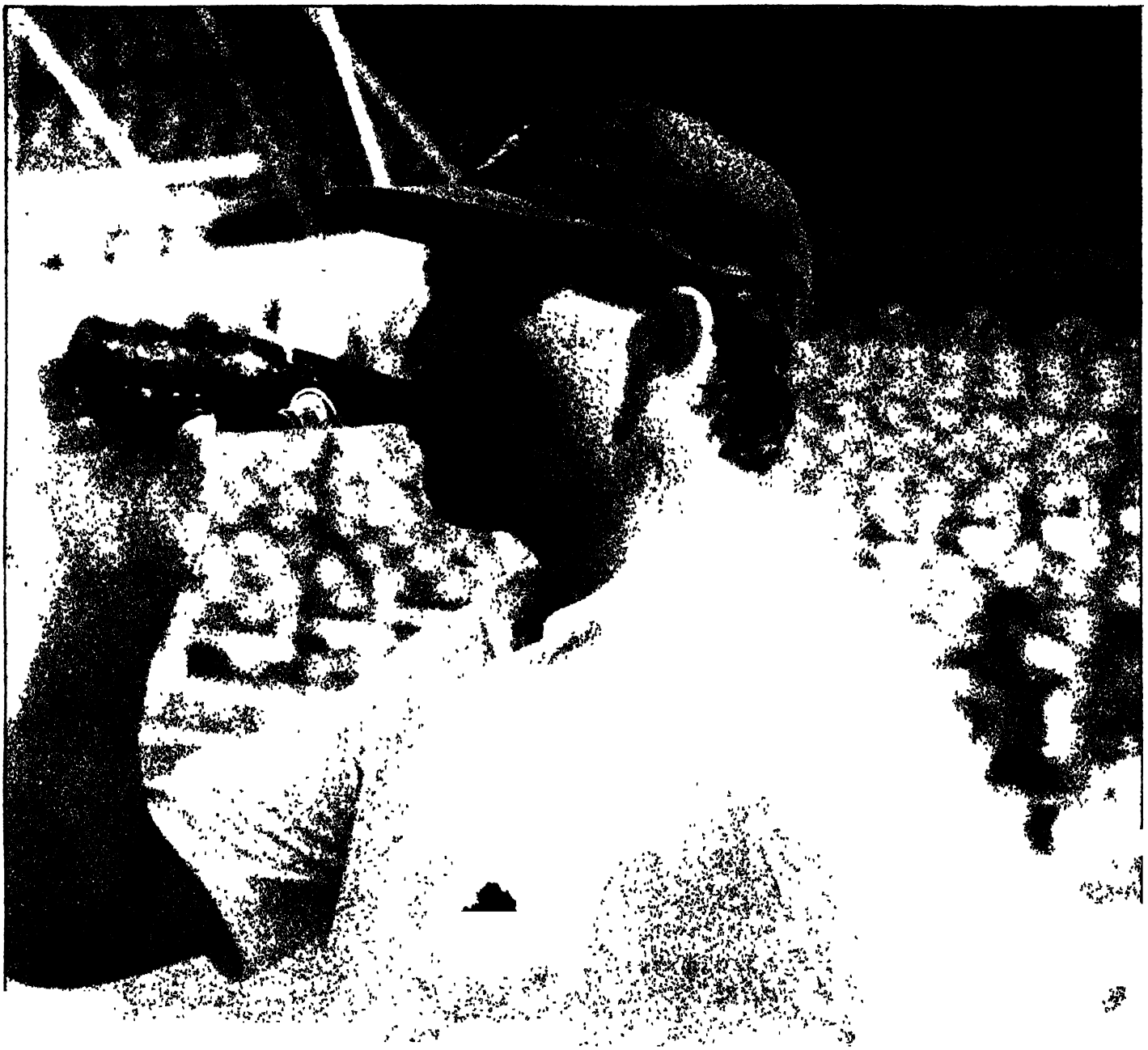







I WANT YOU TO REMAIN HERE, PEEP AND KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR THE ENEMY
YOU MEAN ON MY OWN?
R. BUT WHAT IF THEY ATTACK?
HOLD THEM OFF AS LONG AS YOU CAN
RIGHTO, SIR! DON'T YOU WORRY! THEY WON'T GET PAST ME IN A HURRY!
NO, SIR!
I'LL SAY "I SURRENDER" VERY SLOWLY
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY!
BEAU PEEP— THE MAN WHO GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE HIS COMRADES!
HOLDING OFF THE HORDES LONG ENOUGH FOR MY FRIENDS TO ESCAPE! CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER THAN THAT!
I CAN
WHY DO THEY ALWAYS PICK ON ME FOR JOBS LIKE THIS?
"IF THE ENEMY ATTACKS, PEEP, FIX BAYONETS AND HOLD THEM AS LONG AS YOU CAN"
I WISH I COULD REMEMBER WHAT A BAYONET IS
WHAT IF THEY ATTACK ME WHEN I'M ON MY OWN?
DO I SAVE THE LAST BULLET FOR MYSELF?
HERE, THAT'S A POINT
I WONDER HOW YOU LOAD THIS?
GAWD THEY'RE COMING!
DON'T PANIC, SON WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES
RIGHT, I CAN SEE THEM!
NO POINT RUSHING THESE THINGS!


YOUR DOCTOR MAY HAVE PRESCRIBED THAT YOU TAKE UP A HOBBY, SIR!
Rx
BUT IT'S STILL NOT PAID FOR BY YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE!
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY, DEAR?
HE SAID MY BLOOD PRESSURE WAS UP A BIT!
HE SAID I NEEDED RELIEF FROM THE STRESS OF WORRYING ABOUT PAYING BILLS!
HE SUGGESTED A HOBBY, SO I PICKED UP THIS KIT AT THE HOBBY SHOP!
HOW NICE!
THAT SHOULD HELP YOU FORGET YOUR PROBLEMS!
YES--IT'S A WHOLE CITY BLOCK!
CITYSCAPE BUILDING KIT
4-3
LOOK, IT'S GOT A POST OFFICE AND A BUTCHER SHOP...
...AND A BANK AND A PAWNSHOP AND A TAX-PREPARER'S OFFICE AND THE GAS COMPANY!



When it comes to recognising the colour of money, you've got to hand it to **Graham Gooch** from the land of the stiff upper lip. When he played in racist South Africa, he may have done it only to quench his thirst for the lolly. But instead of being left out in the cold for his unprincipled deed, he found himself the captain of the English team to tour India. India, however, isn't ready to play cricket, dirty cricket with Gooch and Co. yet.
Photograph by SANTIMOY SANYAL

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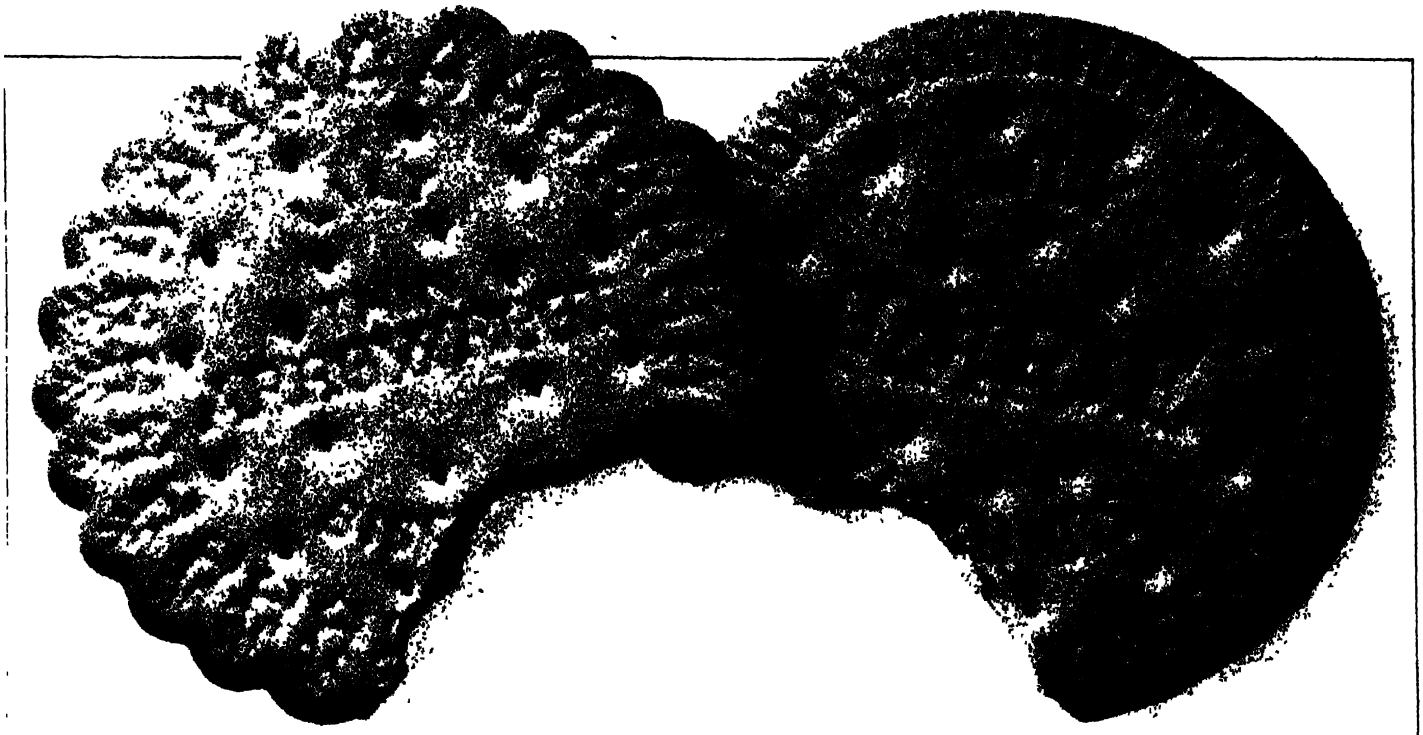
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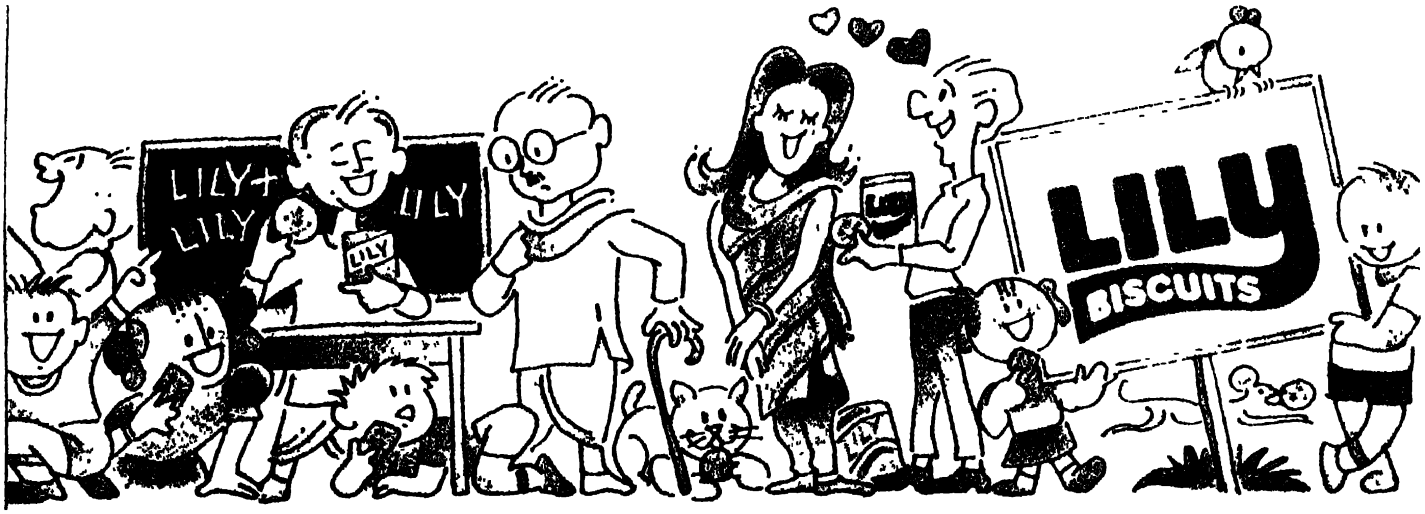
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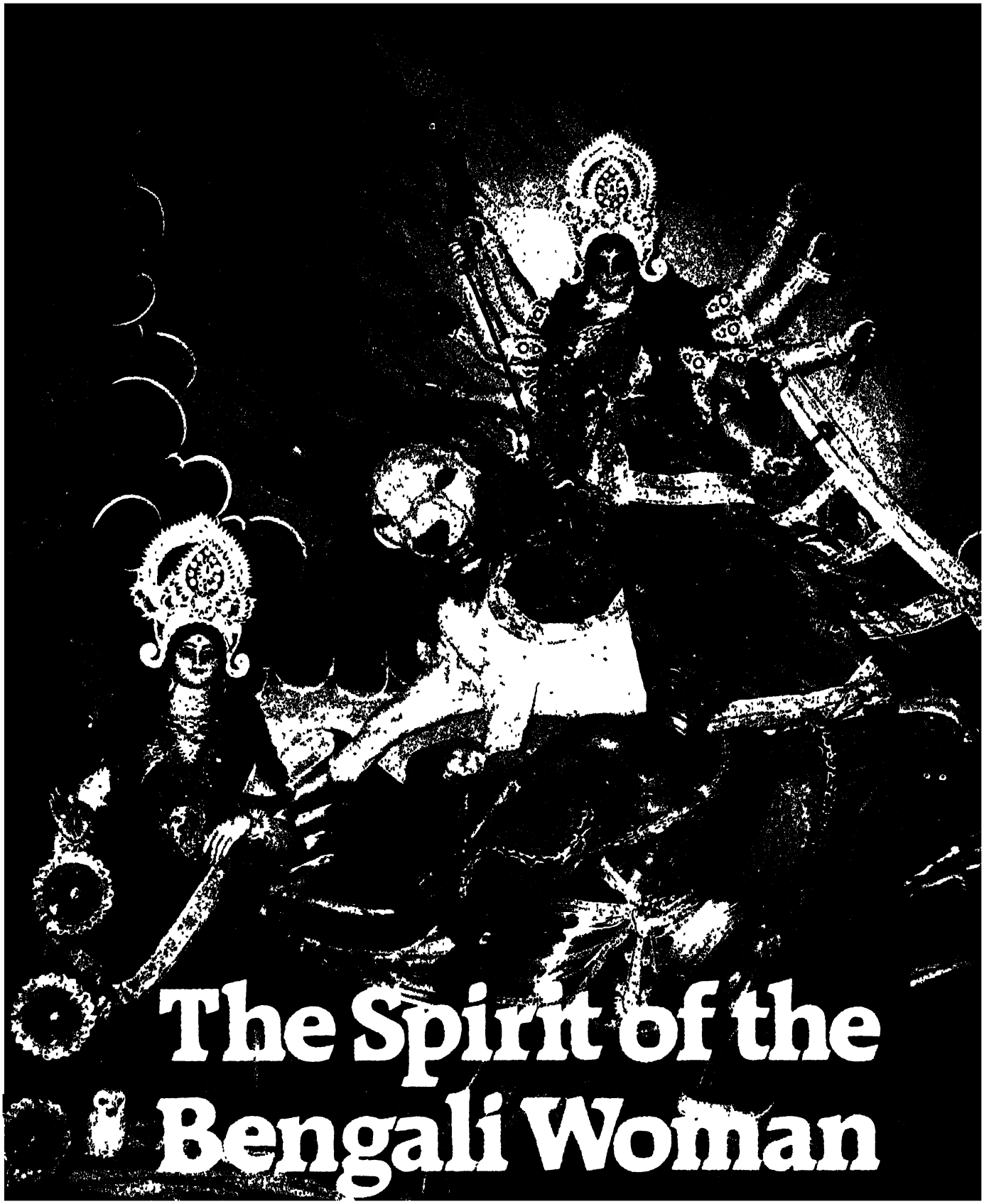
Bengali women artists have won considerable acclaim in their art

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Cover Vivek Das and Sandip Bhattacharya, model Dipanwita Bhattacharya

Debabrata Banerjee



The Spirit of the Bengali Woman

By MAMATA SHANKAR

The ignition keys are on again To set ablaze the woman in us To bring Durga alive...

That's what the Pujas mean to me It's all very straight and simple really. Durga's no grand illusion. She's just the ordinary woman, the you and me, mythologised larger than life. She comes and goes, but there's more to those five days than revelry and new clothes It's a getting back of our woman power. I for one get a supreme sense of strength when I stand before her—Durga, fiery in a flowing red sari, face streaked with vermillion, her eyes aglow with love and fury, with tenderness at the corners, a terrific chemistry of power and gentleness I start rearranging my person, my thoughts, my self I say "hello" to the Durga in me For no one else gives feminism this human a face.

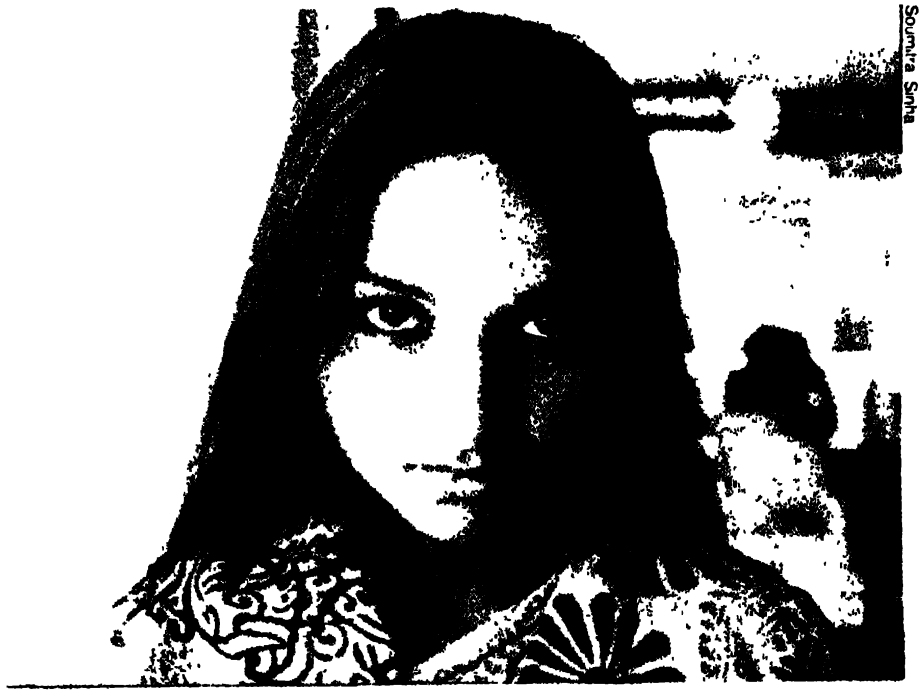
And I'm not alone in this experience of exhilaration. All other Bengali women, I'm sure, feel the same The effect is almost therapeutic, like having a recuperative tonic and feeling your strength come back. The strength that we'd almost stopped believing in, living as we are in a world that's one, big, monstrously oversized male ego I have an uneasy feeling I'm sounding like one of those burn-the-bra libbers and their peurile inanities I'm not canvassing for women's rights, just reasserting the power of those of my breed

They call me 'Rajani' at home after television's do-gooder My husband fears if I ever lay my hands on a Colt 38 there will be no one left alive in this world. Because injustice leaves me all hot in the head and weak in the legs Yet I can turn visibly ashen over an innocuous little bruise that one of my little students might have got. That's where I identify with Durga—the destroyer on the one hand and the loving mother on the other, surrounded by her large brood.

If Durga with her ten hands is *dashabhuja*, so is the woman next door whether she is a beleaguered career woman or the harried housewife. I remember what my father-in-law had once said. He'd drawn up a tidy picture of the archetypal *dashabhuja*, a common village woman sitting before the fire, stirring jaggery in a large cauldron with one hand and nursing her baby with the other. She dare not be inattentive or the jaggery will get sticky and the child might choke over the milk. In between stirring the *gur* she's even pounding wheat where a little negligence might smash her palm. And there's more. Her neighbour is sitting close by giving her the choicest bits of village gossip. She'd better have her mental faculties alert or she might miss out on some. This unknown village housewife, I feel, is a more real Durga, a *dashabhuja* in flesh and blood. I find something definitely Promethean in the struggle of the ordinary woman—a noble victim in a hopeless war. She knows she's never going to get a thump on the back, yet how she goes on! From bed teas, lunch boxes, packing her husband to office, crash courses, the *dhobi*, thirteen times tables, sewing up the loose shirt button, to the alarm for next morning There is certainly a lot more to strength than bulging biceps

I'm filled with a growing feeling of angst when I think of the millions who do not assert themselves when they should, who let their woman power rust beyond repair We're still perched on a twanging ladder of instability and it needs at least two or three more generations before the diffidence will peel away and every woman will be aware of the power she holds within her Durga has to keep coming before we recognise her as real

I'm waiting for the day when we'll reach the edge of the springboard, of really just exploding into a renaissance I try to give in my little bit, even if it doesn't really add up to the larger equation of things When I do a film role I try to take up one that I sincerely believe in Of course I'm in no way trying to imply that I'm spearheading a renaissance, if renaissances can be spearheaded I'm just playing my bit to the best of my ability



Soumitra Sinha

We're still perched on a twanging ladder of instability and it needs at least two or more generations before the diffidence will peel away and evey woman will be aware of the power she holds within her

Dooratwa's Anjali for instance had a strength of character that the hero lacked I played the role of a young woman, spurned by her lover when they discover she is pregnant But she will not destroy the only symbol of her love, the love that she believed in Even if she has to lie and marry somebody she does not care about In *Dakhal* I portrayed a similar strength of character in the poor widow who will not part with her dead husband's plot of land It's a touching struggle for existence of a lone woman fighting against the zamindar who has his eyes on the land In the end he tortures her, sets fire to her house but the woman does not give in Even *Ek Din Pratidin* The girl is firm about her values and never says where she was It needs immense strength of character to act the way she does

The role in *Grihajuddha* is very close to my heart Like the girl in the film I don't care for institutionalised politics It is politicians like we have that make people

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mock—at real politics. I believe in real values, in gut instinct, in right and wrong The girl in the film too says she does not understand the grammar of politics but she certainly does understand that her fiance's values are not the same as they were before. She at least does not escape from bitter reality. She will not compromise, even though marriage means a bright new life ahead. Of course there have also been films like *Bapika Bidav* and *Kalankini*, in my repertoire, but I prefer to disown them. They are like the warts on the skin that people spend a lifetime trying to hide

I've struck a bargain with my God, to give me only what I deserve, good or bad, nothing more, nothing less It makes me involuntarily stop short before doing anything that I should not be doing I immediately think of the repercussions Because to be the perfect woman I feel one has to first be an excellent human being

By the way, did I say I was trying to analyse the essence of the Bengali woman? How utterly stupid of me, because the distilled essence of every woman is the same I was once at a consulate dinner where I remember having remarked on this point It was one of those extremely cosmopolitan gatherings—Chinese, West Asians, Americans and the like—where conversation becomes rather tricky But as the evening rolled by I realised that we women were getting along like a house on fire exchanging recipes, talking about our children and remarking on our clothes. It made me realise more than ever before that womanhood is a state of being that defies all ethnic labels

All the same I cannot somehow help feeling that Durga is Bengali Maybe because she dresses like one It's silly I know, yet . The Durga we see in the pandals is moulded on no one but us - she brings to life the spirit of the Bengali woman. Seeing her is like looking into a mirror We see our own demureness, our softness and our own strength I think the Goddess is in perfect sync with the times In an age of the conveyor belt where individuality can be wiped away by the back of one's palm, it is the strength of a Durga that can make us stand up straight.

And on every Durga Puja I start fervently hoping this will be the time that Bengali women learn to identify the Durga in them, that they learn to anchor the Goddess in real life. However, it never seems to come But I never stop hoping That this will be the final dress rehearsal

And how I love to watch the anaesthetic wear off men That sweet, smug, male feeling that the world was made for him. This at least is one time in the year when his chauvinism is thrown off-gear. When he looks into those fiery eyes of Durga, with the beat of the 'dhak' pounding within him...■

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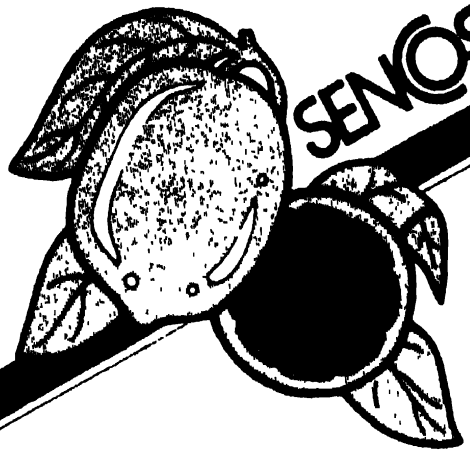
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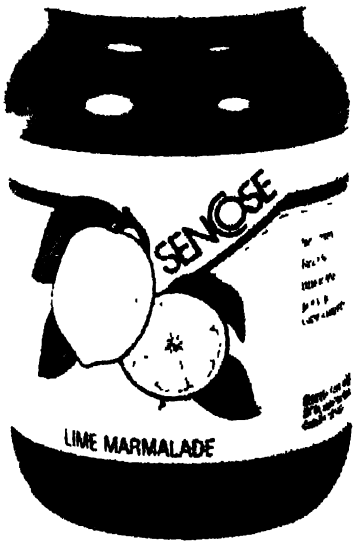


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The Terrific Ten

Sunil Gangopadhyay talks about his favourite women

It is not an easy task to pick ten Bengali women who made their mark in the vast span of years covering the past and the present. So many living faces come to mind. Of course, I would not like to reveal the women most dear to me in my personal life!

Searching through the annals of history, however, one finds an apparent absence of women luminaries in Bengal. This, keeping in mind that a comprehensive history of the Bengalis is yet to be written. Moreover, till the middle of the last century, the Bengali society was severely male-dominated. Women, both Hindu and Muslim, had to spend their entire lives as captive at home. The death of an influential man heralded widowhood for a hundred women. Innumerable young widows were burnt on the funeral pyres of their husbands. No women dared to rise against such injustice. None of them received any education. There were a few exceptions like Rani Durgabati or poetess Chandrabati who marched shoulder to shoulder with the men. Unfortunately, we are only sketchily acquainted with them.

Delving into the near-past and present, I have come up with the following 10 women whom I cherish and respect.

Rani Rashmoni: She was no real queen. She was the exceptionally beautiful daughter of a poverty-stricken father who was a peasant from Nadia. One day, while frolicking with her friends in the Ganga, Rashmoni was spied upon by a young man who was enjoying a river cruise. The full blooded youth was instantly captivated by the comely 11 year old maiden. As in a fairy tale, the poor girl found herself tying [illegible] Chandra, son of Preetu [illegible] the wealthiest [illegible]. The couple did not [illegible] just the [illegible].

[illegible] Rashmoni began her [illegible] advised her husband [illegible] matters. In 1836, Rashmoni became a widow. As was usual in those days, there was a mad scramble among the relatives to grab the widow's property. But Rashmoni took up the reins in her own strong hands. Not only that, she succeeded in furthering her fortunes manifold.

It was the age of the East India Company. And Rashmoni dared to brave the English on several issues. Two specific instances stand out. Once, during Durga Puja at her residence, the foreigners complained of excessive noise and drumbeats. In reply, Rani fenced off her entire territory and banned the foreigners from entering it. This area is now familiar as the Chowringhee Dharmatollah region! On another occasion, the Company had issued restrictions among the poor fishermen of the Ganga. Rashmoni, after spending a huge sum, secured a portion of the river on lease and gave the fishermen a free hand there. She, however, showed the red signal to all Company ships trespassing on her territory. In both these events, the English eventually had to beg Rani's forgiveness.



Tarapada Banerjee

Ashapurna Devi: Charm personified

At that time a wave of Christianity swept the land and it became a fashion among the so called elite to heap abuses on Hinduism. To revive this ancient religion Rashmoni built a massive temple by the side of the Ganga. But, as she did not belong to the higher [illegible] castes, no Brahmin was willing to become [illegible] the priest in her temple. Such [illegible] denigrating state of Hinduism! [illegible] Ramkumar sent [illegible] of Kali, a [illegible] brothers [illegible]. He [illegible] agreed to fill the post [illegible] younger brother was Gadhar Chattopadhyay. This Gadadhar from the Dakshineswar temple later achieved worldwide fame as Sri Ramakrishna.

It was her countrymen who honoured Rashmoni with the title of 'Rani'.

Kadambari Devi: This was the lady who inspired two great poets at the same time. She, too, hailed from an ordinary background and married into the culturally renowned and affluent Tagore family. Her husband, Jyotirindranath, was a scholar and talented artiste, a successful playwright, a noted music composer and an acknowledged translator with excellent command over Sanskrit and French. He had gained the friendship of Biharilal Chakraborty, a highly acclaimed poet of that era. In Kadambari's elegantly decorated verandah, at the Jorasanko residence of the Tagores, there took place regular literary sessions where Jyotirindranath's many friends participated. A corner at the gathering was always occupied by the shy Rabindranath, Kadambari's youngest and favourite brother-in-law.

Biharilal dedicated his collection of



Kanan Devi, Queen Bee of the screen, and ri

verses, *Sharder Ushar*, to Kadambari Devi. Rabindranath had acknowledged Biharilal as his mentor. But perhaps the real motivation came from a tinge of envy seeing how his sister-in-law was drawn towards Biharilal. Kadambari even playfully instigated her brother-in-law by asking whether he would ever succeed in writing poems like Biharilal. It was she who kindled the spark in the young poet who eventually left his mentor far behind.

Within a few months of Rabindranath's marriage, Kadambari Devi committed suicide. Of course, the violent death might

also have been the result of Jyotirindranath's growing indifference towards his wife. Often, he stayed out at night.

Those who die young never age To posterity, Kadambari Devi remains an exquisitely beautiful woman in the full bloom of her youth

The debate still continues on the degree of intimacy between Rabindranath and Kadambari Undoubtedly, she was the main inspiration behind many of Rabindranath's works that received universal acclaim Even towards the end of his life, the poet did not forget his sister-in-law He dedicated at least seven of his books to her under various significant names And in one of these, the poet has compared her to Hecate, the goddess of magic in Greek mythology.

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat: At the time when Muslim women were forced to hide their faces in *burqas*, Begum Rokeya dreamt of female emancipation She not only dreamt, but made her dream come true to a considerable extent.



Nirmal Chakravarty

ight) Suchitra Mitra, Melody Queen

Rokeya was born in a conservative family at a village in Rangpur district She grew up amidst a rigid *purdah* system and under the shadow of illiteracy Yet she was determined enough to teach herself English and Bengali As usual with the times, she was married off at the early age of 16 to Sakhawat Hussain. The bride accompanied her husband to Bihar. Sakhawat Hussain was liberal minded and arranged for his wife's education, and encouraged her to write stories and essays

But even though she was treated well by her own husband, Begum Sakhawat could not but be appalled by the general condition of women cowering under cruel male domination This took expression in many of her writings. During her stay in Bhagalpur, she produced a novel in English, *Sultana's Dream* It was something of a satire. According to the story, a Sultana once dreams that female supremacy has been established in the world Women rule the land and society The earth enjoys continuing peace and happiness, there is no war or sickness, even mosquitoes refrain from biting. The male sex is in chains—so there is no hint of theft, dacoity or murder

Rokeya's deputy magistrate husband read through the manuscript and said with a laugh, "A terrible revenge!" For any corrections in English, he sent the write-up to Commissioner McPherson Without adding even a scratch, the commissioner returned the copy and commented, "The ideas expressed in it are quite delightful and full of originality and they are written in perfect English "

However, Rokeya's wedded life lasted for just 10 years After that, she concentrated on literary compositions and social service With the purpose of educating Muslim girls, she opened a school in Bhagalpur But in the face of strong opposition from orthodox Muslims, the project crumbled That, however, did not deter Rokeya from giving rise to the Sakhawat Memorial School in Calcutta The school still runs in all its glory Rokeya spent the rest of her life in various other social work

Preetilata Waddadar: Among the female population in modern-day India, women from Bengal have taken the lead in two counts It is they who have first secured a University degree as well as first taken part in the armed struggle for Independence The first two female graduates in India hail from Bengal In the thirties both literate and illiterate Bengali women played an active role in the Freedom Movement A shining example was Preetilata

Preetilata belonged to Chittagong, now in Bangladesh She was a brilliant student securing first place in the IA examinations under the Dhaka board and graduating with distinction from Calcutta University From an early age, she maintained contact with the revolutionaries

She greatly assisted Surya Sen, leader of the Chittagong armoury raid, when he went into hiding. Once when Surya Sen was discussing future strategies with Preetilata and his other comrades, military forces surrounded the village residence Heavy firing ensued from both sides, the revolutionaries succeeded in killing Captain Cameron, while Surya Sen and Preetilata made their escape

Despite a reward being announced for her capture the daring Preetilata with some of her comrades, all well-armed, carried out an attack on an European club The main aim was to put a scare among the foreigners After several rounds of firing when her colleagues retreated to safety, Preetilata stayed back only to embrace death by swallowing potassium cyanide The reason for her suicide is still a mystery But Preetilata was a flaming inspiration for many generations of women who followed her

Aparna Sen: Ms Versatile



Vivek Das

Kanan Devi: Breaking off from history, I now turn to women who, fortunately for us, still live

Just a few days earlier, I saw Kanan Devi delivering a lecture How wonderfully articulate her speech was, garnished with touches of wit It was the same Kanan Devi who suddenly came into the film world at 12 or 13 with hardly any education or background to speak of Later she took lessons in dancing, singing and spoken English Those days she was known as Kananbala "Self made man' is an oft-heard term, Kanan Devi is a self-made lady' For several decades Kanan Devi was the prima donna of Bengali films and a successful actress on the Hindi screen as well Her songs were a rage among the public Encroaching age did not find her clinging on to the silver screen, she retired gracefully and with full honours

I remember, during the fifties I chanced upon one of those travelling movie shows being held on a village ground The film did not star Kanan Devi the new heroine was Suchitra Sen As Suchitra made her appearance on screen, a few among the crowd cried out "Kanan bala! Kananbala!"

There was a time when every competent actress was mistaken by the movie going masses as Kanan Devi!

Ashapurna Devi: Ashapurna has been awarded the Jnanpith award She is famed throughout India as one of our top writers Yet, Ashapurna had never attended school, she did not even have the freedom to walk alone on the roads As a child she used to listen with rapt attention to her



Durba Banerjee: Pioneer pilot

brothers when they prepared their lessons In this way the little girl mastered the alphabet and learnt to read, graduating to *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* and later, to the works of Tagore All through her own efforts

Married at an early age, she became a mother and then, a grandmother A complete housewife, caring and affectionate, performing her household chores to perfection But even in the midst of her manifold duties, she managed the time to write. Although Ashapurna did not receive any recognition in the beginning, with her talent she secured her own niche in Bengali literature and ultimately established herself among the premier Indian authors. For one who spent her entire life within the four walls, Ashapurna's knowledge about the world outside is really astounding. Extraordinary is her power of observation! Even now, in her eighties, Ashapurna has a totally modern outlook

Her works have been translated into almost all Indian languages, a number of her books have been turned into films in Bombay and Madras, the waves of popularity have deluged her—but Ashapurna remains one of the most amiable persons I have ever come across. She is affection and charm personified Nothing like a visit to Ashapurna to wipe off your blues

Durba Banerjee: In our country even now many people stare at a girl cycling A woman at the wheels evokes rude remarks from the male taxi drivers. Yet, it is no longer novel to find women flying a plane. But when Durba Banerjee wanted to take up flying as her career, she was a pioneer in her field. No Bengali girl before her had ever dreamt such an 'outrageous' dream.

Durba Banerjee now flies an Airbus. No other woman pilot in the world has been given charge of an Airbus in commercial flights. Getting to be the first is not the greatest thing on earth, but the way Durba has proved that no profession can be the monopoly of men is really great

I am not personally acquainted with Durba Banerjee, but I have heard she commands an attractive personality

Suchitra Mitra: I enjoy listening to Kanika Bandopadhyay or Feroza Begum, but when it comes to Suchitra Mitra I find her something more than just a talented singer Probably she is now on the threshold of 60, but even today she embodies youth Her personality is as dazzling and sharp as a Persian knife When she is engrossed in her singing, Suchitra Mitra can bring melody to the hearts of people who, like me, are totally bereft of any musical aptitude But she can readily participate in our everyday chit-chat sessions, our gossip and laughter In



Begum Hasina: Silk and steel

my youth, I have seen her singing at public functions, both indoors and outdoors, without any background instruments or with just a mike in her hands Unlike other singers, Suchitra Mitra never sings with the song book open before her

There is a classical flavour to her singing Probably she would have been equally proficient in Khayal or Thumri, but she opted for Rabindrasangeet and has stuck to it all her life. Among the singers of Rabindrasangeet only Suchitra Mitra is invited to attend classical music recitals

Apart from her singing, she can draw well, write rhymes, act and recite. Even though she had to go through a lot of trouble in her personal life, there is not a trace of suffering on her face In fact, her songs help us in forgetting our own sorrows and miseries.

Begum Hasina: She is the daughter of Sheikh Mujib and the leader of the main Opposition group in Bangladesh Even now that suffices as her introduction. She is yet to achieve anything spectacular But this lady has crossed over many a barrier of sorrow, of danger. During the Bangladesh war, she was kept under house arrest by the military forces Death was a constant threat But with tremendous strength of mind she overcame the obstacles and is at present trying her best to bring back healthy politics in Bangladesh

While talking to her, it seemed to me that she possessed some extraordinary qualities Outwardly she is extremely easygoing and her smile reflects a sweet innocence In between, her eyes glint as if expressing a vow of steel Unlike other political leaders there is an apparent lack of complexity in her words, but she is well aware of the general state of her countrymen I feel, in the near future this lady will play a major role in the life of Bengalis I am more interested in a hopeful future than in images of the past

Aparna Sen: We first saw Aparna as the mischievous young girl in Satyajit Ray's *Teen Kanya* She was Aparna Dasgupta then It was being heard that she was a born actress.

As Aparna began to grow up, dark clouds began to gather over the Bengali film industry Very few Bengali films could really exploit Aparna's talent Aparna would certainly have ranked equal with Shabana Azmi or Smita Patil if she had moved over to Bombay But steadfastly, she remained loyal to Bengal She gradually got entangled in meaningless films of inferior quality and perhaps she would have faded away in this way, but Aparna's talent is strongly backed by high spirits and self-respect

Seeing that Calcutta is unable to produce better films, Aparna herself took up the challenge. Her *36 Chowringhee Lane* and *Paroma* displayed novelty and grit. Not only is she a successful director, she writes her own stories and scripts Leave alone Bengal, such woman filmmakers are a rarity in the world Aparna also proved her histrionic talents on the stage. Then she made her appearance as a magazine editor.

In such a situation celebrities are usually worth their names But Aparna, as the editor of *Sananda*, is another matter. We know that she not only plans out each issue, she has her say in matters of layouts and has mastered the workings of the press She can translate poems in English, recite wonderfully —in short, she is very versatile.

Looking at her face, one can still catch a glimpse of the young girl of *Teen Kanya*. Her joy of life is admirable. I think, Aparna still has a number of surprises up her sleeve.■



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THE GIFT

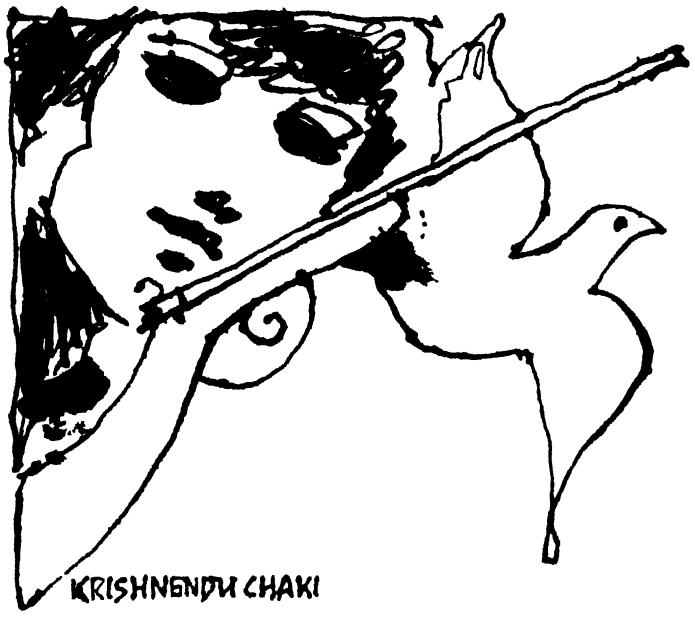
By Pratik Chowdhury

It was a cold misty December morning. The sun had not yet made its grand appearance. The collective will of awakened life was pushing the blanket of darkness away Slowly, gradually As though to welcome the sun The stir of activity was everywhere In the retreating dark In the drops of dew that plopped down from the moist limbs of the hibernating trees In the little bird, that hopped out of its nest! The bird breasted the pre-dawn chill with a flutter of its wings This was the beginning of its usual ritual The routine but essential ceremony of catching the early sun This would warm and energise its tiny body And then, the cycle of day would begin So would life And death

The bird left the branch for its favourite perch It would take a few minutes of flight to reach The bird flew steadily toward its destination It was a high-pole supporting electric cables Soon, the pole loomed out of the darkness, a grotesque cross, bearing death on its arms The bird landed atop this structure in a smooth glide and waited for the sun. A few minutes separated the melting dark from the warm rays

The little boy was beside himself with joy. The source of his joy was the object in his hands A gift from his parents A gift to celebrate this special day He had discovered it a few minutes ago beside his bed The excitement of discovery was the reason behind his pre-dawn outdoor presence There was a burning desire to try this object It was a sleek, well-oiled 0 22 airrifle. The size was just right for him A little heavy for his small arms perhaps, but that was secondary The barrel was smooth and rifled Just long enough to propel a small pellet across 25 yards The butt nestled perfectly on his shoulder. The trigger had a soft release The pumping lever was hard and stubborn Here he faced a problem The action of breaking and pumping the gun exerted him He attributed the difficulty to the morning chill. A little practice and use would loosen the lever The boy loaded the gun with his cold, determined hands and whispered into the chilly fog, "Here I come. "

The bird on the high pole was puzzled The strange activities of the two-legged creature below had confused it Its tiny brain was unable to comprehend the strange behaviour of the intruder. No one ever understands this two-legged creature, thought the bird They are so strange, unpredictable, arrogant, thoughtless and cruel The creature below



was moving slowly and cautiously As if in fear He seemed to appear and disappear behind bushes But certainly advancing Toward the bird How foolish! Why does not the creature approach openly? What is the use of trying to hide when your movements can be precisely observed from a higher position Don't they know anything about a bird's vision? Yes! Strange, foolish and definitely unpredictable. That is how these two-legged ones should be assessed.

Now look at him below! At last he has managed to come close And for what? To point the shining, black object upward How silly! The object was now pointed in the bird's direction. What will the creature do next? What new illogical action will follow? The curious bird decided to wait and find out Something whizzed past its head An insect a fly? So early Impossible! But how did the buzzing thing elude detection. It must be the intruder below His presence must have diverted and dulled its senses Something is wrong here The instinct to escape was strong But why does not it fly? In a trance, the bird saw the creature below struggling with the long, black thing It was this object which fascinated the bird more than the intruder The object was again pointed in its direction .

The little boy finally reloaded the gun. He carefully aligned the barrel on the white breast of the bird above This time there would be no mistake. Tenderly he steadied the gun The white breast gleamed within sight. He concentrated on a spot in the snowy white region and gently released the trigger. .

The bird, transfixed again by another illogical action, *heard the buzz again. Then the sound entered it with an impact. Thudding into its breast.* A numb shock paralysed its movement. There was only the sound The buzzing sound. Reverberating...spreading-...throughout its breast. In concentric circles, wave after wave the sound echoed and spread .yes...spread...spread out the wings ..open them...The wings .so heavy-.. so clumsy! So clumsy ..to fall. like a dead leaf An autumn leaf Foot loose chasing the wind riding the wind. The wind on the breast . feels so good in flight. The breast, wrenched in pain. .red like the morning sun . bright like the flaming sky...the sky...now cold and dark Darkness everywhere fly fly glide glide into the dark Into sleep calm and peace!

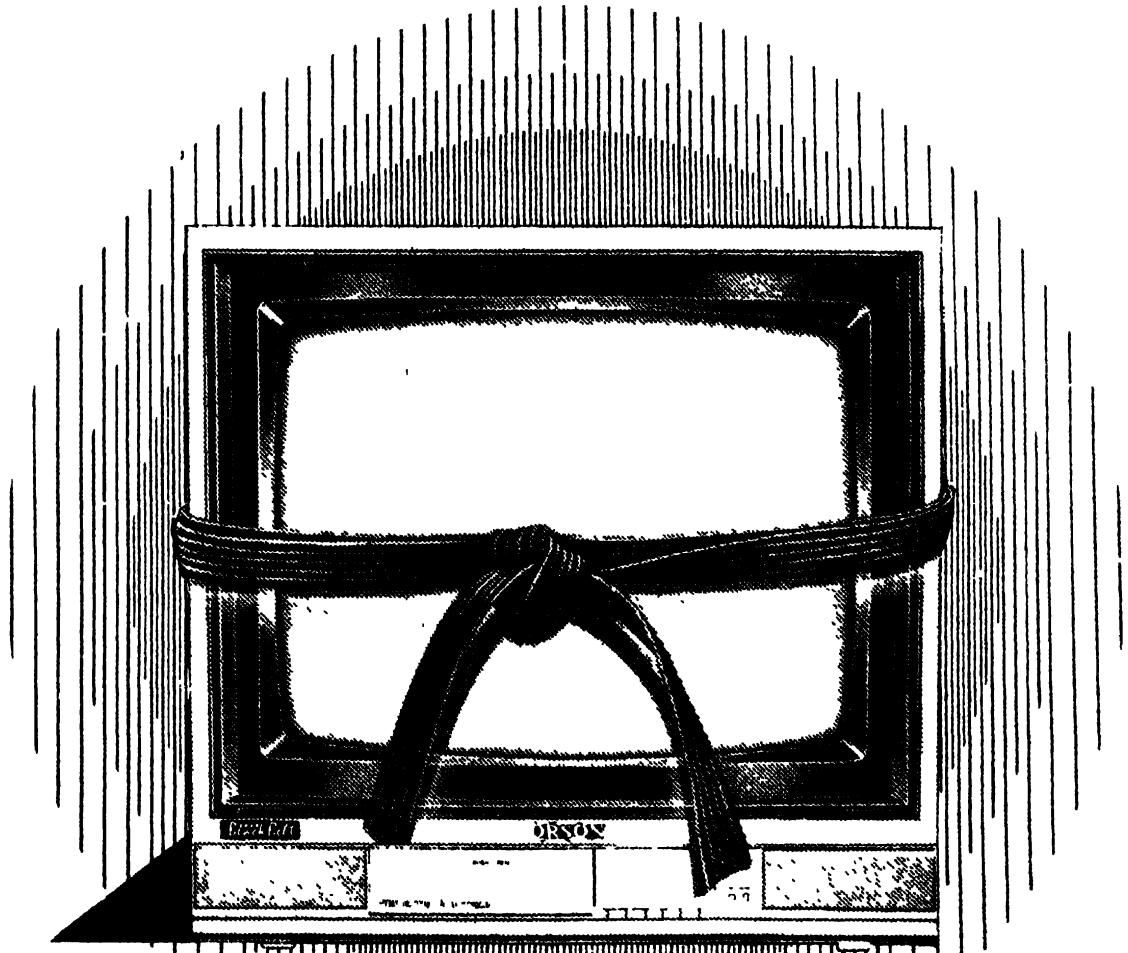
The bird, a white breasted dove, in a white flutter of confused wings and feather, cartwheeled down in a slow, lazy drop The little boy rushed out of his hiding, overcome by the joy of the kill He had made his first kill. He picked up the broken dove and examined the wound The pellet had pierced the heart The oozing blood was slowly clotting into a dark matt Blood, dark red blood! He felt the quick rush of his own blood pulsating in his veins, filling his heart, vitalising his being with a heady sensation. Surging with pride, he held the dead bird by its broken wings displaying it against the morning sun An ominous gesture declaring his emancipation from childhood A severing of his ties with innocence A positive step toward manhood.

His baptism over, by fire and blood, he picked the gun and walked home. The sun had painted the sky red with the dove's blood. There was a tinge of sadness in the morning air A carpet of silence had soaked the warmth away. The boy walked home, oblivious of the cold and the silence, his thoughts elsewhere. He would surprise his parents. His kill would be his gift to them. His Christmas gift.

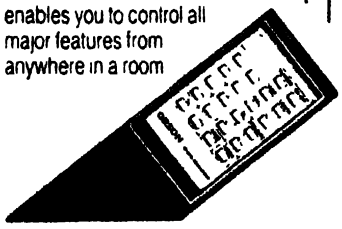
It was a cold December Christmas morning...■

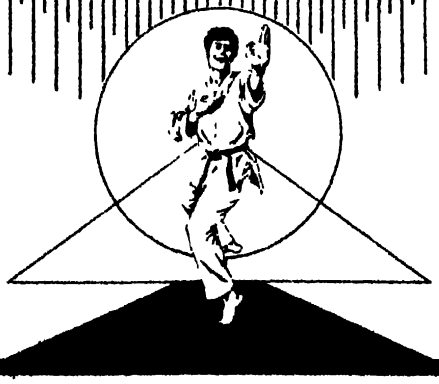
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PUJA SPECIAL

The Image Maker

A profile of Ramesh Chandra Paul, Bengal's best-known clay modeller and a sculptor of repute

Ramesh Chandra Paul's studio looks like a part of Hans Christian Andersen's delightful world. The entrance to the sanctorum, located on Raja Naba Krishna Street in north Calcutta, is guarded by a bronze "Unemployed Youth" while his office is lined by beautiful oils Life-like busts of great personalities like Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Surya Sen, and bronze statues of B C Roy, Jayprakash Narayan and Indra Gandhi seem to recount the days gone by One gets the awesome feeling of having walked into a tableau depicting the freedom struggle Says Paul, 62, "All these statues have been installed in the maidan area He adds, "The state government plans to install Jayprakash Narayan's statue somewhere in Calcutta soon "

An acclaimed clay image maker, Ramesh Chandra Paul is a renowned sculpture as well He has more than a dozen bronze statues and 500 busts to his credit Explaining his style of working, Pal says, "During the three months preceding Durga Puja I concentrate on image making while I devote the rest of the year to sculptures."



Tirtha Das

Ramesh Chandra Paul

Frank and outspoken to the point of being disconcerting, Paul says angrily, "Neither the state nor the Centre has given me a hint of recognition despite my dedication to the field of art and sculpture for the last 35 years But I am not bothered about any recognition from the government I have got it from the people who are the best judges "

Born into a culturally enlightened family (his father and grandfather were clay image makers) in Faridpur (now in Bangladesh), Paul did his matriculation from his village high school "I came to Calcutta and joined Vidyasagar College but soon dropped out " He recalls, "I have no qualms of leaving studies because I knew I would do well if I devoted my time fully towards making images " In 1940, Paul joined the Government Art College on Chowringhee Road and graduated from there with distinction five years later He started his studio, Rupabharati, in 1950

Paul's work is marked by an eye-catching life-like appearance This could largely be attributed to his painstaking research on his subjects. "Before starting on a sculpture or image, I first make sketches. Just like Satyajit Ray who has a habit of making sketches before he selects characters for his film, I too try to draw mini sketches of my images before finally creating them " He feels that merely making sketchs is of little help unless a sculptor or image maker studies his subject perfectly

Paul recalls the time when he was working on a statue of Deshbandhu C R Das "I talked to his wife, Basanti Devi, over a long period before starting work on his statue And it was worth it because I came to know so many things about it him this way " As he remarks "Unless you are able to express the inner character of your subject in the painting or sculpture, it cannot be called a perfect piece of art "

With Durga Puja round the corner, Paul spends all his waking hours giving finishing touches to the three images of Ma Durga that he is working on "Many clubs have approached me to do their images but I had to turn them all down I am already overburdened " He goes through the *Chandi*, Bhagvad Gita, Vedas and *Upanishads* to get ideas. He admits, "I have to build up the character of the image Often I make and remake an image several times to get the true character of the image "

He expresses his sorrow at the pitiful state of the Kumartuli clay image makers. "They have been neglected and no attempt has been made by the state government to look into their interests. So much publicity is given to the pandals and their electrification. But nothing is mentioned about the image makers who spend months creating these marvels "

Barun Ghosh



Tirtha Das

Some of Ramesh Chandra Paul's work

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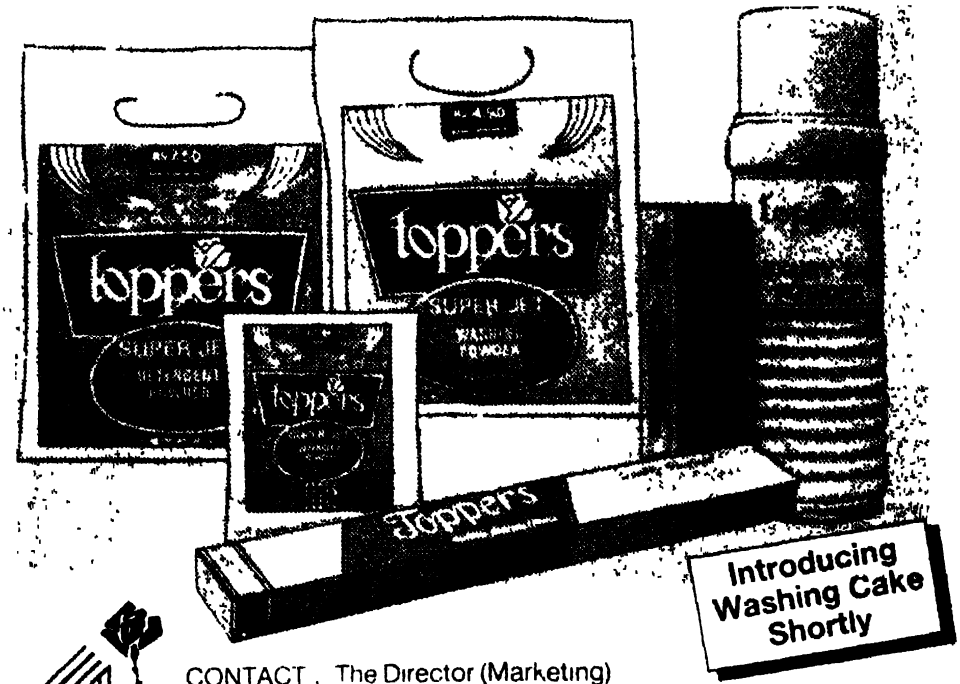
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A Time to Rejoice

For 12 months there will not be another period like this, says **Anjana Basu**

Ya Devi Sarvabhuteshu. Four o'clock in the morning in a neighbourhood lined with transistors. The mind wakes, registers the darkness, the unfamiliar early strangeness, the distant boom of a voice and recognises Mahalaya. This is where it starts. Puja. Or perhaps it starts before. With a new shine on hoardings and a rash of discounts in all the government emporiums. 10%, 25%, 50% - falling, falling, falling, catch it quickly before someone else does.

The locations are Gariahat, Dhakuria Bridge, the Dakhinapan steps at five o' clock in the early evening where love and shopping goe hand in hand. Where the golden girls of Jadavpur promenade.

The light has changed. Clear, blue, with an early morning promise in the high piled white clouds. Anything could happen in that falling golden light. A last final poem, an indiscreet meeting of eyes, new love, new life, something to shake out the old existence and transform it forever. Perhaps, after all, this is only a Bengali feeling which no one else shares except to look up at the sky and say, "Oof, why doe n t it rain. That sun s too hot! Let's find a more sensible city that won't shut down for 10 days."

Every odd street corner becomes a bamboo cage. The earlier, the greater the discount and the angry snarl of horns as drivers encounter unexpected obstructions. These street pujas became a feature of Calcutta life in the 18 century when the great zamindari houses of Shovabazar and Raja Navakisshen Roy and Neel Moni Mullick shut their doors firmly to the general public and turned their devotions into esoteric private rites staged before a visiting British *lat saheb*. Today, the Sarbojanin Durga Pujas decorate every Dunlop map of the city with obstructions, calculated diversions, much *dhoom dhaam* and much heartburning amongst traditionalists who resent the publicity.

Shrouded canvas shapes appear under the tarpaulin-draped bamboo scaffolding with the confines of Mahalaya. Except for stray assorted arms, horns and tails, nothing more is to be seen till the purohit paints in the pupils of the eyes and breathes life into the image before Sashti. The years change both image and scaffolding. The years, the budget, the times and their temper, shaping goddesses from peanuts and ice.

It started with the *ek chala*, the one unit goddess, golden, remote and barbaric in the tinselled splendour of *daaker saaj*. Softer times split the frame and demanded a more human image, poised, feminine, incongruously carrying weapons and subduing a demon out of a nightmare. Some wore the smiling faces of film idols - Hema Malini, Aparna Sen, Sharmila Tagore and the appropriate costumes as well. Those were the rages of the late sixties.

In the seventies trends and times changed again. The Kumartuli potter, tired of his mastery over the clay medium turned his skill in other directions. The result was the *thakur*s labelled the total peanut image, the completely-created from-*sandesh* image, the image of ice, all triumphantly empandalled to be gaped at as a 10-day wonder.

That was a shorthived though spectacular pehnomenon, with every year throwing up new material heights of creativity. It passed and left with it one positive note: the desire to experiment in materials other than clay and in materials less perishable than clay. Brass, for example, and *ashtadhatu* which, of a necessity, could not be given the traditional *bishorjon* '23 Palli' was the first of the puja sites to invest in a permanent *murti* though there, the legends say, it was a different story.

Year after year, the goddess Durga leaves her husband and, accompanied by her children, comes home to visit her parents. After 10 days, like a dutiful wife, she sadly takes her leave for another year. According to a legend which started in the late seventies, the '23 Palli' *thakur* was found weeping on *bishorjon* day and the clay image was promptly replaced by one in *ashtadhatu* which is worshipped with due rite and ceremony but never sent away to the river.

Another image in brass found a place in the Academy of Fine Arts and attempts were made in black stone as well, all of which received commendation in art journals and newspapers. Image making then gradually crept back to normal and, instead, the lights and the pandals began to take on new shape.

On the map from north to south, strange pandal shapes began to mushroom. Durga was housed in a Dutch windmill with a Buddha apparition watching over her and her family. Durga was housed in a replica of St Peter's with an attendant statue of Christ. The Ajanta caves grew almost overnight in College Square with frescoes in clay wherever possible. The LA Olympics conjured up an Olympic *thakur* centred in a stadium with video shows and clay models performing relevant athletic feats alongside Durga and the rest of their family. Most conservative of the pandals were the south Indian stupas and Chinese pagodas which appeared in places like Mohammed Ali Park, and which still appear.

If the range wasn't ingenious enough in cloth and bamboo, then in the field of lights it exceeded all expectations. Elephants played ball with little boys to the tune of *Haathi Mere Saathi*. Acrobats tumbled, climbed ladders and walked the tightrope. Spectacularly, Indira Gandhi was assassinated in lights in front of the Simla Byam *thakur* and the display was castigated for it extreme bad taste in the papers - a factor which affected its popularity not a whit. Fountains spouted and *apsaras* danced and people unable to force their way through ropes and police barricades were content to stand outside, crack *mungphalis* and watch and wonder.

Today more than the private rites of the big houses, the horse faced lions of some *zamindar*'s midnight vision, it is the crowds that dictate the tone of Puja and make it the carnival that it is. Kamalahasan gives Ganesh a pillion ride on his motorcy-



Kushal Gangopadhyay

cle, with the mouse tucked securely under one arm Durga cradles a green baby while the *ashur* expires at her feet and a long cyclostyled poem is distributed amongst passersby to explain the *karegor's* concept of the *ashur's* purified rebirth in the goddess' arms The choice of green as a colour is not explained Mithun Chakraborty and Kartik go disco,break dancing he still yet to catch on, though it surely can't be far behind

Sightseeing tours operate on Puja nights negotiating crowds and traffic jams Starting at 9 in the evening and winding up at 5 in the morning Steaming coffee at midnight in insubstantial paper tumblers at Jodhpur Park Marx at 1 am in the slow drizzle at Bagbazar while a slipper strap snaps and fresh paint trickles down Che's face Separation by the sexes at Rabindra Park and the drizzle continues with not an umbrella in sight and the coach nearer Sonagachi than anywhere else It is impossible to see the green china clay *thakur* at Mohammedalli Park, both at 10 pm and at 4 am The crowds make it impossible for the coach to park College Square is temporarily deserted because of the rain but the lights are flickering in soft focus display while an American tourist sleepily mumbles about the photography of Walker Evans, and jabs at a non functional flash All night people are somewhere, everywhere

Before,only the daring sat up guarding their *thakurs*, eating *luchis*, or wandering from street to street with a kind of children defying-adults after-lights out wonder Nabami night is the loudest because it is the last chance night Horns honk, voices squabble, make love, decline into drunkenness and bawl after lost children. Somehow, somewhere, in some corner of Calcutta, there must be a unique *pratima* no one has discovered yet and it must be seen before *bhashan* tomorrow

The night and the crowds bring their own scares *Pocketmaars* do a brisk trade One Puja brought a mad Puritanical lecher into notoriety, who dictated the length of cholis by one vicious stroke of his razor, terrorised the pandals, then disappeared into oblivion uncaught and unidentified

But normally fashions range unhindered in the ladies section the latest *dooter* saris with *dooter* blouses to match, *salwar kameezes*, demurely draped and pinned *chunnis*, fold upon fold in gleaming white with the eyes above demurely, consciously downcast Midis and blouses taking even Bagbazar by storm, elaborately knotted ribbons in the darker colours of the rainbow, a screaming child in a tinsel flecked maxi

Cashing in on the crowds are the advertisers with awards for the best-dressed pandals, the best *pratima*, the most elaborate show of lights Thereby giving the proceedings an extra sparkle Bringing out touches like a gold *mukut* for the *thakur* in Maddox Square or extra height for Ekdalia Evergreen And, of course, every advertiser knows that Puja is new shoes, new clothes, new two-in-ones, because Puja is bonus time, time to spend and change old habits

The crowds die out temporarily during Dashami daytime and the married women come into their own armed with *sindoor*, coins and *sandesh*, going about the business of saying goodbye to a goddess [illegible] her family for another year Pandals [illegible] scarlet and crumble white with [illegible] *Sandesh* smears Setasw[illegible]-mouthed Ganesh's trunk Whirling their sticks [illegible] *dhakis* change their tune

Lorries emerge and band parties play old Raj tunes, marching choirs [illegible] lines learned at school Horse-drawn carriages with filigree iron [illegible] lamps burning pink and green [illegible] from 8 the crowds are on the [illegible] ballooned, breathless with exhilaration and oblivious to possible death as trams pass through them This is the height of the excitement For 12 months there will not be another moment exactly like this one The lorries will beat their way to the river in a blare of trumpets, drums and electric lights and the excitement will slowly wind down into a shower of fireworks at Kali Puja, then die away

To be forgotten in sobriety and life as usual, until the light starts to change again and the clouds blow high and white with the promise of new beginning ■





Tarapada Banerjee

The Choice is Yours

Barnali Mitra-Ray's guide on the trends in fashion this Puja

Long before the average Calcutta housewife even got to see her husband's bonus packet, she had already decided what she would buy for herself this Puja. A saree, no doubt, for it is only during the Pujas that she would be able to afford to buy a nice, expensive one, something which would make her the most attractive at a family gathering, something she could show off. The price would obviously have to be at least Rs 300 because a really *good* saree was available only if you spent the right amount. And the saree just *had* to be a handloom one, of course.

The average housewife had no choice, it had already been made for her. Over the last couple of months she had changed her mind several times -every time a magazine or leaflet told her of an exhibition of the latest arrivals in town, every time she'd visited a market, every time she'd visited someone who had already started her Puja shopping. The variety was mind boggling. Calcutta, it seemed, was facing a cultural invasion in the form of sarees and dress materials from all over the country, especially from south India. Overwhelmed by the wide range of styles, colours and designs, she had firmly rejected her traditional choice of a Bengal silk or Tangail and opted to buy a saree made in another state. Not that the Tangail cannot be bought as a gift, though, she thought.

This preference becomes very apparent if one eavesdrops on conversations among ladies in buses, offices, markets and, of course, right at home. The trend favours handloom -cotton or silk. The designs cannot but be traditional Indian motifs, for that's the 'in' thing. And the colours—yellows, greens, reds. But the style? There is so much to choose from-- saree shops in the city are overflowing with handloom products. Ikkat, Irkhal, Gadwal, Kalakshetra, Coimbatore, Rajkot, Patola, Chanderi, Venkatgiri, Kathiawadi, Naravenpet, Kalamkari one could go on and on. The names suggest the place of manufacture, and the sarees are just as exotic as the names.

The most popular, the south Indian cottons, are not only eminently affordable but come in a variety of bright colours. Each style has its own distinguishing mark, either in the design, weaving, border or *zari*-work. The Kalakshetra sarees, made popular by Rukmini Devi Arundale, usually have thick, heavy borders and *pallus*. The *pallus* are especially noteworthy with temple motifs or traditional designs. Some of these sarees come without borders, having the designs only on the broad *pallu* and the pleats. The Venkatgiri, made from 120 count yarn, is soft and light. More often than not, there is *zari* work and a sprinkling of *buttis* on the coloured body.

The most spectacular of the south Indian variety is the Pochampalli, which is actually a derivative of the Oriya Ikkat. However, there is a tremendous difference between the two. Pochampalli work is primarily thick, while the original Oriya Ikkat is very refined. Moreover, the flowers, fish and elephant motifs are supplemented by a *zari* or threadwork line above and below in the Ikkat, while the Pochampalli has simpler designs.

The Kanchipuram saree is woven in three parts--the two borders and the middle, each separately. The three parts are joined by hand to make a full saree and contrasting colours are chosen. As a result, the sarees are striking. The Coimbatore saree is more refined than the Kanchipuram. Cotton and silk threads are mixed together and designs come on the border and *pallu*.

The Oriya Ikkat stands out for its unique weave. The threads are tied and dyed and the designs on the heavy, broad borders and *pallu* are fashioned from these coloured threads to give exquisite colour combinations and Indian motifs in geometric shapes. Shopkeepers have a habit of calling Ikkat sarees 'Patolas' for their design, but it should be remembered that the Ikkat sarees are woven after dyeing and so the body also carries thin streaks of a variety of colours.

Also from Orissa is the Bomkoi, which is quite expensive, with simple borders but thick, broad *pallus* with Indian motifs.



The Bomkoi silks are available at a price of Rs 750 and above

Coming from faraway Benaras, the Jamewar is styled on the Kashmiri shawl design On vibrant silk backgrounds, the traditional geometric Kashmiri designs are packed with intricacies. Each saree takes months, sometimes years, to make, for it is done entirely by hand and its artistry makes it a collectors item The price is obviously four figure

The recent exhibition of Maheshwari sarees at the Genesis gallery was an experience by itself for the variety of colour and design Sharp, contrasting colours give the sarees brightness, while the narrow borders have a sheen that comes from silk thread The very-similar Pune saree looks quite dismal next to a Maheswari simply because of the latter's intricate weave The Ilkhal of Maharashtra is another fantastic saree with heavy *zari* and threadwork on simple backgrounds

From Gujarat we have the Patola, the Aurangabadi silk and the Kathiawadi cotton From Rajasthan is the ever-popular Kota (though the non Rajasthani Rajkot sarees are now being preferred) Benaras brings us the traditional Benarasi as well as the light Chanderi with *zari Moonga* Kotas also come from Benaras

After a surfeit of the north and the west there still remains, however our very-own, faithful Tangail Though over the years one gets bored with the similar designs, weavers and designers are ever busy trying to attract the discerning customer For a present to a mother or mother-in law there is nothing that can take the place of a true-blue Tangail The latest designs are tall borders as well as narrow ones The medium is quite surely out Among the tall bordered ones come the Dhakai-Tangails, with *zari* work all over the body Animals, traditional motifs (both decorative and natural) and geometric designs vie for attention Tangails can be striped, plain, checked or borderless Designs on the latest silk Tangails have been influenced by art of different parts of the country

In a class of its own is the Baluchari silk, a good one coming for nothing less than Rs 2,500 The huge *pallu* often carries one whole historical tale, woven in the most intricate manner that is at once pleasing and distinguished Like a Jamewar, a Baluchari is also a collector's item if only for the story it tells

Among the expensive silk products is the Tanchoi of Benaras The entire saree is packed with traditional designs and the *pallu* is particularly spectacular The uniqueness of a Tanchoi is that it sometimes comes in lovely reversible styles

Besides all this, the practical synthetic saree for the working woman needs mention. Bought for personal use or as a gift, a chiffon, chinon, or polyester remains useful for its durability as well as for the fact that it is neither too showy nor too bland The prices are also well within the reach of the middle-class. 'Cream' silks, in almost all the colours of the spectrum and their various shades, are oh-so-soft and cool For only Rs 175-200 one can buy a Garden terryvoile or a China silk The Jacquard is more exclusive at Rs 375 while a regular chiffon in abstract or realistic design comes for about Rs 250 Government-run textile shops provide a wide variety of cotton and polyester yarn (mixed) sarees too

For the working woman, the college-goer or the teenager there is nothing like the *salwar-kurta* Besides being practical, it can be pretty dressy, too Here also handloom material seems to be gaining an edge in preference The loud designs of a few months ago are old-fashioned now Gone is the craze for big show buttons, large prints, pockets and collars Being Indian ('ethnic') is 'in' *Dhoti-salwars* are very popular now, being elegant and attractive So are *Patialas* The style is of subtle innovation, nothing obvious *Kurtas* are no longer very short (though a few come as tops to *dhoti-salwars*) and the colour combination has to be bright The yoked, mirror-worked Gujarati style is still popular as are Kathiawadi bead-work pieces. But topping it all are the embroidered sets The embroidery, done in contrasting colour to the base material is usually elaborate, making the use of a *dupatta* unnecessary

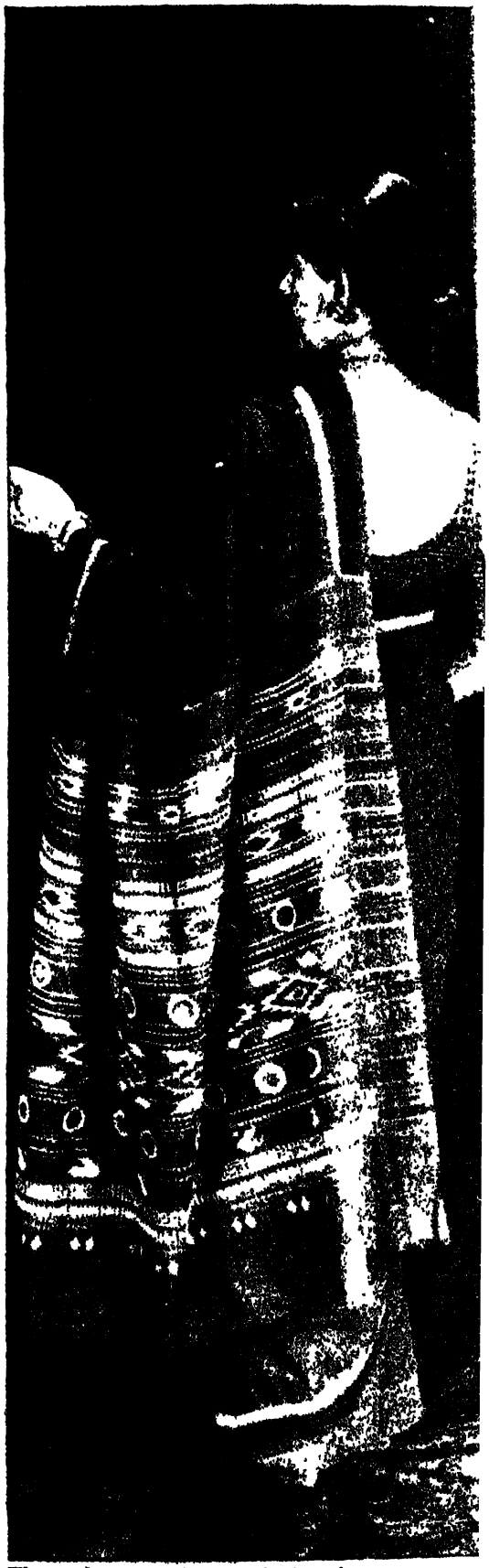
For the more daring, there are *ghagra-cholis* and *lehngas* A backless blouse with mirrorwork or embroidery on the sleeves looks alluring, to say the least

Skirts, which had gone up from the midi to the mini have now come down again, this time with broad borders of Indian designs worn with loose, gathered shirts held at the waist by thin belts Along with this outfit, short stiletto heels and chunky earrings and necklaces are the going choice Most boutiques in the city are doing very good business in these

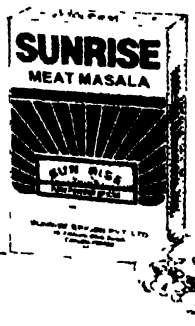
As for accessories, chunky, hanging wooden or bead buttons are being sold with plain *kurtas*, as are tied and dyed silk *dupattas* in startling colours. Bags and slippers should ideally be of leather, and make-up this season is bordering on the heavy

So keep your eyes open—for the choice is yours! ■

A Jamewar



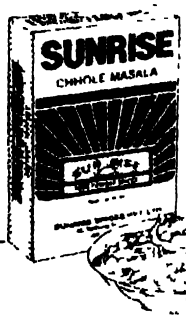
The embroidered *pallu* of a Bomkoi saree from Orissa



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PRAYOG/121-88

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Distorted Vision

[illegible] in the sky
[illegible]
[illegible] down my spine?
[illegible] with the night
[illegible] beneath the roots?
[illegible] buzz shatters my head
[illegible]
[illegible] is fulfilled
[illegible]
I refuse these pre-Godot agonies
As if without this pain I would go pieces
Liza Pradhan

This World Knows

This world knows hearts are empty
somewhere
This world knows someone is the
murderer of Bhromer
Someone loses himself at the tired end of
day on a gloomy sandhill
This world knows man to man
Not to be acquainted with today also
Sunil Gangopadhyay
(Translated from the Bengali by Swapnendu Bhaumik)

In the Empty Booth

Sitting in the empty booths men will now
start gossiping
There will be no procession no festune
slogan flag or campaigning anymore
Nothing else but men will now discuss
about the result of the last poll
Somebody will say money has won there
in lieu of man
Fear in that place
Somebody will say 'power
That party has won there in this way
someone will comment while
smoking his beedi.
And we will wait.
We will wait forever
Until a man will definitely stand
telling the gossipers.
He will say..
'Man has won from this place
Who has no money
Neither party nor power
He has another weapon
In the love
[illegible]

Do not open your eyes
Nothing is gone except
the wobbling tram

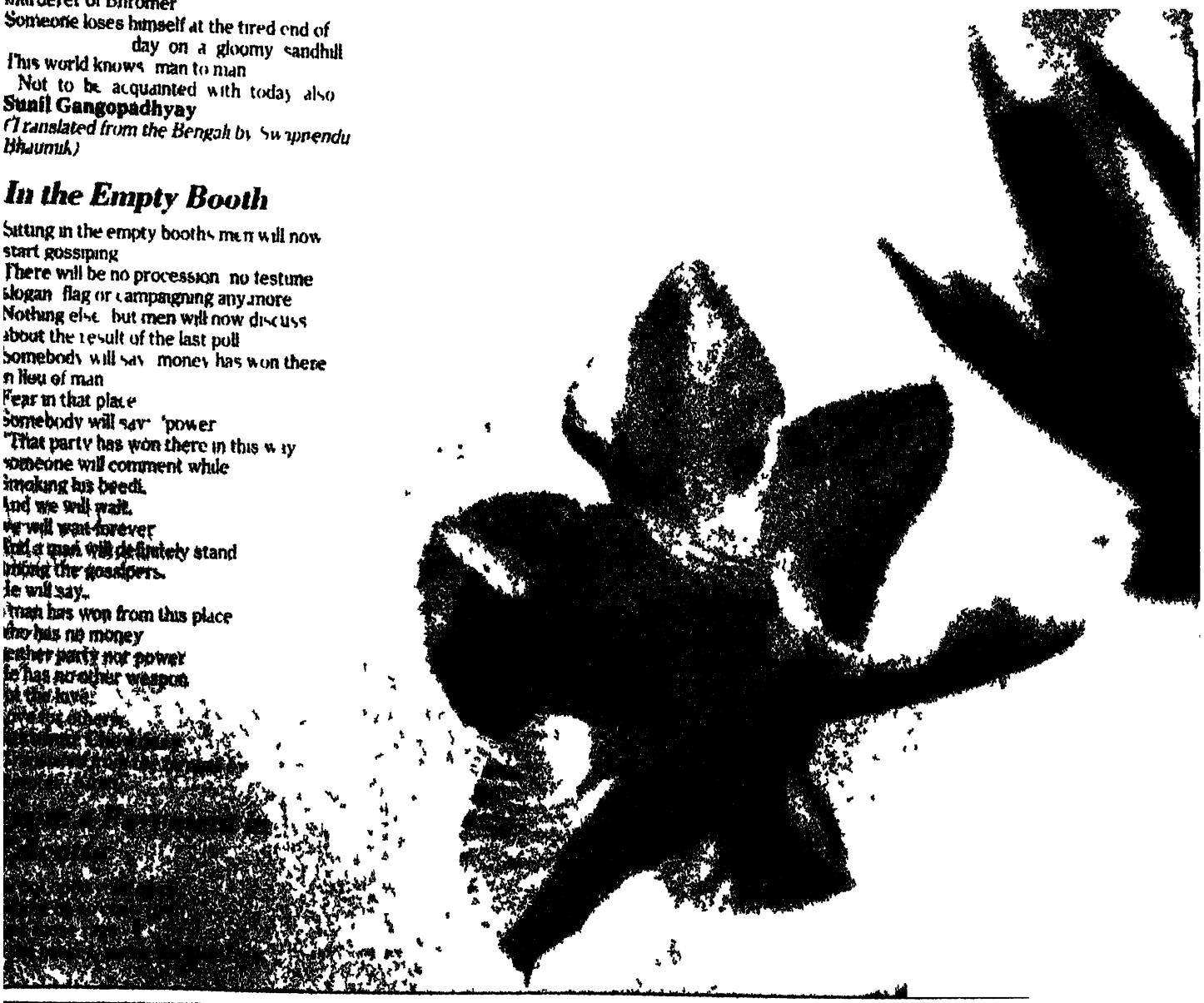
Your mother is there
kindling the fire
her face puckled
in grime and sweat
she shoos the flies
gathering round the broth

Do not open your eyes
Nobody has gone except
the grubby old man muttering
as he gets his chest down again
to pull his rickshaw load along

Let them all go
ever trampling
everywhere

Do not open your eyes
You fit my photo frame perfect
Let me click just you
so cozy in your basket

No do not open your eyes
Let me have nothing else
in my photograph, in my memory
Sunanda Satish



Pujas are the time when the jatra companies start throbbing with life. And now, with filmstars turning to the theatre of melodrama, the buzz of excitement is getting more feverish. **Moyna Sen** and **Susmita Mukherjee** talk to some of the 'star converts'



Jatra: Loud, but very popular, entertainment

Braving the chilly winter evening, the septuagenarian woman sits huddled in an over sized wrapper, gazing at the rostrum. She is slightly disturbed when the drunken rustics lumber in, but stays undeterred in her prized place, which she has been occupying since early afternoon. After all, it isn't for nothing that she has parted with her hard-earned money to steal a glimpse of the filmstar who had till now been only a celluloid figure for her. The music starts, the lights come on and Mir Zafar thunders onto the stage.

This was the 100th night that the *jatra pala* was performing to a full audience in a remote Purulia hamlet. And the crowd was still spilling over.

"Jatra is the largest and the most popular medium of entertainment in Bengal," claims renowned film and stage actor Robi Ghosh, who was also seen in Natta Company's *Palki Chale Re* last year. Although video and films have invaded the villages, jatra still continues to be the major source of entertainment.

The jatra form is spread over a vast canvas — so much so that it does not use any elaborate stage prop, barring a simple tool perhaps to reconstruct the enactment. The presentation of the jatra is actually a wonderful blending of Natyadharmi stylised with Lokadharmi realistic and the resultant effect is highly theatrical.

But despite being an essentially rural art form, the jatra is making rapid inroads into the city culture and with tremendous aplomb as the sprawling advertisements and mammoth hoardings at street corners bear eloquent testimony. The jatra season which stretches from the Pujas to early April, has successfully managed to wean away even avid theatre and screen lovers.

And the cine idols themselves have not been immune to the jatra's irresistible charm — which is, perhaps, why veteran filmstars like Kamal Mitra, Vasant Chowdhury and more recently Supriya Chowdhury, Lolita Chatterjee, Deepankar De, Santu Mukherjee, Soma Mukherjee and Robi Ghosh have moved into this traditional theatre medium.

For some, it was purely the pecuniary allurement that worked as the motivating element. Coupled with this is also the urge to experiment with a new medium. "I joined jatra because Natta Company offered me a very handsome amount," says Deepankar De. "It is not my cup of tea."

Cine idol Vasant Chowdhury says, "For two years, I planned to work with Natta Company and concentrate on jatra. For two years, because if I failed in the first year, I could compensate for it in the following year. Experimenting with a new

emraj Ghosh



Lolita Chatterjee in *Hamlet*: Queen of her art

genre as I was. I did not want to be branded as a failure in the jatra world. I wanted to leave a mark behind.

Lolita Chatterjee once a jatra queen feels rather strongly about jatra. The satisfaction that one derives from interacting with a 25,000 strong crowd is immense. The response whether good or bad is instantaneous which works as a strong incentive for the artiste to deliver his or her best. The still attractive actress was one of the pioneering forces behind the resurrection of this theatre form.

Vasant Chowdhury is yet another actor who hails this particular aspect of jatra as one of its strongest points. Perhaps only a pop singer gets the opportunity to interact with such a vast audience, says the screen veteran. He is all praise for the jatra audience who, according to him, is not only alert but **intelligent**. "Any slip in the dialogue will never go unnoticed by the avid crowd, which knows veritably every line by heart."

But they are equally appreciative of a good performance. And here Chowdhury recalls, "While I was on the climax scene of a *jatra pala* in which I was playing **Hussain Shah, my moustache started coming loose**. Unperturbed and without panicking in the least, I peeled it off. I was stunned to note that not a single person in the audience raised a cat-call. They just continued watching with rapt attention. It is decidedly one of my richest experiences in life."

The dearth of good roles in the Tollywood film industry is also prompting more and more filmstars to this medium. It is also because I wanted to avoid poor roles that I was pushed towards jatra," feels Dev. Pankaj Dey Sarkar echoed thespian Robi Ghosh shares his sentiments. "I have acted with the best directors in the field, gained much. But good roles really are scarce in Tollywood these days," though Tolly floors after the thumping success of *Sri Guru* and *Gurudakshina*.

Robi Ghosh is now planning to float his own jatra troupe so optimistic is he about the glorious future of jatra. Before working with the Natta Company it never him the rare glimpse of great facets which are so alien to an artiste. One point on which all the stars agree is that the jatra's professionalism is behind its phenomenal success. "It's like a multinational company run along rather rigid lines," says Robi Ghosh.

That tinsel glamour is quite responsible for the success of jatra today is also undeniable. But Makhanlal Natta of the 100-year old premier Natta Company contests this view to say, "Filmstars are being brought in only when they suit a particular role. It is also not true that they are offered astronomical sums for it." But Janata Opera admit that a filmstar like Santu Mukherjee is roped in because he is commercially exploitable.

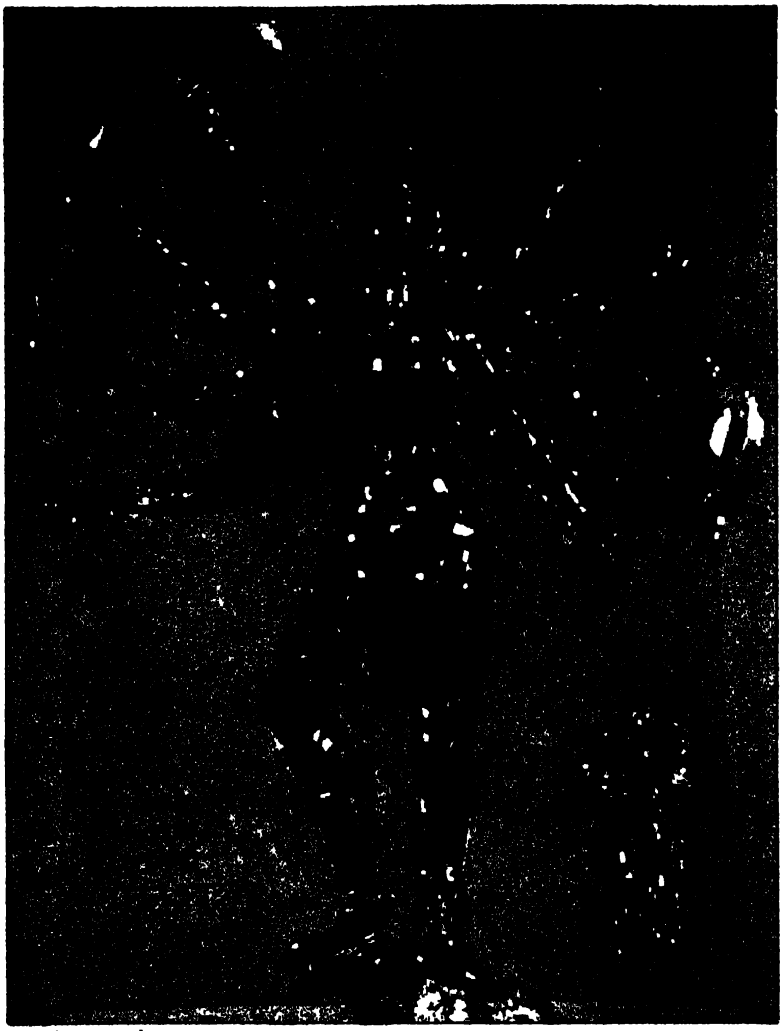
Jatra, it is claimed, has to maintain its traditional flavour even since it prefers inducting filmstars. Famous Robi Ghosh: Jatra today is more modern oriented as opposed to its traditional counterpart. It has often happened that the audience in the village comes to see only the star and not the play itself. Jatra is predominantly a theatre of melodrama in which pronounced movement and over-acting are essential for the required theatrical effects. And filmstars do not want to conform to this stylised form. But Robi Ghosh adaptable to a modern hand-me-in attitudes says: "A distinct chance is developed by the use of make-up so the face largely conceals while the second [illegible]."

The hero-cult element however is still very much there. Deepak Dey is hailed as the hero who gives performance to the glass [illegible] actors walk [illegible] the stage with unabashed [illegible] [illegible] concept of jatra runs. But [illegible] Chatterjee comfort and [illegible] [illegible] discover which [illegible] promise [illegible] [illegible].

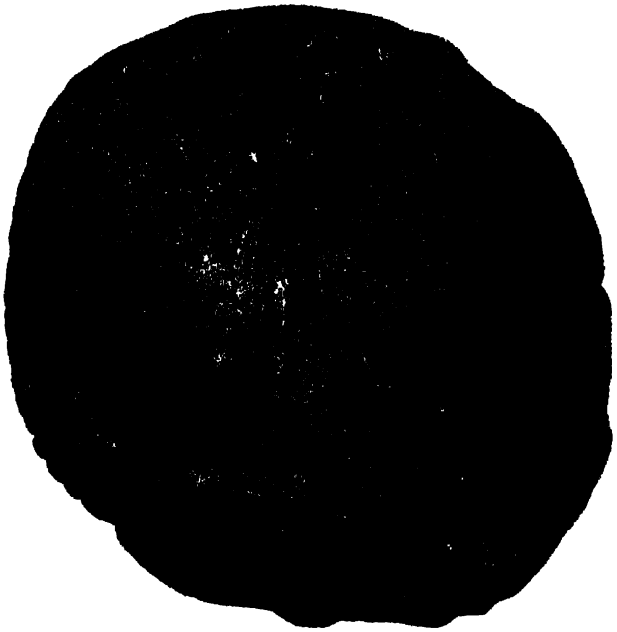
With the [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Durga, Th

The *daaker saaj* and *sola* are the tw
Anil Grover searches out



In glass and mirror



Durga in a Kushan coin



With heavy touches of pearl dust and *zari*

y Forms..

aditional styles of the Durga image.
ne unconventional idols





Tea leaves and biscuits for a Durga image



At Last, a Better Place

After years of suppression, the Indian woman artist has finally managed to establish an identity for herself. **Sandip Sarkar** details the work of some present day 'masters' of Bengal



Karuna Saha

The Indian woman has finally come into her own. Especially as a creative artist. The post-Independence era, particularly the last two decades have seen the emergence of an increasing tribe of women artists, and, as expected, Bengal has contributed the lion's share.

During the days of the British raj, there were, understandably, very few Indian women artistes in the limelight. Sunayani Devi from Calcutta and later Amrita Shergill from Lahore were perhaps the only two exceptions. The reasons for this were several, the most obvious being the widely-held opinion that a woman's place was within the four walls of her home. Moreov



Subir Chatterjee

Meera Mukherjee



Subir Chatterjee

Woman (oil on canvas) by Karuna Saha



Her Pet (bronze) by Meera Mukherjee

er, the turbulent times did not do much for furthering the aspirations of women Art was and even today is considered largely a man's domain Yet, in the last two decades women have shown a tenacity and professional excellence that makes it difficult to sideline or ignore them No doubt the support and acclaim that Henry Moore received from an admiring audience in the UK as compared to the equally proficient Barbara Hepworth's indifferent reception, highlights the odds that women artists have to contend with

German Greer, the celebrated feminist, in the course of her research on the contribution of women to society, revealed in *The Obstacle Race* how women have never been accorded the praise or credit due to them Right upto the Industrial Revolution, art was patronised by the blue blood, the aristocracy and the fast emerging merchantile class Obviously, artists who specialised in everything from Biblical and pagan mythological subjects to portraits and genre work, were in heavy demand and they established large studios with several students and assistants to cope with their burgeoning trade

Reuben was the most popular artist of the times He was so short of time that he would sketch a miniature cartoon which would be proportionately enlarged by his assistants Reuben would, finally, add his masterly strokes that magically seemed to unite all discrepancies and divergencies into a seemingly faultless collage

Through her research, Greer conclusively proved that harried and overworked artists often recruited the services of their wives and daughters In fact, on occasion, an entire painting was done by them and the artist merely added his signature to the finished product and palmed it off on an unsuspecting buyer

During the Mughal period in India, studios or *karkhanas* as they were called, consisted of a master, his assistants and apprentices. Signing works was unheard of until then and it is virtually impossible to tell whether feminine help was recruited to complete the masterpieces

The female role is, however, discernible in traditional folk art of India as it obtains today *Pattuas* or scroll painters in Bengal were and Madhubani painters of Mithila are usually women In fact, the master craftsperson of the traditional black pottery of Azamgarh is a woman, Kalpa Devi It would not be surprising if one day it is proved that women played a major role in Pala-Sena art and terracotta work in the medieval period in Bengal

The bias against women, however, remained and it was not till the late 1930s that women were admitted to the Government College of Art and Crafts established way back in 1854 Santiniketan proved to be kinder and Nandalal Bose allowed women to enrol in Kala Bhavan from its very inception Here they were trained in useful crafts along with some art because Bose realised that ultimately they would become housewives

It is only in the last few years that women artists have been accorded a healthy though somewhat grudging approval Yet, there are many who feel that art for women is a mere passing fancy Some of the big names that immediately come to mind are Kamal Raychoudhury, Arundhuti Raychaudhury, Amina Kar and Kamala Dasgupta, the sculptor There is, however, some truth in the argument that women artists do not have a sustaining power seen commonly in men Two examples are Amina Kar and Kamala Dasgupta Both married and while Amina became Mrs Chintamani Kar, Kamala came to be known only as Mrs Prodosh Dasgupta

Against this backdrop one is forced to admire the tenacity and staying power of two artists—Karuna Saha and Shanu Lahiri For over four decades the ladies have fulfilled the roles of housewife and art teacher and yet never relinquished their identity as artists It is with their efforts that *The Group*, a collection of women artists was formed and it has been pivotal in retrieving famous artists of yesteryear like sculptor Uma Sidhanta from inevitable oblivion

Sunayani Devi, youngest sister of Gaganendranath and Abanindranath Tagore, was the first Indian woman to claim an identity as an artist in her own right Fortunately for her neither of her brothers took any notice of her talent and left to herself she evolved an idiomatic naive style Unwittingly, she both was from the limitless world of folklore and



***Superdada* (oil on canvas) by Veena Bhargava**



***The Lady* by Jayashree Chakravorty**



Subir Chatterjee

Mistress and Maid **(oil on canvas) by Shanu Lahiri**

craft, suppressed women, their aspirations and mysteries. Significantly, the epics and myths find expression in her paintings. The lines are fine and delicate, the style not strong but charmingly unsophisticated.

Karuna Saha, now in her sixties, was one of the first few women to graduate from art school. She worked with Jean Renoir in *The River* and was among the earliest students who went abroad after Independence on scholarship. Trained in Italy, Karuna's paintings display the whole gamut of human relations with full blooded vitality. Her economy in use of firm lines and glaring colours add to the overall effect. Unfortunately, she has not been consistent in displaying her works and consequently, has not received the recognition she deserves.

Shanu Lahiri, younger than Karuna Saha by a few years, has a curiously romantic approach. She draws from classic Mediterranean myths and blends these with a style reminiscent of the colourful, vibrant compositions of the modern French masters. Bengali fairy tales have also been a source of inspiration to her. But she has always tried to capture the style of her famous brothers, Kamal and Nirode Majumdar, without gauging their depth.

In contrast is Meera Mukherjee, a formidable professional at 65. For years now, she has worked at metal sculpture, having received training at the Society of



Subir Chatterjee

Shanu Lahiri

Oriental Art, the Indonesian master Affandi, the Delhi Polytechnic and finally West Germany. Returning from her sojourn in West Germany, Meera became a fellow at the Anthropological Survey and started research on the lost wax techniques of folk metal craftsmen. Her fellow researchers were Brancusi, Picasso, Moore and Jamini Roy and like them she realised the potency of the Jungian collective unconscious. Not only did she understand the primitive myth structure but she also came to forge a unique synthetic technique.

In comparison is Veena Bhargava who draws more from the mainstream of urban life as Meera delves in to the world of folklore and tradition. Trained in the US and Calcutta, Veena's compositions reflect a horrifying world, the imagery being heightened by bold, contrasting colours and linear drawings. Whatever she paints — whether sinewy hands emerging from a manhole or cattle nonchalantly strolling on a thoroughfare — has a daring, rash quality about it.

Much younger than the veterans in the field, Jaya Ganguli and Jayashree Chakravorty, have advanced overwhelming proof of their ability.

Whatever Jaya paints is bought by the Alkazis for the gallery *Art Heritage*. Her paintings reflect urban decay, human depravity in spirit and flesh both of which affect nature. Her paintings are distorted, the composition centrapetal and brush work violent. She is in apocalyptic visionary in the tradition of Rabindranath Tagore and Nikhil Biswas.

Jayashree Chakravorty portrays the insulated conditions of women lost in the their private world of suffering. They are haunted by spectres of tigers who stalk their drawing rooms, even as the interiors expand and landscapes encroach. The essentially expressionist style has a slightly tilted composition and the colours clash in an uneven yet wavy texture.

The styles are divergent, the compositions widely differing in theme and texture. Yet they reflect the professional competence and ability of the contemporary Indian woman artist. The world is finally a better place for her. ■

POST MORTEM

No Cruelty

Anjana Sinha accused us of cruelty towards police pigeons (September 11) I would like to point out that her allegations are without any foundation.

Although the birds are kept hungry for about 30 hours, we give them very costly vitamins to ensure that their health does not deteriorate. As regards water, it should be noted that the birds are supplied fresh water round the clock and it matters little if they do not get it for about two hours at the most.

The Orissa Police is the only organisation in India which maintains such a network of pigeon service and we are very conscious about the proper maintenance of the health of the birds. In fact, we spend much more money on their vitamins than we would have spent on their usual diet So no one should harbour any grudge against us on the ground of cruelty

J.K. Raye,
Pigeon Inspector of Police (Retd), Orissa Police, Sambalpur

■ You used a picture showing the courier pigeons drinking water treated with potassium permanganate. Could any reader enlighten me why they are not given plain water?

Gautam Sinha,
Burnpur

Not Enough

Your Olympic Special (September 18) was very good, but you should have published colour photographs of Vijay Amritraj, Nyota Roy and Florence Griffith-Joyner.

S.P. Varma,
Ishapore

■ The Olympic Special quiz was interesting, but the issue needed many more photographs At least, you should have published a colour photograph of Ben Johnson.

Kalyan Roy,
Asansol



Ben Johnson

Reliving Experiences

After reading the poem, 'Post Mortem' (July 24), I relived the experience of my own life. Just two years after my marriage, my husband was found to be suffering from cancer of the colon. I went to Vellore with my brother to show the biopsy report to a famous surgeon over there. He agreed to operate. When we came back to Calcutta, my husband committed suicide. I do not blame him. But neighbours and the police seemed to think that I had killed him in some way.

The poet, Abhijit Dutta, writes of guilt and innocence sitting on her electrified fence in the anteroom of the morgue, a woman breathing and burning, a no man's land. I guess the poet is a forensic specialist. In my case, the forensic specialist at R.G. Kar Medical College was not very kind to me.

Neena Sarkar,
Calcutta

BARTER BANK

• **Novels, magazines** and **tennis rackets:** I offer several English novels, 15 issues of *Upbeat* and *Sun* and two English wooden rackets for other English novels and magazines of corresponding value. Contact Rajni Kant Balasaria, 2, Wood Street, seventh floor, Calcutta 16

• **Typewriter, table fan, telephone** and **tennis rackets:** I offer a Godrej typewriter, an Orient table fan, a red telephone (rotary dial) and two table tennis rackets for a ZX Spectrum or anything of corresponding value Contact Rajesh Poddar, 1A, Heysham Road, Calcutta 20

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's postal course for the MBA/CAT entrance, 1987-88, for anything of corresponding value Contact Vikash Tibrewal, c o Barrabazar Transport Company, 42, Kali Krishna Tagore Street, Calcutta 7

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• **Video games:** I offer two single screen video games, *Spit Ball Sparky* and *Shuttle Voyage* for a double screen and one single screen video game or two single screen video games or anything of corresponding value Contact Munjal A. Gandhi 3-B, Darshana, 2-B, Sarat Bose Road, Calcutta 20.

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SPECIAL PUJA QUIZ

By Neil O' Brien

1st Prize: 6 cassettes 2nd Prize: 5 cassettes
3rd Prize: 4 cassettes 4th Prize: 3 cassettes
5th Prize: 2 cassettes

RULES

a) Only one entry is allowed per person Send your entry (along with your name and address) to The Telegraph, Colour Magazine, Special Puja Quiz, 6, Prafulla Sarkar Street, Calcutta 700001
b) Last date for receipt of entries November 8, 1988
c) Prizes shall be awarded for the least number of incorrect entries In case of a tie lots will be drawn
d) All participants are to fill in answers in the space provided next to the questions and send the pages to the above address
e) The quiz master's decision is final

Name . . . .

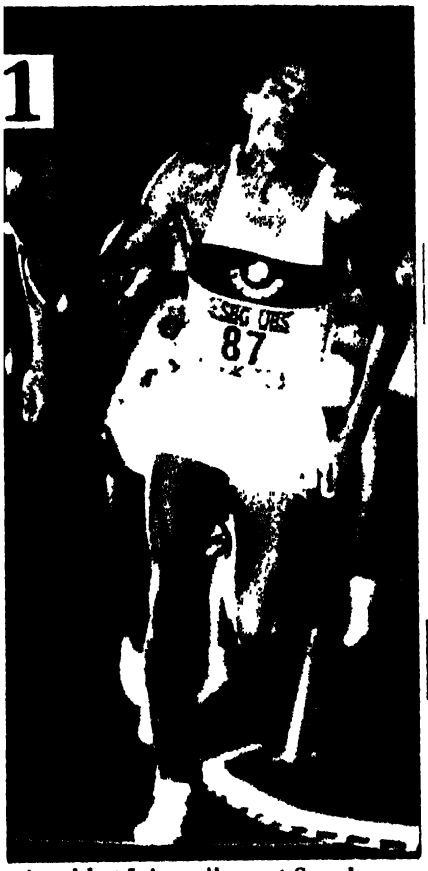
Address . .

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Age and Occupation . . . .

1. Which psychologist formulated the theory of the collective unconscious?
2. For what is the Pierre de Coubertin International Trophy awarded?
3. According to Edgar Rice Burroughs, what does "Tarzan" mean?
4. Who painted under the name of David Winter?
5. During World War II what did the Germans code name Moonlight Sonata?
6. Who played Anant Nag's teenage wife in the film *Ankur?*
7. Who was the family priest *(kulguru)* of the Pandavas?
8. What is the national bird of Nepal?
9. Emperor Akbar ordered the translation into Persian of which famous work under the title *Razm Namah?*
10. Which is the home city of the pizza?
11. What was the first sound film of Sergei Eisenstein?
12. Which dog is nicknamed "king of terriers"?
13. Who led a nineteenth-century society of artists called "The Ancients"?
14. Which place did Marco Polo refer to as Necuveran?
15. Which American male singer is nicknamed "The Nose"?
16. Which conqueror was known as the Prince of Destruction?
17. In fiction who settled the war between King Bombo and King Little?
18. In the Dennis the Menace comic strip what is Margaret's surname?
19. The Downs process is a process by electrolysis for extracting which element?
20. Who is the author of the Acts of the Apostles which is part of the New Testament?

IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING:



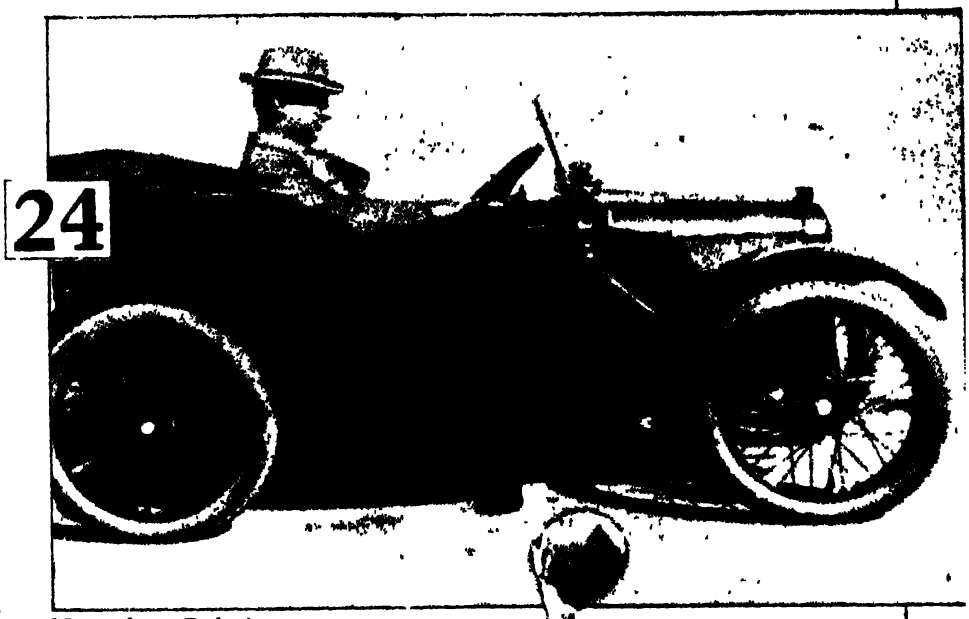
A gold at L A, a silver at Seoul



A Streetcar, the Wind, two Oscars



The Painted Veil, Cakes and Ale



Me and my Baby!



Hiralal's heroine

21 _____

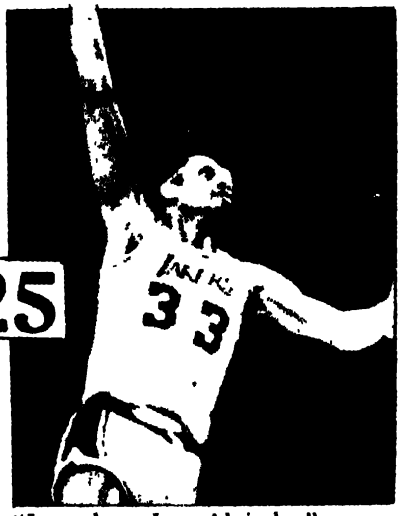
22 _____

23 _____

24 _____

25 _____

26 _____



"I was born Lew Alcindor"

To Keep You Puzzled

COLOURFUL OL'CHAP

" THE DEARY SOLDI HAD FELT, NOW THE PARTAIN DUES HIS SHRUB TO DRAPES STOKERS IN SORE, CHORE, CLARETS AND MAGNATE SILO ON THE SOLDI NOT YET DEARY TO RELIVED"

Each word of more than 3 letters in the sentence above is an anagram of the actual word that must be used so that the sentence makes some sense. Can you decipher the sentence?

PUPPET THEATRE

Amongst revellers at a Pandal, were some PUPS, Some PETs and some PUPPETS
Every PUP is a PET
Half PETs are PUPs
Half of all PUPPETS are PETS
There are 30 PUPPETS
Also, there are 20 PUPS
No PUPPET is a PUP

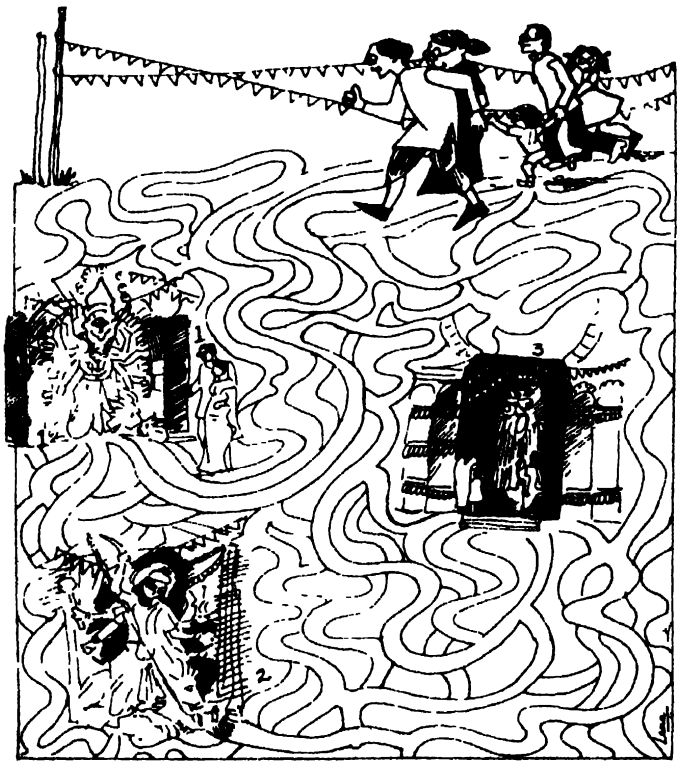
How many PUPPETS are neither PUPS nor PETS?

AMAZE-ING PANDALS

Babuji, Bibiji, Chaachoo, Muni and Chunoo set out to visit the three pandals in their locality

They find that there are more than one ways of doing this

How many different ways are there of doing the round and coming back to where they started, without crossing the path in each individual round?



FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Flowers are an essential commodity at Puja time Fill the names of flowers (jumbled up) in the blanks below to get a word according to the clue

	Example	Clues
	R L S Q L U I E (LOTUS) ----------	Determined
1	— - — - - - MER----- --------- -----	Ribbon
2	-- -- - - - - SE-------- --------- -----	Pass on, nervous impusle
3	W - - — - - - - F ---------- ---	Footpath?
4	M — — -- - — URSE----------	Has strings too
5	— — - - RI ----------	By the sea or the hills
6	C - - -- --------- ---- ------ -	Tin dance?
7	--- -- - -- RY ----- --------- --	Drooly!
8	B — -- ------- -- --------- --- --	William, the Indian cat
9	— - - -- - - ZER----- ----------	What a prize
10	— - — - ANDRIA ------ ----	Flower within a flower

A posy for you if you get them all correct.

COLD FEAT

The cold-drink vendor by the side of a pandal was selling really well-chilled soft drinks In fact, the drinks were so cold that tiny ice crystals were beginning to form at the top And each bottle was chilled to the same degree

Two friends, Rama and Gama, buy a drink, each with that slight touch of "frost" inside Rama opens the bottles and takes a sip—and the chill goes to his teeth. So they both decide to wait for about 5 minutes

At the end of about 5 minutes, which bottle will be cooler—Rama's open one or Gama's un-opened one?

CATEGORIES

Unusual categories, these! Can you fill in all the words

	INVENTIONS	MUSIC INST	MOUNTAINS	MEDICAL AIDS	MAN MADE WONDERS	BIRDS
D						
U						
R						
G						
A						

For example, categories for D would be Dishwasher, Drums, Dhauladhar, Dialysis, Delphi, Duck

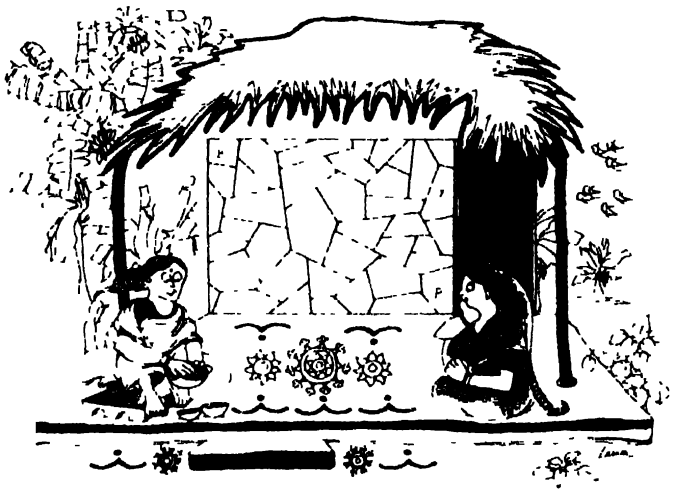
For a bit more of mind boggling activity, carry the categories on to PUJAS.

WALL OF COLOURS

SHASHOO REE and BOW DEE got together to decorate the verandah of their cottage REE was a clever one, she wanted to test how clever DEE was

On the wall, REE drew a geometric design and asked DEE to fill in blue, yellow and pink in such a manner that no two sections of the same colour have a common boundary

DEE was perplexed—can you help her?



COOL COMFORT

Ma Maxima and Junior were sitting inside, in the coolth of an airconditioned room, trying to keep out the Puja din

Ma felt a chill and got up to look at the thermometer "This is no good," she said "It's Celsius! I don't understand that Give me my good, old Fahrenheit, any day." "Oh! ma! Don't be so lazy—just use the equation 9/5 C + 32 = F

"That's too tough, Ma said, "I just double the Celsius reading and add 30 It's approximate—but it's easy"

Mother and son worked out the temperatures according to their methods Lo and behold! they both got the same answer

What was the temperature in the room?

INITIAL PROBLEM

D _____	P _____
U _____	U _____
R _____	I _____
G _____	A _____
A _____	S _____

Can you form names of well known personalities using the above initials For examaple, AS could be Amrita Shergil

To score, give yourself 5 points for the name of a politician, 4 for a writer or an artist, or a sportsman 3 for a businessman or Corporate Chief and 2 for a filmstar Actor-turned-politician like Amitabh Bachchan gets the higher score—5

How high can you score?

WHO IS WHO?

The image makers of Kumartuli are busy putting finishing touches to the images of Ma Durga Durgadas is wellknown for the images he makes, and the unusual decorations he uses

He receives a great number of orders for the ordinary 'moortis', but some people are particular and specify in great detail what they require

Some of the orders he received for this year's 'protimas' were as follows

1 A large image with 'gold' decorations only
2 A small image with silver decorations only
3 An image with colourful beads and baubles
4 Only mirrors

Durgadas has always relied on his memory to remember who ordered who These are some of the facts he remembers Can you figure out each person's full name and which image each one ordered?

a) The lady was not particular about size, and her name was Sheela
b) Binoy and Mr Ghosh thought silver was not suitable.
c) Shyamal, who is not Basu, and Mr Dutt did not want a large image
d) Bijoy, Mr Dutt and Mr Dey did not want mirrors on their images

Who is who?

FISHY FESTIVAL

Is a Puja celebration ever complete without fish? Well, sit back and collect a nettull of fish this time

How many fish can you find hidden in this scene?



Compiled by Shamlu Dudeja

Solutions overleaf

SOLUTIONS

WHO IS WHO?

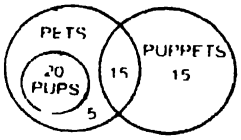
1. Sheela Basu—Mirrors 2. Bijoy Ghosh—Golden 3. Shyamal Dey—Silver 4. Binoy Dutt—Colourful beads.

COLOURFUL OL'CHAP

"THE READY IDOLS HAD LEFT, NOW THE PAINTER USED HIS BRUSH TO SPREAD STROKES IN ROSE, OCHRE, SCARLET AND MAGENTA OILS ON THE IDOLS NOT YET READY TO DELIVER."

PUPPET THEATRE

The problem is seen clearly in this diagram.
So, 5 PUPs are neither PETS nor PUPPETS



COOL COMFORT

9/5 C + 32 = 2C + 30
So, C = 10° and F = 50°

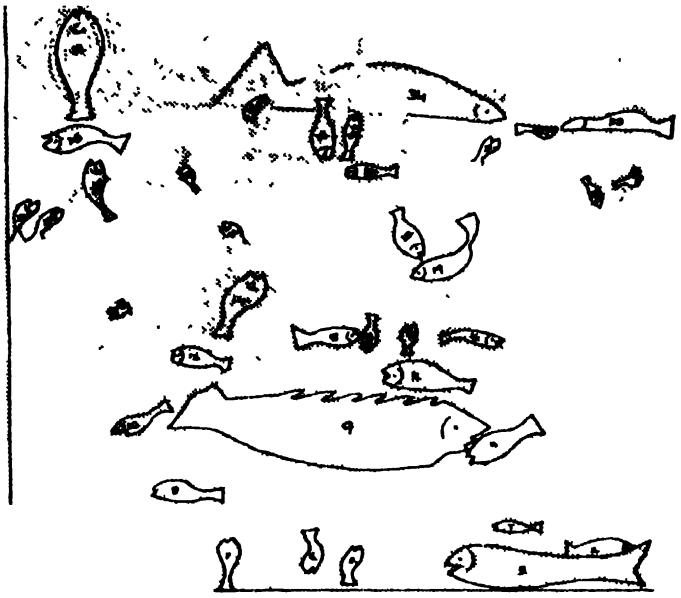
AMAZE-ING PANDALS

Mark paths to Pandal 1, A and E
From 1 to 2, paths B and F
From 2 to 3, paths C and G
From 3 to OUT, paths D and H
ABCD, AFCD, ABGD, ABCH, AFCH, AFGH, ABGH, EBCD, EBGD, EBCH, EFCD, EFCH, EFGD, EFGH



FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

1. STREAMER (ASTER) 2. SYNAPSE (PANSY) 3. WAYSIDE (DAISY) 4. MONEYPURSE (PEONY) 5. RESORT (ROSE) 6. CANCAN (CANNA) 7. SALIVARY (SALVIA) 8. BILLY (LILY) 9. PULITZER (TULIP) 10. CALLIANDRIA (LILAC)



FISHY FESTIVAL

COLD FEAT

Rama's bottle. Gas escapes from the liquid in the open bottle and the temperature falls. In fact within a few minutes almost the entire liquid would have frozen. The unopened bottle will gradually get warmer.

INITIAL PROBLEM

A possible solution is: Dina Pathak, Usha Uthup, Rajan Jetley, Ghulam Ali, Arun Singh.

Score: 2 + 4 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 18

If you have scored above 20, we would like to hear from you.

CATEGORIES

D – Dishwasher, Drums, Dhauladhar, Dialysis, Delphi, Duck

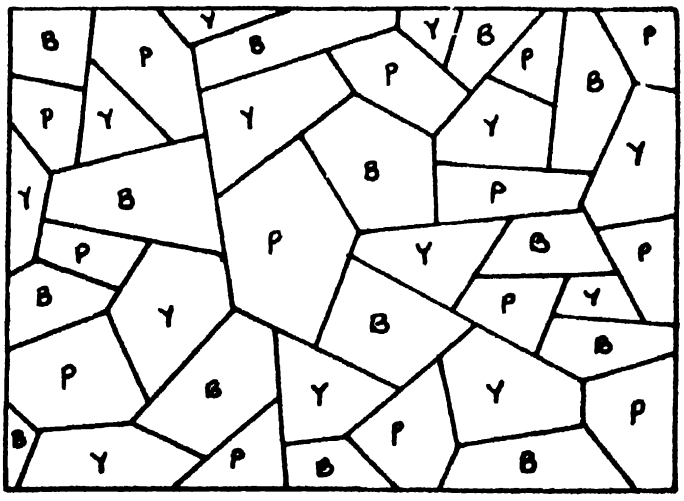
U – Underground railway, Ukulele, Ural, Ultrasound, Univac computer, Umbrella bird

R – Radio Recorder, Rockies, Radiotherapy, Rialto bridge, Robin

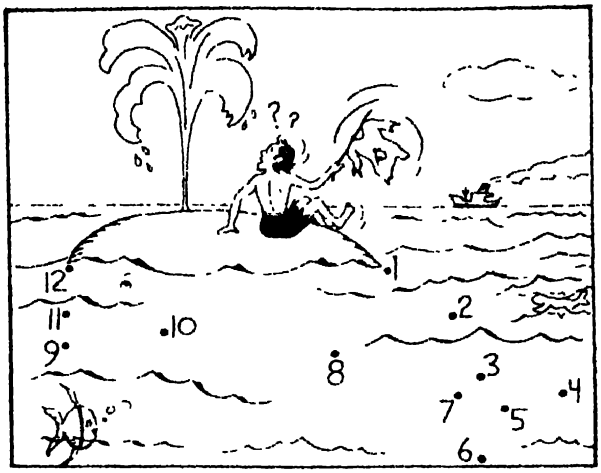
G – Gyroscope, Guitar, Gaurishankar, Gamma Globulin, Guggenheim, Grebe

A – Atom bomb, Accordian, Alps, Acupuncture, Shoka Pillar, Albatross

WALL OF COLOURS



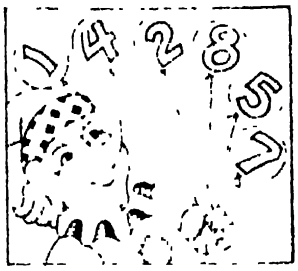
JUNIOR WHIRL ◻ Hal Kaufman



SEA, HERE! Our stranded sailor pal above is in for a big surprise To complete picture, draw from dot to dot

• **LOST CAUSE!** A team played 135 games It won 27 more than it lost How many games did it lose? Answer in one minute, if you can.

The team lost 54 games



MAGIC NUMBER PUZZLEMENT Number 142,857 displayed by the clown above has magical qualities Multiply it by two and the result is 285 714 the same digits in a new sequence Multiply it by three and the result is 428 571 - another variant of the same digits

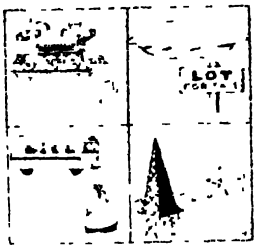
Multiply by four and the digits shift around to 571 428 Multiply it by five and the pattern continues with 714 285 Indeed when multiplied by six the result is 857,142 – a transposition of the original two sets of three digits

But does this magic continue? Try multiplying further by 7 8 9

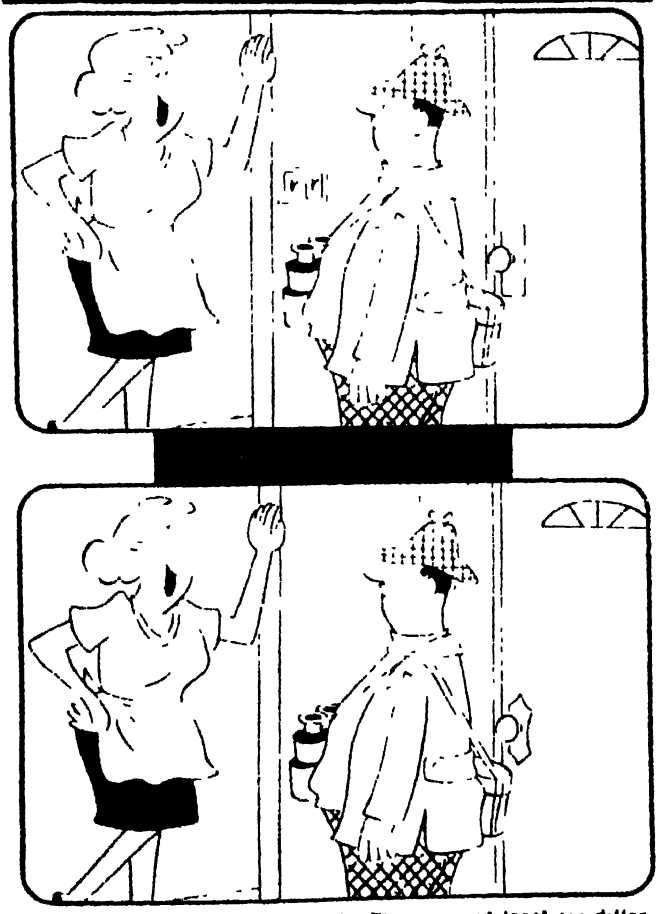
• **JOB LOT!** Names of four occupations are represented in pictorial rebus form below. That is to say, the names of objects, words, etc., pictured

One is an engineer (engine, ear), for instance. How quickly can you identify the other three?

Occupations are Engineer pilot busboy sleepyhead



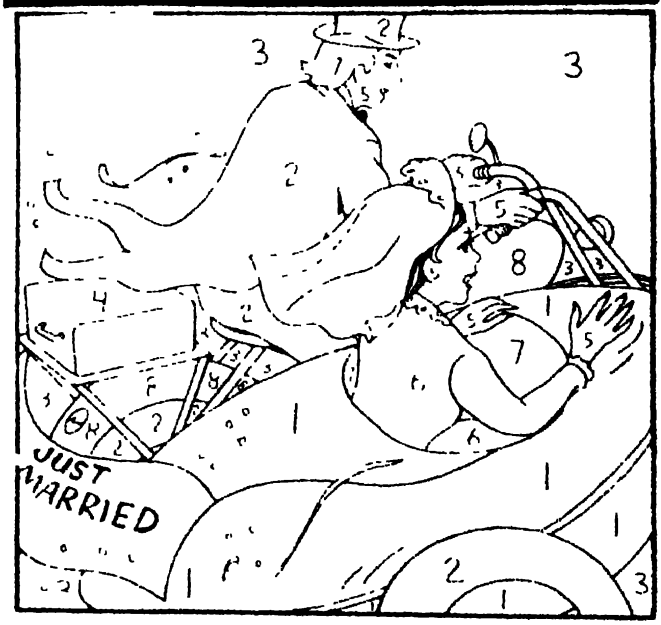
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Hair is different 2 Apron is shorter 3 Switch is missing 4 Collar is smaller 5 Arm is shorter 6 Doorknob plate is different

FUNSPOT



GET-AWAY! Apply the following crayons or colored pencils to the numbered segments above 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tone 6—Pink. 7—Dk brown 8—Maroon

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

BALMIEST

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Beat mail

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Aakarshan:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147)

Directed by Tanvir Ahmed, the film stars Akbar Khan, Sonu Walia, Smita Patil and Parveen Babi

• **Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138)—4 shows

Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Dr Shreeram Lagoo, Kader Khan, Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of this film, directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

• **Dilwala:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Raod, 242266), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757)

Directed by D Ramanaidu and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the cast includes Mithun Chakraborty and Meenakshi Seshadri

• **Mera Shikaar:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917)—4 shows

Dimple Kapadia, Kabir Bedi, Danny and Prem Chopra are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Keshu The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)- 4 shows; Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Madhuban (Regent Park)—3 shows

Directed by K R. Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain, the film stars Dharmendra, Anita Raaj, Govinda, Farha, Tanuja, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Shakti Kapoor, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Anupam Kher

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442)—12, 3, 6, 9,

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind.

• **Tarzan:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue; 553046), Basusree (S P. Mukherjee Road, 478808)

A re-release, starring Hemant Birje and Kumi Katkar.

• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A):** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828)—4 shows



Florida Bolkan in *One Night at Dinner*

Rajesh Khanna, Farha, Moon Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the main attractions in this film, directed by B R Ishara and with music by Anand Milind

Foreign Films

• **Death Wish Part 2:** Globe (Lindsay Street, 296665) - 12, 3, 5.45, 8.30

• **Flesh and Devil:** Jamuna (Marquis Street, 243715) 4 shows

• **One Night at Dinner:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141) - 4 shows

• **Predator:** Lighthouse (Humayun Place, 291299) 12 3, 6, 8.30

• **The Exorcist:** New Empire (Humayun Place, 291051) 4 shows

Bengali Films

• **Jyoti:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553015), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282) 3 shows

Directed by Shabd Kumar and with music by Swapan Jagmohan, the film stars Rameshwari, Prasenjit, Anooradha Patel Utpal Dutt and Pradeep Kumar

• **Madhuban:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567), Mini Jaya (Lake Town, 573936)—3 shows

A film by Ajoy Kar, starring Victor Banerjee, Tanuja, Utpal Dutt Swarup Dutta and Chinmoy Roy The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee



Arindam and Subhendu in the play, *Jay Jayanti*

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—3, 5.45, 8.30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Swapan Chakraborty

Theatres

• **Jay Jayanti :** Ranagana (153/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 556846) – Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm, Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Subhendu Chatterjee and Basabi Nandy along with Premangshu Bose, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Dipika Banerjee, Arindam Ganguly, Gita Dey, Nandini Malleva and Abhishek Chatterjee comprise the cast Drama and direction Ganesh Mukherjee

• **Kalanka :** Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street, 558402)—Thurs at 6.30 pm, Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Supriya Devi, Chinmoy Roy, Samir Majumdar and Sulata Chowdhury are the chief attractions in this play, whose music and direction are by Samir Majumdar.

• **Nesha :** Protap Mancha (opp. Rajabazar tram depot)—Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm; Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Directed by Tarun Kumar, the cast of this play includes Ashim

Mukherjee, Saikat Pakrashi, Tamma Sen, K Debraj and Miss Shefali.

• **Neelkantha :** Rungmahal (76/1B Bidhan Sarani, 551619) - Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Soumitra Chatterjee, Goutam Chakraborty, Ajit Banerjee, Nirmal Ghosh, Sumita Chatterjee, Debika Mitra, Sumanta Mukherjee and Sayani Mitra comprise the cast of this play. Drama, music and direction Soumitra Chatterjee

• **Rater Kuheli :** Boys Own Hall (P-29, CIT Scheme, Dalimtola Lane, near Biswaroopa, 552757) - Thurs at 6.30 pm, Sat., Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Rakhi Mukherjee plays the lead in this drama.

• **Sukher Thikana :** Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road, 355598) -- Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm, Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

The chief attractions in this play are Deepankar De, Biplab Chatterjee, Lily Chakraborty and Jnanesh Mukherjee, who also directs

• **Sukhi Grihakon :** Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street, 557293)- Thurs at 6.30 pm, Sat., Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Kali Banerjee and Subrota Chatterjee are in the lead

• **Tanaya :** Biswaroopa (2A Raja Raj Kissen Street, 553263) - Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm; Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Dilip Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Debraj Roy, Kaushik Banerjee, Arun Banerjee, Srirup Mitra, Anamika Saha and Shoma Chatterjee comprise the cast of this play, based on Ashapurna Devi's story

PUJA SPECIAL

Planes

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep Calcutta IC 217A on October 16, 23 and 30 at 1330, Arr Kathmandu at 1500. Dep Calcutta IC 217A on October 18, 20, 22, 25, 27 and 29 at 1630 Arr Kathmandu at 1800

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Dep Kathmandu IC 216A on October 16, 23 and 30 at 1540 Arr Calcutta at 1640. Dep Kathmandu IC-248A on October 18, 20, 22, 25, 27 and 29 at 1840, Arr Calcutta at 1940

Trains

809 up Howrah-Delhi (via Grand Chord): Dep Howrah on October 16, 21, 23 and 29, November 1, 4, 7, and 12 at 1500, Arr. Delhi at 2130 (second day)

810 dn Delhi-Howrah (via Grand Chord): Dep Delhi on October 17, 18, 23, 25 and 31, November 3, 6, 9 and 14 at 1240; Arr. Howrah at 1515 (second day)

9D up Howrah-Dehra Dun (via Grand Chord and Faizabad): Dep Howrah on October 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 29, November 1, 4 and 7 at 2245, Arr Dehra Dun at 1510 (third day).

10D dn Dehra Dun Howrah (via Faizabad and Grand Chord): Dep Dehra Dun on October 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25 and 31, November 3, 6 and 9 at 2230; Arr Howrah at 1315 (third day).

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5) AI-306 at 1830; Dep (5) AI-306 at 1930

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6): AI-315 at 1820, Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1). AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905, Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (7) AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr (4) RJ-194 at 0500; Dep (4) RJ-195 at 0630

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr (4) SU-537 at 1555, Dep. (4) SU-538 at 1855

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1530, Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240; Dep. (2, 4, 7), IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC 247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6) IC-248 at 1425, Arr (7) IC 248 at 2055

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC 443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7). IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG 691 at 1715 Dep (2, 4, 6) IC 223 at 1330 Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 223 at 1800 Dep (7) IC 443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG 691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC 224 at 1540 Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 224 at 2000, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta Chittagong. Dep (2, 5) BG 698 at 1305 Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305 Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay. Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and Ic-273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) Ic 265 at 1730, Arr (daily) Ic 266 at 2225

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-296 at 1725

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1), IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) Ic-410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1300

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620 Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2240

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr. (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7) IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (2, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1535, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC 281 at 2120

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7). IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1) IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr. (2, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6). IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily). IC-201 at 0540, Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625; (7): IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-239 at 1100, Arr (1, 4). IC-240 at 1040, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) 7) IC 227 at 0835, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep: (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-255 at 0815, Arr. (2, 4, 7) IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily). IC-222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4) IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-243 at 0610, Dep (daily) IC 241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030, Arr (daily) IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5). IC-238 at 1105.

Air-Indoor

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

*** Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6). PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

(2, 4, 6) PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2, 4, 6). PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-729 at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5)* PF-730 at 1610

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight) Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-729A at 0630, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-730A at 0850.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7)* PF-728 at 1610

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-737 at 0630, Arr (2, 4, 6)* PF-738 at 1235

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5)* PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily)* PF-709 at 1800, Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily). PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8 45	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18 20	82
103	8 45	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18 20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep — Mon Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed, Thurs Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri — Tues Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep - Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20 45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21 10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep -Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22 30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday & Saturday Arri —Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tuesday Arri - Saturday	7 30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
33	20 45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	304

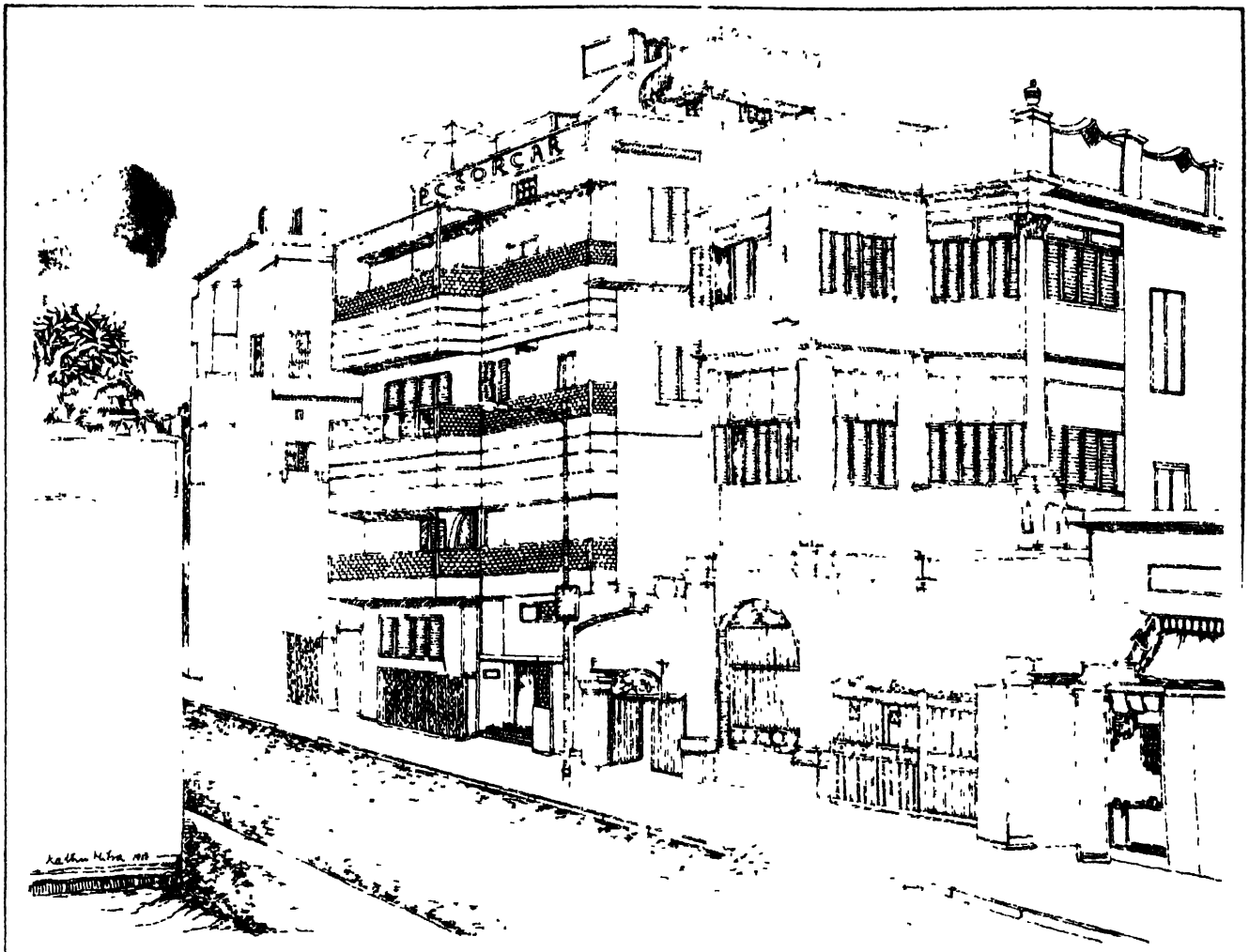
SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20 15	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20 30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21 00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
52	22-35	**Bangalore Super Fast Express** Dep & Arri —Wed & Sun	13-45	51
30	12 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21 50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21 30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19 00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10 00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14 10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

P.C. SORCAR (1913-71)



Born in Mymensingh (now in Bangladesh), world renowned magician P C Sorcar learnt the art of magic while a student of IA His guru was Ganapati Chakraborty from whom he imbibed the skills of the art and earned considerable fame. An honours graduate in mathematics, P.C Sorcar took to magic as his profession in 1933 The following year he toured Burma, Thailand, Singapore and China. He toured almost 70 countries during his career and established himself as the world's greatest magician. He was the first magician to wear a *pugree* and maharaja's dress on stage. He himself created a large number of the items in his repertoire.

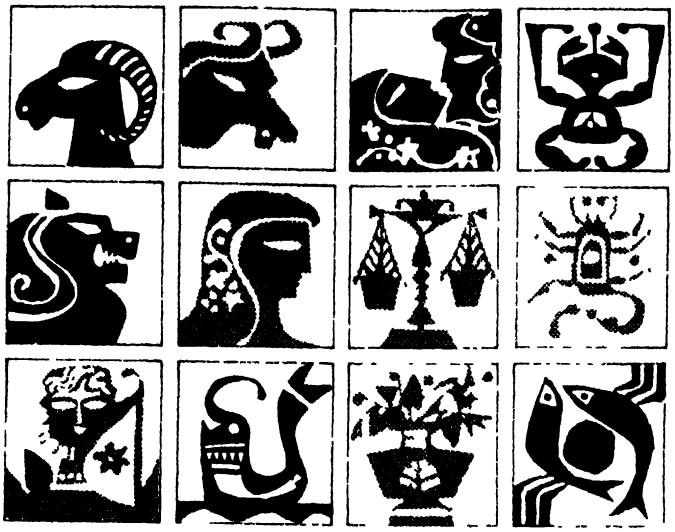
P C Sorcar is the only Asian to be honoured twice with New York's 'The Finix Award' for the greatest stage magic Besides, Germany's 'Golden Laurel Garland' and the 'Greatest Magician Award' were among his several other honours. A recipient of the Padma Shri, he performed on Australian TV, BBC, Chicago's WGN TV and New York's NBC.

At the Soviet government's invitation, he toured Moscow and Leningrad in 1962 where he was once more recognised as the world's greatest magician. Some of his items that have created an everlasting impact were X-ray Eye, severing a human body with a saw and Water of India He was a member of the Royal Asiatic Society and International Rotary Club.

On December 13, 1970 he went on a tour to Japan where he died on January 6, 1971 He authored 16 books of which *Chheleder Magic, Magicer Kaushal, Deshe Deshe Hypnotism Mesmerism* and *Sammohan Vidya* deserve mention

His son, P.C. Sorcar Jr. is maintaining his illustrious tradition. The house sketched above shows his Jamir Lane residence in Ballygunge, south Calcutta.

INNER EYE □ Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES

March 21—April 20

Good news is likely to come your way soon Parents and in-laws will take an undue interest in your affairs However, do not get irritated with them and try and see their point of view as well Your spouse will give you all the support that you need so go ahead with any ventures that you have in mind Health may cause concern and it is wise to go for regular check ups Visits to the hospital and clinic cannot be ruled out Guard against cheats

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

This is the time to rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way A lucky time ahead for lawyers, students, teachers writers painters industrialists interior designers and house wives Money is likely to come in from unexpected sources Refurbishing buying selling and collaborations are on the cards

GEMINI

May 21 Ju

Contracts will now be signed in your favour You will shine at meetings and friends and relatives will recognise your worth finally Your opponents will be defeated by only a slight effort from you so do not ge, needlessly upset by their behaviour You are likely to travel to distant lands soo Romance is on the cards for the eligible and fancyfree

CANCER

June 21 July 20

Job opportunities will present themselves to the unemployed and underemployed Lady Luck will smile on you so grab every opportunity that comes your way Money is likely to pour in but expenses will also rise proportionately Collaborations will soon be signed

LEO

July 21 August 21

Do not take people at face value as there will be many who will try and cheat you now Consult experts before signing any papers of agreements Love is on the horizon for the fancyfree and eligible Marriage or at least an official angagement will come through for some of you Family affairs will demand attention and elders may take a great deal of your time

VIRGO

August 22 Sept 22

Do not skirt around important issues The best policy would be to approach them and deal with them without delay Those who are employed have good chances of making it big Money and opportunities for advancement will come your way Do not take chances with your health

LIBRA

Oct 22

You may change your job soon However the shift will be for the better so do not worry Personal relationships may be under a cloud so there may be slight tension at home Take it in your stride and do not get worked up about minor problems The health of parents may cause concern

BIRTHDAYS

October 16

Rely on your intuition in all important matters Promotions with increased responsibilities and perks will come your way Do not lose your peace of mind over minor irritants and learn to look at the brighter side of life

October 17

Your outlook, especially towards family members must change Do not look at the negative aspects of people's personalities The year promises to be lucky but check any tendency towards extravagance

October 18

The stars foretell good times ahead and steady progress Travel is on the cards Business affairs will now do well, and important contracts and collaborations will be finalised

October 19

The year will begin well but there may be slight difficulties towards the year end Face them with fortitude and you will soon discover a hidden courage you did not know existed Loved ones will come forward to stand by you

October 20

Success is foreseen particularly for lawyers, editors businessmen writers, artistes and painters Your understanding with your employers may run into rough weather Take care not to antagonise people who matter

October 21

There is a risk of being cheated out of your money this year Guard against strangers who claim to be friends and do not take people at face value Health may cause concern Do not neglect even minor coughs and colds

October 22

A year of progress lies ahead. However, do not offend your superiors at work or your loved ones at home There are chances of developing an intense relationship with a relative stranger Home affairs may cause concern

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Jupiter trines Pluto your ruling planet and its effect will be felt both in your personal and professional life There may be slight tension at work and at home but this is just a passing phase Friends and relatives will recognise your worth finally and will stand by you Grab every opportunity that comes your way

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 20

Do not make tall promises that you may not be able to keep Cash will come in but expenses will also increase so keep a tight control on your budget this week Industrialists, painters, artists and students will make it big Lady Luck will smile on you so this is the time to start any ventures that you have in mind Health may cause concern

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19

Confidential information should be kept to yourself Relationships both personal and professional are likely to be under a cloud so do not go out of your way to antagonise others While ambition is a healthy emotion do not let it get out of hand Children's affairs may keep you busy this week as will matters pertaining to land and property disputes, mortgages and loans

AQUARIUS

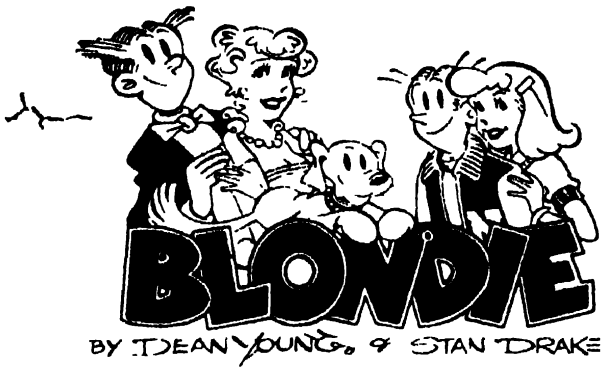
Jan 20 Feb 18

Reach out to people and places through all possible means of communication Love and romance is in the offing Relatives will be a source of great inspiration Do not take people at face value and learn to look below appearances Rely on your intuition in all important matters Someone close to you may meet an untimely end

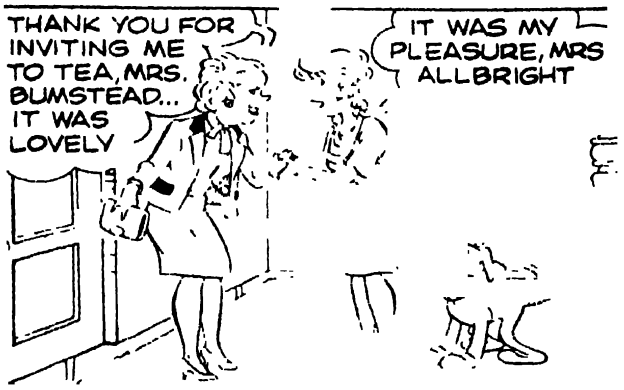
PISCES

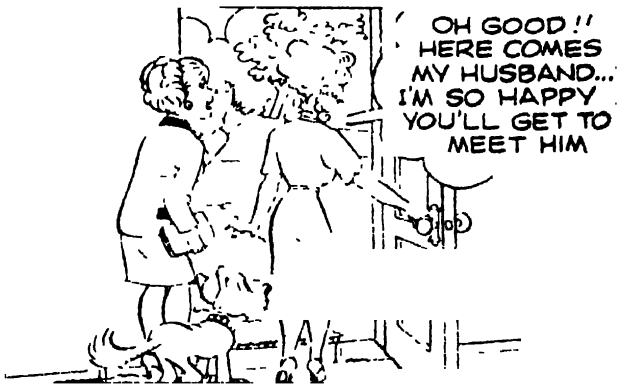
Feb 19 March 20

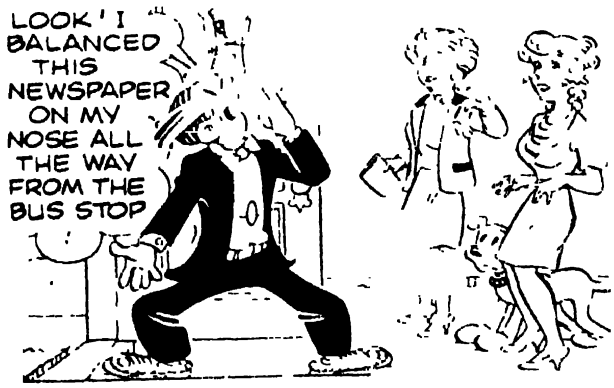
The home and property fronts will be in the limelight The moon's last quarter falls in your property and domestic angles Matters pertaining to land disputes may worry you Do not get too involved in disputes involving friends and relatives for they may only serve to show you up in a bad light

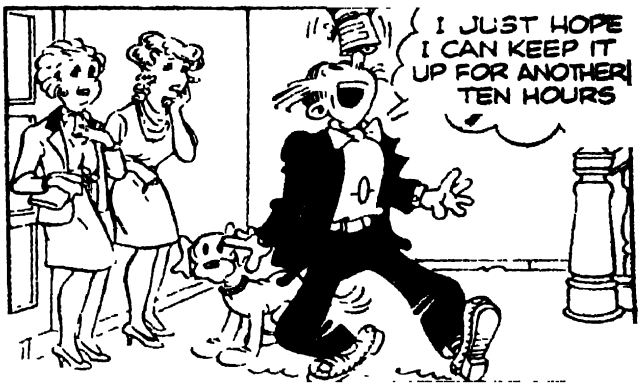

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


MORE TEA, MRS. ALLBRIGHT ?
OH NO, THANK YOU, MRS BUMSTEAD... I MUST BE RUNNING

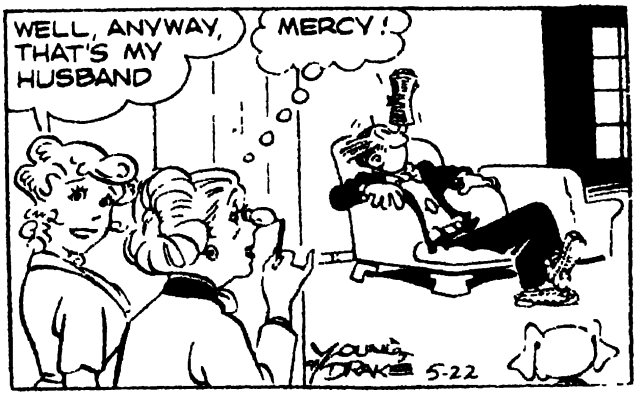

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO TEA, MRS. BUMSTEAD... IT WAS LOVELY
IT WAS MY PLEASURE, MRS ALLBRIGHT


OH GOOD!! HERE COMES MY HUSBAND... I'M SO HAPPY YOU'LL GET TO MEET HIM


LOOK! I BALANCED THIS NEWSPAPER ON MY NOSE ALL THE WAY FROM THE BUS STOP

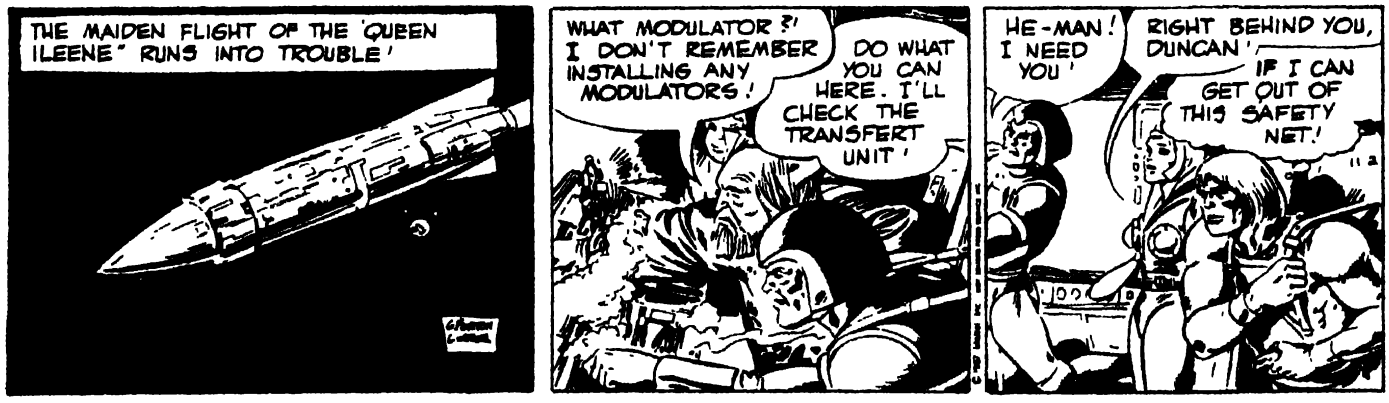

I JUST HOPE I CAN KEEP IT UP FOR ANOTHER TEN HOURS


I WANT TO SET ANOTHER NEW GUINNESS BOOK RECORD


WELL, ANYWAY, THAT'S MY HUSBAND
MERCY!
YOUNG DRAKE 5-22

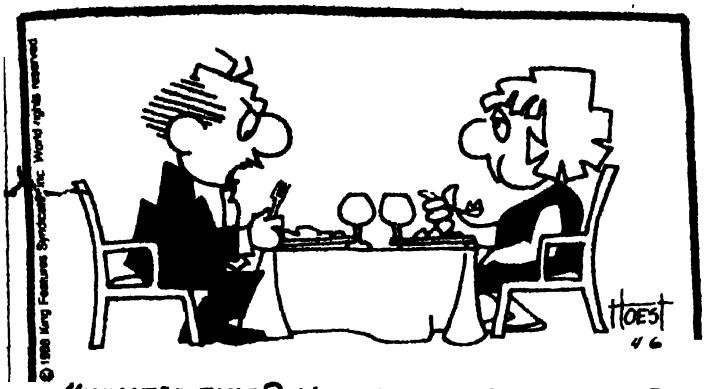

HE-MAN ! I DIDN T THINK YOU'D MISS OUR FIRST EXCURSION TO THE STARS TEELA AND GWILDOR ARE JOINING US.
THAT'S ONLY FOUR CREW PEOPLE
10/30
I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED FIVE.
NOW'S MY CHANCE !
DID YOU FORGET ABOUT ME ? GWILDOR'S SHIP'S PERFECTLY SIZED FOR A THENURIAN !
THALIA'D BE A GREAT HELP TO US ! SHE'S PRETTY HANDY WITH A SONIC SCREWDRIVER !


ALL RIGHT GWILDOR, THALIA MAKE FIVE
LEAVING MIRANDA SAFELY HERE !
DUNCAN, BE CAREFUL THIS OLD LAB WOULDN T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU AROUND TO LOSE THINGS.
10/31
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE MAN-AT-ARMS HAD TO HIDE A BLUSH .
DON'T WORRY MIRANDA. I'LL BE BACK FOR MORE OF YOUR BURNT COFFEE SPILLED OVER MY LAB REPORTS YOU TAKE CARE.

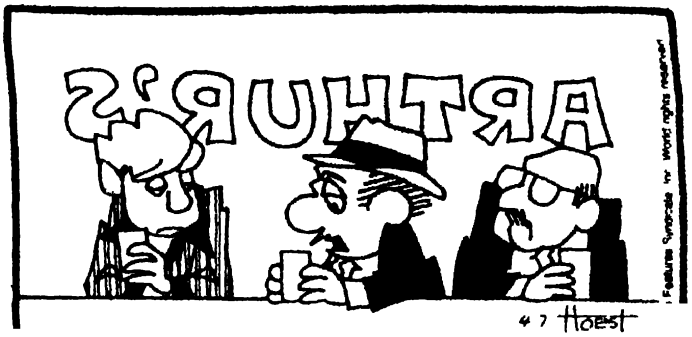

THE MAIDEN FLIGHT OF THE 'QUEEN ILEENE" RUNS INTO TROUBLE !
WHAT MODULATOR ?! I DON'T REMEMBER INSTALLING ANY MODULATORS !
DO WHAT YOU CAN HERE. I'LL CHECK THE TRANSFERT UNIT !
HE-MAN ! I NEED YOU !
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, DUNCAN !
IF I CAN GET OUT OF THIS SAFETY NET !


HERE'S HOPING I WON'T NEED THIS LATER !
WHY DOES IT TAKE AN EMERGENCY TO BRING US TOGETHER HE-MAN ?!
TEELA !

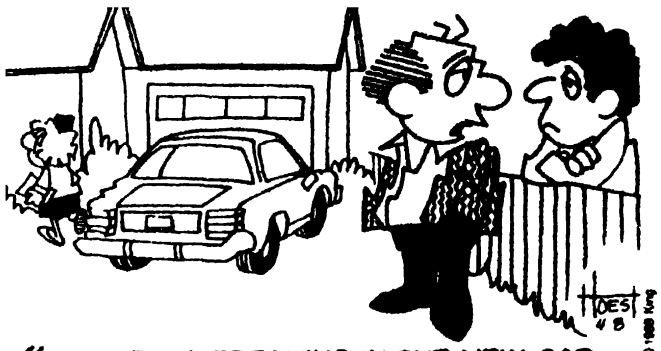
THE LOCKHORNS



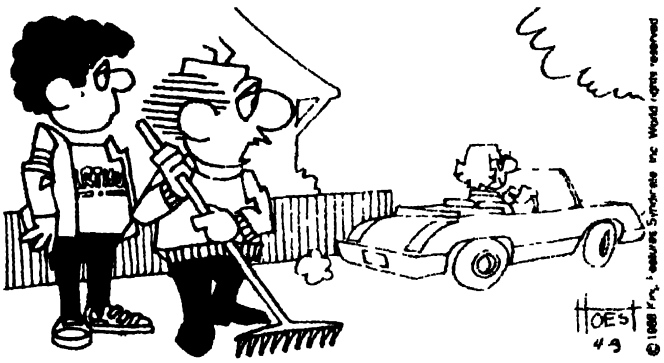
"WHAT'S THIS? YOU KNOW HEALTH FOODS MAKE ME SICK."



"WE'D ALL BE RICHER IF IT WEREN'T FOR OUR BAD HABITS. MY BAD HABIT IS LETTING LORETTA HANDLE THE BUDGET."



"LORETTA IS BREAKING IN OUR NEW CAR. SO FAR A BROKEN BUMPER, BROKEN SIDEVIEW MIRROR, BROKEN TAILLIGHT, BROKEN..."

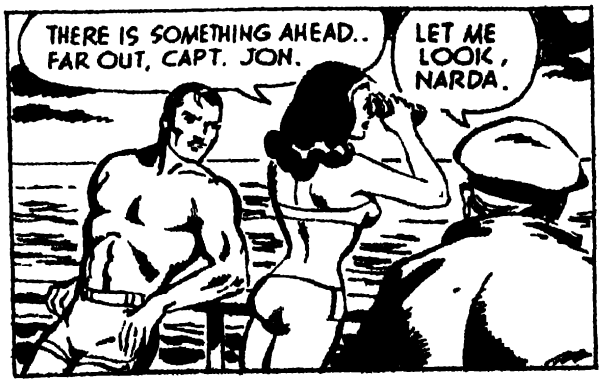


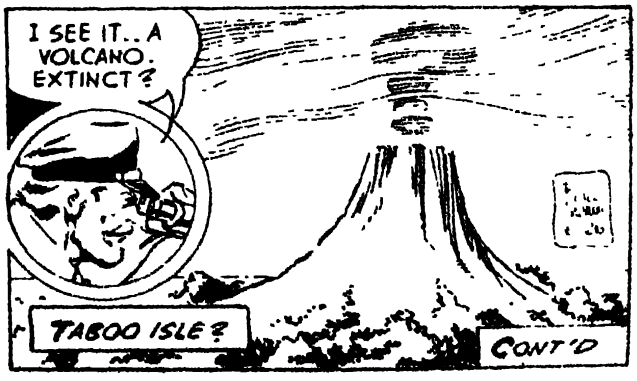
"THE MANUFACTURER MADE HER TAKE THEIR NAME OFF THE CAR."

MAROONED By Lee Falk

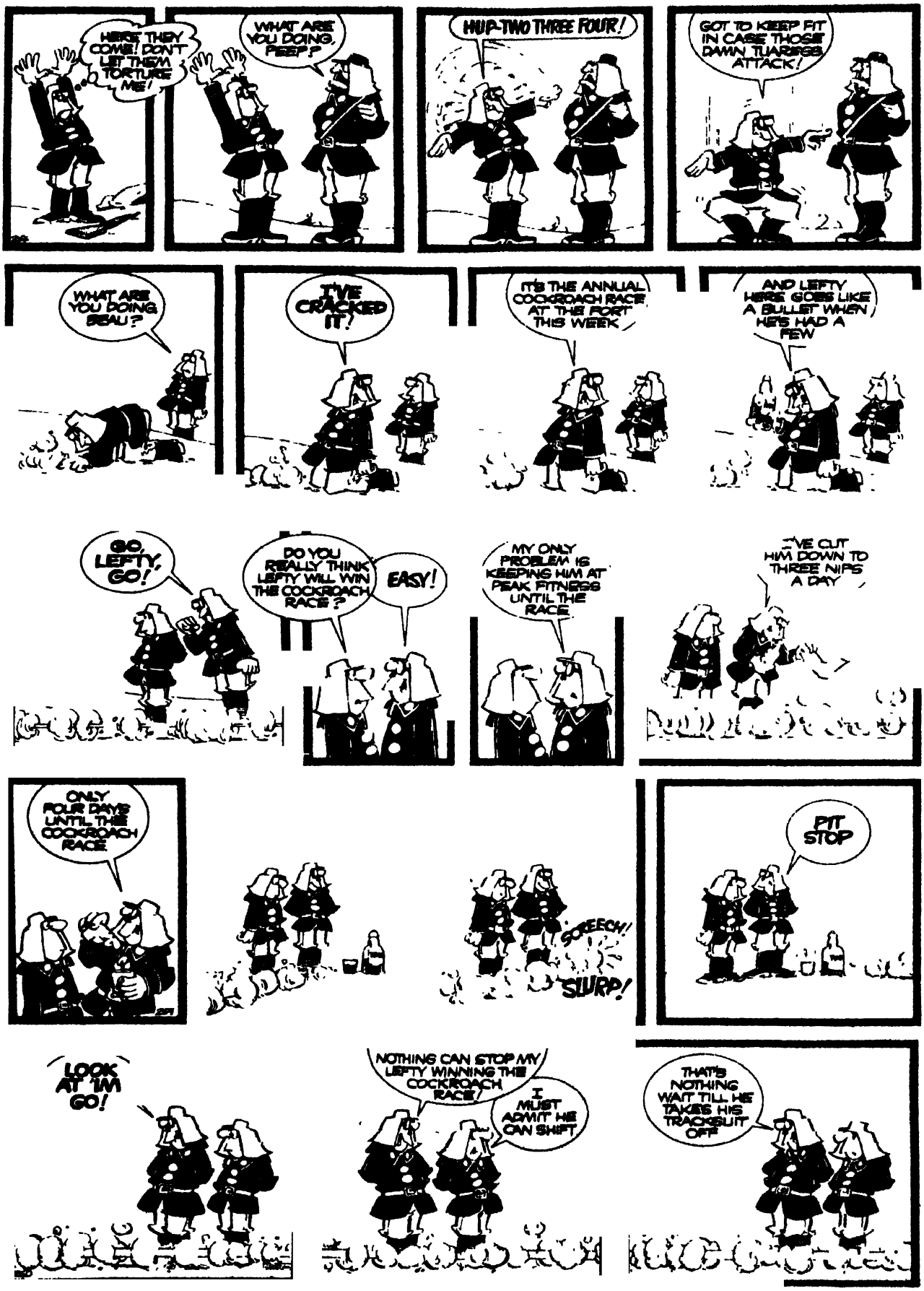








THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



ARCHIE


ARCHIE, HOW MUCH FAST-GROW PLANT FOOD DID YOU USE?
ONE BOTTLE, MOM, WHY?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO USE ONE DROP!
WILL YOU, BETTY?
OKAY, ARCHIE, IF YOU REALLY THINK IT WILL HELP!
GO! GO! GO! GROW! GROW! GROW!!
THE SUN WILL SHINE! YOU'LL FEEL FINE!!
YAH! BIG GREEN MACHINE!
OH WELL... TALKING TO THEM MAY WORK WONDERS...
...BUT CHEERING FOR PLANTS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING ANY GOOD!
4-10




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POST MORTEM

[illegible]

[illegible] and staff of Garden Cafe, were keenly anxious to know of Mr [illegible] Mundhara's grievance [illegible] bar (September 11). Such complaints have never come to our notice before.

There certainly is a waiting period on a crowded day but we do not know of many instances when it has been 45 minutes for *dosas* in the past few months. And for *idly* and *vada*, which is normally always ready, a few minutes or, when under preparation, 10 minutes, are required.

We are complimented by most of our valued clients about our well behaved staff but in case someone was impolite we sincerely apologise to Mr Mundhara.

As a matter of policy, we do refund fully if there is a change of mind by the customer, if he is unwilling to wait or if stocks are exhausted. These cases are very, very few.

Mr Mundhara's comment on the quality of food is under question. There are occasions when the taste fluctuates slightly in all places and even at home. It is very difficult to maintain the same taste when the quality of raw material in our country fluctuates so drastically.

We once again apologise sincerely to Mr Mundhara and hope to make him forget the "bitter taste" he may have had.

S. Navlakha,
Garden Cafe management and staff,
Calcutta

Two Real Bests

It was heartening to see your concern for the six of the best [illegible] in Calcutta [illegible] September 11). However, I was disappointed that you did not mention the Indian Museum. You also missed the Marble Palace and Jorasanko.

Whether Apurba Chakraborty poses as Hanuman in Lanka or not, the loss of these items in any manner would deprive Bengal and Calcutta of its traditional glory. The Nehru Children's Museum is certainly not comparable in this respect.

Indrajeet Ghose,
Bokaro Steel City

Not to Worry

Your cover story about doctors (May 1) reopened old wounds which I thought had healed.

My father lay gasping for breath on the bed of a so-called good hospital cabin. After a long time of frantic chasing of nurses and the house surgeon, the latter came, checked him and gave him an injection



which was probably a sedative. Then we were admonished for unnecessarily getting worried and "disturbing" them. The senior doctor arrived on his usual round, late at night, and said it was a heart attack and it was too late now to do anything. It was a matter of hours before my father left us.

People say, why don't we protest. Could you please tell us, where we should protest? We tried to wipe away the incident from our minds, but your moving article and [illegible] cover brought back the tears in our eyes.

Krisna Mukherjee,
Dhanbad

Spreading Tales

The cover story on 'Folk Tales' (September 11) was very inspiring in the sense that folk tales could be used as a tool of economic progress in India. At least two of the major problems, namely, population explosion and low agricultural productivity could be 'tranquillised' to some extent by infusing birth control and scientific agricultural practices in the garb of folk wisdom, taboos and restrictions on the vast majority of us who swear by these. Why not; after all, isn't it easier to spread tales than science and logic? Indian developmentalists should give this a thought.

Albert Fernandez
Calcutta

Modern Poetry

In his letter (July 31), Arindam was full of praise for Madhusudan Dutt and Sarojini Naidu. In his English poems, Madhusudan Dutt was a dismal failure because his poetry was full of theatrical assertions and rhetoric passion. Even at her best, Sarojini Naidu tried to write recreational poems of highly visible elegance. Modern English poetry is not 'fine' and 'elegant' writing. There are ideas and perceptions, knowing and understanding, and the use of minimum of words with utmost effect. Your Poetry page sometimes contains gems.

Thanks to Jayanta Mahapatra, I have read some memorable poems by Abhijit Dutta in your magazine. Here is a modern poet who is never without substance, who feels no need for ornamentation, who is driven to extremes, compression, [illegible]

[illegible]

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POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Brave New World

Three days hence,
A half burnt wick drowned in mustard oil

Five black and white lines advertise
What are now ashes in an earthenware pot

Garlanded black and white photographs
No shades of gray this time

Drooping tuberoses succumb within
moss-green water
A steady flicker of light reflects on
unsteady hand

Treacherous memories eat into the gilt on
the gingerbread
Revealing a crumbling facade of screaming
control

'It's only the body' I smile and tell them,
while
later I ask myself, 'Why was I born a
soldier's daughter?'
Nandini Sikand

During November

Trees are tinged with tenderness
and bronze. Hills have absorbed
the winter sky and daylight flies
like a charm from the leaves

We all have a soft corner
for this land of the seven huts
and as life becomes meagre
parting is so imminent

For how many years have we put
our lips to its cherry wine
How many years of winter and rain
desolated the hills of the seven huts

A few years can make one
smitten by this land. But
death will come to pass somewhere
Thus in alien lands as we age
we will reminisce the winter
and rain of the seven huts
Robin S. Ngangom

Sad Like the River

I was sad

After your lean, sad fingers
touched me last summer
I became sadder

For some unknown reasons
each of our meetings
makes me
a little more sad
like the annual floods
of the Mahanadi
washing out a few more villages,
leaving the river bed
wider, drier
more naked than before

I am sad
after knowing you
like the river
Dipak Samantarai

Lament For Mandavi

Your casual stroll down my heart
Blew it for me,
Mandavi

Sacked a tipsy gypsy
Onto cold cobble stones
Mandavi

Fair weather friend only?

Do you still sit
On windswept window sills,
Your face in a square mirror?

I sow snow in summer
You gift wrap gore for me
Mandavi, does that ring a bell?
The nocturnal knock
And rendezvous Ringlingpong Road?

My memory is your sunset eyes
Mandavi is it far,
Your shore?
Uday Shankar Hajra

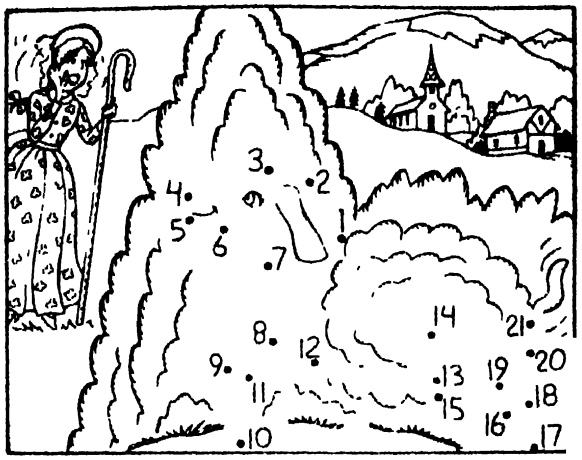


Mask

I have a lot of masks
I use them as I desire
According to time and opportunity,
In love, in protest, in barricade,
In insult, in conceit and in expedition
I rely solely on my masks

When I'm overwhelmed with sorrow
I use the black & white one,
When the atmosphere is full of festivity
I prefer the burning red,
For love, I certainly win with the sky-blue
mask,
And I use the dark blue with utmost care
and secrecy,
When I'm all alone, in solitude
I remain just as I am without a mask

Every night, as I prepare to take to bed,
I give a glance at the row of colourful
masks
kept side by side on the table,
Then they look askance at each other and
glance
Back at me with ridicule,
They laugh at my commands,
And I lay my forehead on the table in utter
despair
Ratan Das
(Translated by Arpita Mukherji)



SHEEP TRICK! A wayward sheep has Little Bo Peep at wits' end above To complete the scene, insert lines dot to dot.

• **SUM FUN! Add to a number its next consecutive number and 9. Divide sum by two. Subtract number you started with, and add seven Answer's 12.**



SCRAMBLED WORD HUNT

Scrambled letters shown above form two three letter words which are syllables of a one word answer to the following verse riddle

Cheer all solvers can I shine,
Whene'er my first is writ,
With this my second did combine,
To make a happy hit
My whole is frankly fixed in line,
Find it who can, did fit

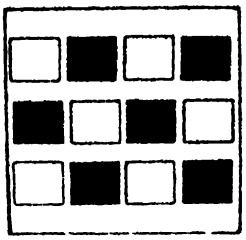
Clue Syllable words appear in the verse

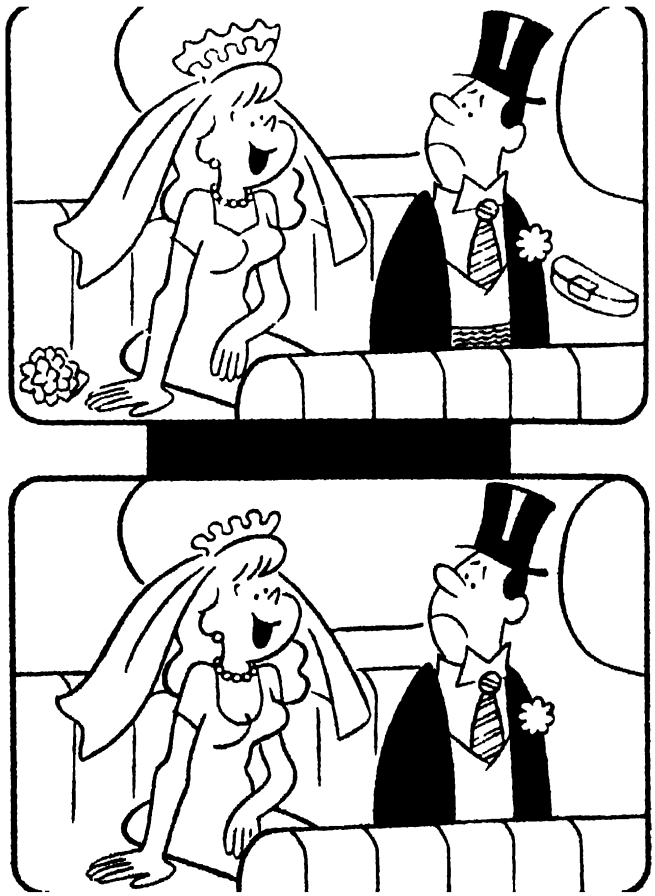
The word is candid (syllables are can and did)

• **PUSHOVER! Let's say each of the small squares below is movable. It is possible simply by touching and maneuvering one of these squares to rearrange the pattern so that the 1st and 3rd vertical rows are white and 2nd and 4th vertical rows are black.**

How is it done? P S There's a catch, natch.

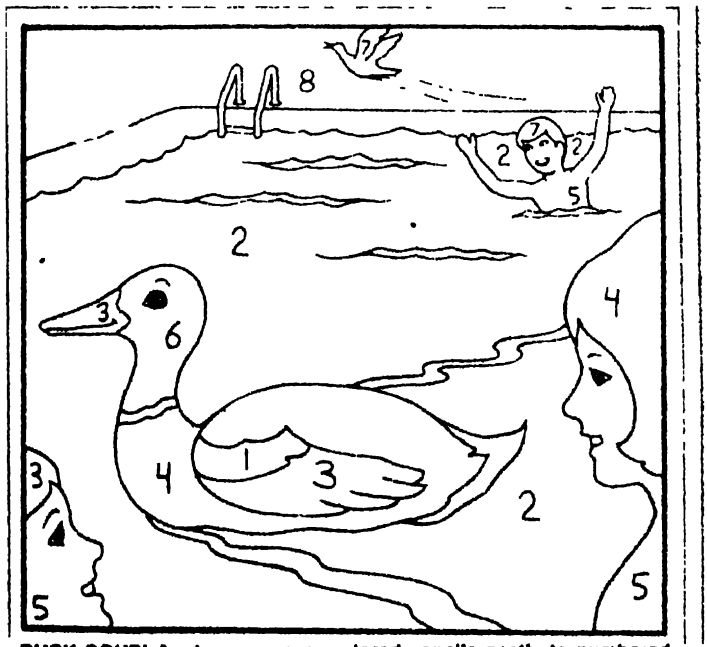
Move first black square in t ound to right and push entire are to the left





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference. 1. Flower is missing. 2. Crown is different. 3. Neckline is different. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Waistband is missing. 6. Arm rest is missing.



DUCK SOUP! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments of the pool scene above: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green 7—Dk brown 8—Lavender

ELLBIND

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words ____

MOTHERLY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more foend among the letters ____

Try to score at least 50 points ____

Possible anagram Holy, term

EDITORS EMERITUS

Collectively, these five men represent the voice of India's intelligentsia and embody the most cherished ideals of journalism.

Manini Chatterjee pays tribute to Khushwant Singh, Kuldip Nayar, Nikhil Chakravartty, Girilal Jain and M.V. Kamath

(Mr Kamath was interviewed in Bombay by Lekha Dhar)

To newspaper readers round the country their bylines are as ubiquitous as the inverted red triangle was to rural Indians a generation ago. Their columns cover a range of subjects and whether it is straight news or idiosyncratic views, there is a certain authority, a level of understanding which gives them a special place in the otherwise ephemeral world of daily journalism. Bombarded as we all are by headlines on corruption, terrorism, riots and coups, their writings provide almost a refuge, an oasis- of reflection, of perspective, of analysis of the seemingly chaotic events that go by the label of "news".

While these senior "statesmen" of journalism are by and large respected by an informed readership, there is a fashionable trend among the younger, over-confident scribes to dismiss them as "armchair pundits" who pontificate on everything under the sun without moving out of their airconditioned rooms. But hours of conversation with the grand old men of contemporary Indian journalism show that this view is not only uncharitable but also erroneous. For it is easy to forget—and perhaps difficult to accept—that despite their current eminence, these men have mostly come up the hard way, where discipline and diligence have played as much a role as dame luck.

Khushwant Singh, Kuldip Nayar, Nikhil Chakravartty, M.V. Kamath and Girilal Jain may fall in the category of eminent editors and former editors, but in every other way—be it style, content or belief—they are different. If for Nikhil Chakravartty, journalism was an extension of his commitment to the Communist Party, Khushwant Singh became a journalist relatively late in life after establishing himself as a successful writer. Kuldip Nayar continues to regard himself as a reporter on the beat while in sharp contrast, Girilal Jain remains the last of the cerebral editors disseminating ideas rather than mere facts. But unlike today's generation which plans on a career before it is quite out of school, all five stumbled into journalism and then stayed on in the profession they had strayed into.

Kuldip Nayar studied law in Lahore (one of his lecturers, ironically enough, was Khushwant Singh, whom he still refers to as "professor *sahib*") and was set to practise in his hometown at Sialkot, when Partition took place and he had to flee to Delhi. In Lahore, he had been associated with the CPI's student federation and so one day, while walking around aimlessly in the Jama Masjid area of old Delhi, he spotted a red flag and was drawn to it. The CPI leader, M. Farooqui was inside the house that sported the red flag and after a few minutes of conversation, he told Kuldip Nayar of a job going at an Urdu paper, *Anjam*, propagating the Two-Nation theory. The daily, edited by one Yasin Mohammad, had been in the forefront before Partition and later wanted an Urdu-knowing Hindu on the staff. Kuldip Nayar was offered a job at Rs 100 per month, and apart from his duties as a journalist, he was to teach math and English to the proprietor's schoolgoing children and help him out with his family business. In return, he got the exalted title of joint editor.

"I decided to make a career in journalism because setting up a legal practice would take a long time and I didn't want to be a clerk in a government office." Having decided that, he moved out from *Anjam* and managed to get admission for a course in journalism at the Northwestern University, Illinois. Though the travel was paid for, he had to work his way through for the tuition and mostly waited on tables and washed dishes. And he soon became "the fastest dishwasher on campus." On returning to India, Nayar joined the government's information department and was information officer to both G.B. Pant and then Lal Bahadur Shastri. He left the government to become general manager and editor of UNI in 1964 and was present in Tashkent when Shastri died. Three years later, he joined *The Statesman* as their Delhi editor and became the correspondent for *The Times*, London, a position he still retains.

In 1975, Nayar began his most well known stint with the *Indian Express*, got jailed during the Emergency but by 1981 "resigned because of certain differences." Since then, he has been running his syndicated service through which his columns appear in roughly 70 newspapers in 14 languages in the country. He has written nine books in between but sees himself as "a newsman of the beat."

Even today, Nayar leaves home every afternoon and scouts around government offices and literally stalks the corridors of power in search of scoops. "A news story is like oil. It is found where it is struck. On days you get nothing and suddenly you strike." Nayar says proudly, "I have been in the field of breaking stories all the time—I was the first to disclose that elections were going to be held after the Emergency and more recently stories on the Postal Bill, the differences between Zail Singh and Rajiv Gandhi and that Pakistan had the nuclear bomb." Despite his years as editor, Nayar maintains, "I have not spent even a day on the desk, I have been a field man all my life."

If Kuldip Nayar had it relatively easy after his first few years of hardship, Girilal Jain, the venerable editor of the country's most important newspaper, came step by step up the heirarchical ladder of *The Times*

of India. Jain is truly a self made man, having studied in a village school in his hometown of Sonepat and then graduating in history from Hindu College in Delhi. A bright student, he was attracted to politics during the Quit India Movement and was even jailed for a while in 1943. In his college days, he read mostly Marx and Lenin but on reading Koestler's *Darkness at Noon* among other things, got "disenchanted with the Communist system, with the Soviet experiment." For a while he became a Royist (a follower of M N Roy) and in 1945 worked with the Royist paper, *Vanguard*. (On his current beliefs, he says with a smile," I am no ist. I am just a journalist. "For the next couple of years, Jain drifted into business with a paint company and then a brief stint at teaching, but neither excited him and in 1948 he joined the *News Chronicle* under the editorship of his mentor and friend, Sham Lal. In January 1950, *The Times of India* started their Delhi edition and six months later, Jain, along with Sham Lal and a host of *News Chronicle* staff, joined as a sub-editor.

Though today, with his measured tone and studied phrases, Jain appears to be the archetypal editor, he first made a mark as a bright, young, local reporter. After a year on the desk, he became a reporter and went on to become chief reporter in 1958. As a reporter, he covered routine stories in the crime, court and other local beats and never ventured into political reporting. He kept reading a great deal and discussing politics and sociology with friends, but that did not creep into his daily reportage. "I reported as part of my job and I kept my overall perspective to myself. In our time, editorialising in reporting was not allowed--one had to be very factual."

Wasn't it frustrating to stick to routine reporting? Jain replies with a benign smile, "Frustration is a relatively new concept. There was little professional rivalry in our time. We were all very close friends. We would give our lives for each other. We were like a fraternity, not only those of us in *The Times of India* but journalists as a whole. We would spend hours in the Coffee House together, walk around Connaught Place, with almost no money in our pockets and all the time discuss ideas and books."

In 1961, Jain was posted to Karachi and a year later went to London as *The Times of India* correspondent. When he returned to the country three years later he was made assistant editor because the then editor, N.J. Nanporia, felt "this boy Giri will be good at writing edits." He later became resident editor and for over 10 years now has been the editor of the paper. Jain is justly proud that he has come up through merit and not by kowtowing to anybody. "I have never asked for a job in my life. Apart from the initial job, I never asked anyone for any promotion and posting or any favour. I didn't ask for the Karachi posting, I didn't ask for London, I didn't want to be assistant editor, or resident editor or editor." Without disclosing details, he admits that he has been offered every editorship worth the post in the country but has never felt the need for a change because "When I was not the boss, the bosses were very nice editors who showed great affection and respect for people who worked under them. And ever since I became editor nobody has ever told me what to write, what not to write."



Kuldip Nayar

NOT A MISSIONARY

What do you think of presentday journalism?

What I find is that maybe the presentation has improved, writing has improved but hard news is lacking today. In our days we tried to find out what went on behind the scenes but journalists today have become very dependent on the information that is dished out to them, they wait for the government to tell them what is happening.

How do you see your role as a journalist?

I am not a missionary—all that I have wished is to put things before the readers and help them to make up their minds.

What do you feel was the high point in your career?

Detention during the Emergency. I was used to sleeping in an airconditioned room and all the luxuries and then I went to Tihar and my cot was placed in a corner besides a dry latrine. There were no fans and a film of flies swam over the *dal* and *roti* we were given to eat. But it gave me a sense of satisfaction because I think I raised the standard of defiance.

A self confessed loner, Girilal Jain is a man of many parts and in his youth was influenced by Sri Aurobindo and he spent a few months in the Pondicherry Ashram. It is an influence which has remained, giving him a certain quality of detachment that lends an oracular touch to his editorials and lead articles. He labels himself a "Liberal Conservative" and the preservation of the Indian nation state remains his prime concern. He reads all the time, mainly history and sociology ("At one time I read a lot of psychology, much of Jung, and also philosophy") and this has imparted a broad perspective to his writing, a quality few journalists can hope to have. It is a perspective where personalities do not matter so much as polity, and unlike other editors who constantly meet politicians and bureaucrats, Jain firmly believes in keeping a distance. "I have never been to the central Hall of Parliament (the place where all political gossip, rumours and news emanates) and no politician can claim that he is my friend," he says.

In what seems almost quaint by today's standards, Jain also does not believe in reporting for his paper or writing anything but edits. "I regard the edit page very important and won't do anything that detracts from it. When you come on the front page, you are yourself announcing to the world that your edit page is not important. Which means really your editorship is not important."

Far removed from Girilal Jain's scholarly theses is Khushwant Singh's irreverent style which has made him the most widely read, if not the most popular, columnist of the land. His columns are a medley of analyses, anecdotes and jokes with the unique quality of never talking down at the reader but talking to him. Khushwant Singh started out a lawyer, joined the information wing of the diplomatic service after Partition in 1947 and on leaving "did different kinds of jobs but mainly stuck to creative writing." He strayed into journalism when "my articles appeared in different magazines—mainly foreign magazines which impress Indians no end—but the 1965 war really got me started. *The New York Times* asked me to do an article on Hindu-Muslim tension. I was given only 12 hours to write a 3,000 word cover story for *The New York Times* magazine and it took me 45 minutes to dictate it over the phone and I never looked back."

Thereafter, Khushwant was often asked to do specialised articles on India and was soon offered the editorship of *The Illustrated Weekly of India* which he initially refused but later accepted.

JUST A SQUARE

Sprawled on his favourite armchair in one of Delhi's most relaxed and comfortable drawing rooms, Khushwant Singh fondly reminisces on his heydays in journalism "I joined in the summer of 1969, spent nearly 10 long years as editor of *The Illustrated Weekly* and that was for me the biggest break in journalism because I took over the *Weekly* with a circulation of under 80,000 and a losing concern which had the lowest circulation among all the *Times of India* publications and in three years I had put it on top of all the others When I say I, it sounds immodest but the team working with me and at one stage we touched 4 10 lakh and we pegged it at that "

As far as political allegiance is concerned, Khushwant Singh has been guided more by personal equations than ideological positions and so he supported Mrs Gandhi right through the Emergency, regarded Sanjay Gandhi "a loveable little *goonda*," and then fell out with her when he continued to support Maneka Gandhi after Sanjay's death

Few know that Khushwant Singh was editor of *National Herald*, "at Mrs Gandhi's request' during the Janata rule "I did not draw a single penny and we could not publish since there was a strike every other day and there were police raids and all that kind of thing and at the end of six months, not having drawn any salary I just resigned I could not go on, the paper would not publish and it was pointless editing something that didn't appear. And then I joined *New Delhi* and it was the same, the magazine wouldn't come out

And then the Janata went out and Mrs Gandhi was back and "I was offered on a platter the choice of either being an ambassador or taking the Rajya Sabha and the *Hindustan Times*. I chose the latter " By the end of his three-year stint, he had fallen out with Mrs Gandhi and his term with *Hindustan Times* was not extended "But Birla was keen that I continue my association with the *Hindustan Times* and today I earn as much from the paper (from my column) as I did when I was editor In fact, more, because it gets syndicated and thereafter I took on two more columns and I get reproduced in 50 papers all over the country. I never had it so good."

Khushwant admits his columns are not strictly journalism. "I don't go in much for politics for the reason that I find it very uninteresting and I think it is very saturated. Everyone of these columnists is only writing politics and churning out the same kind of things. Mine is a largely analytical, largely also book-based. My concern is with social problems like, for instance, superstition and belief in astrology or religion. So I have to throw my net much wider and of course I think what really makes people read my column is the element of humour I introduce. No other Indian journalist uses humour at all, either political or any other kind."

Despite the saturation of politics in journalism today, Khushwant Singh has a low opinion of the level of political reporting "After all what do our journalists know about politics—they only know factions and names. There is no attempt at analysis. For instance, of all the writing on Punjab, I have yet to see someone analyse the phenonomenon of Bhindranwale and his rise and acceptance among the Sikh masses. Now, that's the kind of journalism I like to do—to analyse how a man like this became accepted."

He also feels that journalists must specialise "My advice to young journalists would be that it is a highly competitive field and you have to specialise. It's not good enough to limit yourself to reporting It's not good enough to do cinema reviews and book reviews, that doesn't make journalism Specialise in military science, nature, agriculture, anything and so when the editor wants an article on something, he knows whom to turn to."

Regarding the success of the *Weekly*, Khushwant Singh feels that for one, there was little competition and then "I made it controversial, I gave it a distinct slant of my own and then there was my column which was surprisingly successful And the real reason for the *Weekly*'s increase was telling Indians about their own country. We did a series on different communities, and then a whole series on India that you do not know and a whole annual on birds and trees and animals These gave Indians an introduction to their own country. Today journalism has become too politicised. It's a bore "

For Nikhil Chakravartty, politics can never be a bore, the politics of ideas and debate and commitment. A widely respected commentator who has been bringing out the weekly *Mainstream* for 26 years now, Chakravartty entered journalism through his work in the Communist party. A bright student from Presidency College, Calcutta, he had had a brief brush with both politics and journalism when he edited the Presidency College magazine in 1933-34 and wrote a tribute on the death of Congress leader, J.N. Sengupta, describing him a "political martyr." Sengupta had died while he was interned in Ranchi but the authorities were shocked that a government college magazine could dare do such a thing. Chakravartty was taken to Lalbazar police station for questioning and though nothing was made of it, he still recalls the experience as his first acquaintance with political journalism.

It was during his years at Oxford that Nikhil Chakravartty came to be influenced by Marxism and eventually got close to the CPI. Those were heady days of intellectual ferment and Marxist debate in Eng-

What do you have to say about your image as a hard drinking, womanising old man?

That is partly self-created and its only based on the fact that I don't make a secret of my drinking and make fun of people who are prohibitionists and call them humbugs. As for womanising, I would like to be able to live up to it. I am about as square a man as anyone else and I know some of my fellow journalists who are far from being square but strictly maintain the image of being very puritanical. I accept that I pay compliments to pretty girls on their faces, in front of their husbands, in front of their parents. They like it and unlike Mr Ramrao Adik or anyone else I have never been slapped on my face or taken to court. I have never yet offended anyone with my compliments. I don't make passes, I pay compliments.

But there are people, reading your dirty jokes, who do not consider you a serious journalist.

You know, human beings are complex characters. It is hard for me to tell these people who have this image of me as a dirty, old man that I have written two volumes on Sikh history and I am, probably the only Indian who is a contributor to the *Encyclopaedia Brittanica*. I mean that can be taken as a hallmark of scholarship of some kind. And I am perhaps the only Indian after Radhakrishnan who has lectured at Oxford on comparative religion.

Out of your journalistic days, which phase do you look back with fondness?

The *Weekly* was of my making but I enjoy the present most. I make a darn sight more money and now I am reaping the harvest not in terms of money but in terms of notoriety. I can't move out anywhere without being stopped for autographs and being photographed. It's highly flattering to one's ego. I know it's also corrupting but.

Khushwant Singh



land, and many bright Indian students—among them Jyoti Basu, Indrajit Gupta, N.K. Krishnan, Mohan Kumaramangalam and others—came back to India converted to Marxism and eager to join the movement back home. Chakravartty decided not to take up a full time teaching assignment and instead took tutions and did freelance journalism. One of the first articles he wrote, under the pseudonym of Vanguard, was on Lenin It appeared in *The Hindustan Standard* Sunday magazine and he was paid Rs 70 for it Other articles followed, but once while walking down the corridor of the university, Dr Radhakrishnan (later President) spotted him and urged him to teach. "Oxford has spent money on you and you are not serving the university You are wasting your time . journalism is only meant for the riffraff," he said And then turning towards the dean of the university, Shyama Prosad Mukherjee (later the founder of the Jana Sangh), Dr Radhakrishnan reportedly asked him to give Chakravartty a job and so he began teaching history at the university.

In 1943, Bengal was struck by its worst famine and Nikhil Chakravartty and other CPI activists concentrated wholly on party work The then CPI general secretary, P.C Joshi, turned up and said, "Nikhil, what are you doing here Go to the districts and report back." And so, the young Communist travelled to all but two of Bengal's districts and sent his despatches on the famine for the party paper *People's War* Joshi later remarked, "You write so well Don't waste your time as a lecturer Become a party reporter." And finally, P.C Joshi's advice prevailed over Dr Radhakrishnan's and Chakravartty worked for different party journals for several years Though a politician, Joshi was a very good journalist and a even better editor. "Whenever I did a good story, he sent a telegram to the party office but when he did not like my reports, he wrote a letter to my home address His idea was that when I did a good story everyone should know and it would make me work better but when I did not, I should be told privately so I could improve "

In 1948, the CPI was banned and Chakravartty went underground and worked with different committees On coming overground in 1952, he went back to the party paper, first called *Crossroads* and then *New Age*. It was in in 1957 that he felt that many news items which were "radical and progressive" in nature did not reach a wider readership because of the limited circulation of a party paper. "So the two of us, David Cohen (a Calcutta Jew) and I, took permission from the party for long leave from active party work and began a feature agency called the *India Press Agency* (IPA)." The stories circulated had a Left orientation but were not under party control



Nikhil Chakravartty

Then in 1960, in the last days of CPI general secretary, Ajoy Ghosh, Chakravartty felt the need for a paper where interaction between Communists and radical Congressmen could take place And so in 1962, he along with a Congress supporter, Chittaranjan, borrowed Rs 70,000 from friends to start *Mainstream* The policy was that if Chakravartty attacked the Congress, he should do so in a signed article and the same went for Chittaranjan writing an anti-Communist piece Otherwise, the paper would reflect the joint concerns of both At that time, C N Chittaranjan was the editor to be replaced by D.R. Goyal but by 1967, Nikhil Chakravartty who was running the show from the start took over formally as editor.

Mainstream with a circulation of 12,000 is a "vaguely Left-wing journal which is receptive to listening and propogating any point of view that is useful to the readers We are interested in discussion," says

VERY CAREFUL

What is the major change you have witnessed in journalism over the years?

When we joined the profession, it was a profession of penury—almost like becoming a whitetimer with a political party. Press in India grew as a weapon against foreign rule....but now big money has entered, generally speaking it is no longer fashionable to be known as corrupt. It is (therefore) extremely difficult to keep your integrity. One has to be very careful—like putting on a chastity belt in a brothel

What do you feel is the role of a journalist?

To inform. Please don't try to save the world. If you can see the world going up in flames, your job is to communicate that there is a fire so that people can call the fire brigade. It is not to play the fire brigade yourself.

IVORY TOWER PERSON

How would you characterise your kind of journalism?

In journalism, one must write what one has digested. I practice the journalism of ideas, not the journalism of facts. And I don't belong to the "publish and be damned" school. I feel responsible for the consequences of what I write. Since I deliberately set out to inform and influence, I cannot disown the responsibility. For me citizenship comes before profession—concern for the future of India must take precedence over everything.

You are perhaps the last of the old school of editors. What do you think marks your generation out?

Experience, an inter-disciplinary approach, wide reading but most of all detachment. We are what you would term the Ivory Tower People. But I think being in an ivory tower is a virtue for an editor.



Chakravartty. He gave up party membership in 1978 because of differences with the CPI over its support to the Emergency and though no longer a party member, has close links with individual party leaders—be they CPI or even CPI(M). Over long years of interaction he knows several ruling party politicians personally and continues to follow the cardinal principal of "never betraying the trust of your sources."

Despite the fact that he started out in a party paper, Chakravartty has the rare gift of objectivity and reasonableness which goes beyond dogmatism or personal rancour and he is thus respected by even rightwing politicians in the country. *Mainstream* remains a forum for scholars, academics and a few serious politicians but through his columns in different newspapers, Chakravartty has manged to enlarge his readership. Like Kuldip Nayar, he believes that among all the branches of journalism, the "most important is reporting. That's why I still go on my rounds." He also believes that with the increasing corruption all around, "It is extremely difficult to keep your integrity. We are not elected people. We handle very sensitive things, the public affairs of the country, and have access to a large measure with people wielding power. We are like an iceberg, we know much more than we show. If we do not court vigilance and constant self-introspection, we can fall for allurements, we can become too egoistic. My slogan has always been 'To thy ownself be true'."

Becoming a journalist was furthest from M V Kamath's mind when he was young. A doctor was what he looked forward to being, but the medical profession required a financial backing he did not have. Philosophy and literature were in the realm of the impractical in 1939 so he took to science and then a five year stint as a chemist.

However, journalism became his vocation though it took five attempts before he managed to get a foothold in the *Free Press Journal* (FPJ), which employed a man who had "no typing, shorthand or local language" at his command. He was given a three-month deadline to "shape up or..." Kamath says in retrospect, "I managed.".

In three years he moved to New Delhi to cover the Asian relations conference and stayed on for a year, after which he was summoned back to Bombay to soon join the select rank of editors. Editor of the *Fress Press Bulletin*, the group's eveninger may have seemed small but with it went de facto editorship of FPJ and its Sunday edition *Bharat Jyoti*.

The death of FPJ's legendary editor, Sadanand, and a new management brought an end to Kamath's nine-year stint with the paper. A V Baliga who in charge of editorial policy was Marxist-oriented unlike Kamath who left for the Press Trust of India (PTI). He became the news agency's UN correspondent based in New York until a clash with V K. Krishna Menon brought him back to India where PTI failed to renew the contract. "I became a freelance writer, which meant I was 'unemployed' for nearly a year," says he.

During those "unemployed" days he was contributing editor for *United Asia*, a Bombay-based monthly brought out by a friend G S. Pohalker. The job meant editing the magazine and by way of payment he received "a free lunch and use of the office."

Horizons broadened with *The Times of India* and in August, 1959, Kamath began a seven-year stint in Europe covering "earth shattering" events. The journalist from Udipi in Karnataka which in his words has produced cooks, cooks, and correspondents saw Europe's history in making. He covered events from the UN, Geneva, Common Market, Brussels, European parliament in Straussberg, besides local events in the continent. Landmarks in Europe and during a later stint in the US made memorable pages in his work diary—the first UN conference, Kennedy's visit to Berlin, the Kashmir debate, the Suez Canal debate, entry of Britain in the Common Market, the Watergate scandal and Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon.

Returning to Bombay in 1967, Kamath spent two years as editor of the Sunday section of *The Times of India*. He then went to the US as TOI's correspondent for nine years. When Mr Khushwant Singh retired he came back to Bombay to edit *The Illustrated Weekly*. He retired in 1981 to return to "unemployment and writing columns for about a dozen newspapers and journals." He has written about 20 books.

Looking back Kamath says, "At that time we didn't know how the future would shape up. There was a missionary spirit, to prepare the country for progress on different fronts. Now we know our limitations, we realise that the grasp is further, after 45 years we cannot say we haven't realised our mistakes." He still sees himself in the missionary role, "trying to dispel the mist and project the forces of order. I am not a pessimist. I see a bright, happy future and my role as one who breaks through these unseen barriers to progress. To see things as they are and project things as they should be. It sounds very pretentious, I know, but it is true."

Some of the events that he will never forget are the demise of the Gandhian philosophy and the death of Gandhi which brought in a slow erosion of values. "Nehru's Avadi Resolution adopting the



M.V. Kamath

OPTIMISTIC, BUT...

Why did you stop supporting Indira Gandhi?

During the Emergency, when I was in Washington, I had the misfortune of supporting her. I was set right by a friend and I wrote her a 40-point letter in 1976. I said 'I supported you during the Emergency. I understand things are going wrong.' The letter asking her to explain the position, was sent through her press advisor, Mr B.Y. Sharda Prasad. She promised to answer but never did. This spelt a break with her. To my eternal shame, I did support the Emergency in the first few months.

What is your opinion of contemporary journalism? Do you feel it lacks a sense of direction?

It is bright, brash and irreverent. It is readable, it seeks to be 'investigative'—that's the key word. It does not seem to have any direction—like punching all around. There seems to be no focus. When you punch, you punch the nose. In the old days (pre-Independence) we knew where everybody stood. Many people thought the Congress would lead us to the land of milk and honey. Today there isn't anybody who can lead us out of this jungle and the press reflects the lack of direction of society.

We are the twilight of the morning of our society. We require the sun's rays of thought to pierce through the mistiness of our thinking and ideology. I find this missing. May be, morning is not far behind. We have to emerge from the darkness of post-Independence to the morning of the technological era ahead. I am optimistic but I don't see optimism reflected in the press.

socialistic pattern of society was a sharp watershed between the past and the present, a departure from the Gandhian society. It was a new step and gave a new sense of direction Now a generation later they are back-peddling." The Gandhi murder trial is still fresh in Kamath's mind "I covered it for the *Free Press Journal* and *Nav Shakti*. When Nathuram Godse asked for the newspapers, he got *Nav Shakti*. He wrote to the editor saying that mine was the best coverage of the case. Imagine a certificate from Nathuram Godse," says Kamath, who now writes a highly respected column on the strengths and weakness of the Indian media.

And as these men reach the twilight years of their life, the most remarkable aspect remains their commitment and their humility Commitment not in the ideological sense of the term but a daily diligence to the work at hand and the ability to retain hope despite the sense of decay all around Even as editor, Girilal Jain "goes through every word that appears in the editorial page" while Khushwant Singh, for all his breezy style, spends hours drafting and redrafting his columns. Both Chakravartty and Nayar do not sit back and relax but do their rounds everyday in search of information that forms the basis of their opinion

None of them feels they have reached where they are because of their brilliance. They attribute it to hard work, enormous reading and, of course, as Kuldip Nayar puts it, "luck or the way circumstances



And as these men reach the twilight years of their life, the most remarkable aspect remains their commitment and their humility. Commitment not in the ideological sense of the term but a daily diligence to the work at hand and the ability to retain hope despite the sense of decay all around

develop." Khushwant Singh insists that "I have very little talent. I have no illusions about talent but I am a slogger, I keep a very strict discipline on my time." Says Chakravartty, "It is a very tiring profession, I don't recommend it to anyone who is scared of working hard "

And finally these editors emeritus, who could easily have done well in other more honourable professions, have no regrets at making journalism their career. Jain with typical aplomb says, "I have never been bored in my life, I have never had any regrets in life and I have no sense of guilt. Whatever I could do, I have done. Politics is not for me—I know my limitations. I am in many ways a loner, I prize my privacy " For Nikhil Chakravartty too, there are no regrets "though I feel a little nostalgic when I pass Presidency College, specially the library Sometimes I think I should have continued teaching but there is alwys the danger of ossified intellectualism, here one is always alive " And for Khushwant Singh, who with his wealthy background and experience in law, diplomacy and politics, could well give up the profession "this is the only thing in which I have found expression and a certain amount of fulfilment. And today I feel fulfilled and that is perhaps the ultimate test. "■

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Due to unavoidable reasons, Heritage has been dropped from this issue



Jaya Padma writes about *the quiz hosted by her school*

"Ashok Hall, Tollygunge, held its first inter-school festival, Spandan '88, for classes IX and X at Kala Kunj The quiz, conducted by Barry O'Brien, was one of the major highlights of the festival There were eight participating schools and an enthusiastic audience Don Bosco, Park Circus, eventually emerged winners "

S Sriram, Noamundi (Singhbhum), writes about Tokamak

"Tokamak is a fusion reactor (still in an experimental stage), that works on the basic idea of taming the hydrogen bomb The fuel used is the abundantly available dueterium (or mixture of dueterium and tritium), which when undergoes fusion, gives out an alpha particle (4 He) and energy This might well be a major source of energy in the 21st century

"Tokamak is abbreviated from Russian, the full name signifying 'toroidal magnetic chamber ' Invented in the USSR, Tokamak was developed and nurtured ahead of other similar machines by Lev Andreich Arstimovich, who is known as the father of Tokamak research

"In India the first Tokamak was commissioned in July 1987 at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta Another one at the Institute of Plasma Research in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is likely to be commissioned this year

"Other devices belonging to this category are stellarators, magnetic mirrors and spheromaks "

Pratik Chakrabarti reports

"An inter-school quiz competition was organised by theNorth Calcutta Jaycees and the NCC at the NCC Clubhouse Fifteen teams took part in a written elimination In a keenly contested final, La Martiniere for Boys (A) emerged victorious, edging out Calcutta Boys and St Xavier's Quiz master Mudar Patherya of *Sportsworld* entertained all present with a wide and varied assortment of questions. The winners were represented by Kazi Arif-uz-Zaman, Kazi Atif- uz-Zaman and Sumeet Wadhera. It is a pity the quiz was not well attended."

R M Sengupta on this year's Argus Quiz

"Thirty-six teams, despite an entry fee of Rs 30 each and nagging rains, proved how popular quizzing is in Calcutta.

"The AQUO has been running the Argus Plate Quiz for the last eight years for the also-ran teams in other AQUO quizzes They also use this quiz as a forum for introducing new quiz masters

"The quiz masters this year G. Kashinath and Arpan Guha, made their maiden runs in a burgeoning field that comprised the aged as well as apprentices Although the going was easy, veterans of many classics were left behind by the colts in the preliminaries

"One such enterprising team was Blitzkrieg which broke away from the rest as soon as the gates opened for the final But the co-favourites, Lake Youth Club and Spookies, cantered the second half of the race while Loaning Bin also trotted well to keep pace with the lot. Blitzkrieg's final score was 20-and-a-half which was much more than the average age of their team-members.

"Finally, they were overtaken by Spookies (22-and-a-half), Lake Youth Club and the outsider,Pioneers. Pioneers ultimately, with 25 points, romped home, beating Spookies while LYC, with 24 points, was caught at the post."

R.M. Sen adds: "There are several horse-racing terms in the above review. Test your knowledge of the terms Your knowledge is

Excellent if you score	12-14
Good	9-11
Average	5-8
Below average	below 5."

CBS

11th Question: ***What happens when an athlete "hits the wall" in a marathon? (Sailesh Kr Singh, Room no. 35, Hostel no. 13, BIT, Sindri, Bihar 828123).***
Ans. **The marathon is the true test of an athlete. The tough mental and psychological barriers which cause failure of even seasoned marathon runners to complete the race is known as the "Wall." When an athlete drops out of the race because of physical or mental pressure, he or she is said to have "hit the wall."**

QUESTIONS

1. To whom did Mike Tyson send a pair of his boxing gloves as a birthday present? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)
2. Who was the first novelist to use a typewriter for his work? (Subhorup Dasgupta, Calcutta 92)
3. In the Rig Veda there is a mention of a river Bipasha. How is it known today? (Partho Ghosh, Chalbasa 1)
4. Which cricketer was nicknamed "The Demon"? Agarwal,
5. What is common to Banks, Devon, Ellesmere, Melville, Victoria and Axel Heiberg? (Nirmalya Sarkar, Asansol 1)
6. What role did Wurlitzer organs play in early Indian cinema? (Sumeet Budhraja, Chandigarh 22)
7. Who said, "If you want to stop the population boom, provide electricity in every village. In the absence of electricity one can neither read a book nor do any other work except increase the population."? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)
8. An Australian distance runner broke 17 world records in his time but failed to win a gold in Olympic or Commonwealth games. Who is he? (Ashish Kumar Sahu, Bargarh)
9. In the UK, whose passport bears the number 1? (Pinaki Bhowmick, Jaffarpore)
10. What is psychohistory? (Amit Kr Roy, Chalbasa 1)

ANSWERS

1. Nelson Mandela.
2. Mark Twain.
3. River Bees.
4. Frederick Sporforth, who did the first hat-trick in Test cricket.
5. These islands are located in the Arctic Ocean and their status is Canadian.
6. They drowned the whirring noise of the projector.
7. Mr Natwar Singh, Union minister of state for foreign affairs.
8. Ron Clarke.
9. The Queen's husband has the passport bearing the number 1. The Queen's passport has no number.
10. It is a new technique of historical enquiry developing from the mental makeup and motivation of historians in the peculiar contexts of their times.



THE FALL OF THE HILLS

The once green hills of Darjeeling have lost much of their beauty and politics is not solely to blame Indiscriminate felling of trees, faulty agricultural methods and the unscientific use of slopes, especially in construction work have led to major landslides in the hills The vegetation cover has been reduced to a minimum and this coupled with the high rainfall (over 3,000 mm), has led to excessive runoffs, hastening soil erosion and landslides

The forest covered hills had since centuries acted like blankets for trapping rainwater and maintaining the perennial character of the springs and the non glacial rivers even during the peak summer period

Yet, today, many springs have dried up and channels have retreated People have to fetch their daily water from greater distances over rough terrain Stored water supply is hardly enough and often local residents have to go without water for days at a stretch The scenario as seen today, is gloomy to say, the least True political strife has changed the very face of the district, but the environmental disaster that threatens the very existence of the people in the hills looms in the near future

The three-hour journey to the district headquarters can be exotic even today But as the clouds darken and the rain falls to the ground, the topsoil, loosened by indiscriminate deforestation, is washed away and huge chunks of earth cave in, restricting mobility Life comes to a grinding halt There are three approaches to Darjeeling besides the main route, via Mirik, Mungpoo and Pankhabari

The main route to Darjeeling has become the most susceptible to landslides over the past decade owing to the excess pressure exerted by heavy transport vehicles The Pankhabari route is the shortest but can only be used by light transport vehicles because of its inadequate width That leaves Mungpoo and the Mirik routes But the normally safe Mungpoo route has become increasingly prone to landslides owing to excessive diversion of traffic



One of the landslide-hit roads that lead to Darjeeling

Landslides have wreaked hovoc on the Darjeeling hills. It is time effective remedial steps are taken

Moreover, the time taken on this route results in economic hardship for the people in form of food shortage and price inflation For instance, tomato prices shoot upto Rs 15 per kilo The bus fare is normally Rs 15 on the normal route but owing to the diversion, it rises to Rs 30 A seat in a shared taxi normally costs Rs 40 but after a landslide it can go upto Rs 80 Arrangements for trans-shipment transport are made in the landslide affected areas but this has proved to be very inconvenient

The two main landslides that took place were at Ambutia and Pagla Jhora, the former being the largest of its kind in the entire continent The publicity it received dwarfed the significance of the landslide at Pagla Jhora and the adverse long term consequences it could have Each subsequent heavy shower causes the land to sink further Today it almost looks like a roller coaster route The only difference is that this is no fun ride

Heavy traffic has furthered the sinking process As the situation has assumed alarming proportions, alternative possibilities are being thought of Until recently, there had not been much consensus regarding an alternative route via Giddapahar Instead of using the tortured section of Pagla Jhora, an unmetalled road from Gayabari to Giddapahar could be improved and used as the main route

The Lekubir landslide on the Siliguri-Sikkim highway has earned the dubious distinction of dislocating life in the entire state of Sikkim The entire state becomes the helpless victim of a single slip, as all vital supplies that move along this route, cannot reach their destination

The time has come to take a proper look into possible remedial measures to combat landslides and their aftermath Conventional remedies like afforestation programmes have become counter productive in the Lava area where landslides have taken place primarily due to the pressure exerted by heavy trees In this context, what is essential is a detailed study of the geological and topographical structure of the hill terrain It is only with the help of these findings that steps in the right direction are possible



Road repair work in progress

The recent accord has brought joy into the hearts of many The tourist industry which has been in the doldrums during the last three years, is expected to reach a new high soon As people from the plains begin to throng this resort once again the natural environment so delicately poised at the moment needs to be monitored very carefully

Jaideep Lahiri

The Underwater



Shells can be used innovatively, to create jewellery or even herbal cosmetics. But the industry has not been given due importance

In the tumbling depths of the mighty ocean lie seemingly insignificant molluscs that one day nestle snugly on the necks of young ladies, beautify their ear lobes or perhaps clasp their wrists in a protective embrace.

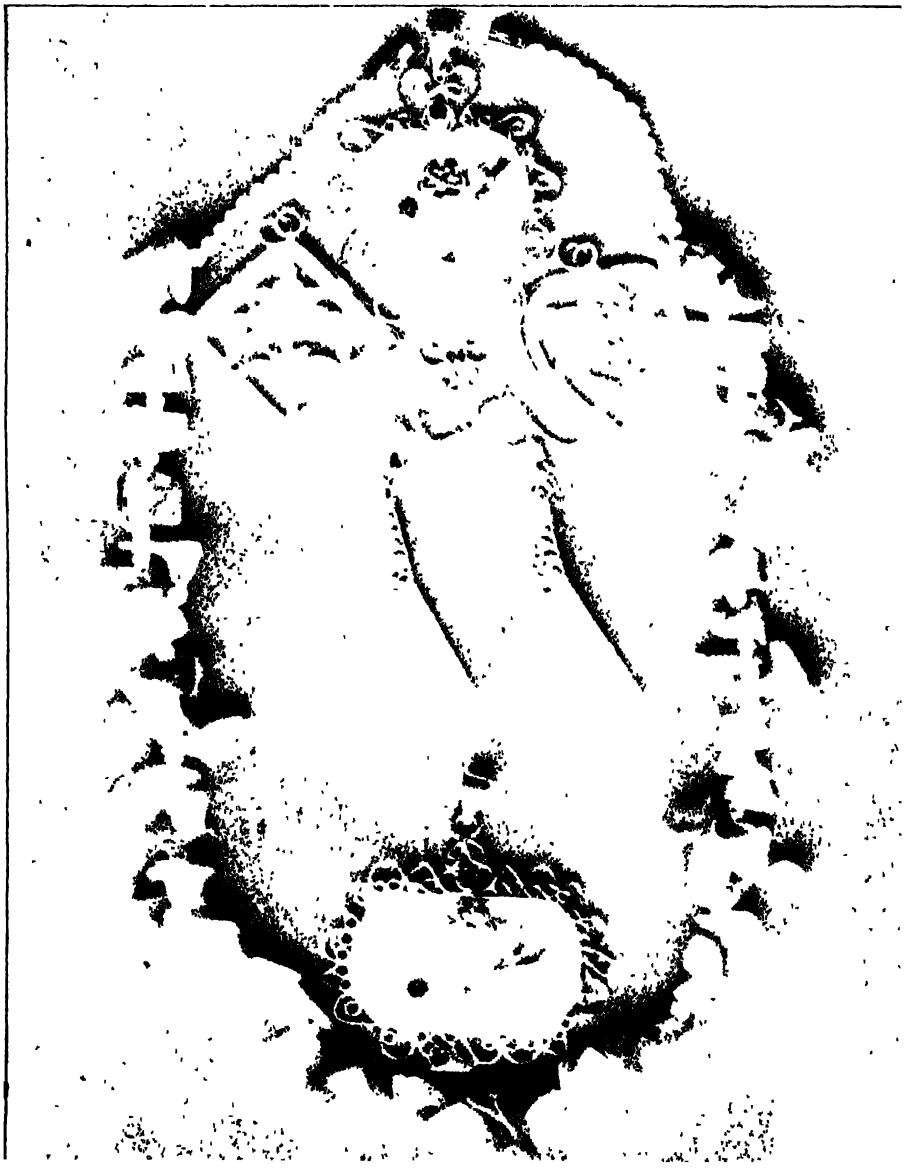
Shell jewellery is almost an integral part of the modern woman's *shringar*. In Bengal the conch shell or *shankho* is a traditional household article and everyone is familiar with the *shankho* that it is made of. However, *shankho* is not used for making costume jewellery that is popular today. There are special shells or *jhinuk* like the turbo, trocus, mother of pearl and Nouhtus that are used for making jewellery and other decorative articles. Occasionally, river or pond shells are also used but their glaze is not the same.

These shells are usually obtained from the Andaman islands and the shores of Tamil Nadu. Being a marine resource, the government keeps a watch on the procurement and raw shells are "sold at government auctions where the dealers buy them in bulk for subsequent sale to the jewellery manufacturers," explains Gautam Sen whose family runs a manufacturing unit of shell jewellery in Calcutta.

The use of shells as decorative items dates back many years when royal families in the princely states of Gujarat and Maharashtra patronised shell craftsmen who created exotic items like shell inlaid doors and window frames (these cost Rs 23,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively, today). The royal patronage did increase the value attached to the art but it also gave it an esoteric status. Now, with soaring prices of silver and gold jewellery, more and more people are turning to shell ornaments.

Gautam Sen, 24, claims that his father, Nokul Sen, who started designing 20 years ago, is the pioneer of shell jewellery in Calcutta. Nokul Sen, who also engraves conch shells, has won an award for his work in the seventies. Aware of different techniques of handling shells and carving designs on them, Sen experimented with different kinds of shells. Today, Calcutta has a few units besides Sen's for making shell jewellery and the Andaman islands has skilled local craftsmen as well. "But," says Gautam with a tinge of pride, "Calcutta is the main centre for manufacturing shell jewellery in India. Bengal has a tradition of intricate craftsmanship and this is true even today. From Calcutta, shell jewellery is sent to other parts of the country and abroad." Other manufacturing centres include Puri, Digha and Madras.

Perhaps it is the luminscent glow that emanates from a shell ornament that makes it so attractive. It emits different colours but is basically white, a neutral shade that can be worn with a variety of clothes. Economics also tilt the scale in its favour as it is quite reasonably priced. But, the beauty of shell is enhanced when it is set in silver. Of late, however, soaring silver prices have led to its setting in German silver instead.

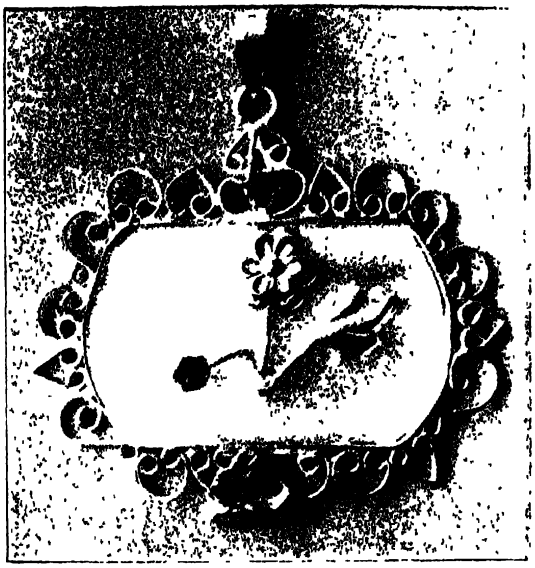


Gems

As Shashanka Shekhar Mukherji, an exporter of shell jewellery, points out, being a natural product, it wins a point, what with today's emphasis on herbal and natural beauty care. In an effort to widen the market, manufacturers also dye shell jewellery in various colours like steel grey to suit different tastes, he adds. Some shells, however, have a natural hue like the mop shell which is brownish.

Shell items are either strung, set or stuck together with adhesives. A common complaint is that the joints tend to split with a slight impact. They can be stuck together at home with commonly available adhesives but the pieces need very delicate handling. The sheen of shells normally does not wear off unless they are dipped for prolonged periods in water with a high iron content. The most popular jewellery items are necklaces and earring sets which range between Rs 30 and Rs 40 if the shells are just strung together. Once it is set on a metal, prices go up and vary according to the design. A bracelet or bangle costs about Rs 35 to Rs 45. Pendants, brooches, hair clips and buttons are also in demand.

While fashioning an item of jewellery from shells, first the top two layers are scraped off to check if any holes have been made in the calcium layers by insects. If the shell is pitted it is discarded. If not, it is further scraped until the white layer becomes visible. The shell is cut according to ornament being made before the design is drawn with a pencil and then etched with a chisel and grinding stone. Once a piece is carved, it is dipped in an acid solution to smoothen the surface and then polished. This final touch is of supreme importance and this is where the Japanese excell.



The whole process involves a series of craftsmen and a bracelet or *bala* takes about half-an-hour to create. If the design is intricate it might take upto an hour. Earring hardly take any time.

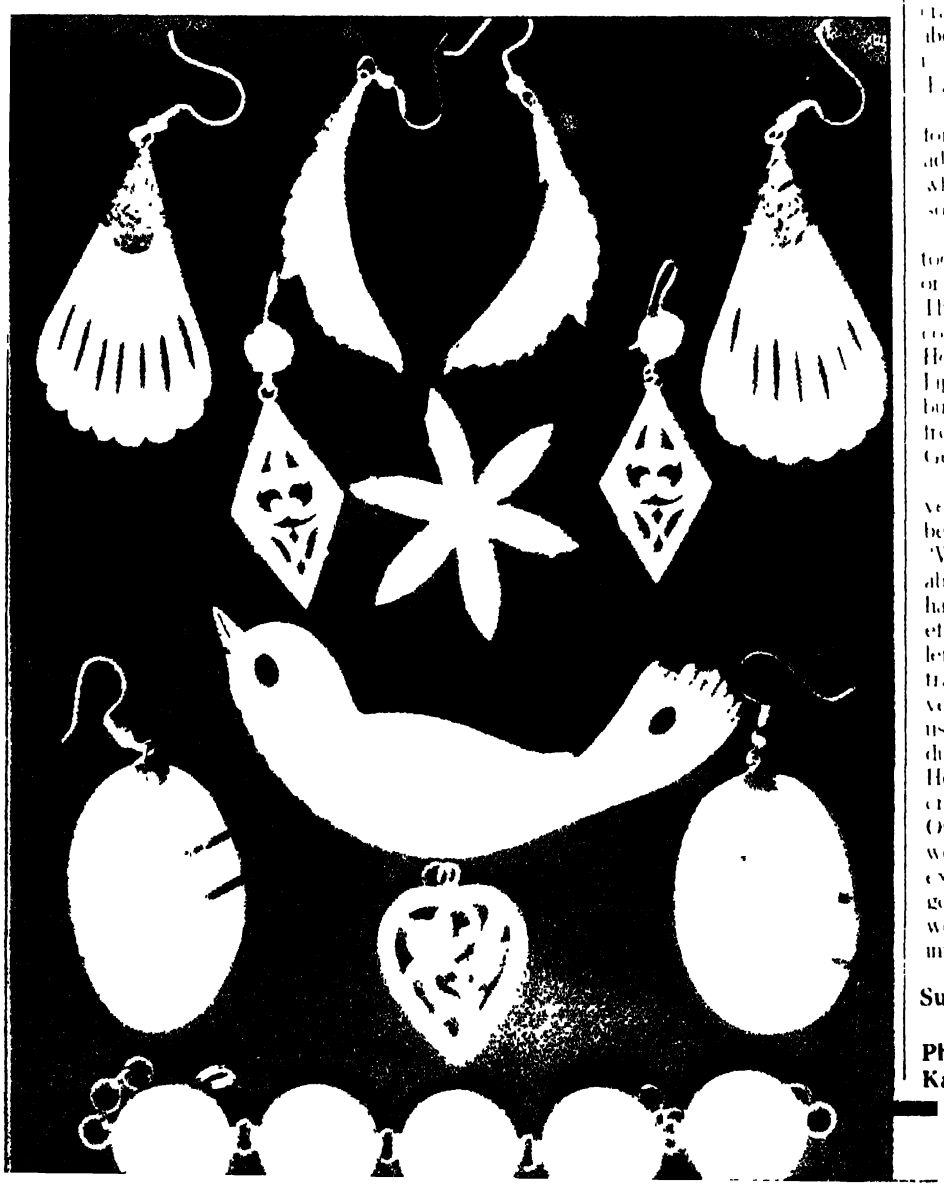
About 80 per cent of all shell are used for makar jewellery. The left over pieces adorn floor of horse is made or chips while the ground powder is refined and sold to cosmetic manufacturers.

Even though the indigenous market today has grown it is not sufficiently large or stable enough to support an industry. The buyer is usually a young beauty conscious and from a well-off background. However in the international market Japanese shell jewellery retain supreme but the novelty of hand made jewellery from India also finds buyer in the US, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan.

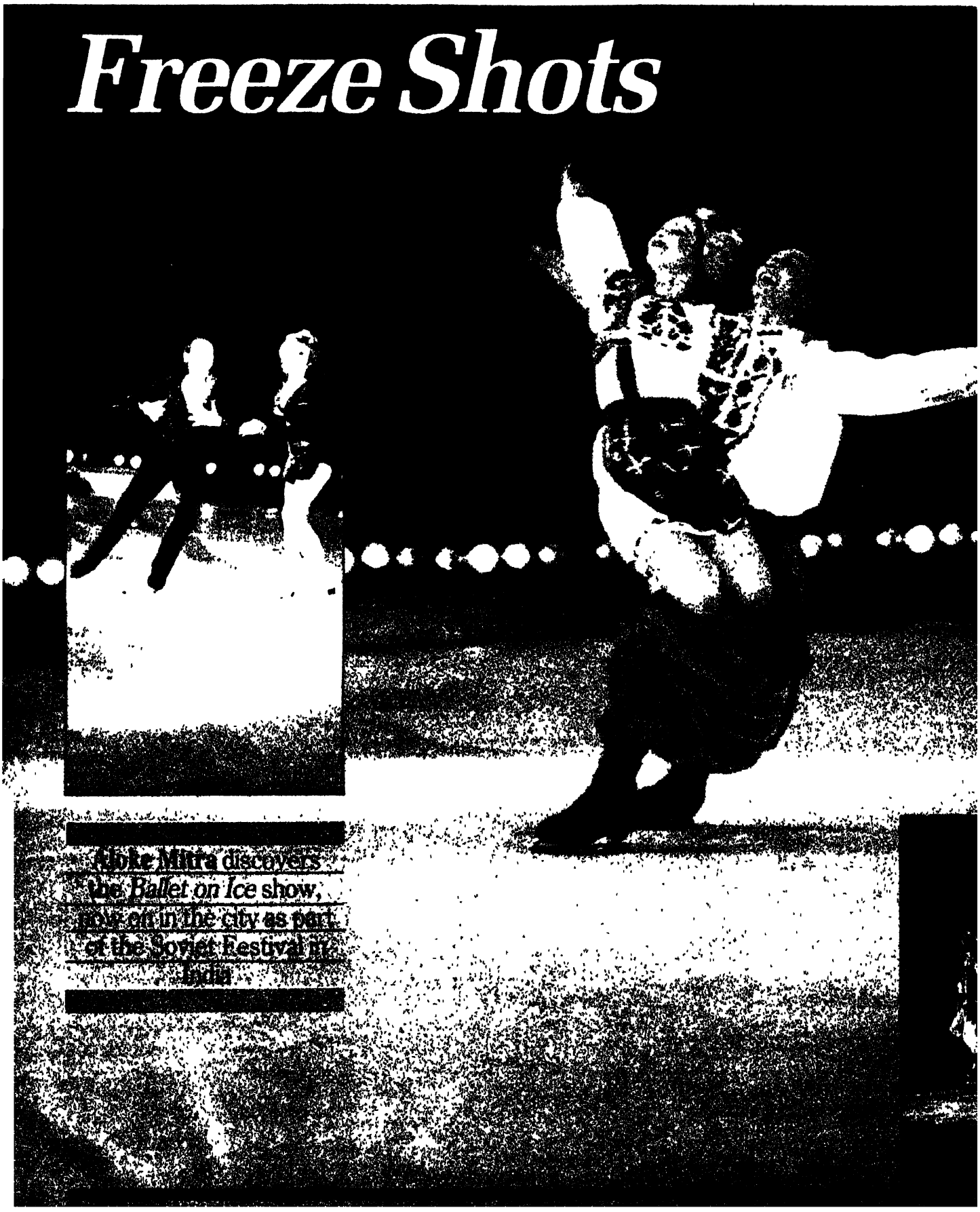
Manufacturers are aware that the development of shell jewellery industry has been slow. A craftsman remarked, "We can outweight a modern machine from abroad to better our living but we do not have the technical knowhow to export effectively. Though the government has lent some support, we require more. A training centre for example would be very useful with an expert who can teach us the technical skills to make our products so that we can compete better. However, we do have designers and craftsmen. The other aspect is export. Our sustenance is the foreign market and we are generally dependent on private exporters to sell our goods. If the government channels were set up we would be more secure and it is possible to invest more in the industry."

Sumita Banerjee

Photographs by Kalyan Chakravarty



Freeze Shots



Aloke Mitra discovers the *Ballet on Ice* show, now on in the city as part of the Soviet Festival in India









MISSED CATCH



Raja Mukherjee was among the brightest cricketers in his time, but something went wrong somewhere

Text and photographs: Soumitra Sinha

Can you name the skipper in Indian cricket team playing on Australian soil against such luminaries as Dennis Lillee, Jeff Thomson, Greg Chappell, Trevor Chappell, McCosker and Co and winning the rubber? Here's a clue: the side consisted of Mohinder Amarnath, Syed Kirmani, Brijesh Patel and Karsan Ghavri among others; that the skipper was 'short and stocky' exuding 'a quiet air of confidence at the crease and on the field," and that Sir Don Bradman in the spectators' gallery at the Adelaide Oval, was impressed with his sound technique and determined approach to the task of opening the innings. No, it wasn't Sunil Gavaskar. It was the boy next door, Raja Mukherjee of Calcutta who led the Indian school team to Australia in 1968 and whom the team manager, Col Hemu Adhikari, rated as the brightest Test prospect among the entire lot.

Ironically, the cream of schoolboy cricketers who represented India during the home series in 1965, toured England and Australia in '66 and '68, respectively. Gavaskar, Surinder, Mohinder, Kirmani, Brijesh and Ghavri, all grew up to represent the country at the highest level in international cricket. All except Raja.

Twenty years later, as you watch him play forward to negotiate an outgoing delivery, before his 20 odd students of eight to 15 years, you are bound to be taken in by the sheer artistry of his Gavaskaresque technique. Identical in physique, prematurely greying hair and an air of quiet authority. The association is natural. Raja accepted the offer of starting a coaching centre by Calcutta's club cricket enthusiasts, Nupur Mukherjee and Kalyan Majumdar of Ballygunge Cultural Seminar, who provided him with a plot of land located near Gariahat in south Calcutta which has miraculously escaped the onslaught of the expanding asphalt jungle.

Reminiscences come easily to Raja if the subject is cricket. Perhaps they do so to anyone who achieved so much so early in life. A boxful of press clippings mostly from abroad, an autograph of Lord Mountbatten on an invitation brochure for lunch at his villa in Broadlands, autographs of the entire West Indies squad led by Garfield Sobers, and of Bradman with a visual depicting "a proud moment for R Mukherjee captain of the Indian schoolboys' cricket team in Australia as he shares a joke with Sir Don Bradman (centre), the king of cricket, and Lt Col Adhikari, the manager of the team," are Raja's priceless possessions.

Just before the series commenced, I S Johar, actor and filmmaker, announced in the press a reward of £100 to the Indian schoolboy cricketer who would score the first Test century of the tour.

In the second Test at Edgbaston, Birmingham, Raja was cruising confidently in the 90s. At tea break, he was surrounded by well-wishers and fellow cricketers enthusing him to score the coveted three figure knock and win the prize. A couple of his colleagues even asked for a loan of a fiver each, out of the prize money. Raja put his head down and scored 124 not out. But the elusive figure of £100 never reached him during the tour. Col Adhikary and his co-players hoped that the award would be given on their return to Bombay. As luck would have it, Raja looked in vain for the emissary of Johar.





Raja Mukherjee corrects one of his wards

at Bombay airport carrying a platter for him with an envelope.

Raja's tally of 610 runs from 14 matches earned him the captaincy on the Australian tour of 1968. "Before the tours, we were taught English conversation, speech making, table manners, etc. Still we all faced some minor problems as any Indian going abroad the first time. On tour, each one of us would stay with different Australian families. One evening I received a frantic call from one of the boys, explaining to me in Hindi, that consecutive bumpers were being hurled and he was unable to connect any. Hindi was used so that the host family could not understand and the problem could be solved on phone anyway," he smiled.

The Australian tour was a highly satisfying one. India was unbeaten and won the rubber. "After scoring a century at Melbourne, I was introduced by Bill Lawry at the dinner, as the only Indian after Lala Amarnath to have done so," Raja continued. "At Adelaide, the touring West Indians led by Sobers summoned us to the pavilion and wished us good luck. I was impressed by the mild and friendly manner of Wes Hall. Frankly, my idea of a fast bowler of his class was quite different. But Charlie Griffith, who was not included in the eleven, did not disappoint me. I had the temerity to ask him why he was not playing in the eleven. The very next moment, I was almost bodily lifted with a murmur of expletives and planted before the row of West Indian selectors as he blurted out in typical West Indian style, 'Ask these men why I am not playing!' The selectors, of course, looked the other way."

Selectors back home looked the other way too, when Raja had a string of good scores in 1971 including two consecutive centuries and 85 not out, the third one being deemed by a motivated declaration. Earlier in 1970, after a successful performance in North Zone for Railways, he was informed personally by a national selector of his inclusion in the Test squad along with Sunil Gavaskar. Surprisingly, the zonal team dropped him which automatically resulted in his exclusion from the national panel.

It a 10 year Ranji span ('67-'77), beginning two years earlier than Sunil Gavaskar who is two years older to him, with an average of 50 odd and ten centuries against touring teams could not please the selectors, there was something amiss. The hurt shows in his eyes when you bring up the issue. "Col Adhikary often wondered why I was not playing Tests. But that is how things are run in this country. Or, perhaps, I should have accepted the offer to play for Bombay."

He has the highest regard for Vishwanath and Gavaskar and recounts a doubtful decision against the former which bothered Raja throughout the day while fielding close-in. At dinner time when he pointed out the fact, it was Vishy who consoled him saying 'Forget it, Raja'.

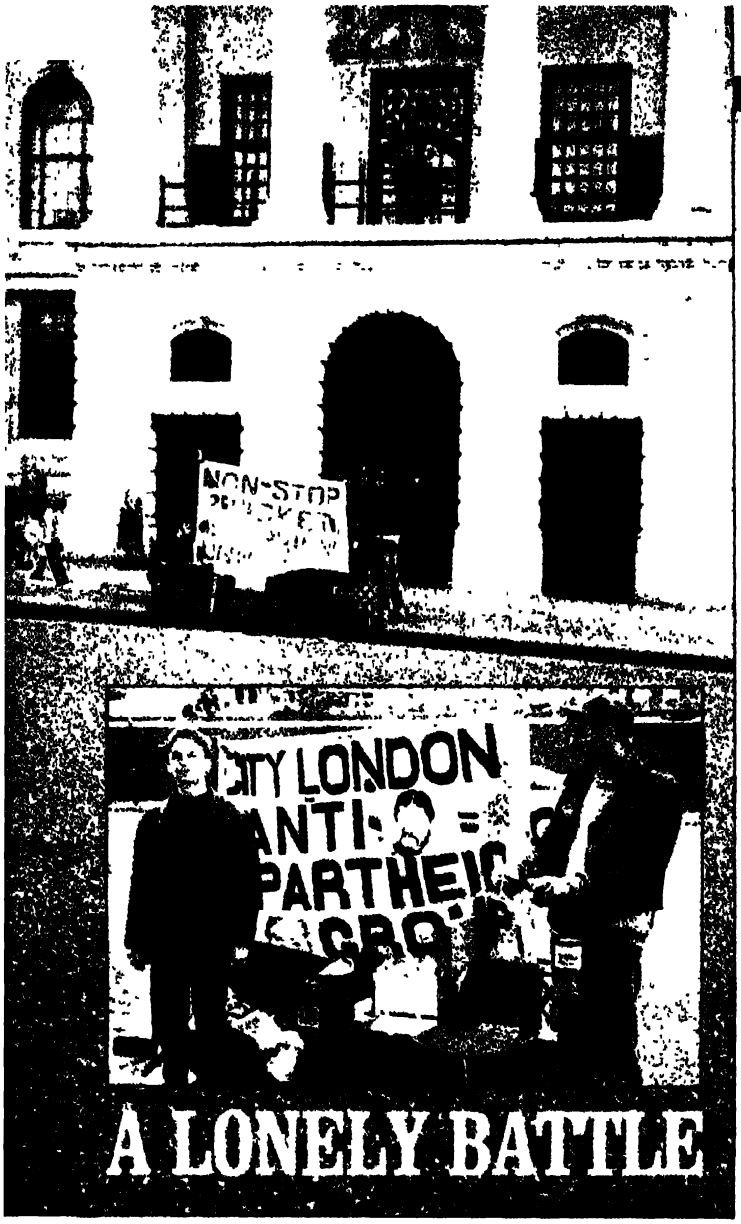
Sunny has his humanoo too. He kept on teasing me in a zonal match from silly point when Ambar Roy and I piled up 170 runs. Ever peering the sheet anchor role Sunny asked me. "Don't you have something to hit the ball with?" Later, when I hit two consecutive fours I asked him. "Does you have hands to clap with?" It was good fun playing with them all. And we remember that even today."

Raja plans to play first class for a couple of years more and switch completely to coaching the young ones preferably beginners. His face light up when he made this point. "With all the years of cricket behind me, I can teach them how not to commit the errors that we did in the beginning."■

The technique is the thing







A LONELY BATTLE

Come rain or snow, for the past 29 months a group of people has been picketing the South African embassy in London's Trafalgar Square tirelessly trying to drum up support amongst passersby against Pretoria's "legalised racism."

A handful of weatherbeaten posters condemning the British government's barely disguised support for the South African regime and demanding the release of Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and closure of the embassy have been their only props. The picket's constant companions are a posse of policemen ominously stationed six feet away beneath an embassy awning.

The pickets, whose survival has been one of a constant battle against the local authorities, including the British home and foreign offices, have been castigated in Parliament and physically uprooted by the police. Those manning it have also been arrested on "petty" charges.

But, London's 1,500 odd anti-apartheid group members have won 95 per cent of the cases brought against both their pickets as well as members by the police.

Police harassment comes in phases, says Mr Jim Perry, a group member for more than two years and a regular at the embassy. In May 1987, the picket was moved to Cannon Street, completely out of sight of the embassy on orders from the police commissioner. This followed the arrest of three persons for throwing red paint at the embassy doors to protest against Pretoria's holding a White-only election in South Africa last summer. A campaign of mass arrests for two months and a protracted court battle resulted in the pickets returning to their familiar location in Trafalgar Square.

The anti-apartheid group in London was founded in 1982 by Carol Brickley and Norma Hitsen, whose husband was jailed in South Africa in 1964 for "political crimes." The movement actually began as a protest to release Norma's son, Steven, arrested by the dreaded Bureau of State Security (Boss), South Africa's intelligence service, while attempting to visit his father.

Protest marches and a mass campaign resulted in his release five days later and the birth of the group. Of its 1,500 members, 20 per cent comprise Black Caribbeans and Asians, especially Indians. All are in their mid 20s.

Over the past two months, some of the group's Black activists have been followed from the picket line by the police and picked up for "petty offences," only to be released later, says Carol Brickley. "The general attitude of the police is to harass us," laments Ms Brickley. The charges vary from the ridiculous to the desperate from "highway obstruction" and "illegal street collection" to simply "illegal obstruction."

Anti-apartheid picketers at the South African embassy in London are continuing their struggle against all odds

"We neither resist arrest nor argue with fascists," said Mr Perry, "but submit to being arrested." All protestors, however, admit that the courts have been just and unpartisan, unlike the government.

In one amusing incident, the police summoned the fire brigade to extinguish the picketers' warming fire one freezing winter evening. The fire brigade refused to douse the few coals, forcing the embarassed police to cart the fire away. Ever since, protestors have been permitted neither a fire nor allowed to slip into sleeping bags in subzero temperatures. Industrial pickets, however, are generally permitted fires.

In Parliament, the protestors have been dismissively referred to as "unruly people" and "no-good lefties" and almost daily abused vilely by passersby. "Why don't you Nigger-lovers go back to Africa," shouted a young man the day this correspondent was at the scene.

"The media is not particularly sympathetic to the group, erring more on the side of the establishment," says Mr Perry. Opposition political parties are not supportive. Even Mr Neil Kinnock's Labour Party, the largest Opposition party in the House of Commons, subscribes to the view that political demonstrations are "just not the way to press for a change."

Keeping to a well organised 'protest roster,' volunteers take turns at picketing. And, while on 'duty,' they ask passersby to sign a petition condemning apartheid and contribute to a fund sent regularly to South Africa to help families of victims of racist repression.

Today, almost a million signatures have been gathered, many of which have been delivered to 10, Downing Street, the British Prime Minister's residence. The monthly collection of almost $7,000 is sent to South Africa for the families of political prisoners or victims of racism. Above all, the group has come to occupy a familiar niche amidst Trafalgar Square's colonial grandeur. And, considering the state's reaction to these dedicated picketers and their statement of protest, they seem to be making their presence felt gradually.

Rahul Bedi
(India Abroad News Service)

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Akarshan** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani 270147) Krishna (I C Dutta Street 250436) Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464140) Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033)

Directed by Tanvir Ahmed the film stars Akbar Khan Sonu Walia Girish Karnad Rohini Hattangadi and Sharon Prabhakar with Parveen Babi Smita Patil and Raj Babbar in special appearances The music is by Ajit Singh

• **Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani** Roxy (Chowringhee Place 284138) 4 shows

Meenakshi Seshadri Raj Kiran Shoma Anand Dr Shreeram Lagoo Kader Khan Pran and Raj Babbar comprise the cast of the film directed by Mohanji Prasad The music is by Anand Milind

• **Dilwala** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Road 242266) Indira (Indira Roy Road 471757) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road 891090) Kamna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552932) Milan (Rajendra Regent Park)

A re release of this film directed by D Ramanaidu the cast includes Mithun Chakraborty Meenakshi Seshadri Smita Patil Suresh Oberoi Pran Kader Khan and Shakti Kapoor The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• **Mard** Orient (Bentinck Street 281917) Gem (Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road 249828) Moonlight (I C Dutta Street 251956)

Amitabh Bachchan stars in the Manmohan Desai hit

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue 272473) Uttara (Bidhan Sarani 552200) 4 shows

Directed by K R Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain the film stars Dharmendra Amita Raaj Govinda Farha Tanuja Kulbhushan Kharbanda Shakti Kapoor Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Anupam Kher

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) 12 3 6 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Tarzan** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani 241132) Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 474462) Bina (Bidhan Sarani 551133) Naaz Lower Circular Road 277273) Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133) Madhuban (Regent Park)

A re release of this B Subhash starring Hemant Birje and K Kothari The music is by Laxmikant



Rajesh Khanna and Farha in *Woh Phir Aayegi*

• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A)** Opera (Lenin Sarani 281849) Talkie Show House Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270) Mini Gem Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road 249828) 4 shows

Rajesh Khanna Farha Moon Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the main attractions in this film directed by B R Ishara and music by Anand Milind

Foreign Films

• **Dearth Wish (A)** Globe (Lindsay Street 296665) 1 3 5

• **Flesh and Devil (A)** Jamuna Marquis Street 243715) 1 3 5

• **One Night at Dinner (A)** Metro (Chowringhee Road 280141) 4 shows

• **Predator** Lighthouse (Humayun Place 291299) 12 3 6 8 30

• **The Exorcist (A)** New Empire (Humayun Place 910?1) 4 shows

Bengali Films

• **Chhoto Bou** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 474462) Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740) 3 5 45 8 30

Ranjit Mullick Sandhya Roy Kali Banerjee Meenakshi Goswami Bhabesh Kundu Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Swapan Chakraborty

• **Dena Paona** Sree Lalita Sarani 551 Ujala Priya Road 478011) 3 5 8

Directed by Sukhen Das and with music by Ajoy Das the cast includes Deepankar De Swaraj Dutta Satya Banerjee Sumitra Mukherjee Sandhyarani Satabdi Roy and Sukchi Das

• **Jyoti** Radha (Bidhan Sarani 553804) Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 271282) 3 shows

Directed by Shakti Kumar and with music by Swapan Jugmohan the film stars Rameshwari Prasenjit Anooradha Patel Utpal Dutt and Pradeep Kumar

• **Madhuban** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani 553080) Purna (S P Mukherjee Road 474562) Mini Jaya Lake Town 573936) 3 shows

A film by Ajoy Kar starring Victor Banerjee Tanuja Utpal Dutt Swarup Dutta and Chinmoy Ray The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Surer Akashe** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 553413) Aruna Mahatma Gandhi Road 359061) Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road 474686) 1 4 7

Sonu Walia and Akbar Khan in *Akarshan*



Tapas Paul and Debashree Roy are the lead pair in this Biresh Chatterjee film. Others in the cast are Abhishek Chatterjee, Navana Das, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee and Beena. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

Special Events

31 October: 11 am

Eric Jansson, the eminent acoustics scientist from Stockholm, will deliver a lecture on the violin.

At Sangeet Research Academy (1 Netaji Subhas Bose Road, Tollygunge; 463395).

Theatres

• **Jay Jayanti:** Rangana (153/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 556846)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Subhendu Chatterjee and Basabi Nandy along with Premangshu Bose, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Dipika Banerjee, Arindam Ganguly, Gita Dey, Nandini Malleya and Abhishek Chatterjee comprise the cast. Drama and direction: Ganesh Mukherjee.

• **Kalanka:** Byon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street, 558402)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Supriya Devi, Chinmoy Roy, Jum Banerjee, Samir Majumdar and Sulata Chowdhury are the chief attractions in this play, whose music and direction are by Samir Majumdar.

• **Nesha:** Protap Mancha (opp. Rajabazar tram depot)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Tarun Kumar, the cast of this play includes Ashim Mukherjee, Saikat Pakrashi, Tanima Sen, K. Debraj and Miss Shefali.

• **Neelkantha:** Rungmahal (76/1B Bidhan Sarani, 551619)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm, Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Soumitra Chatterjee, Goutam Chakraborty, Ajit Banerjee, Nirmal Ghosh, Sumita Chatterjee, Debika Mitra, Sumanta Mukherjee and Sayani Mitra comprise the cast of this play. Drama, music and direction: Soumitra Chatterjee.

• **Rater Kuheli:** Boys Own Hall (P-29, CIT Scheme, Dalimtola Lane, near Biswaroopa; 552757)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Rakhi Mukherjee plays the lead in this drama.

• **Sukher Thikana:** Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road; 355598)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

The chief attractions in this play are Deepankar De, Biplab Chatterjee, Lily Chakraborty and Jnanesh Mukherjee, who also directs.

• **Sukhi Grihakon:** Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street; 557293)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Kali Banerjee and Subrota Chatterjee are in the lead.

• **Tanaya:** Biswaroopa (2A Raja Raj Kissen Street, 553262)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Dilip Roy, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Debraj Roy, Kaushik Banerjee, Arun Banerjee, Srirup Mitra, Anamika Saha and Shoma Chatterjee comprise the cast of this play, based on Ashapurna Devi's story.

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2). AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5) AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6). AI-315 at 1820, Dep (6) AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4). RJ-194 at 0500; Dep (4). RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1): JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1530; Arr. (2). SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240; Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110, Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6): IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 3, 7): RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6). IC-248 at 1425, Arr. (7): IC-248 at 2055.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7). IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily): BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715, Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-223 at 1800, Dep. (7) IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6). BG-693 at 1615, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-224 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 5) IC-224 at 2000, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr. (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7): IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily): IC-265 at 1730, Arr. (daily): IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400, Arr. (1, 3, 5). IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6). IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545, Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-542 at 0620, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7): IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, [illegible] 6): IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7). IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7). IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1): IC-269 at 1630, Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800, Arr. (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-270 at 2020.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540; Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, (7). IC-220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep (1, 4) IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-239 at 1100, Arr (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) 7): IC-227 at 0835; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7). IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-255 at 0815, Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily). IC-222 at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4): IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-243 at 0610, Dep (daily) IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily). IC-244 at 1030, Arr (daily) IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Advance

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

* **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	1 45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgirl (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13 05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday & Saturday Arri —Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tuesday Arri —Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
52	22-35	**Bangalore Super Fast Express** Dep & Arri —Wed & Sun	13-45	51
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4;30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep & Arri —Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-64 for in-coming trains; 203536-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 206370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

ARIES

March 21 –April 20

You will be entertained in royal style this week People will be exceptionally cooperative You will find it easy to change them to your way of thinking and work for you Romance is in the air for the eligible and fancy free Contracts and collaborations will be signed this week Money is likely to come your way

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Soon it will be time to meet people, draw up a plan of action and enter into an important partnership A journey with a stop-over is probable Health will not improve but precautions are nonetheless advisable A collaboration or proposal for marriage for the eligible is foretold for you Guard against those who pose to be friends.

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

The launch of a new venture or expansion of an old business are important features of the week Colleagues, servants and pets will play an exceptionally important part in your life for the next few weeks Visits and interviews are on the cards Lady Luck will smile on you and the time is right to start new business ventures

CANCER

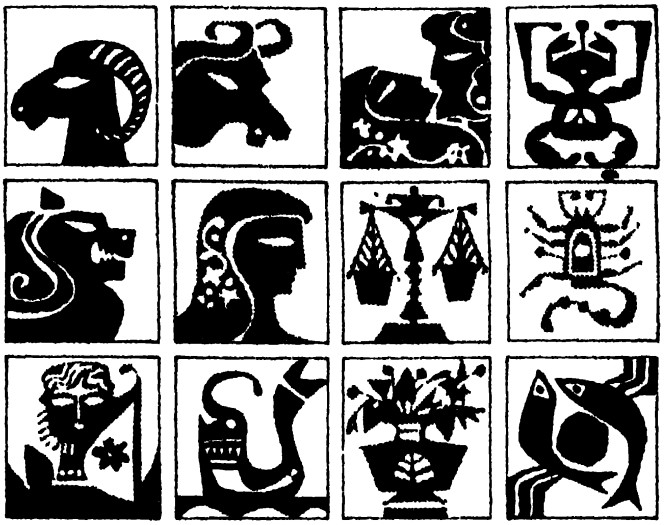
June 21—July 20

Your feelings will be deeply stirred Children and grandchildren will give great joy. This trend will continue for some time Your parents and in-laws will try to reach out to you Their interest in your affairs may irk you Therefore, you should make it a point to be amiable and caring Health may cause concern

LEO

July 21—August 21

Your work will get done soon So do not lose heart Thanks to Mercury, travel, interviews, conferences, visits, meetings and functions are predicted A few of you will be busy attending to matters pertaining to renovation, decoration and alteration This is the right time for a shift of job and residence.



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

You will be working at a feverish pace this week Your level of communication will be at an exceptionally high order This in turn spells success. Many of you will be signing important letters, documents and contracts Rely on your intuition in all important matters.

LIBRA

Sept 23- Oct 22

As the sun is still in your sign, you can turn on your famous charm and win over people to your side Laughter, love and luck will be your constant companions Librans will socialise, circulate and win laurels and awards Happiness in matters pertaining to the heart is likely

BIRTHDAYS

October 23

Your future will depend on your capacity to reach out to people and places by different media of communication. You could be in for a promotion or a job switch. On the personal level, the going may not be smooth. Expect problems and entanglements to bother you.

October 24

This is the right time to start a venture. Many Librans will now be making a blue print for action in the next three months. Romance will bloom. It is certain that creative pursuits will give tremendous joy and delight.

October 25

Sportsmen, artists, businessmen and commission agents will do exceptionally well this year. Your enterprise and imaginative brilliance will win you friends. There is the possibility of collaborations, travel, and even immigration. Rely on your intuition in all important matters.

October 26

This is the right birth year to expand business interests and change your job. Travel is on the cards for some. Many of you will be taking calculated risks which are likely to pay off. Children and family affairs will have an exceptionally important bearing on your life.

October 27

Many Librans will establish contacts, get a foothold in public life, socialise and enlist in clubs and organisations. Romance will blossom. Librans will succeed in making their presence felt.

October 28

This is the year for adventure and gainful enterprise. Those interested in sports, hobbies, art, culture, acting, music, sculpture, dance and painting will make a fine job of it. Your talents will have many avenues and outlets. Success and happiness will be yours.

October 29

This is the birth year of strange and bizarre experiences. Your psychic faculties and intuition should help you. Those in editing, architecture, manufacturing and designing will be at their best. But on the personal front a few mysterious happenings are definitely foretold.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

It will be travel time for Scorpios. Thanks to Pluto, at least one minor wish fulfilment will come through. Health will improve. Many of you will be thinking about starting an enterprise or undertaking. Do so without further delay as it will come through splendidly. You will gain recognition from loved ones now.

SAGITTARIUS

Now 23—Dec 20

This is the right time to ask for help and guidance from elders and Ganesha Intimacy in relationships is very probable. It could result in a marriage or at least an official engagement Renovation, decoration, installation of machinery and gadgets, opening a branch, shifting to a new office and joint ventures are other possibilities

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Even though, you will be under a lot of pressure because of the sun-Venus formation, rest assured that you will be able to forge ahead Once again partnerships, collaborations and marshalling of resources will be of prime importance By the end of the week you should be ready to move ahead in every sense of the term Children and friends will demand attention Love is in the air for the fancyfree

AQUARIUS

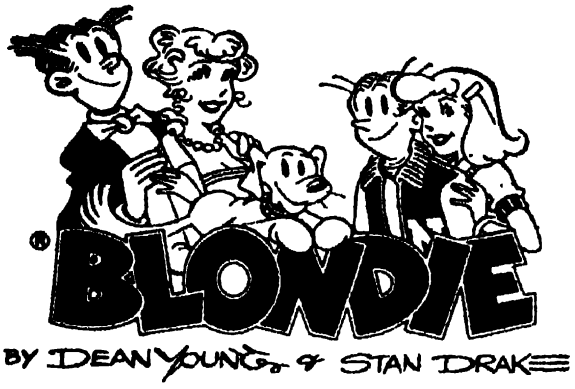
Jan 20—Feb 18

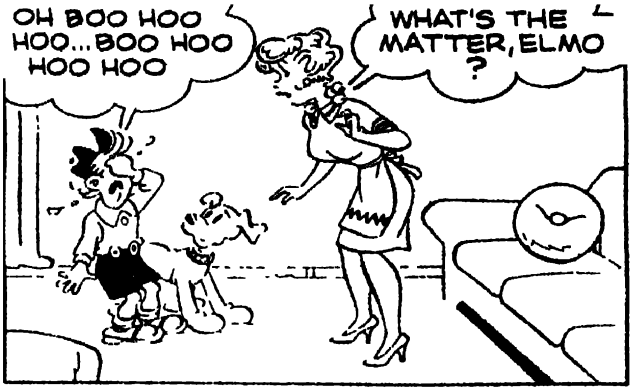
This is the right time to go ahead with plans, campaigns and publicity In your solarscope, the sun is in your ninth angle of prestige, honour, creativity, pilgrimage, religious rites, functions and ceremonies. You will have to devote time to a number of pursuits and vocations Do not lose your temper with colleagues at work.

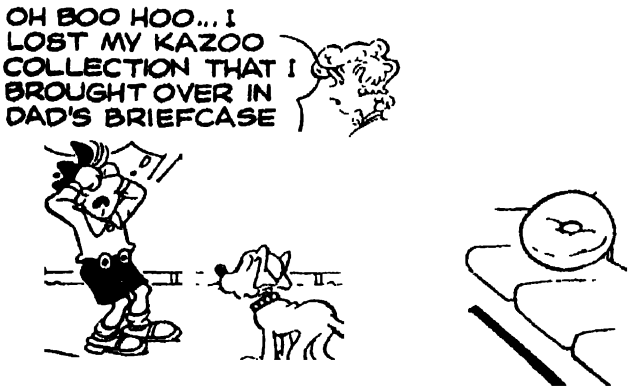
PISCES

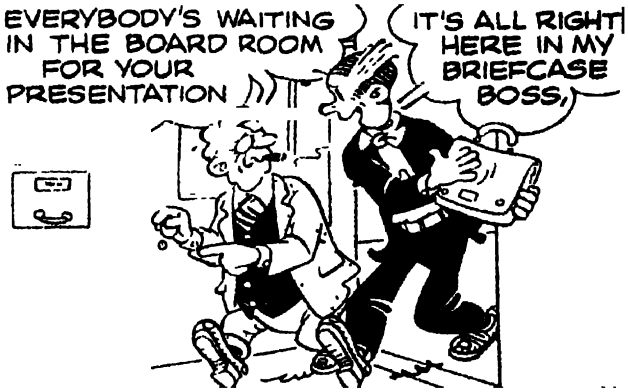
Feb 19—March 20

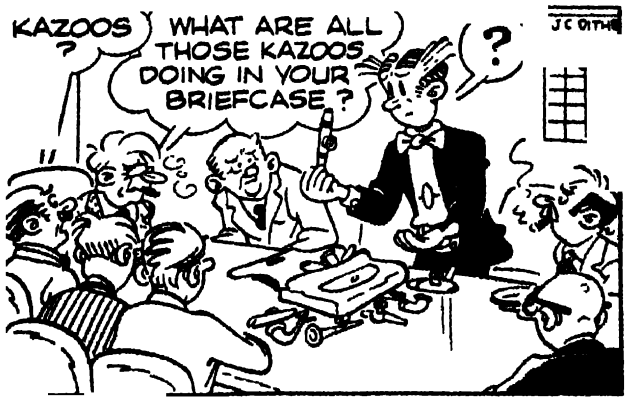
Health and domestic tangles will demand attention It is certain that your intuition and imagination will lead you to success and glory Writers, teachers, editors, financiers, bankers, lawyers, salesmen, artists, musicians, architects, engineers and chemists will do well as will students and insurance agents.


BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

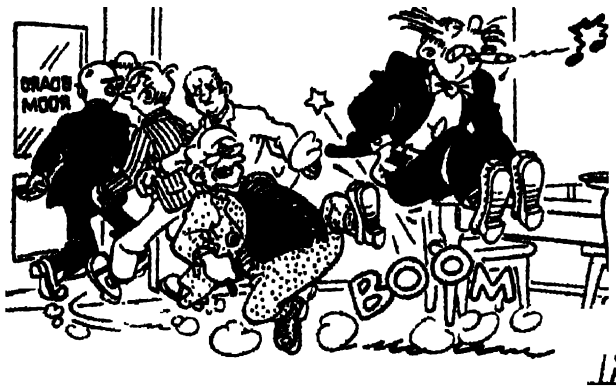

OH BOO HOO HOO...BOO HOO HOO HOO
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ELMO ?


OH BOO HOO... I LOST MY KAZOO COLLECTION THAT I BROUGHT OVER IN DAD'S BRIEFCASE


EVERYBODY'S WAITING IN THE BOARD ROOM FOR YOUR PRESENTATION
IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN MY BRIEFCASE BOSS,


KAZOOS ?
WHAT ARE ALL THOSE KAZOOS DOING IN YOUR BRIEFCASE ?
?
JC Gitmd


BUZZZ
BUZZZ
BUZZ
BUZZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ

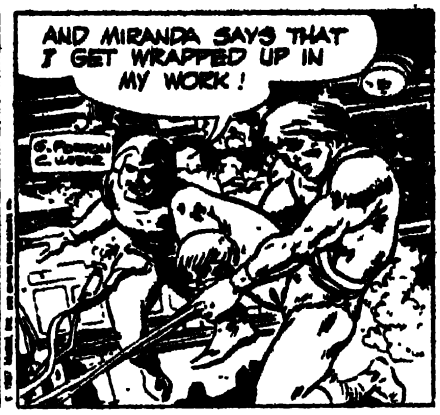

GRACE MOOR
BOOM!

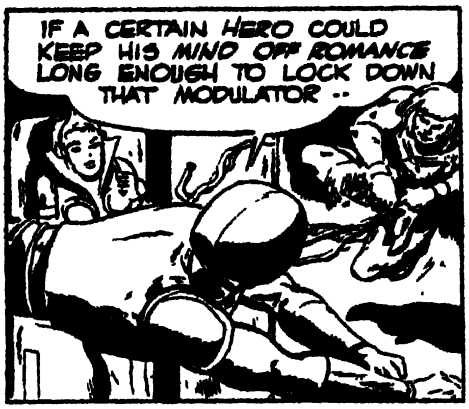

WELL, WHAT ELSE COULD I'VE DONE ?

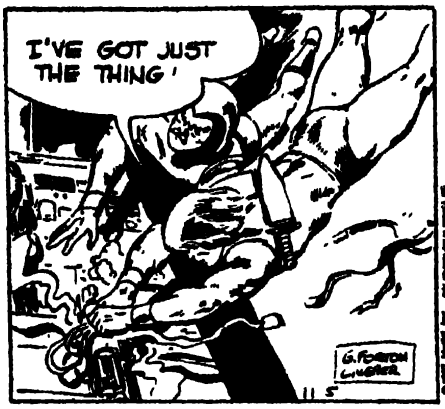
6-2

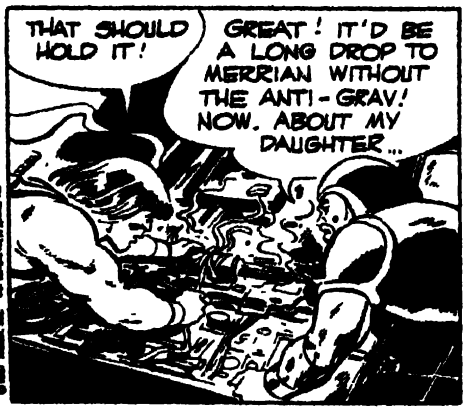

DON'T TELL ME, TEELA ... THAT KISS WAS FOR GOOD LUCK ?!
I REALLY PUT MY FOOT IN IT THIS TIME!


MOMENTS LATER ...
THAT MODULATOR'S WORKING LOOSE!
IF IT GOES -- THE SHIP GOES WITH IT!


AND MIRANDA SAYS THAT I GET WRAPPED UP IN MY WORK!


IF A CERTAIN HERO COULD KEEP HIS MIND OFF ROMANCE LONG ENOUGH TO LOCK DOWN THAT MODULATOR --

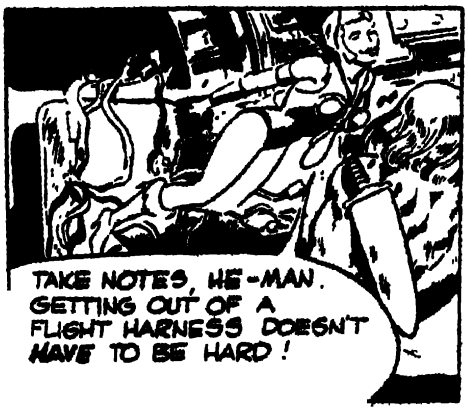

I'VE GOT JUST THE THING!


THAT SHOULD HOLD IT!
GREAT! IT'D BE A LONG DROP TO MERRIAN WITHOUT THE ANTI-GRAV! NOW, ABOUT MY DAUGHTER...


IN THE COCKPIT OF THE QUEEN ILEENE
EVERYTHING READS BACK-TO-NORMAL, GWILDOR!
AND JUST IN TIME, TOO!


PLANET-HO! THAT'S MERRIAN COMING UP NOW!


THALIA, SET THE REPULSION GENERATOR. WE'RE READY TO LAND!
REPULSION IS RIGHT! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET OFF THIS CRATE!


TAKE NOTES, HE-MAN. GETTING OUT OF A FLIGHT HARNESS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD!

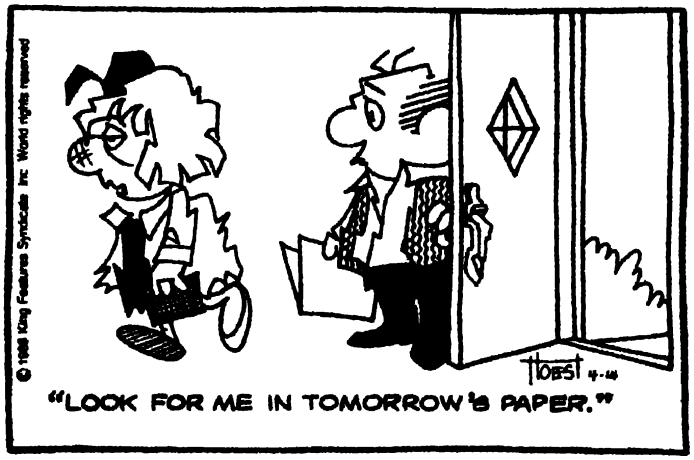

I WAS A LITTLE ROUGH ON THE FURNITURE ... BUT SOMEONE DISTRACTED ME!


C'MON, YOU TWO... KEEP YOUR MINDS ON BUSINESS! WE'VE GOT A PLANET TO SAVE FROM EVIL-LYN!


HOEST
4-11
"DINNER IS READY? READY FOR WHAT?"

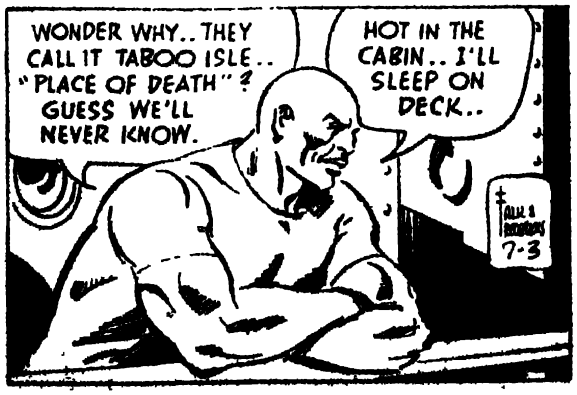

A FULL-MAN MARRIAGE COUNSELOR
HOEST
4-12
"I'D LIKE TO GET IN A FEW WORDS BEFORE LORETTA GETS HERE."

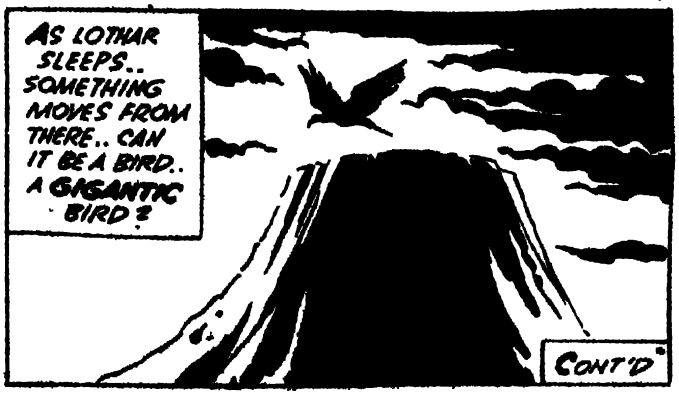

PETER'S BEAUTY SALON
HOEST
4-13
"DOES THAT COME WITH A WARRANTY?"

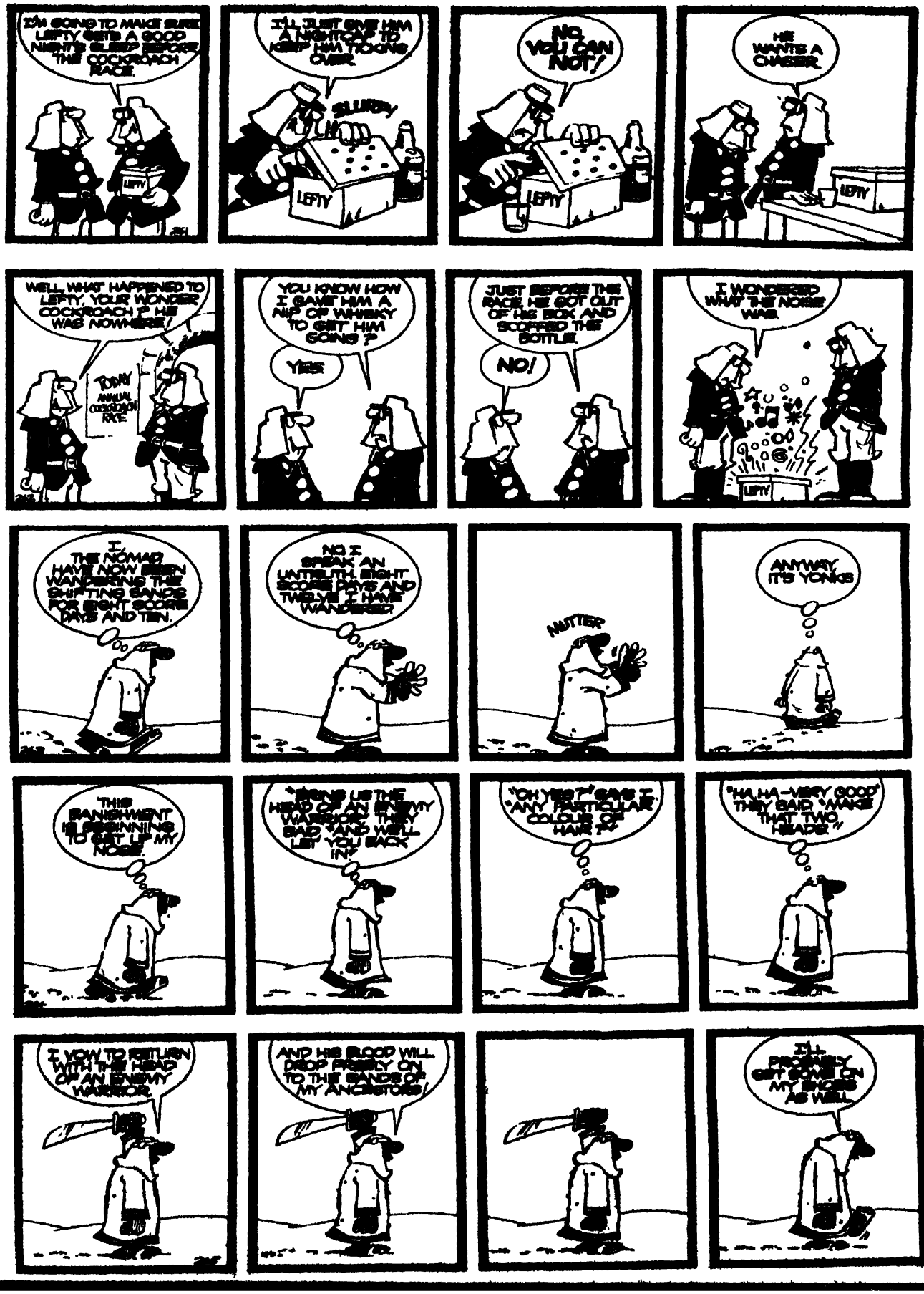

HOEST 4-14
"LOOK FOR ME IN TOMORROW'S PAPER."


THAT MAY BE THE ISLE THE CHIEF WARNED US ABOUT. "TABOO ISLE."
AN EXTINCT VOLCANO.. UNMAPPED. DOUBTLESSLY UNINHABITED.


ALSO SURROUNDED BY SHOALS AND SHARP REEFS... UNAPPROACHABLE.. EVEN IN SMALL BOATS.
AH.. I'D LOVE TO SEE IT...


WONDER WHY.. THEY CALL IT TABOO ISLE.. "PLACE OF DEATH"? GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW.
HOT IN THE CABIN.. I'LL SLEEP ON DECK..
7-3


AS LOTHAR SLEEPS.. SOMETHING MOVES FROM THERE.. CAN IT BE A BIRD.. A GIGANTIC BIRD?
CONT'D


I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE LEFTY GETS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP BEFORE THE COCKROACH RACE.
LEFTY
I'LL JUST GIVE HIM A NIGHTCAP TO KEEP HIM TICKING OVER.
SLURP
LEFTY
NO, YOU CAN NOT!
LEFTY
HE WANTS A CHASER.
LEFTY
WELL, WHAT HAPPENED TO LEFTY, YOUR WONDER COCKROACH? HE WAS NOWHERE!
TODAY ANNUAL COCKROACH RACE
YOU KNOW HOW I GAVE HIM A NIP OF WHISKY TO GET HIM GOING?
YES!
JUST BEFORE THE RACE, HE GOT OUT OF HIS BOX AND SCOFFED THE BOTTLE.
NO!
I WONDERED WHAT THE NOISE WAS.
LEFTY
I, THE NOMAD, HAVE NOW BEEN WANDERING THE SHIFTING SANDS FOR EIGHT SCORE DAYS AND TEN.
NO, I SPEAK AN UNTRUTH. EIGHT SCORE DAYS AND TWELVE I HAVE WANDERED!
MUTTER
ANYWAY, IT'S YONKS
THIS BANISHMENT IS BEGINNING TO GET UP MY NOSE.
"BRING US THE HEAD OF AN ENEMY WARRIOR," THEY SAID, "AND WE'LL LET YOU BACK IN."
"OH YES?" SAYS I, "ANY PARTICULAR COLOUR OF HAIR?"
"HA HA – VERY GOOD" THEY SAID, "MAKE THAT TWO HEADS."
I VOW TO RETURN WITH THE HEAD OF AN ENEMY WARRIOR.
AND HIS BLOOD WILL DROP FREELY ON TO THE SANDS OF MY ANCESTORS!
I'LL PROBABLY GET SOME ON MY SHOES AS WELL.

ARCHIE


ISN'T IT FUNNY HOW HAVING A DATE WITH AN ANGEL...
...MAKES YOU FEEL DEVILISHLY GOOD!
'BYE, MOM, POP!
HAVE FUN, ARCHIE!
WELL, HERE WE ARE... ALL ALONE! THE LIGHTS ARE LOW!
IT'S THE PERFECT SETTING FOR A LITTLE CUDDLING!
ROMANTIC EVENINGS ARE WASTED ON SOME COUPLES WHO'VE BEEN MARRIED AS LONG AS US!
BUT NOT US... RIGHT, FRED? FRED?
FRED!!
ZZZ



The performance of the Indian squad at the Seoul Olympics was not exactly smashing. So, Union sports minister **Margaret Alva** hasn't anything to smile about. Particularly if she remembers the promises made after the Seoul Asiad two years ago. Or was that just part of political tall talk where there's many a slip between a ping and a pong?

Photograph by PHAL S. GIROTA



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THE ROAD TO HIGH PERFORMANCE BEGINS HERE. . .

Continuous stress on quality at Apollo Tyres.
That's what assures
high performance products.
Blending latest international technology
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that are winners all the way —
whether it's a Passenger Car Tyre,
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Product innovation with an accent on quality
is an on going exercise
dovetailed to user needs.



APOLLO TYRES

IN DISTINGUISHED COMPANY

How do you distinguish between an ordinary refrigerator and a masterpiece?

Take a look at the new Godrej 300 litre refrigerator. With dimensions so vast, it's **wide-bodied** interior offers you more storage space. And with a design so classic, a distinguished person like you could never settle for less.

Butter, Cheese And Chocolics Anonymous



Twin compartments for butter and cheese keep dairy products in prime condition And chocolates stay temptingly fresh for a long, long time

Designed For More Eggs

Two detachable egg racks fit as many as 16 eggs The space can be used to store other items if you don't find use for the egg racks

Tall, Broad And Handsome



Optimum use of space in the wide door panel allows for twelve large bottles In fact, even broad bottomed bottles fit in with great ease.

In addition, there is a rack specially designed to fit three smaller sized bottles



Shelf Space As Creative As Your Culinary Concoctions

Continuous adjustability of wide shelves accomodates odd shaped containers, even a tiered cake Leaving enough room for smaller sized dishes

The Piece De Resistance: The Spacious Freezer



The extra large freezer provides ample room to store more frozen food than ever before

Top Priority: Cooling Efficiency

Polyurethane insulation, the international standard, along with the all new robust Godrej compressor helps the refrigerator to cool faster and save power too.

The Secret Of The Perfect Hostess

The transparent twin crispers spell twin benefits: each crisper is lighter and less cumbersome to handle Segregation of vegetables means less spoilage and that keeps your choice vegetables staying fresh – the secret of a perfect meal



Superior Finish

Every feature of the new Godrej 300 litre refrigerator is distinguished by its excellent design A superior epoxy powder-coated finish. And a choice of extraordinary colours. Exclusively, Godrej

Godrej®

The Connoisseur's Choice

THE WIDE-BODIED 300 LITRE REFRIGERATOR

HTA 2408

POST MORTEM

Who's Interested?

I agree that modelling is an art and profession, but the article and photographs (Summer Morality, June 12) gave undue and free publicity to those models who stoop to anything for money.

Of what use is it to us to know how much the models are willing to bare and for how much?

Kulwant Singh Gill,
Belurmath (Howrah)

■ I am interested neither in pictures of scantily clad women nor do I wish to comment about their publication in your magazine. But the sword-crossing on the Post Mortem page has really given me immense pleasure

Bibek Sen,
Agarpara

lished.

Hissan Jaazila,
Calcutta

■ Every Sunday, you publish either Candid Camera or Images We would like you to publish both in every issue and give us the pleasure of seeing the excellent pictures.

Debasish Nandi,
Nadia (W.B.)

Negative for Olympics

I eagerly awaited your Olympic Special (September 18) which had been advertised in your magazine for quite some time. But it was disappointing fare Though the articles were informative, they lacked lustre. I don't know how many times we have read the story of Milkha Singh.

The article by Gurbux Singh was the best. Ashok Kamath's piece was a correct analysis, but too harsh on Indian sports. His point that India should not have sent such a large contingent to Seoul showed negative thinking. If we do not participate in international competitions, how can we ever improve? Let us not forget that participation in Olympics is as important as winning medals

Rashadath,
Calcutta

Bitter Facts

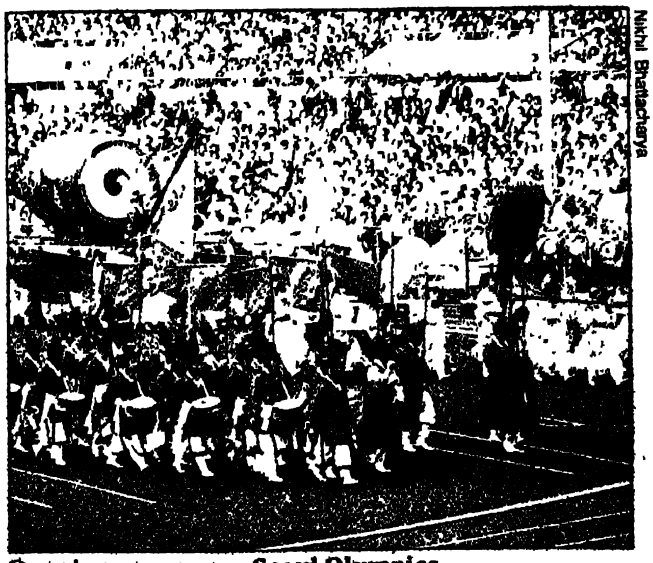
Apropos of the letter by Dr K.S. Srinivasan and Dr Sougat Samanta (July 24), I wish to end the controversy with this explanatory rejoinder.

I am 77 years old, have held responsible positions for 50 years, and for over 12 years have been in close touch with some of the best known doctors in south India, having been the manager of a firm supplying them medical journals.

Further, two paternal uncles of mine were reputed doctors, my cousin brother practised in Calcutta for 25 years and won acclaim as a poor man's doctor. At present, my nephew, his wife and three sisters are medical professors, a niece of mine is a professor and presidency surgeon in Calcutta and a few other cousins run their own nursing homes in Andhra Pradesh. In the last 50 years, I have known some of the top medical authorities in Calcutta like Dr C.R. Das Gupta and Dr M.N. Rao.

So, whatever I wrote earlier (May 29) was based on bitter facts. I know the donors as well as the recipients of the "gifts" I mentioned and I was referring to certain Shylocks who fleece beyond all limits and commit blunders, sometime with irretrievable consequences. I could also give you two specific examples of persons who have had the worst experiences at the hands of some top doctors. Let us accept the situation at its worst and strive for its redemption.

Vendantam Subrahmanyam,
Calcutta



Nikhil Bhattacharya

Opening ceremony, Seoul Olympics

Lively Page

The most dazzling feature of the Colour Magazine is the lively Candid Camera page. It is nice to see that politicians are not hogging the page. On your next anniversary, you should bring out a separate collection of the pictures published.

Hissan Jaazila,
Calcutta

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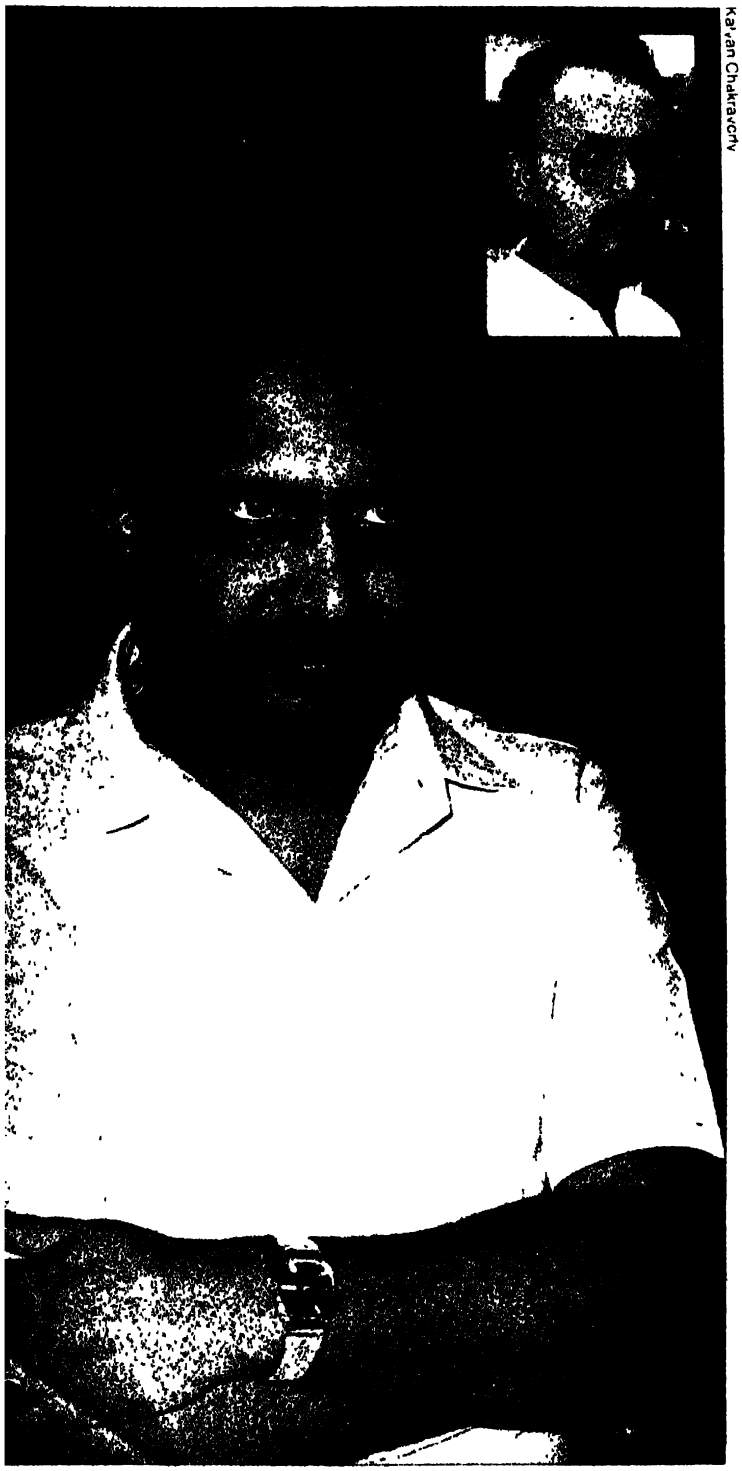
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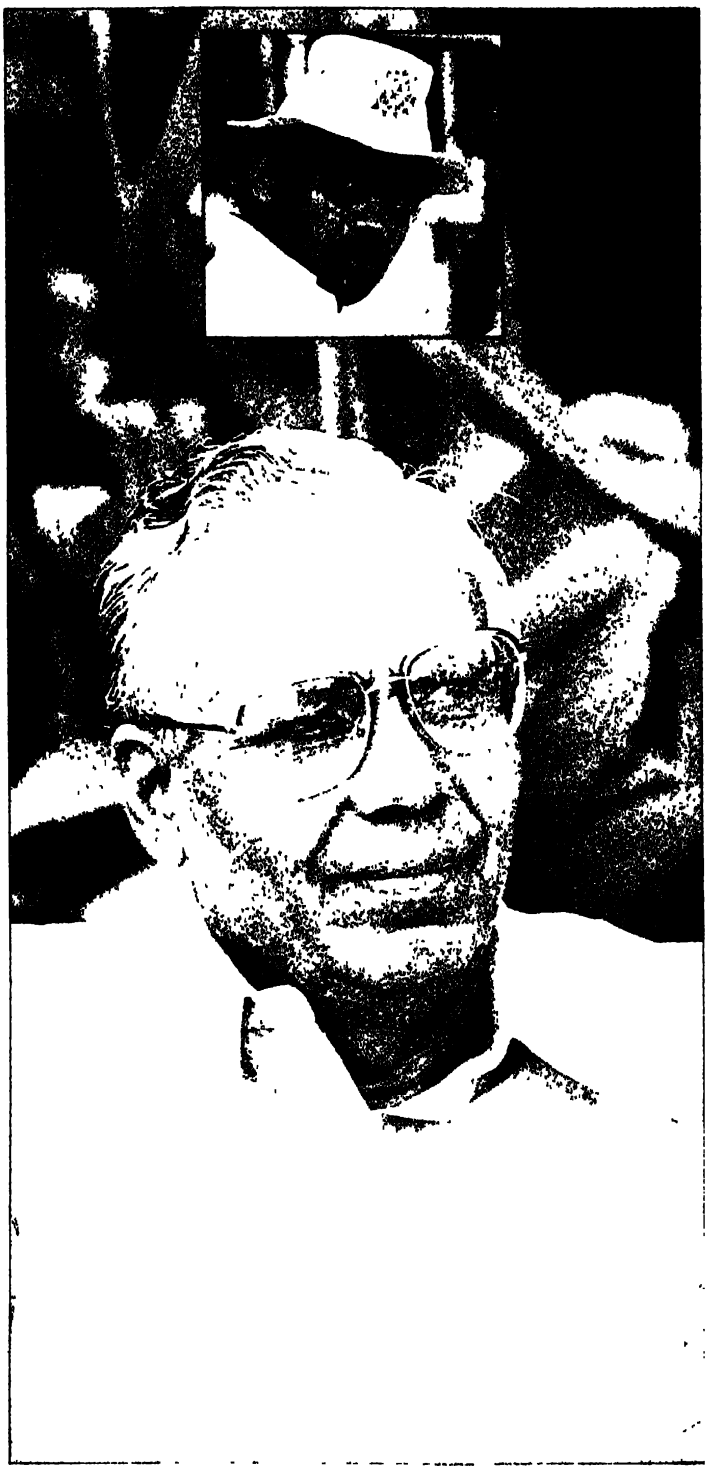
COVER STORY

BLOODLINE



Karan Chakravarty

Prafulla Mahanta and brother Dilip Mahanta



Ashok Vaid

Bhagwat Jha Azad and son Kirti Azad

Relatively speaking, some of our chief ministers keep their word. Relatively speaking...

SON WORSHIP

Sankarshan Thakur talks about Haryana's Devi Lal and his open weakness for his two heirs

Few of those familiar with the ways of Devi Lal were impressed when he reacted to charges of nepotism by throwing out son Om Prakash Chautala from the presidentship of the Haryana Lok Dal earlier this year. The Haryana chief minister was just reenacting a farce; he had done this sort of thing earlier.

Remember Chautala's public debut? The man was caught smuggling in watches at the Palam airport in 1978 and Devi Lal, then in his first term as chief minister, had "disowned" him. "Om Prakash is not my son, I will have nothing to do with a boy like that," he had said. In no time, however, as the incident ebbed out of public memory, the father quietly embraced his son again. And to herald the return of the prodigal to favour, Devi Lal was to say something that has become a classic in the defence of the indefensible: "Everyone smuggles watches. The clever ones get away, the simpletons are caught."

Devi Lal has advertised his weakness for his sons fairly well. He even rewarded the lesser known second son, Pratap Singh, who spent the entire election campaign last year raving and ranting against his father from Congress(I) pulpits, with the chairmanship of the export-import corporation. When asked sometime back why he had done that, the chief minister said with disarming simplicity, "He was speaking against me too much. I gave him the post to shut his mouth." Pratap Singh duly obliged his father by promising not to call him names again.

Being bundled out of the party post has made no difference to Chautala's unfettered extraconstitutional authority. Half the ministers in the Devi Lal cabinet owe their positions to him, people continue to line up at his offices in New Delhi and Chandigarh for favours, he still interferes in government policy matters, often bypassing the cabinet and even his father, as he did when he announced municipal and panchayat elections in the state. The only secret of his power: his ability to exploit his father's soft corner for him.

Chautala is the archetypal Haryanvi politician set in the Bhajan Lal mould. Schemer, strategist, master of the art of manoeuvring, able to make up for all the lack of popular support with skilful creation and manipulation of caucuses, with sheer cunning.

When younger brother and arch rival Ranjit Singh seemed to be edging him out at the height of the Sangharsh Samiti agitation last year, Chautala struck a deal with the Lok Dal president, H.N. Bahuguna, and worked through this axis to get his men tickets, and then, cabinet berths. When Bahuguna fell out with his father, Chautala was out on a limb for a while, but as his succession battle with Ranjit Singh sharpened, he found new allies—this time the powerful industrialist-landowner nexus which had lost its stranglehold over state politics after the departure of the Congress(I). It was a convenient relationship. Chautala wanted enhanced resources to battle his brother, the business lobby wished to regain its grip over government.

In his bid to outdo Ranjit Singh, Chautala has not flinched from striking friendships with elements that are so obviously linked to former chief minister and Devi Lal baiter, Bhajan Lal. It has not quite mattered to him if this resulted in his being linked to murky financial deals like the multicrore colonisers scandal. Everything is fair as long as he stays ahead in the race against Ranjit Singh.

Ranjit Singh



In contrast to Chautala, who is known to be a crude, at times an arrogant, behind-the-scenes political busybody, Ranjit Singh is a suave, soft-spoken operator who has used his PR talents to build up support in the party and government. But there, the contrast seems to end. Ranjit Singh is as ambitious as his elder brother and as keen on taking advantage of his father's soft spots.

Ranjit Singh's rise in Haryana politics has been rather phenomenal. In less than two years, he has risen from being a virtual nobody to a top contender for chief ministership. At the time of the 1983 Haryana Assembly elections, Chautala was the only wellknown son of Devi Lal. But by the time the June 1987 elections arrived, Ranjit Singh had worked his way right to the front of the Devi Lal brigade, using the Haryana Sangharsh Samiti agitation as his launching pad. If Chautala has his men in the Haryana cabinet, so does Ranjit Singh. Indeed, if the presence of ministers in his public meetings is any indication, Ranjit Singh enjoys more support in the cabinet. One Lok Dal insider credits Ranjit Singh's popularity to his affable nature. "He is never rude, he is a patient listener, he never treads on others' toes, and most of all, he has a clean image."

But, then, it is also true that Ranjit Singh too, would go to any lengths to outsmart his brother. His recently launched "*Sachivalay se Chaupal*" programme, for example, is an out-and-out self-promotion gimmick in which government resources are being openly used. The sole point of the programme is to project Ranjit Singh as a greater leader than Chautala and, thus, to build up a stronger case for succession. An MLA from Rori in Sirsa district, Ranjit Singh has no official *locus standi* and yet ministers and officials are more concerned about making a success of his meetings than of the chief minister's.

THE IN-LAW RULE

Latha Jishnu on who makes Andhra Pradesh and its chief minister, N.T. Rama Rao, work

The Opposition leader in the state legislature calls it a government of the family, for the family and by the family. A more trenchant critic describes it as "the in-law rule that has outlawed government." Whatever the odium, for the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, N T Rama Rao, his sons-in-law have become the main props in keeping a faltering show going

In the Andhra tradition of honouring the *'alludu'* (son-in-law), N.T. Rama Rao has done nobly by the husbands of his four daughters, allthough for two of them, the honours have not been so much public office as private favours. Apart from Naravaripalli Chandrababu Naidu, the former general secretary of the Telugu Desam Party now regarded as the most powerful man after the chief minister, and the soft-spoken low-profile Daggubati Venkateshwara Rao who holds the health portfolio, the NTR *menage* includes the US-educated entrepreneur Naren Rajen and Madras-based physician Dr Gyaneshwar Rao, both of whom have had the spotlight on them for alleged nepotism in getting industrial licences involvement in a land scandal.

The star turn, however, is the 37-year-old Naidu, an ex-Congress man whose rise to prominence in the TDP was swift after he proved his worth in NTR's greatest hour of need. That was in August 1984 when the saffron-clad hero of the Telugu people was briefly dislodged from power. Naidu did a remarkable job of holding together nearly 200 dithering MLAs during their temporary exile in Karnataka.

"In the crisis period everyone agreed that I did something for the party," Naidu said sometime ago in an oblique reference to the opposition he had faced from TDP stalwarts like P. Upendra when he joined the party four months after he lost his native Ghandragiri seat on a Congress(I) ticket.

Lying low at first Naidu emerged from the shadows after the August crisis and finaly established his credentials when he ran successful training camps for hardcore party activists and built up the TDP at the grassroots level. Since then there has been no stopping the ambitious young man who became legislator at 27 and a minister two years later in T Anjaiah's massive and scandalous 'Airbus ministry'

At the 1986 *mahanadu* (the annual party extravaganza celebrated with much fanfare and political dramatics) Naidu was nominated general secretary, but not without resentment from the followers of the second son-in-law, Venkateshwara Rao, who was then head of the TDP youth wing Telugu Yuvatha. Feeling that Rao, who had was at NTR's side from the beginning of the actor's debut into politics, was being sidelined, boisterous supporters indulging in a mild show of rebellion had demanded that Rao be allowed to continue as Yuvatha leader and MLA for the Martur seat. Going as it did against NTR's proclaimed policy of



D. Venkateshwara Rao

one-post-for-one-person, the chief minister refused to give in.

There was talk at the time of a rift between the sons-in-law, but as always, they have been diplomatic in talking about each other. Rao did say however at that time, "I prefer to be spotless (his supporters refer to him as the spotless leader because no scandal has yet touched him) rather than be known as one who changes his spots." While that was a sharp jibe at Naidu's defection from the Congress, Rao refused direct comment on the appointment of the former as party secretary, saying only, "It is up to him to show what he can do in that post."

Those close to the NTR family say Opposition hopes of a falling-out between the two is mere wishful thinking. Says a senior official, "NTR needs both these men. Although Naidu seems the favourite he is more the hatchet man for NTR while Rao still decides policy and has the ear of the old man."

Naidu, the *bete noire* of the Opposition and bureaucrats, has scarcely been out of the headlines for the various nefarious property and money transactions he has been allegedly involved in. Top among these charges is the Vishnupriya Hotel scandal in which the three-star hotel in the temple town of Tirupati that Naidu constructed at a cost of Rs 1.5 crores was sold to a Zilla Parishad chairman for Rs 2 5 crores. Apart from the fact that prime land had been given to Naidu for construction of the hotel there are allegations of other irregularities like encroaching on the adjacent railway line. Congressmen have charged that the Cuddapah Zilla Parishad chief was given a barytes mining lease in exchange of the hotel deal.

Another allegation involves Bhuvaneshwari Carbides which Naidu set up at a cost of Rs 50 lakhs and later sold for Rs 1.5 crores to Renuka Choudary, who later got a Rajya Sabha ticket. Naidu has vigorously denied all charges.

A more serious allegation that caused an uproar in the Assembly and forced the government to order a judicial inquiry last year was a document that purportedly showed Naidu had been given around Rs 2 crores for speeding up compensation to villagers displaced by the Sriramsagar project. Naidu again denied the Congress charges vehemently, but no inquiry has yet been conducted by the government.

At the moment Naidu's detractors and the Opposition are hoping the legal battle over his appointment as head of the powerful Rashtra Karshaka Parishad will result in his eclipse and hopefully that of the NTR government. The high court has twice struck down his appointment which is seen as an attempt by NTR to legalise Naidu's extra-constitutional authority and allow him to use state machinery to strengthen the heavily whittled popularity of the TDP.

IN THE NEWS

S.P. Nanda on Orissa chief minister J.B. Patnaik and his reported favours to his son-in-law

Orissa chief minister J.B. Patnaik's son-in-law, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, was a political nonentity till 1984. The 36-year-old, handsome young man was a lecturer in political science at Benaras Hindu University (BHU), and the few people who then knew him, had expected him to continue in the teaching profession particularly since he went to Oxford University in 1978 for his doctorate. The same year he had married Sudatta, elder of the two daughters of J.B. Patnaik, who was then the president of the state Congress-I. But he returned to BHU from England four years later without completing his doctorate. He found the atmosphere at BHU "uncomfortable and frustrating" and could never adapt himself to it again although the university was his *alma mater* (he had postgraduated there in 1972 before joining the faculty as a teacher).

Around 1984, however, Soumya Patnaik created quite a flutter in media circles and a furore in the political quarters when he quit the BHU job and appeared on the Orissa scene with a bang by launching Eastern Media Limited, a printing and publishing house with modern technology and equipment hitherto absent in the state. The flagship of his venture was and still is *Sambad*, an Oriya daily which made its debut in October 1984.

The publication of a newspaper would not have created the controversy it did, and still continues to do, but for the alleged favouritism by his father-in-law's administration to promote his enterprise. First, the daily was believed to be the chief minister's brainchild to counter the seemingly never-ending criticism in the press against the government over issues involving corrupt practices, favouritism, nepotism and maladministration. The newspaper's launching on the eve of the next general elections reinforced this impression. Second, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik got an unusually prompt response from the administration in the matter of allotment of government land and sanction of loans of over Rs 85 lakhs from the state-owned financing institutions—Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited (IPICOL) and Orissa State Financial Corporation (OSFC) for setting up his publishing firm. The three-acre plot allotted to him, is in the non-industrial area of Nayapalli on the Calcutta-Madras national highway and considered to be prime land. Soumya Patnaik, however, denied having been favoured and argued that it was "far away from the centre of Bhubaneswar city" and that he had to arrange transport for his employees during the initial period. Sources in Eastern Media, however, claimed that Soumya himself chose this plot keeping in view the future growth plant of the city. As a matter of fact, the city has expanded at a fantastic pace towards the Nayapalli area during the last four years. More significantly, J.B. Patnaik recently laid the foundation stone of the city's bus terminus at Nayapalli which will soon turn the area into a focal point in Bhubaneswar.



Pradipta Mishra

Soumya Ranjan Patnaik

Third, Soumya's *Sambad* and the English daily, *Sun Times*, launched in April this year, are alleged to be allotted more government advertisements than some older and higher-circulated dailies, especially *Samaj*. As for *Sambad*, Soumya claimed that it was getting advertisements on its merit, particularly because of its "quality of production". And *Sun Times* had not yet been allotted government advertisements, he pointed out, without however taking into account the advertisements the paper receives from the several government-run undertakings.

The newspaper industry was Soumya Patnaik's doorway to varied fields of activities, many of which have kicked off political furores. "I can't help it. As I am his son-in-law, the CM's detractors find it easy to use me and my activities against him. Most of the allegations are baseless and politically motivated," he said. He claimed that contrary to the general impression his newspapers had been exposing many instances of corruption and maladministration in the government, but that was not being taken note of.

J.B. Patnaik was in a real fix in 1986 when it was revealed that the government had proposed exemption of sales tax on beer produced by a government-owned company following Soumya Patnaik's association with a dealer's firm. Even a large section of the Congress-I MLAs revolted against the move as a result of which the government dropped the exemption and Soumya dissociated himself from the firm. He also denied his alleged involvement in a distillery set-up on the Calcutta-Madras national highway, about 30 kms from Khurda. He admitted having plans to acquire business interests like his present efforts to take up the dealership of Bajaj Scooters, but argued that there was no question of the government playing a role in them.

Soumya Patnaik is accused of influencing the government to grant favours to the organisations which have chosen him as their president.

In fact, the number of associations and institutions now headed by Soumya Patnaik is an incredible 75 and certain to rise further. "I am not interested in these organisations. The organisations are interested in me," he said. But why do they choose him to head them? "You better ask them," was his first answer, to which he later added, "Perhaps, because I am young, easily accessible and talk a language which they understand. And also, perhaps, because I am a newspaperman."

Two latest scandals in which Soumya Patnaik was alleged to be involved related to the leakage of this year's higher secondary examination question papers and the government's deals with two 'outside' businessmen for the operation of gemstones mines in the state.

LIGHT OF HIS LIFE

Subhransu Gupta explains what Jyoti Basu's son means to him

Like many other fathers, the Marxist chief minister, Jyoti Basu, had to face many problems because of his son, Chandan. Basu had no children from his first wife whom he married at the age of 27. Then into his life came Kamal, daughter of Biren Basu of Bardi village of Dhaka, which was also Basu's ancestral place. Basu married her on December 5, 1948 and Chandan was born to them in September, four years later.

The Basus wanted their son educated in an English-medium school. Chandan's grandfather, Nishikanto, too, had had his son, Jyoti, educated in the English medium—first at Loreto, and then, St Xavier's. Chandan was, however, enrolled in St Paul's School on Amherst Street in Bengali medium, when he was a boy of 13 years.

Chandan, who was not a very good student, passed the higher secondary examination in the early seventies when the Naxalite movement in the city had gathered momentum. It is said that at that time, at least one out of every five Calcutta collegians was involved in some way or the other in the Naxalite movement. Basu, therefore, like many other well-to-do parents of Calcutta, decided to send his son outside the state and got him admitted to the medical college in Kashmir.

After about four years, Chandan returned to the city without obtaining a medical degree. For sometime, he remained without any specific job but in the late seventies, he managed to obtain a trainee officer's job in Bengal Lamp Works Ltd.

At Bengal Lamps, it is said Chandan had plenty of clout though by position he was a covenanted officer Tapan Roy and Tapash Roy, proprietors of Bengal Lamps, may deny this, but the fact remains that they might have utilised Chandan's connection in their business and the awarding of the contract for bulk supply of bulbs and fluorescent tubes to Bengal Lamps Works by the PWD minister, is just one example.

Chandan Basu is an ambitious young man . He decided to start a business, it is said, with the help and inspiration of the prominent industrialist. He had, of course, good advisers. Jit Paul of APJ House, his (Chandan's) cousin, Amal Dutta (who is Jyoti Basu's nephew), now an MP, and uncle Jayanta Roy (husband of Basu's sister-in-law Monjula) helped him in building an independent career His relatives helped Chandan and in the process influenced the government machinery in setting up his biscuit factory in Durgapur. Basu had no need to say anything to industrialists to help his son, Chandan. All help came automatically to the chief minister's son.

Chandan, however, refutes allegations that he had taken undue help and assistance from the government or any other prominent person in running his business But the fact remains that he has been allotted a special type of flat at Park Street by a prominent city industrialist. He got a plot of land at Salt Lake under the special quota The Durgapur Development Authority (DDA) also allotted him a special industrial plot for his biscuit factory.

DE FACTO CHIEF MINISTER?

Wasbir Hussain on Assam chief minister Prafulla Mahanta's younger brother

Many consider him to be Prafulla Kumar Mahanta's most trusted adviser. To most he is the power centre of the reticent Assam chief minister. And to the youths in Kaliabor, he is simply 'Dilipda,' the all-powerful elder brother whom they can easily approach and ventilate their grievances before. And Mahanta's political opponents fear that Dilip may soon turn out to the *de facto* chief minister.

Opinions vary, but Dilip Kumar Mahanta (32), younger brother of the Assam chief minister, is not a very controversial person compared to the wards of top ruling party leaders elsewhere in the country. Dilip, tall and bespectacled with a french-cut beard, resembles Prafulla in his younger days. A diploma holder in agricultural engineering, Dilip now works in the soil conservation department of the Assam government.

"So far, I have not thought of joining politics full-time," says Dilip, who was actively involved in the AASU sponsored anti-foreigner movement in the state. He was never a student leader though he actively participated in student politics both while studying at the Nagaon college and at the Assam Agriculture University at Jorhat. Way back in 1974, as a school student, he spent 17 days in jail for participating in the food agitation.

"I don't directly get involvd in political issues," says Dilip, who is aware that he is gradually entering the limelight of the state's political scene. He is more like the actual elected representative from Kaliabor, one of the two constituencies from which his brother won but later vacated. It was the AGP nominee, Gunin Hazarika, who won this seat at the byelections that followed. "More than the local MLA, the people of Kaliabor, particularly the youth, come and pressurise me on their needs and problems. This has created some misunderstanding between me and some people," Dilip admits. He refutes reports that he had any differences of opinion with Hazarika.

However, there are allegations that Dilip constantly interferes in administrative matters in the state, particularly those relating to the award of contracts, postings and transfers. But hardly any evidence to back these charges has come up yet. "I have never requested my brother or any other minister for contracts for my friends and myself. Of course, I have spoken on a few occasions for jobs for some boys who had sacrificed a lot during the agitation," says Dilip. He says that since this brother became the chief minister nearly three years ago, he has visited Janala Bhawan, the state secretariat, on only three occasions.

ALL IN THE GAME

Uttam Sengupta shows how Bihar's Bhagwat Jha Azad is a match for anyone else

During the short time Bhagwat Jha Azad has been the chief minister of the state, desperate attempts have been made to demolish his image of an honest politician. Bhagwat Jha's elder brother died in 1984 and not much is known about him or his family. But while Bindeshwari Dubey had been haunted by his son-in-law, Ramesh Pandey, Bhagwat Jha's *bete noire* clearly is his brother-in-law, Amarendra Jha alias Bachcha Jha. He has been an obscure figure, apparently living off a house on Jamal Road in Patna, part of which is used as an office complex. The income from rent must have been adequate, but ever since Bhagwat Jha took over as chief minister, Bachcha Jha suddenly polevaulted to the limelight and began keeping a very high profile.

Ironically, according to insiders, Bhagwat Jha himself is hardly on the best of terms with his brother-in-law and some even maintain that they seldom talk to each other. Similar things used to be said about Bindeshwari Dubey's son-in-law, too, who had been banished from the chief minister's residence for his interference in the government. But that did not deter Ramesh Pandey from wielding considerable influence in the government and now Bachcha Jha does not appear any worse. Even close relatives of Bhagwat Jha grudgingly admit that Bachcha Jha has been making money by merely accompanying favour-seekers to various ministers and officials. Fulminated one of them this week, "The officials and businessmen in this state are fools. Bhagwat Jha is not even on talking terms with Bachcha Jha and yet contractors pay court to him and reward him for favours which would either never be granted or for work which would have been done in any case."

Soon after Bhagwat Jha took over as the chief minister he made it known that his cricketer-son Kirti Azad would inherit his political constituency and that he would like him to contest for the Lok Sabha seat from Bhagalpur vacated by Jha Sr following his election as the leader of the Congress(I) legislature party in Bihar. The power brokers in the state were quick to seize the initiative and they not only managed to



Bachcha Jha

arrange for a 'civic reception' for Kirti Azad and his wife, but also ensured that the grandiose title of 'Bihar Gaurav' (Pride of Bihar) was also conferred on the chief minister's youngest son by no other person than Bhagwat Jha himself! For several months, Kirti Azad clearly acted as a conduit for passing requests to the chief minister and, donning khadi, the former Test player even barnstormed the Bhagalpur parliamentary constituency which he hoped to represent in future.

Even more controversial than Kirti Azad has been his father-in-law, Bharat Choudhury of Nehra in Darbhanga. Barely two months after Bhagwat Jha took over as chief minister, Bharat Choudhury, himself in his fifties, was accused of having kidnapped his father, Pashupati Nath Choudhury so that the latter could not disinherit him. Pashupati Nath Choudhury on his part lodged complaints with the police saying that his son, Bharat Choudhury, was addicted to liquor and according to doctors would not live long. He added that he did not approve of the lifestyle of his son and intended to leave all his property to his grandson, Ajay, now studying in Bangalore. His life, he complained, was in danger as his son had ganged up with the chief minister of Bihar. He also accused Bhagwat Jha of having demanded a bungalow costing Rs 25 lakhs in New Delhi as dowry at the time of Kirti Azad's marriage with Bharat Choudhury's eldest daughter, Poonam, and complained that four of his cars including a Maruti (BPI 4542), a matador van (BPG2140) and a Hero Honda motorcycle had been taken away by his son, Bharat Choudhury, and the latter's son-in-law, Kirti Azad.

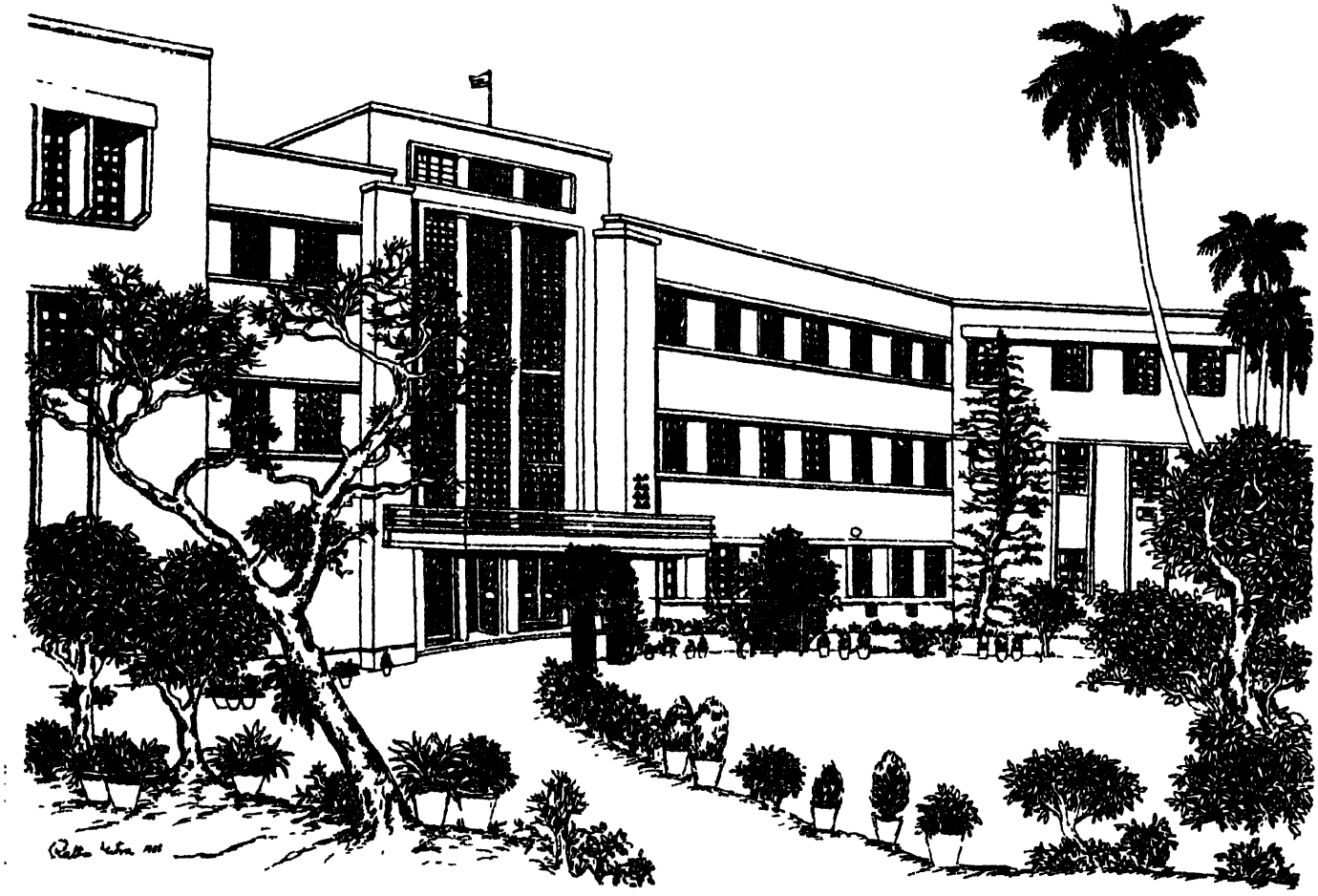
Bharat Choudhury and his wife as well as mother, however, complained that Pashupati Nath Choudhury had turned senile and hence was in no state of mind to transact business. And hence, on their plea, the old man has been debarred from operating his bank accounts and lockers and his firearms had been confiscated. The old man himself, to whom this correspondent talked, claimed to be hiding in Nepal. And he accused the chief minister of trying to usurp his property.

Starting from the last Assembly session which began in June, a determined attempt has been made by the Congress(I) dissidents and Opposition politicians to highlight the wealth allegedly amassed by Bhagwat Jha's relatives. And the CPI member, Ramendra Kumar, created a stir by alleging in the House that Bhagwat Jha's relatives had acquired two houses and six flats in New Delhi alone while buying a lot of prime land in Bihar. The fact that the chief minister chose to ignore the allegations and made no reference to them in his reply was construed as evidence that the charges were true.

They also claim that just before he became the chief minister, Bhagwat Jha bought land and a house in Bhagalpur for Rs 3.5 lakhs. Though, they contend, the actual valuation of the property is close to Rs 20 lakhs. And after becoming the chief minister, they say, Bhagwat Jha's relatives acquired 24 *katthas* of land in Ashanandnagar near Patna. They also allege that much of the property has been acquired in the name of one Onkar Ram, an old follower of Bhagwat Jha. Onkar Ram, the dissidents allege, has purchased a 40-acre farm in Godda district, a cinema hall at Bhagalpur, bought the land of one Sardar Mangal Singh situated between Sabour and Bhagalpur, two more plots of land in Bhagalpur and constructed a house at Bausi in Bhagalpur district with the help of the official machinery. Onkar Ram, they say, is a front for the chief minister's relatives and in any case there was no cogent explanation of how, as a man of modest means, Onkar Ram could suddenly acquire so much property.



INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE (Estd 1876)

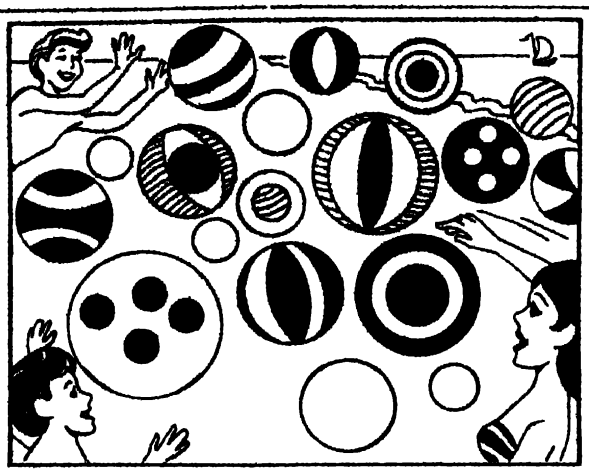


In 1869, Dr Mahendra Lal Sircar (1833-1904), a renowned medical practitioner and apostle of modern science in India, initiated a debate on the desirability of a national institution for the cultivation of science by Indians. Those were the times when Calcutta was another name for social reforms and new thoughts. The city welcomed Mahendra Lal's ideas. And thus came into being the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) at 210, Bow Bazar Street in central Calcutta with "the object of enabling the natives of India to cultivate science in all its departments by original research..." It was formally inaugurated on July 29, 1876.

Among the celebrities who have delivered lectures on various branches of science at IACS were Ashutosh Mookerjee, Jagadish Chandra Bose, Father Lafont, Chunilal Bose, Nilratan Sircar and Mahendra Lal himself. The restless Mahendra Lal aspired to take IACS to the pinnacle of success by transforming it into a complete research institute. Though it was progressing towards that goal he felt it was slow by his standards. An unfulfilled Mahendra Lal died in 1904.

Nobel laureate C.V. Raman began his research in physics at the IACS in 1907, and 23 years later got the highest recognition for his efforts. At present the IACS is a reputed research centre in several branches of physics and chemistry.

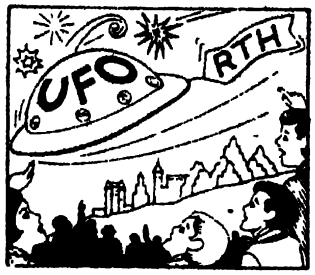
In 1951, the IACS shifted to the present 10-acre campus on Raja Subodh Mullick Road, Jadavpur. The sketch above shows the main building of the institute.



BEACH BALL! Our artists says there are 32 full circles in the sketch above. How many of these circles can you find?

• TURN TALE! Replace X's with a single vowel so the following sentence will read the same backwards and forwards M X D X M I M X D X M

Replace X's with the letter A



SOME FOURTH DIMENSIONS! Try this 4th of July quiz on various "fours." See how quickly you can step forth with the right answers. Answer true or false.

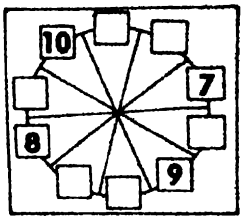
1. A four-o'clock is a flower.
2. A four-bagger is a home run.
3. Four score equals sixty.
4. Petit fours are short quadruplets.
5. A four-in-hand is a card game.
6. A four-poster is a pup tent.
7. A four-master is a chess champ.

1 True 2 True 3 False—80 4 False—small cakes 5 False—a tie 6 False—a bed 7 False—a sailing ship

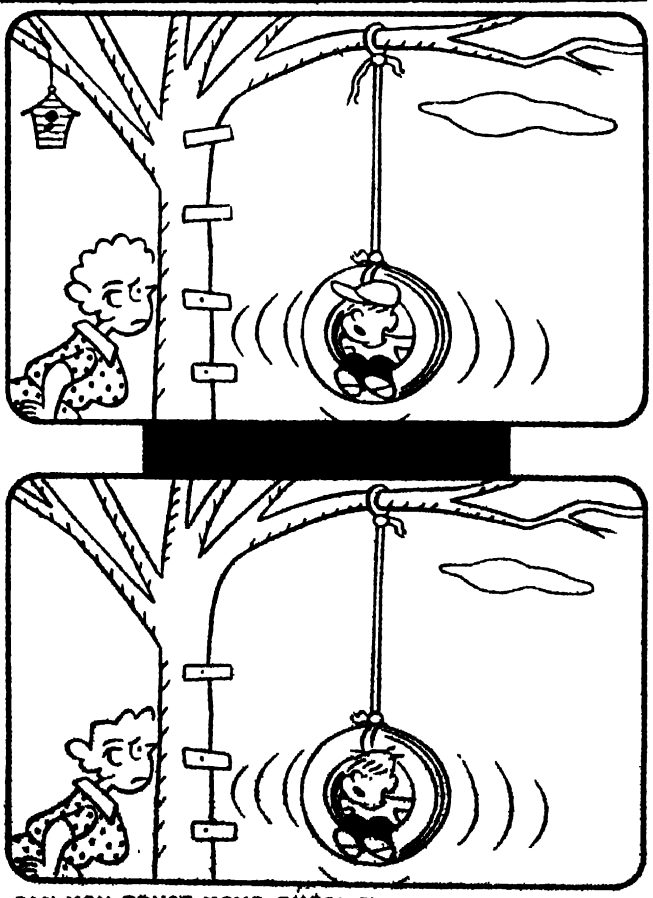
• BOX SCORE! Challenge: Place digits 1 through 6 in boxes of the figure, below, so that the sum of the numbers in any two adjacent spoke-segments of the wheel total the same amount as the sum of the two numbers diagonally opposite. Each number is to be inserted once.

Can you work it out?

Three at top then clockwise 6 7 2 9 4 5 8 1 10 will do it



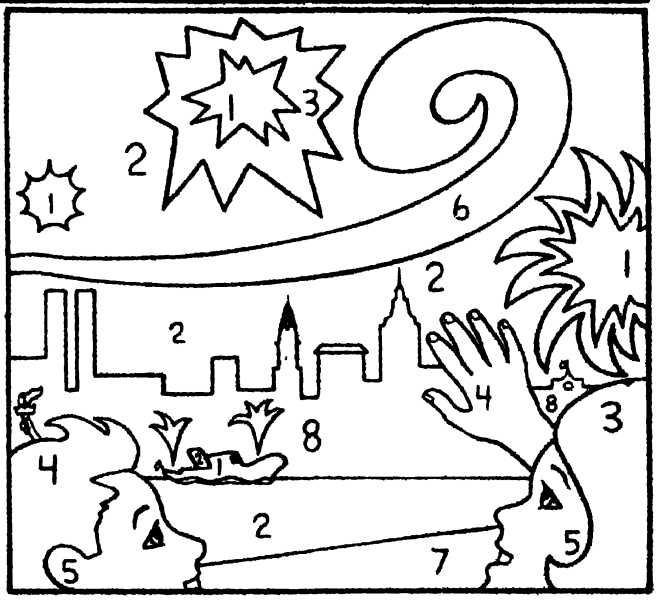
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with these below.

Differences: 1 Birdhouse is missing. 2 Cloud is missing. 3 Hair is different. 4 Rope end is missing. 5 Cap is missing. 6 Cloud is smaller.

FUNSPOT



SKY SHOW! Fireworks light the sky at the holiday celebration. Add these colors neatly: 1—Red. 2—Dk. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Orange. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SENTINEL

. . . . . .

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible answers: Sent, tins



Sanjeev Chandra, Bhagalpur, has sent this question and answer. "Which US President was nicknamed 'Gipper?' Answer: Ronald Reagan." But why?

George Gipp, whom the great coach Kunte Rockne called "the greatest football player Notre Dame ever produced" is a legend in US collegiate football. After three years in Notre Dame University, Gipp rose to fame along with Rockne in 1919 to end the season undefeated.

In 1920 Rocke and Gipp again led the "Fighting Irish" to an unbeaten season. Gipp's elusive running, deadly spot-passing, instinct for the right play at the right time and outstanding defensive abilities made him the nation's number-one back.

Gipp did not finish that season. He became ill with a throat infection before the penultimate game, against Northwestern, and was hospitalised. Released in time for the game, he suited up, but Rockne had decided not to use him. Finally, however, the coach bowed down to public pressure and sent Gipp in for a few games. Soon the streptococcal infection got worse, and he was back in the hospital. Antibiotics were then not in use and pneumonia set in. Within three weeks, on December 14, 1920, he was dead.

On his deathbed, he told his coach, "Rock, some day when things look real tough for Notre Dame, ask the boys to go out there and win one for the Gipper."

The seed of a legend had been planted, and it flowered on a cold New York afternoon eight years later. On November 12, 1928, in Yankee Stadium before 75,000 fans, unbeaten Army, led by the greatest runner in its history of that time, Chris Cagle, prepared to face off against a dismal Notre Dame 11. Previously, the Irish had been smashed by Wisconsin, 22-6, and Georgia Tech, 13-0. Just before the game, Knute Rockne gathered his team around him in the locker room. "You've all heard of George Gipp, of course," he said quietly. "You all know that I was at his bedside the day he died. And you may or may not have heard that just before he died he said to me, 'Rock, some day when things look real tough for Notre Dame, ask the boys to go out there and win one for the Gipper.' Well, I've never used Gipp's request until now. This is the time. It's up to you."

An inspired Fighting Irish team took the field and fought Army tooth and nail, holding them to a scoreless tie at the half. In the second half, Notre Dame battered its way to the Army 2-yard line. On the next play, Notre Dame's best half back, Jack Chevigny, took the pigskin,



Ronald Reagan

could find no opening, then threw himself into the air, catapulting over the Army line and in for a touchdown. Chevigny jumped to his feet, shouting "That one was for the Gipper!"

Notre Dame toppled Army, 12-6. The next day the *New York Daily News* gave credit where credit was due. Its headline read: GIPP'S GHOST BEAT ARMY.

The incident was immortalised in the film *Knute Rockne*, with Pat O'Brien as Rockne and Ronald Reagan as the Gipper.

Shantabhanu Chakravarti, 72,Syed Amir Ali Avenue, Calcutta 19, writes:

"The other day I read an essay on one of the greatest leaders of the Indian subcontinent. I send it to you as a question. Perhaps you will like it.

I was born in Kathiawar. My forefathers were Hindu merchants, and according to custom I was married at the age of 16.

I set off for England to study law at Lincoln's Inn. In London I became attracted to theatre and even decided to quit studies and play Romeo at the Old Vic.

But I changed my mind again, completed my studies and returned to Bombay in 1896. I became a successful lawyer and joined the Congress on encouragement from people like Gokhale and Naroji.

Time passed and I had wide differences in opinion with Gandhi and Nehru and gradually faded out of the Indian Congress.

Sarojini once called me "The ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity."

My first wife died and I married again. My second wife also died and my daughter left me to marry a foreigner.

I died an unhappy man.

Whom am I?

Clue: My grandson is a well-known name in today's India.

Ans: I am Muhammad Ali Jinnah. (The name Jinnah is derived from my father's name Jhinabhai Punya. My grandson is Nueli Wadia, now a British citizen."

Congratulations, Shantabhanu, Your question is selected as this week's CBS 11th Question.

QUESTIONS

1. Which actress played the same role in the television serial *Ramayan* and [illegible] movie *Sampoorna Ramayana*? (Nawalmahu Jamnadas, Patna)

2. Who was England's famous one-armed Test [illegible]? (Mohan Kr Agarwal, Calcutta 28)

3. [illegible] memoir is *My* [illegible] (Debasish [illegible] 4)

4. [illegible] into [illegible] History [illegible] Shastri)

5. Which is the greatest [illegible] of the world? (Jayanta Kr Sharma, [illegible] 12)

6. Who was the author of [illegible]? (Nirupam [illegible] Dhanbad 10)

7. In World War II "Desert Rats" was a code name to launch [illegible]

8. Name the [illegible] film in which Charlie Chaplin played a [illegible] (Rajendra Chowdhury, Calcutta 73)

9. Which [illegible] reported

by polio and unable to walk till she was eight went on to win an Olympic athletics gold medal? (Aruna Chandaraj, Calcutta 29)

10. Who recently said, appreciating the scenery in Brazil, "If one didn't like the beaches and girls here, one had to be a homosexual."? (Amit K. Roy, Chaibasa)

ANSWERS

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS

Already a rage in the West, BMX stunt cycling has swept Manipur. But the authorities, unlike the youth, are not delighted

Text and photographs by R Shanker

It is irresistible The equipment is cheap Space is no problem a backyard ramp, a field, stretch of tarmac or even a downtown sidestreet will do The action is fast and frantic Uniforms are unimportant but style is vital It is risky but not dangerous-- and the police don't like it at all

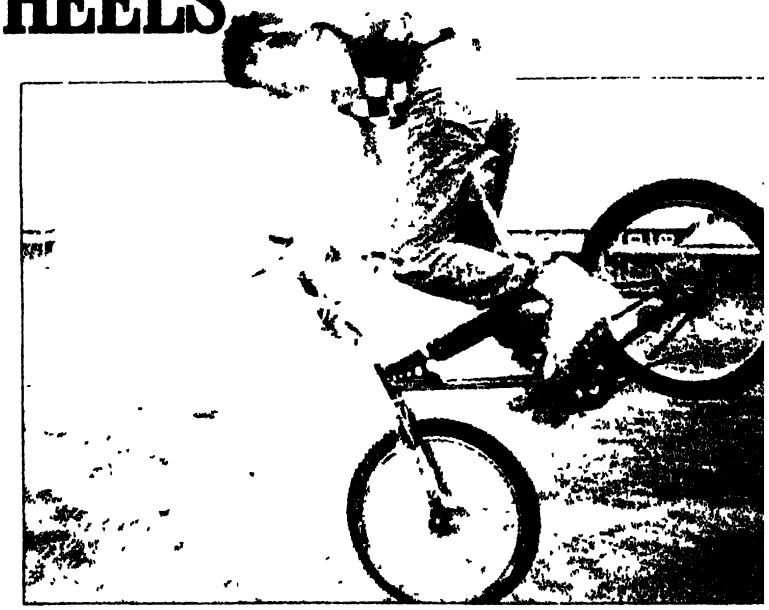
The mysterious "it", BMX stunt cycling, is at present a rage in Manipur In fact, at least 60 per cent of its youth are under its sway The capital Imphal alone houses approximately 1,500 under-16s all proficient at the wheels and their numbers are growing daily, with policeman, armed with truncheons, chasing them off the roads "We always have to keep a look out for the police who beat us whenever they get a chance," says T Noinoi, a 16-year-old ace stuntsman from Imphal

The Manipur's BMXers are a disgruntled lot With no facilities for practice unlike their counterparts in the West, the youngsters take to the streets Remarks 15-year-old A. Momocha, "The government is not providing us with a practice park and when we come out on the streets the police chase us away Where are we to go?"

The lack of adequate facilities and opportunities to hone their skills in what is now a multibillion dollar major international sport (seven separate BMX magazines are published from the US alone) have forced Noinoi and his friends to form a registered association to pressurise the state into doing something for them The chief minister, R K Jaichandra Singh, on his part pleaded, "We don't have enough funds "

Cycle manufacturers have however decided to make hay while the sun shines There are now four Indian companies that offer the BMX priced at Rs 800 All four Atlas, Hero, Aron and Scout - face fierce competition in Manipur with the sales mounting daily And while all brands are seen on Manipur streets, the more experienced BMXers prefer the Atlas "They may be heavier but they are sturdier," says one who can jump over a Maruti car on his cycle

Sports goods dealers, however, have not been able to cash in on the BMX boom and riders complain of not being able to get trendy riding suits and other accessories that their foreign counterparts use At present, the youngsters just wear leather outfits, cutaway jeans, hightop sneakers or macho shin-laced army boots Some go in for graffiti or chequered T shirts Says L Ibohala Singh, proprietor of Imphal's largest BMX store 'I have ordered accessories which should be arriving soon He envisages a further jump in sales - already averaging 30 cycles daily once these trendy accessories arrive



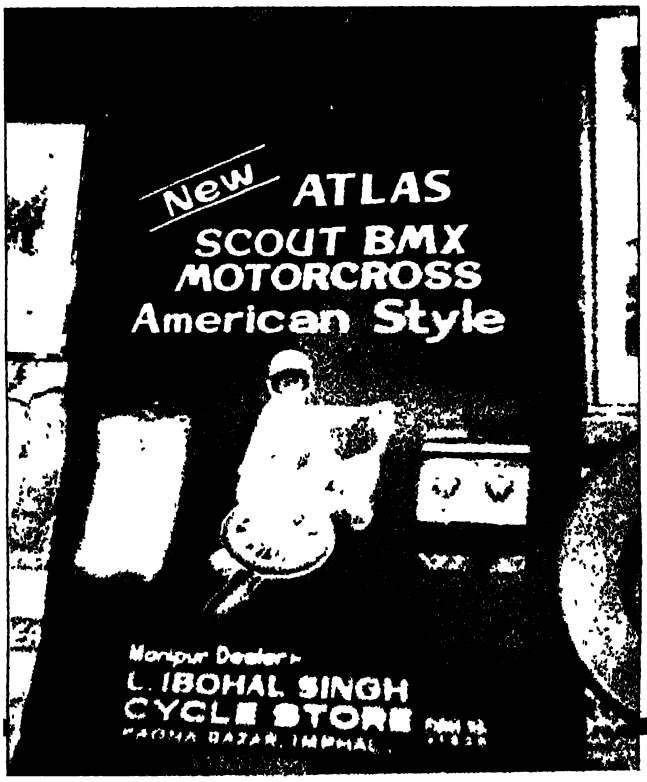
Performing an "ends"

A constant battle that rages is the one between the police and BMX enthusiasts 'We have to keep out of the reach of the law although we are not lawbreakers ' says Noinoi 'Escaping the police has now become part of the BMXers psyche," says senior citizen Arun Irengbam who supports the youth in their demand for practise facilities 'BMXing is a new sport in the country and since these kids have the proficiency, they should be encouraged Who knows, we may be able to produce an international rider ' he adds hopefully

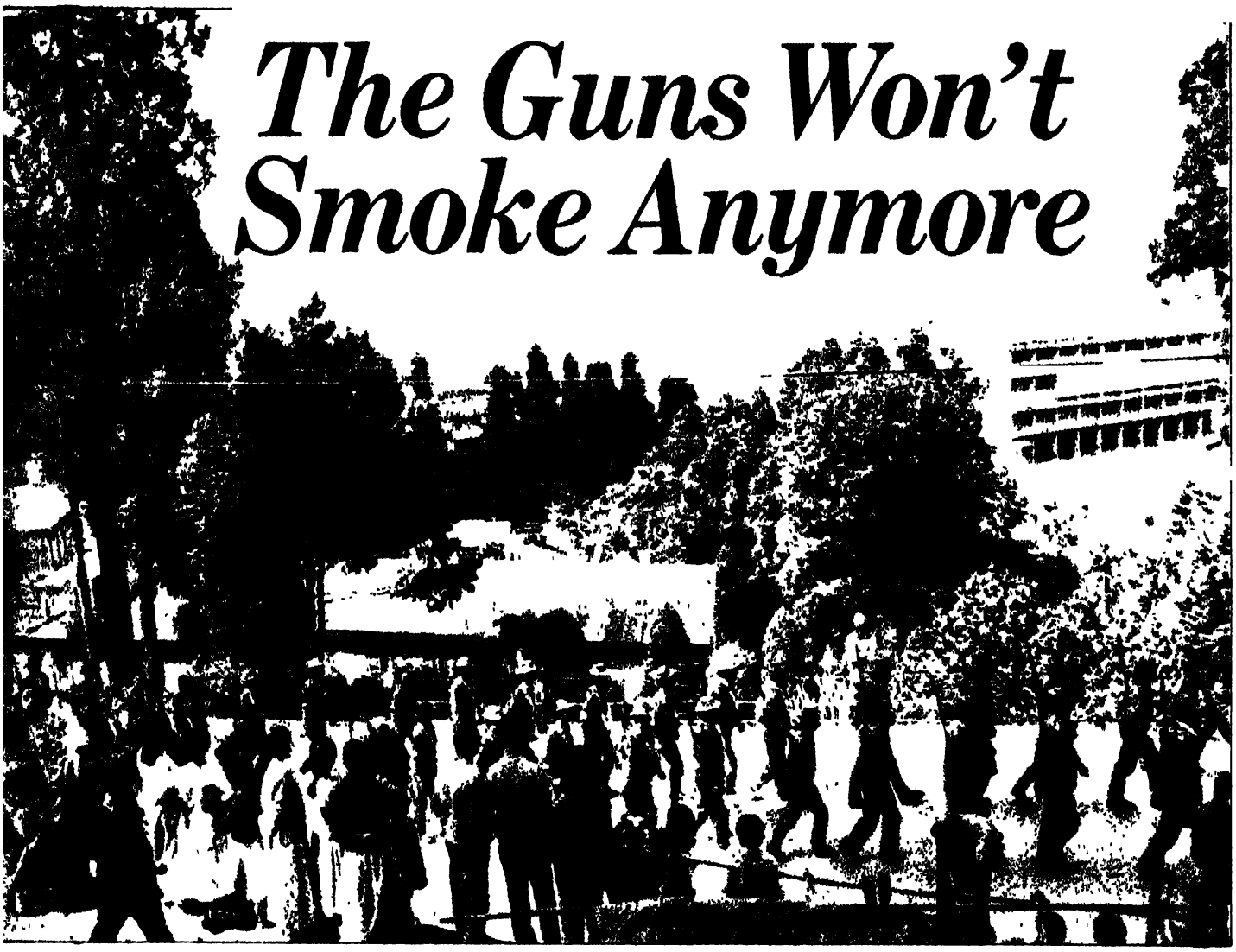
A senior government official agrees with this Says he, 'We have the talent We have the funds Besides, BMX cycling keeps children out of trouble like drugs and fights " The youngsters, meanwhile, continue using the streets as practise arenas to cultivate their talent and try new stunts

Manipur today is agog with excitement over the BMX competition slated for the end of this month Police harassment apart, nothing will deter these dedicated youths. As one of them puts it, "We love what we do It is an sport, and we will con perfect it "■

Cashing in on the boom: A poster at a BMX cycle store in Imphal



The Guns Won't Smoke Anymore











When GNLF militants surrendered arms before the Hill Queen, **Aloke Mitra** was there to capture the return of camaraderie







FASCISM AND, WOW, LEGS!

Lekha Dhar reports on Alyque Padamsee's latest musical, *Kabaret*



Courtesy Bombay

Critics see *Kabaret*, the latest in Alyque Padamsee's repertoire of musicals, as one of his weakest productions Perhaps But its message is probably the most relevant Pre-World War Berlin and the emergence of Hitler's goose-stepping Nazis seen through the lazy ambience of the Kit Kat Klub ring a familiar bell—a change of sets could stage local, home-grown fascism.

Says Padamsee in his director's note in *Kabaret's* brochure. "In a country riddled with politics what better drama than a play set against the rise of Nazism in the thirties? Hitler appealed to a certain fascist fundamentalism in the German people who were splintered into, various states, each with its own axe to grind. He brought back to Germany a false sense of unity and purpose by painting the minority community of Jews as the common enemy.

"You cannot build unity without a visible scapegoat. Is our country looking for a fundamentalist fascism? Is it looking for a minority scapegoat?" asks Padamsee.

An adaptation of Bob Fasse's classic, *Cabaret*, best conveyed this situation The "K" in *Kabaret* is influenced by the Kabarett Theatre of Germany which was the common man's entertainment Social and political comment through the use of songs and brief sketches linked together by an MC marked this German theatre.

Liza Minelli's Oscar winning performance as Sally Bowles in the film, *Cabaret*, is probably a disadvantage for any actress who follows on stage or screen Here, Sharon Prabhakar shakes off the glamour of her last musical lead role in *Evita* as Argentina's legendary former First Lady, to play a character she describes as a "burnt out, much used, frustrated starlet from the back corridors of Berlin."

Sally Bowles is the cynosure of both the film and the play She is the top draw at the Kit Kat Klub, where song, dance, glitter and decadence permeate Outside, Adolf Hitler is gradually building his Third Reich on the anti-semitic trump card. The

Swastika soon changes the tune at the Kit Kat...*Bye bye my freedom fair/Farewell my right to dare . And though I used to care/Today I want to share/The Nazi Seig Heil with you, Mein Herr... I've always said that he was the Fuehrer /You mustn't knit your brow/You should have known by now/You do not walk but crawl to, Mein Herr*

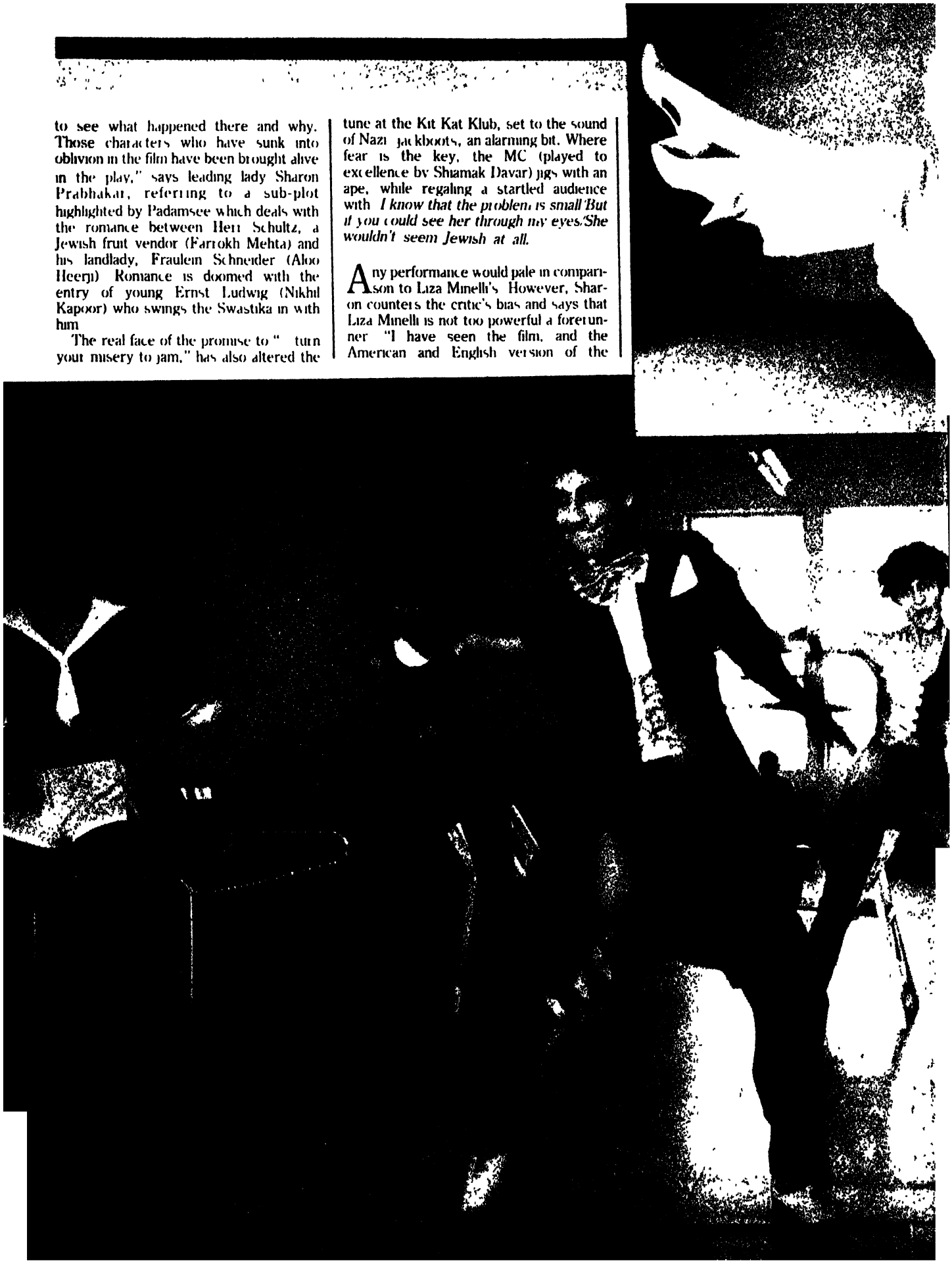
Jazzed up by song-and-dance *a la* Broadway, the play documents the rise of fascism, Jewish resilience and is also a story of love. Alyque Padamsee deviates from the film, adding scenes "It concentrates on novelist Clifford Isherwood's (played by Homi Daruvala) travel to Berlin



to see what happened there and why. Those characters who have sunk into oblivion in the film have been brought alive in the play," says leading lady Sharon Prabhakar, referring to a sub-plot highlighted by Padamsee which deals with the romance between Herr Schultz, a Jewish fruit vendor (Farrokh Mehta) and his landlady, Fraulein Schneider (Aloo Heerji) Romance is doomed with the entry of young Ernst Ludwig (Nikhil Kapoor) who swings the Swastika in with him

The real face of the promise to " turn your misery to jam," has also altered the tune at the Kit Kat Klub, set to the sound of Nazi jackboots, an alarming bit. Where fear is the key, the MC (played to excellence by Shamak Davar) jigs with an ape, while regaling a startled audience with *I know that the problem is small/But if you could see her through my eyes/She wouldn't seem Jewish at all.*

Any performance would pale in comparison to Liza Minelli's However, Sharon counters the critic's bias and says that Liza Minelli is not too powerful a forerunner "I have seen the film, and the American and English version of the





Courtesy Bombay

staged plays I have met people who knew the real Sally Bowles The film was purely Minelli but seeing other actresses play the role and meeting people who knew her widened my whole canvas of the character

I am glad I have seen other actresses playing Sally Bowles Liza Minelli's hair nails and giggles—Liza Minelli overshadowed everything else You have to find your own nuances subtleties and interpret the character—a blind imitation of Liza Minelli would never have done With each show the character grows on you and you find something new

Sharon best known for her title role in *Evita* made her debut on the Hindi stage as the heroine of Theatre Group's *Utsh*

Sharon Prabhakar says in response to criticism that *Kabaret* muted the menace of Nazism and that the growing threat of Hitler's SS (the Schutz Staff) which hung like a dark cloud over Germany and the rest of Europe was somewhat defused by the musical It was a lethal situation And we have brought across the menace stronger in fact than the film *Kabaret* uses stronger political quotes and conveyed the Nazi threat through snatched passports the songs the Nazi salute She adds Critics must criticise but *Kabaret* is running housefull If some feel the pivotal characters are weak this would not be the case Here there is a large dependence on the performer's ability and ultimately the public can't be fooled

From the Tadamee repertoire has come a series besides the famed *Evita* with *Jaintuli Ram Jesus Christ Superstar* blending music and drama *Kabaret* is a logical and probably advanced sequel to these if the medium is the message From the F of *Kabaret* fashioned into a Swastika to the green faced MC in net quite singing the Fuehrer's song to the sound of the jackboots Padamsee tries to convey why he likes *Kabaret* Because it is a reflection of life and the politics of the minorities around us

According to Shiamak Davar who is also the choreographer in the musical it's been tough going trying to show the jam and vinegar side of Germany but then Davar is a product of the Guildford School of Dancing London and the Martha Graham School New York and has a wide portfolio where choreographing musicals are concerned *Best of Broadway, They are Playing Our Song* and, among other things playing Che Guevera in *Evita* and doing a John Travolta number in *Grease Lightning* So it's shouldn't present too much of a problem to him

The cast includes Bombay's familiar and not so familiar stars of song and dance Karla Singh (Fraulein Kost) the dancer gymnast from New York Anahita Mehta (Fraulein Landor) Firdaus Jussawalla (Herr Psmith) Sita Mani Shaheen Dastur Trudy Pereira Ashley Lobo Glen D'Mello etc

At present there are no plans to stage the musical outside Bombay where it is running housefull—perhaps the play's message has more relevance to the city where the Swastika is a saffron flag and the symbolic roar of the tiger is as familiar as the Nazi jackboots ■

Gurudev's Legacy

Vignettes of the exhibition held by students of Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, at the Academy of Fine Arts early this month

Photographs: Subhajit Pal



An untitled work by Sudipto Sharma

Landscape II **(tempera) by Pushpendu Dan**





Adhikar **(oil) by Subrata Pal**



My Shoes **(terracotta) by Nirjhar Bose**

REGULAR SHOWS

• **Akarshan:** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani: 270147), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street: 250437), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue: 464440), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street: 554033).

Directed by Tanvir Ahmed, the film stars Akbar Khan, Sonu Walia, Girish Karnad, Rohini Hattangadi and Sharon Prabhakar, with Parveen Babi, Smita Patil and Raj Babbar in special appearances. The music is by Ajit Singh.

• **Dayavan:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue; 553046), Malancha (Regent Park), Jaya (Lake Town; 573936).

A film by Feroz Khan who also stars along with Vinod Khanna, Madhuri Dixit and Amrish Puri. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Hero Hiralal:** Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road; 474403).

The film stars Naseeruddin Shah, Sanjna Kapoor, Deepa Sahi, Kiran Kumar and Saeed Jaffrey.

• **Khoon Bahaa Ganga Mein:** Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 552932), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757).

Directed by Praveen Bhatt and with music by Anand Milind, the cast includes Amrita Singh, Aditya Pancholi, Annu Kapoor, Anju Mahendru and Leena Das, with Suresh Oberoi in a special appearance.

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 272473).

Directed by K.R. Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain, the film stars Dharmendra, Anita Raj, Govinda, Farha, Tanuja, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Shakti Kapoor, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Anupam Kher.

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street: 283442)—12, 3, 6, 9.

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film. The music is by Anand Milind.



Lee J. Cobb and Jason Miller in *The Exorcist*

• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A):** Opera (Lenin Sarani: 281849).

Rajesh Khanna, Farha, Moon Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the main attractions in this film, directed by B.R. Ishara and music by Anand Milind.

• **Death Wish (A):** Globe (Lindsay Street: 296665)—4 shows.

• **One Night at Dinner (A):** Metro (Chowringhee Road: 280141)—4 shows.

• **Predator:** Lighthouse (Humayun Place: 291299)—12, 3, 6, 8.30.

• **Something for Your Love (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street; 243715)—4 shows.

• **The Exorcist (A):** New Empire (Humayun Place: 291051)—4 shows.

• **The Girl from South Seas (A):** Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383)—4 shows.

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3, 5.45, 8.30.

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

• **Desh Paonar:** Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666)—3 shows.

Directed by Sukhen Das and with music by Ajoy Das, the cast includes Deepankar De, Swarup Dutta, Satya Banerjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Sandhyarani, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das.

• **Jyoti:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282)—3 shows.

Directed by Shabd Kumar and with music by Sapan Jagmohan, the film stars Rameshwari, Prasenjit, Anooradha Patel, Utpal Dutt and Pradeep Kumar.

• **Madhumoni:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567), Mini Jaya (Lake Town: 573936)—3 shows.

A film by Ajoy Kar, starring Victor Banerjee, Tanuja, Utpal Dutt, Swarup Dutta and Chinmoy Roy. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

• **Surer Akashe:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Artna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 369561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

Tapas Paul and Debashree Roy are the lead pair in this Birsha Chatterjee film. Others in the cast are Abhishek Chatterjee, Nayana Das, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee and Beena. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

• **Jay Jayanti:** Rangana (1 Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 556846)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Subhendu Chatterjee and Basabi Nandy along with Premangshu Bose, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Dipika Banerjee, Arindam Ganguly, Gita Dey, Nandini Malleya and Abhishek Chatterjee comprise the cast. Drama and direction: Ganesh Mukherjee.

• **Kalanka:** Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street: 558402)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Supriya Devi, Chinmoy Roy, Jain Banerjee, Samir Majumdar and Sulata Chowdhury are the chief attractions in this play, whose music and direction are by Samir Majumdar.

• **Nesha:** Protap Mancha (opp. Rajabazar tram depot)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Tarun Kumar, the cast of this play includes Ashim Mukherjee, Saikat Pakrashi, Tanima Sen, K. Debraj and Miss Shefali.

• **Neelkantha:** Rungmahal (76/1B Bidhan Sarani; 551619)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Soumitra Chatterjee, Goutam Chakraborty, Ajit Banerjee, Nirmal Ghosh, Sunita Chatterjee, Debika Mitra, Sumanta Mukherjee and Sayan Mitra comprise the cast of this play. Drama, music and direction: Soumitra Chatterjee.

• **Rater Kuheli:** Boys Own Hall (P-29, CIT Scheme, Ballintola Lane, near Biswaroopa: 552757)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Rakhi Mukherjee plays this lead in the drama.

• **Sukher Thikana:** Kashi Biswanath Mandira (Canal West Road 355598)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm; Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

The chief attractions in this play are Deepankar De, Biplab Chatterjee, Lily Chakraborty and Jnanesh Mukherjee, who also directs

• **Sukhi Grihakon:** Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street 557293)—Thurs. at 6 30 pm Sat Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm

Kali Banerjee and Subrota Chatterjee are in the lead

• **Tamasya:** Biswaroopa (2A Raja Raj Kissen Street 551262)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm

Dilip Roy Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury Debraj Roy Kaushik Banerjee Arun Banerjee Srirup Mitra Anamika Saha and Shoma Chatterjee comprise the cast of this play based on Ashapurna Devi's story

TRAVEL

Flights

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2)· AI-103 at 0035

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5). AI-306 at 1830; Dep (5) AI-306 at 1930

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) AI-315 at 1820, Dep (6) AI-315 at 1920

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1)· AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr (6) AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (7) AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr (4) RJ-194 at 0500, Dep (4) RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr (4) SU 537 at 1555, Dep (4) SU-538 at 1855

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1) JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2) SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1530; Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640 Arr (1 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240; Dep (2 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050 Dep. (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Kathmandu· Dep (1 3 7) RA 214 at 1110 Dep (2 4 7) IC 247 at 1740 Dep (3 6) IC-247 at 1510 Arr (1 3 7) RA-213 at 1010 Arr (2 3 4 6) IC 248 at 1425 Arr (7) IC-248 at 2055

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7)· IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7). IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145 Dep (1 2 4 5 6) BG 694 at 1715 Dep (2, 4 6) IC-223 at 1440 Dep (1 3 5) IC 223 at 1800 Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720 Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045 Arr (1 2 4 5 6) BG 693 at 1615 Arr (2 4 6) IC 224 at 1540 Arr (1 3 5) IC 224 at 2000 Arr (7) IC 444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong· Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1305 Dep (1 4 7) IC 225 at 1305 Arr (2 5) BG 697 at 1220 Arr (1 4 7) IC 226 at 1555

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730; Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4 7) GQ 101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7) IC 444 at 2000; Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730, Arr (daily) IC 266 at 2225

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 295 at 1400 Arr (1, 3, 5)· IC-296 at 1725

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110 Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620· Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr (daily)· IC-272 at 2240

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3). IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2)· IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6)· IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7)· IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3 5, 6). IC-281 at 1535; Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1) IC-269 at 1630 Dep (2 4 6) IC-269 at 1800 Arr (1) IC 270 at 1945 Arr (2, 4 6) IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6)· IC-203 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810; Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540· Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625 (7) IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep (1, 4) IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-239 at 1100, Arr (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040 Arr (2 3 5, 6) IC 240 at 1310

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1 3 5 6) 7) IC 227 at 0835, Arr (1 3, 5 6 7) IC-228 at 0805

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4 7) IC 255 at 0530 Dep (1, 3, 5 6) IC 255 at 0815, Arr (2 4 7) IC 256 at 1000 Arr (1 3, 5 6) IC 256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1405

Calcutta-Agartala Dep (2 4) IC 243 at 0830 Dep (1 3 5 6 7) IC 243 at 0610 Dep (daily) IC 241 at 1440 Arr (daily) IC 244 at 1030 Arr (daily) IC 242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5) IC 237 at 0650; Arr (1, 3, 5). IC-238 at 1105

Varanasi

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1300.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

• **Calcutta-Aizawl:** Dep. (1, 3, 5). PF-705A at 1300; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-706A at 1625.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0655; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep.

BARTER BANK

• **Study material, records and two-in-one:** I offer the complete set of National School of Banking correspondence papers, 30 old hit records and a Bush two-in-one for anything of corresponding value Contact Debangshu Bhattacharya, P-21, Bose Para Lane, Bagbazar, Calcutta 3.

• **Sun glasses, cassettes, aquarium pump and study material:** I offer an imported pair of sun glasses, several Western music cassettes, an aquarium pump and a number of science and medical books for anything of corresponding value. Contact Arindam Dev, Flat no. C-12,58/7 A, B T Road, Calcutta.

• **Walkman:** I ofer a red Toshiba (KT-4046) Walkman with a stereo three-band graphic equaliser, auto reverse, touch button reverse, AM/FM radio, dolby NR system and removable belt clip for anything of corresponding value Contact Manish Sisodia, 17, Casia Avenue, PO Chittaranjan, Pin 713331

• **Coins and photographs:** I offer five Re 1 coins dating back to 1947 and original autographed photographs of Javed Jaffri, Meenakshi Seshadri, Rajiv Gandhi and Harvans Rai Bachchan for anything of corresponding value Contact Dilip Dugar, c/o B L Nahata, Nehru Road (Khalpara), Siliguri 5.

• **Bangle and earrings:** I offer an oyster shell bangle and two pairs of plastic earrings for other items of costume jewellery or anything of corresponding value. Write to Soma Kar, 43, Sashi Bhusan Dey Street, Calcutta 12.

(2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0800; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kailashar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1610.

Calcutta-Agartala (Janata Flight): Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-729A at 0830; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-730A at 0850.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 0940; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Malda-Balurghat: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-731 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-732 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna-Gaya: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-737 at 0630; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-738 at 1235.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Lilabari-Ziro-Deparizo-Ziro-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu-Dibrugarh-Passighat-Along-Passighat-Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-721/722 at 0630; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-723/724 at 1915.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1800; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1935.

Guwahati-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0700; Ar. (daily): PF-702 at 0900.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

* Technical landing at Agartala while returning.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	Delhi Kalka Mail	8-30	2
5	19-20	Amritsar Mail	8-05	6
3	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	Air-Cond. Express Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep.—Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs., Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp. Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat. Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	Purbanchal Express Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs. & Mon.	4-15	948
9	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	Toofan Express via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	Amritsar Express	15-45	50
11	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	Gorakhpur Express	11-45	20
21	16-05	Mithila Express	6-45	22
57	5-45	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	58
307	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	308
59	17-35	Kamrup Express	6-30	60
309	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	310
305	18-15	Asansol Express	8-45	306
31	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	32
105	23-00	North Bihar Express Dep.—Wednesday Arri.—Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	Jamalpur Express Dep —Tues., Thurs. & Sat. Arri.—Mon., Thurs. & Sat.	6-00	172
15	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-45	16
959	15-25	Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express Dep.—Thursday & Saturday Arri.—Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	Indore Express Dep.—Tuesday Arri.—Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	44
53	20-10	Gaur Express	6-15	54
51	11-20	Jammu Tawi Express	16-10	52

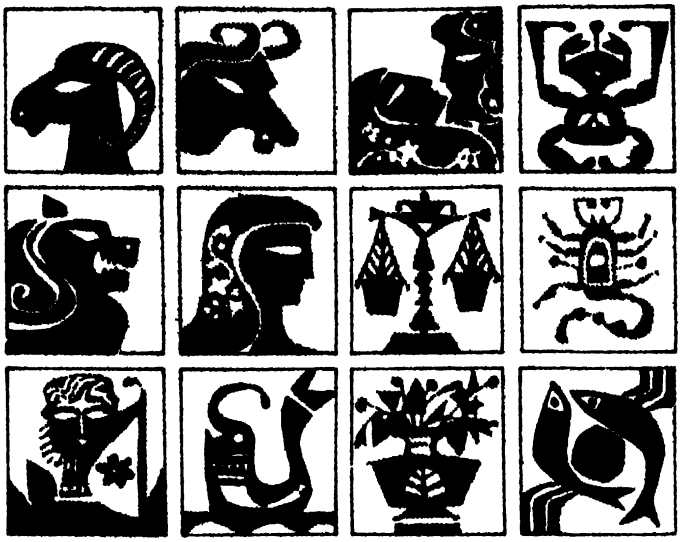
Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
33	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	Madras Mail	6-00	4
2	20-30	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express 5 days a week Dep.—Mon., Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat. Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs., Fri., & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	Ahmedabad Express	4-10	133
52	22-35	Bangalore Super Fast Express Dep. & Arri.—Wed. & Sun.	13-45	51
30	12-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	Coromondal (Madras) Express	11-15	142
37	23-15	Madras Janata Express Dep Mon., Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	14
11	6-20	Ispat Express	21-50	12
5	21-50	Sambalpur Express	5-55	6
15	21-30	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-30	16
7	22-45	Puri Express	5-45	8
9	19-00	Jagannath (Puri) Express	7-45	10
45	10-00	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	14-15	46
317	16-45	Purulia Express	11-30	318
902	22-35	Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah) Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras) Dep. & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 292545-54 for in-coming trains, 292535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 292370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



ARIES

March 21—April 20

Emphasis on personal affairs, house, family, hobbies, love, children, parents, elders and in-laws is foretold. As Mercury and Venus are well placed in your solar scope you can start new ventures. Those of you interested in education, research, entertainment, conferences, travel and ties, will find peace and, happiness now

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Ganesh says that extra care of health and expenses must be taken. Visits to clinics, social centres and hospitals are a distinctt possibility. You must work in secrecy for maximum benefit and advantage. The first half of the week will be important for personal matters and negotiations. Do not trust those who claim to be friends

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

This is a week to socialise and circulate Your friends and well-wishers will be willing to help you out. Your popularity index will soar. It is also certain that you will entertain and socialise in style. You will succeed in signing importantdeeds and documents. Financial negotiations in your favour are foretold. Health may cause concern

CANCER

June 21—July 20

The focus now is on your job, business and profession. You may look forward to a spate of hard work but perks and a fatter pay packet will be the final reward. Your boss as well as family will be pleased by your efforts. Lady Luck smiles on you. Therefore, it will be best to push ahead. However, do not overstrain yourself.

LEO

July 21—August 21

A home away from home is foretold. Those of you interested in foreign collaborations, import-export, sales and distribution, agency and commission work, education, research, children and hobbies should do exceedingly well. A minor wish fulfilment is possible now. A shift or transfer cannot be ruled out.

VIRGO

August 22 -Sept 22

Contracts will now be signed in your favour Money will pour in However, there is a slight danger of accidents. Tuesday and Wednesday are meant for ties, ceremonies, rites, rituals, news and views Travel is a pssibility Expect friends, visitors and relatives to drop in. Thursday to Saturday indicates a round of hardwork

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

Journeys, partnerships, ties, involvement with members of the opposite sex, socialising and entertaining are foretold Matters relating to children and distant countries are highlighted This is the time to reach out to people and places by different means of transport and communication. Guard health.

BIRTHDAYS

October 30

Moon trine Pluto: It is true that there will be temporary opposition to plans and projects. Your lucky period very definitely starts from November 1986 and continues right upto yur next birthday. Your wishes will be granted.

October 31

Moon trine Mars: This is a fine time favouring wedlock, engagement, social service, a job switch, children, entertainment, hobbies and education.

1

Moon trine Jupiter: You may [illegible] a major enterprise or adventure. In other [illegible] professional matters personal life are both positively highlighted.

This [illegible] expenses [illegible] financial [illegible] to cope with [illegible] You must learn to lessen your pace and be careful between November 23 and December 22 this year and February 21 and March 21 next year.

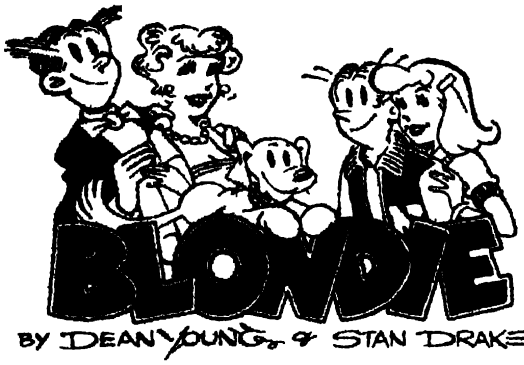
November 3

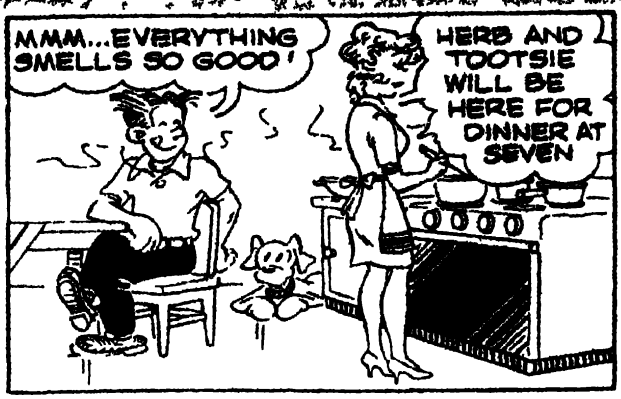
Moon trine Saturn: The moon indicates secrets, travel, ties, meetings and rendezvous. You will be called to an important conference or for a new appointment. It is certain that good fortune will smile on you in November 1986, and February and April, and year.

November 4

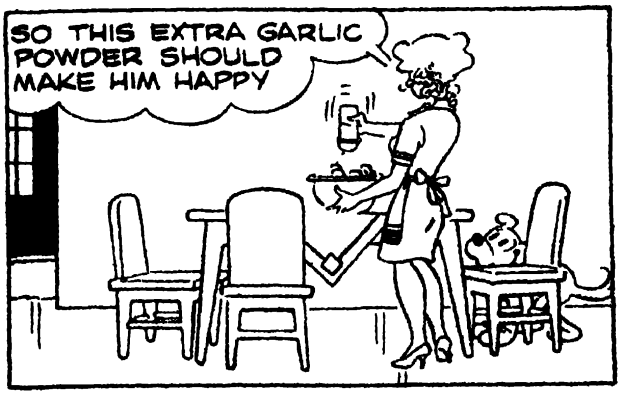
Moon sextile Sun: After a short struggle you will succeed in your plans and goals. Many of you will be in a mood to buy, sell and shop around for necessities as well as luxuries. Jewellery, decorations, decorators, vehicles and [illegible] your previously [illegible] [illegible]

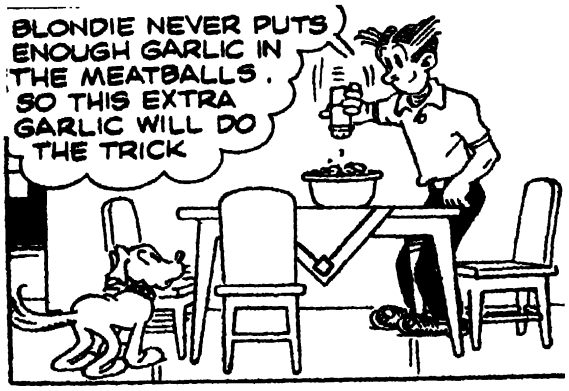
[illegible] Uranus: Your [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

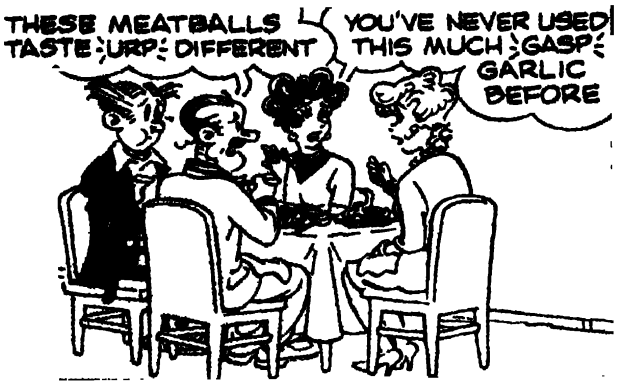














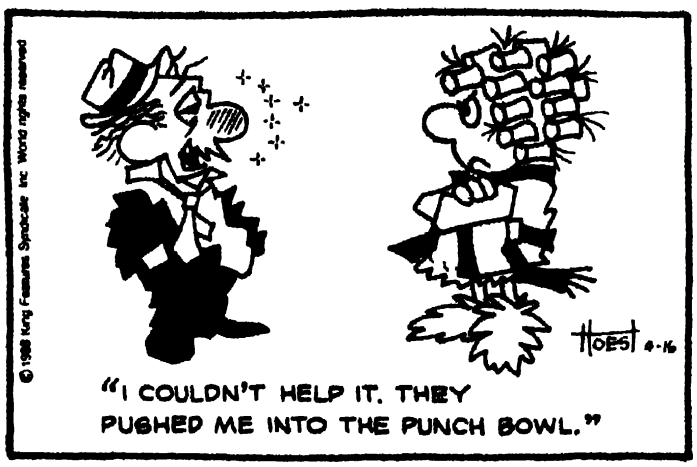
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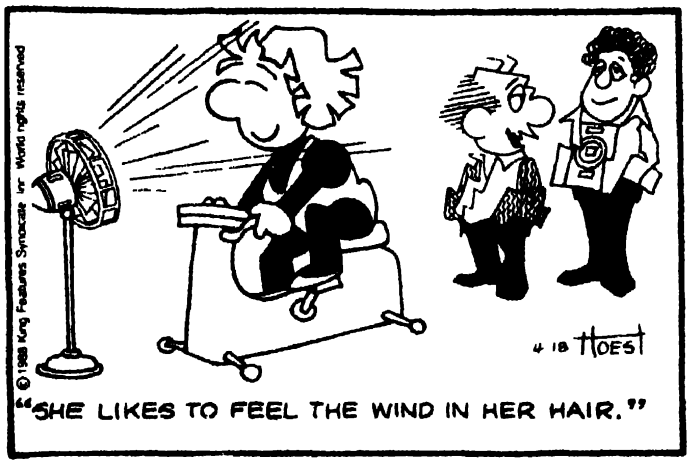

GWILDOR PILOTS THE "QUEEN ILEENE" INTO ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET MERRIAN.
THALIA, CONTACT THE COUNCIL. REQUEST PERMISSION TO LAND.
AS KLAXONS SOUND A LANDING WARNING.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, HE-MAN! WE BOTH NEED SAFETY RESTRAINTS, SO WE'LL HAVE TO SHARE!
FATHER WARNED ME THERE'D BE DAYS LIKE THIS!
BELOW, ON THE SHONAR OCEAN, THE CAPTAIN OF THE "MERRIAN'S PRIDE" SUMMONS HIS CREW...
I AM BLADE, PRINCE OF PIRATES! FOLLOW ME TOGETHER WE'LL RULE THE SEAS!
AN ENERGY TANKER FROM MT VULDAN! A FINE FIRST TARGET! SOON THEY WILL ALL PAY ME HOMAGE!
FIRE!
G. FORTON C. WAGNER
BLADE BEGINS A REIGN OF TERROR OVER THE SHIPPING LANES OF THE ONCE PEACEFUL PLANET MERRIAN.
G. FORTON C. WAGNER
MEANWHILE, THE "QUEEN ILEENE" TOUCHES DOWN AT THE CAPITAL OF MERRIAN
KEEP THE DRIVE WARM AND READY, GWILDOR! THE COUNCIL'S DECLARED AN EMERGENCY!
A PLEASURE SHARING A SAFETY NET WITH YOU, TEELA! BUT YOUR FATHER'S GIVEN THE ORDER TO DISEMBARK.
THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL. A HERO COULD GET TO LIKE COMPANY LIKE TEELA!
SOMEDAY SOMEWHERE, HE-MAN.. SOME GIRL'S GOING TO FIND A NETTING TO CATCH YOUR HEART!
..AND THAT GIRL HAD BETTER BE ME!



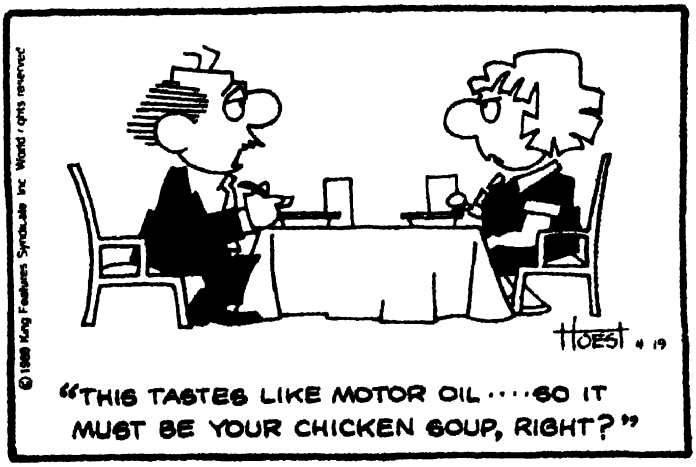
"IMAGINE ANYONE CALLING YOU A HOPELESS ROMANTIC····HOPELESS, YES····ROMANTIC?...?"



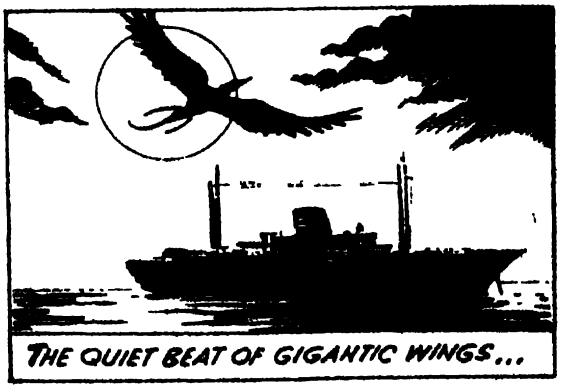
"I COULDN'T HELP IT. THEY PUSHED ME INTO THE PUNCH BOWL."



"SHE LIKES TO FEEL THE WIND IN HER HAIR."



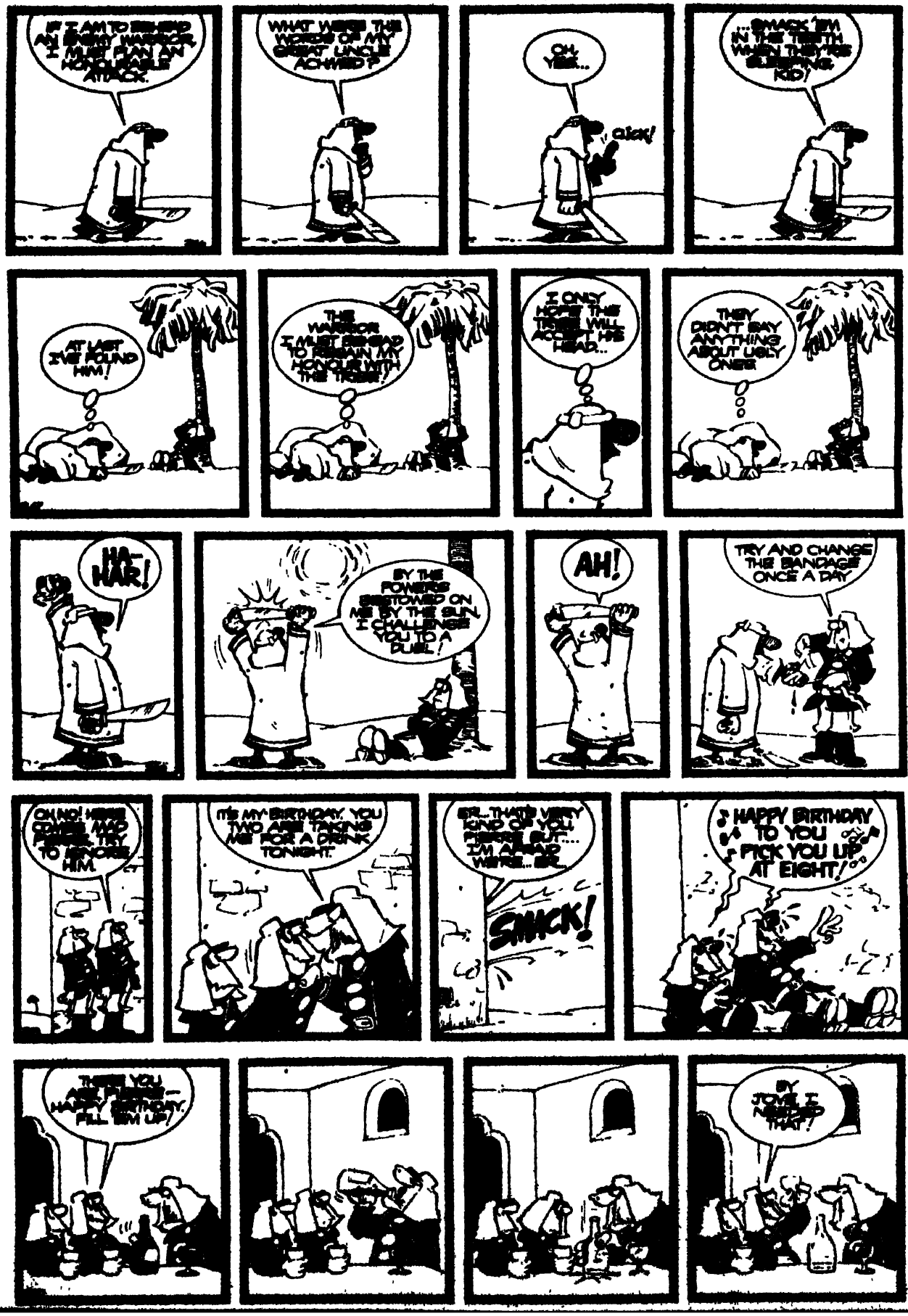
"THIS TASTES LIKE MOTOR OIL····SO IT MUST BE YOUR CHICKEN SOUP, RIGHT?"










IF I AM TO REGAIN MY SACRED WARRIOR, I MUST PLAN AN HONOURABLE ATTACK.
WHAT WERE THE WORDS OF MY GREAT UNCLE ACHMED?
OH, YES...
click!
...SMACK 'EM IN THE TEETH WHEN THEY'RE SLEEPING, KID.
AT LAST I'VE FOUND HIM!
THE WARRIOR I MUST REGAIN TO REGAIN MY HONOUR WITH THE TRIBE!
I ONLY HOPE THIS TRIBE WILL ACCEPT HIS HEAD...
THEY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT UGLY ONES!
HA-HAR!
BY THE POWERS BESTOWED ON ME BY THE SUN, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL!
AH!
TRY AND CHANGE THE BANDAGE ONCE A DAY.
OH NO! HERE COMES ANGEL TO REMOVE HIM.
IT'S MY BIRTHDAY. YOU TWO ARE TAKING ME FOR A DRINK TONIGHT.
ER... THAT'D VERY KIND OF YOU, PIERRE, BUT... I'M A HAR WHITE... ER...
SMACK!
♪ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ♪ ♪ PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT! ♪
THERE YOU ARE, PIERRE — HAPPY BIRTHDAY. FILL 'EM UP!
BY JOVE, I

ARCHIE



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Move up... to McDowell's
McDowell's

POST MORTEM

The Weatherman

Ranjini Mohan's essay (September 11) was excellent, but I disagree with her on the point that we no longer need expect a shower when the weatherman promises fine weather.

Indian farmers have to depend on the monsoon for a successful harvest. If it rains too much, the crop is washed away. If it does not rain at all, the crop withers away. Crores of rupees have been spent on weather forecasting, but the people are still at the mercy of the rain gods.

Ranojit Kundu,
Liluah

Greater Expectations

Your Jewellery Special (October 2) was not only interesting, but useful, too. Thanks for such a nice gift.

Saba Rauf,
Calcutta

■ I was greatly disappointed to see a model, who appeared topless, exhibiting jewellery on the cover of the Colour Magazine. We have greater expectations from *The Telegraph*. So, please do not publish such pictures in future.

Arijit Roy Choudhury,
Chandernagore

State of Mind

The comments made by Barun Chakraborty and some others regarding the Puja Travel Special cover (September 25) has really got me worried. Did they expect a sari-clad woman instead of a woman in a swimsuit on the beach? I am sure most readers will agree that morality is a state of mind.

And, God help me, what was Steffi Graff doing in those tennis shorts on your Post Mortem page in the same issue!

Debashish Majumdar,
Calcutta

Especially Kovalam

The picture used in Post Mortem (September 11) was wrongly captioned as, "A Goa beach." It is actually the picturesque Kovalam beach in Kerala. The wall in the background is the boundary of a luxury hotel situated there. Moreover, the local lady selling fruits (papaya and pineapples) is also a typical scene of Kovalam.

Jaideep Sengupta,
Calcutta

The photograph was captioned wrongly by the contributor. The error is regretted.—Editor



Vivek Das

Commendable

The cover story, "Six of the Best" (September 4), on the most priceless items in the collections of museums and art galleries of Calcutta was a welcome gesture. The commendable layout and presentation were the result of thoughtful planning.

The interviews with the custodians of valuable art treasures not only bring to light some of the rarest specimens but also interpret the attitude of the authorities to save and keep our cultural heritage intact for posterity.

The interrogations at the first instance appeared to be rather embarrassing as a museum director curator loves all his objects alike, but on the whole the purpose was well served.

There is a minor omission in dating the Relic Casket of the Buddha in the Indian Museum. A.D. should be B.C.

R.C. Sharma,
Director, Indian Museum,
Calcutta

Apurba Chakraborty replies:
While appreciating Dr Sharma's warm words, I wish to point out that I gathered the necessary information as regards the dating of the Relic Casket from the Minor Arts Gallery of Early Historic Period of the Indian Museum itself. The plaque in the concerned showcase read, "Relic Caskets C. 3rd Cent. B.C.—2nd. Cent. A.D."

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6 NOVEMBER 1988



Kalyan Chakravorty

4 Motaji Desai has always been a man of great independence. With the recent honour Nishan-e-Pakistan he is back in the news.

16 Graham Greene's evocative descriptions of places have always made exciting reading. Paul Hogarth visits and illustrates some of those places in *Graham Greene Country*.

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Cover: Dharm Vir Jayner



Durgaprasad

SPARTAN VETERAN

Even at 92, Morarji Desai displays an iron will and strength of purpose. LEKHA DHAR talks to the former Prime Minister who was recently awarded the Nishan-e-Pakistan

The landlord of Morarji Desai's fifth floor flat in Oceana, Marine Drive, might dislike him, but the Pakistan government appears to be more conscious of his worth. it conferred on him its biggest award, the *Nishan-e-Pakistan*, for "his commitment and services to the promotion of better ties between the two countries." And Desai, the nonagenarian former Prime Minister, displayed characteristic single-mindedness and indifference to public opinion when he accepted the award with the words, "Why should I not accept it? I am not bothered about what anyone has to say about it."

Relaxing at his residence, Morarji sets aside his newspaper to allow a 50-minute glimpse into the lifestyle that has almost become a legend. "I take life as it comes and do the best I can," he says, almost dismissive of the enormous effort it must have taken him to metamorphise as it were, from a penniless 15-year-old with four brothers and a sister to educate, to Prime Minister of the country.

Born on February 29, 1896, in Bhadeli, a village near Bulsar in Gujarat, Morarji Desai graduated from Wilson College, Bombay, and entered the provincial civil service of Bombay under British rule in 1918. He quit the civil service in 1930 and joined the civil disobedience movement under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. In 1956, he joined the Union government as minister for commerce and industry and on March 22, 1958, he took over as finance minister but resigned under the Kamraj Plan in 1963. He became the deputy Prime Minister after the 1967 general elections, a post he was to hold only for two years.

A man of firm principles, Morarji Desai has not always endeared himself to people and found popular acceptance of his policies. For example, he singled out prohibition from the Directive Principles of state policy for exclusive enforcement, raising the ire of many.

Yet, Morarji Desai remains one of the oldest surviving believers in the Gandhian way of thought. Today, he cannot, as he used to, rise at 4 am to do yoga, follow it with a spartan meal of milk and fruits at 9.45 am and finally have dinner only nine hours later. The diet remains the same but failing health has mitigated the discipline. But the ideals remain unchanged. The answers are short, never meandering, and only the frequent pauses and faltering voice betray the fact that Morarji Desai is 92.

Were you always interested in politics or was there a particular point of time in your youth when your interest was aroused?

When I resigned from government service under the British in 1930, I moved



Morarji Desai greeting visitors on his 92nd birthday

into politics. I was in government service until I became interested in politics and got involved in it.

Can you describe the time when you entered politics and the events that led to it?

The freedom movement When I joined the country's freedom movement, I walked into politics.

Was there any single person like Mahatma Gandhi, or a group of persons who inspired you in your political life?

Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. They made me think about the country by their own examples. And they were my inspiration in political life.

Can you briefly recall your impressions of and involvement in the freedom struggle and, later, Independence?

When I was involved in the freedom struggle, I went to jail a number of times. During the British period I was in jail for about seven years altogether I was jailed three or four times, on one occasion for three years and on another for about two-and-a-half years. Finally when Independence was achieved I was very happy.

I think prison life was the best for me because I learnt many things: control over oneself, not to seek post or position, but to do one's duty, no matter what comes one's way, and to work for the country

As the chief minister of the former state of Bombay and deputy Prime Minister of the country did you ever think in terms of retirement or did you see a bigger future in politics?

I neither thought of retiring nor remaining in politics. Circumstances brought me into politics and circumstances kept me in politics No, I never thought of leaving politics.

At any point in your long political life, did you feel like quitting?

I don't believe in leaving any tasks that come to me If it goes, it goes. But I never feel like leaving it myself.

Can you throw any light on the Congress split? Had it not split would it have been the best alternative for the country?

The split of the Congress? Indira Gandhi was responsible for it Is there any use of saying whether it would have been the best alternative for the country if it had not split? What is best or would have been best—what is the use of saying it now?

What are your fondest memories of political life?

I consider everything to be the best Whatever one has to do, I feel it should be done in the best possible manner As a matter of fact I would say prison life was the best for me because I learnt many things: control over oneself, not to seek post or position, but to do one's duty, no matter what comes one's way, and to work for the country

What event or decision do you regret the most during your tenure as the Prime Minister of India?

I don't regret anything

Would you say that harmonious relations with the neighbouring countries was your best achievement as the Prime Minister? If not, what was?

Well, I would say good relations with the neighbouring countries and bringing down prices.

Do you see the Nishan-e-Pakistan *as a great honour from a traditionally hostile neighbour? Is it a step towards mending relations?*

Well, they did honour me that way. But one cannot say if this particular thing, the *Nishan-e-Pakistan*, is a step towards developing better relations (with Pakistan).

What were India's relations with neighbouring countries in your time?

When I was there in office, India's relations with neighbouring countries were very good, very friendly. This is because



The former Prime Minister with Janata Party leader Chandra Shekhar



President R. Venkataraman presenting the Tamrapatra to Morarji Desai

we behaved like the largest country in the region, like an elder brother.

Do you see India playing a bigger role in the world, economically and scientifically, in the next decade? And if so, what are your reasons?

I see that this will happen in about 10 or 15 years' time. The reasons? Well, for one, the way we got out of chaos and gained freedom. There was a terrible fear in the country before. Now it is disappearing. Once fear disappears the country will rise to the highest point. India's civilisation believes in *thyag* (sacrifice), in doing one's duty, and has always believed in democracy. Caste and untouchability, which have done great harm to the country, are also now disappearing. India will progress.

Who in your opinion was a great world leader when you were the Prime Minister?

It is difficult to say.

In whom among the contemporary world leaders do you see the stamp of greatness? And why?

Well, leaders have their own strengths and weaknesses. There is no use comparing one with the other. I would say Mahatma Gandhi was the greatest leader and that nobody has equalled him. Sardar Vallabhai Patel's achievements too were among the greatest. He united the country into one nation by abolishing the numerous princely states made independent by the British. And, it was all done voluntarily. That was his greatness. India would not have become a nation but for him.

Do you see the rise of women as Opposition leaders (and likely future leaders) in the sub-continent as a positive sign, in the background of military rule in these countries?

Well, women are slowly coming into their own. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister for a long period. Mrs Margaret Thatcher has made a great name. And Pakistan and Bangladesh have yet to achieve democracy. Democracy is the only proper rule for human society.

Would you give some idea of your lifestyle?

I believe in four things—fearlessness, truth, non-violence and humanity. I believe that these four are the main pillars of life and I am doing my best to follow them. I can't say I am perfect, but I am trying to achieve perfection based on these four.

Luxury always weakens you. A hard life is more satisfying. It gives you self-confidence and an ideal of service to mankind.

You had to struggle a lot in your youth...

I started struggling from the age of 15 when I lost my father, who was a teacher in Saurashtra. I was penniless but it did not discourage me. I take life as it comes and try to do the best I can.

Are there any great philosophers who inspired you?

Well, I would say Mahatma Gandhi. But besides him, Thoreau in the US, Tolstoi in Russia and Carlyle in England. I have read some of their works—not all. I don't read much. I read what is useful and what gives you a proper life.

Are you interested in art and music?

I like music, Indian music. It is scientific. And I like music which takes you nearer God. Indian music has achieved this.

What do you occupy yourself with? Do you still keenly follow political events in the country?

Time is no burden on me. I read newspapers and follow events, but I don't take an active part. I am now 92. I can't go about anywhere—and if you get interested in politics, you have to move about a great deal. This I cannot do now ■



Morarji Desai addressing the nation from the Red Fort on August 15, 1977



Morarji Desai (centre) with (from left to right) Zakir Hussain, S. Radhakrishnan, S.N. Sinha and Ashok Mehta

I believe in four things—fearlessness, truth, non-violence and humanity. I believe that these four are the main pillars of life and I am doing my best to follow them. I can't say I am perfect, but I am trying to achieve perfection based on these four

LEARNING TO BE STRONG

Of course there were good "Indian" missionary schools—like Ewarts and Bains to which I went to in Madras, where I would have learnt correct perspectives long before Miss Bozman, my Anglo-Irish teacher in Cathedral School, taught me to appreciate my Indian heritage. But with all its faults, Cathedral School, Lahore, was an experience which I not only do not regret, but of which I am very proud.

Whatever lacked in my education was made up very quickly and more than adequately in college. But where else would I have learnt quite so well not to be feeble? For, "Do not be feeble" was our principal, Miss Murdie's severest reprimand. It meant "Do not give in"—to headaches, a rainy day, tiredness, disappointment and sorrow—by being late, grouchy, making excuses or being anything other than bright at all times

Anyhow, the freedom that Anglo-Indian girls at school enjoyed was enormous They stayed out as late as they pleased and could go where they liked. And to our exquisite horror, they "went with boys."

I never met any of the American GIs or British tommies the older Anglo-Indian girls went out with. The closest I came to British tommies was when cycling home one summer evening, I decided to practise riding with both hands off the handlebar just as I was turning a corner. There was a *tonga* (two-wheeled horse drawn vehicle) parked at the side of the road, a herd of buffaloes going the same way as I was, and a platoon of tommies marching towards me. Somehow, manoeuvering between the buffaloes, still with both hands off, I suddenly found myself sprawling between the shafts of the *tonga* and not quite on the horse, with my bicycle on a buffalo's back. The tommies laughed and joked while they got the bicycle off the irate buffalo and disentangled me from the *tonga* shafts.

Many of the Anglo-Indian girls at school married the white men they idolised. Many more were left broken-hearted to fend for themselves, often with little babies. Some found they were bigamously married. But what fun they had while the war lasted. Dances at the local railway institute, hotels and restaurants; parties everywhere, wild and free picnics.

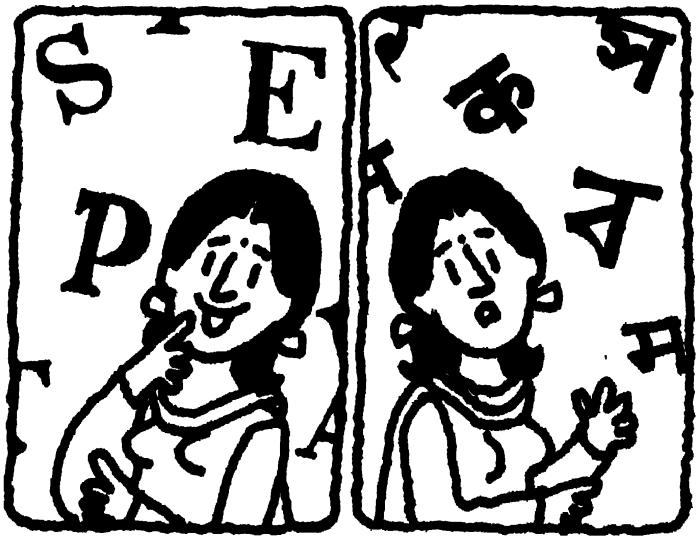
Education during the Raj aroused strong reactions, both for and against it. But everyone accorded it a grudging respect

Within their limitations, our Anglo Indian teachers were very good. Conscientious and meticulous, they taught us to be the same. Wives and daughters of middle-level railway, police and customs officials for the most part, rarely college-educated, they did not have the broad-based educational, social and cultural qualifications necessary to be excellent teachers. But what they knew they drilled into us indefatigably, including their complex about being Anglo-Indian and their attitude to our English rulers.

When I finally left the Cathedral School in January 1945 and went across the road to the Lahore College for Women, Ma heaved a sigh of relief. Finally, I would be associating only with Indian peers and would no longer be exposed to morally debilitating *Feringhi* ways But she never could take it easy and in connivance with the principal, an Anglo-Irish woman, Miss Geary, decided that the best and surest way to thoroughly Indianise me was to teach me Sanskrit

The F.A (intermediate examination) was only 15 months away, and at that time I knew nothing of Sanskrit, not even the *Devanagri* script.

At the end of six months, I knew the alphabet and could enunciate a few *slokas*, and translate them into poor Hindi. I'd not touched my other subjects and there were only nine months left for the examination. I woke up one morning, was rude to Ma and cycled off to college, stalked into the Pandita's room and told her I could not come up to examination standards in the time left.



She told me not to lose heart so easily. "Wait and see," she said. "Yes," I said and left the room. Miss Geary smiled happily when I told her I could not do it. "What will you do instead? There's so little time left for the examination. Ask your mother to come and see me, and we'll think of something."

This time she and Ma decided that since I could speak Bengali quite well, I'd do Bengali in lieu of Sanskrit "There is no choice now," they said. And my mother would teach me! My *Feringhi* training stood me in good stead. I howled inside but all they saw was a sick smile. Now, every morning before breakfast I spent about a couple of hours doing Bengali with Ma—again starting with the alphabet. Bengali on an empty stomach! Is it any wonder I suffered perpetual gripe

Snapping at everyone at home, wild-eyed at college, I somehow got through those soul-searing months I did the examination Never again, I vowed. I went off to do English Honours at Madras. I was there when the results were declared Not mine though. Now what? At this point at last, my father came into the picture. He ferreted around the Punjab University offices· Miss Geary had overlooked technicalities. The college should have been affiliated in Bengali, Ma should have been appointed an honorary professor of Bengali in the Lahore College for Women,

By considerable juggling, all this was done. It took six months. I was then declared to have passed in the second class. "Too bad," wrote Miss Geary, "We'd all hoped for a first from you. What happened?" And Ma wrote, "You should have tried for a first. I always knew that *Feringhi* school training would let you down."

And today my daughter wonders aloud, "How are you so Indian without knowing any Indian language, Ma?" Perhaps the six months of Sanskrit were not in vain after all.

Rani Sircar



BIJOY SINGH NAHAR (born 1906)



Born to Puran Chand and Indira Nahar on November 7, 1906, at Azimganj in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, veteran freedom fighter Bijoy Singh Nahar joined the Independence movement at the behest of Gandhiji and C.R. Das while a student of Calcutta University's law and post graduate classes. A graduate from St Xavier's College, he soon became an eminent student and youth leader, Bipin Behari Ganguly being his chief mentor. He joined Bipin Behari's revolutionary party, Atmonnati Samity. In 1928 he was elected member of Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and was associated in its organisational matters in various capacities.

Nahar was externed from Bengal for six months in 1932 for his active involvement in the freedom struggle. He was also imprisoned during 1942-45. From 1933 to 1944 he served the Calcutta Corporation as a councillor and worked with Netaji Subhas Bose in various development programmes. His hard work and aptitude endeared him to his colleagues.

In his long political career, Nahar held various high offices in the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee and Janata Party. He was a member of the Legislative Council (1946-47 and 1952-57), the Assembly (1957-77) and the Lok Sabha (1977-79). He was also a minister in the cabinets of Dr B.C. Roy, P.C. Sen and Dr P.C. Ghosh and deputy chief minister in Ajoy Mukherjee's ministry.

Nahar is also associated with various social and educational bodies like Bengal Buddhist Association, Bihar State Board of Swetambar Jain Religious Trusts, Prakriti Niketan, Bharat Japan Bauddha Sangha and Mahar Institute of Jainology. He is a life member of Numismatic Society of India and Ashutosh Museum, Calcutta University. He led the Indian delegation at the Indian Labour Conference in Geneva in 1966, and was the manager of the Indian boxing squad at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952

The house sketched above shows his residence at 48,Indian Mirror Street (formerly 25/2,Mott Lane) in central Calcutta. This plot was purchased in 1908 by his father, a vakil in the high court, who constructed some parts of the first and second floors

'ENFANT TERRIBLE'

Sudipto Chatterjee is just 24. Yet, he has been branded an "enfant terrible" in playwrights' circles. Author of nine plays, seven in Bengali and two in English, almost all of which have been produced, he was the only Indian to be invited to the Young Playwrights' Conference at the Eugene O'Neil Theatre Centre in New England, USA.

One of just 15 to be invited from all over the world, Sudipto acknowledges, "It's something which makes me feel glad. Because first my credentials had to be approved here. And then again at the Washington Centre before they selected me."

Sudipto Chatterjee is the only Indian who was invited to the Young Playwrights' Conference held recently in the US. And was offered a scholarship to study theatre there

Why did he decide to go into playwrighting? "Right from childhood, I loved acting and writing. I used to write all sorts of things. But then, you know, it was the usual stuff that every reasonably creative kid does. It was only in 1979, when I got in touch with Ajitesh Banerjee that I realised that theatre is serious business."

Then onwards, Sudipto started viewing theatre from a writer's angle, even while he was acting. But it was only in 1983 that his inborn talent was given a definite shape. "That year Roma Prasad Banik (director or *Chetanamukh*, a group with which Sudipto has been attached as an actor and a playwright) handed me a copy of Arthur Miller's *Crucible*. He asked me to read it and see if I could adapt it in Bengali. I came home and started reading. When I finished my third reading, it was quarter to eight in the morning. I rang up Roma*da*, and asked him to give me three weeks. I was sure I could do it."

And he did. The adapted play,' *Aagshuddhi*, won the West Bengal Government's award for the best produced play in 1984. A creditable performance this, considering it was his first play! Did he put any special effort into it? "I don't know if it's special or not But I decided to go to Purulia and write We have a house there. And I found life there very similar to that described in Miller's *Crucible*. I wrote and rewrote it thrice before finally showing it to Roma*da*."

Obviously, Sudipto considers playwrighting serious business. Recalling the 28-day Young Playwrights' Conference at the O'Neil Theatre Centre, he says, "One thing that disappointed me immensly was that very few take playwrighting as seriously as they should." If his dedication is a worthy yardstick then it is no wonder that he was the only one among the 22 (five from the US and 15 from overseas) who were given a scholarship by the National Theatre Institute to study theatre at the O'Neil Theatre Centre He has recently left to join the course.

Sudipto produced his first English play *Why Woody Allen?* while he was at the O'Neil Theatre Centre It was received so well that a producer on Radio Belgrade, Yugoslavia, immediately approached him for permission to broadcast the play, a permission that was duly granted

A short while back, Sudipto adapted O'Neil 's *Desire Under Elms*. Once again, his haunt was South 24-Parganas where, as he says, "there is sand and mud in place of soil and it makes farming tough. In fact, the whole atmosphere of O'Neil 's England can be traced there." It was because of this keen sensitivity to his surroundings and a well acquired knowledge of regional theatre that Sudipto spoke for one-and-a-half hours on regional theatre at the conference. The original time allotted was only 15 minutes. In fact, he was also asked to lecture on Sanskrit theatre but could not for lack of time. "Perhaps this time when I go, I might deliver some such lectures," he remarks.

His play *Agnibhukh* was produced in a festival organised by Nandikar at the Jadavpur University. It won amost all the "best prizes." We got about Rs 15,000, which is quite enough to produce two more plays." Some of his short plays have also been published in a theatre magazine SAS Sudipto has done an MA in English literature from Jadavpur University.

He exudes genuine promise because he shows equal involvement in both the content and the craft His second play in English, *Flowerchild*, which traces the psyche of an adolescent with the Orestes episode in the backdrop is a distinctly striking play with its stage innovations. Sudipto has scant respect for people who write plays without having "even the inclination to master their craft." Talking about an eminent Bengali poet, Sudipto says, "I am ready to go and ask him how to he dared write a play which is an insult to the very genre." The declaration may sound pompous but it comes from one who is totally dedicated to the art.

Brahmanand Singh

EXCHANGE BANK

• **Video cassettes and study material:** I offer English and Hindi video cassettes and material for CA, company secretaryship and MBA examinations for anything of corresponding value. Contact Ravi Rajnish, BD-273, Salt Lake City, Calcutta 64.

• **Posters:** I offer several posters of famous personalities including Samantha Fox, Gabriela Sabatini, Boris Becker, Daley Thompson and Graham Gooch for anything of corresponding value. Contact Arindam Banerjee, Room B/122, R.I.T., Jamshedpur 14.

• **Cassettes:** I offer a set of four cassettes of Amitabh Bachchan's songs and dialogues, *Amitabh Charisma*, for *Shagufta*, four cassettes by ghazal singer, Pankaj Udhas. Contact Javed Nishat, 16/1C, Topsia Road South, Calcutta 46.

• **Roller skates:** I offer a pair of roller skates in good condition for an imported pair of binoculars or anything of corresponding value. Contact Duke Mukherjee, G-5, Cluster 9, Purbachal, Salt Lake, Calcutta 91

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's YG file for 1987 for anything of corresponding value. Contact Arup Rakshit, Road no. 3, Rajendra Nagar, Patna 16.

• **Walkie talkie and cordless mike:** I offer a walkie talkie (range: 150 feet approximately) for an electric lead guitar. I also offer a new cordless mike for a set of drums or anything of corresponding value. Contact Anurag Burman, 126, Lenin Sarani, Block A, Flat no. 6, Calcutta 13.



UP A TREE! How many birds are peeking through leaves of the tree above? See if you can discover as many as 24.

• **CITY LIGHTS!** Find a European capital in each sentence. 1. Gaspar is a wit. 2 Jo slowed down. 3 Nero met his match 4. Ellis boned a fish.

1 Paris 2 Oslo 3 Rome 4 Lisbon

	1	2	3	4	5
1			V		
2			A		
3	V	A	N	N	A
4			N		
5			A		

WORD SQUARE CHALLENGE

Five five-letter words are required to complete this word square Definitions are provided below How quickly can you fill blanks?

1. To become separated, as threads.
2. Ease up, as the wind
3. TV letter turner—White (already in place)
4. Spirit-lamps.
5. Tether used to walk Fido

Remember, a word square consists of a group of words that read the same both across and down

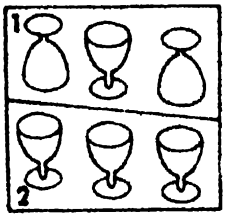
Time Two minutes

1 Ravel 2 Abate 3 Vanna 4 Elmas 5 Leash

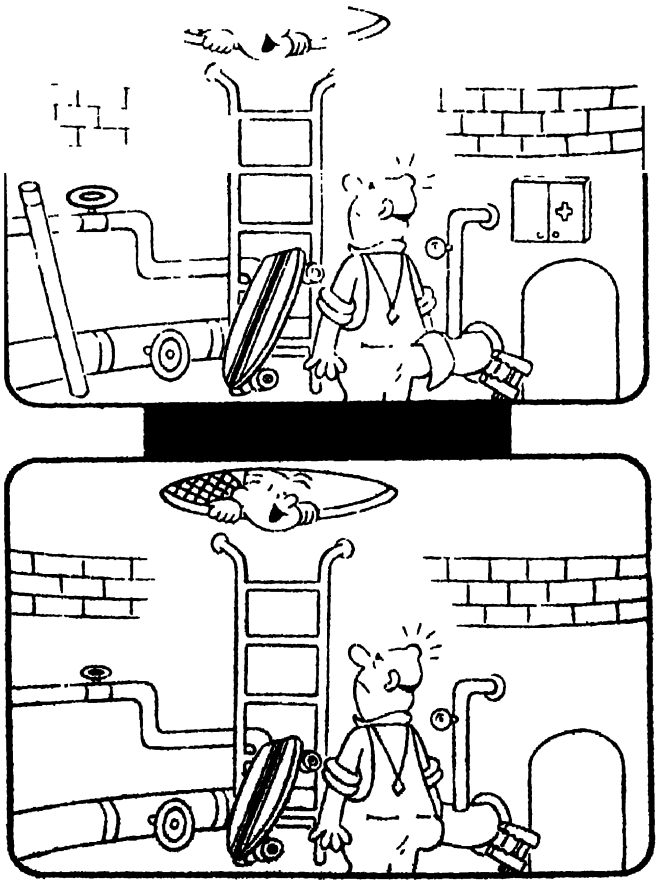
• **GLASS KNOTS!** Arrange three glasses as in fig. 1. Challenge: Turn over any two at a time, three times, so that all three stand mouth up, as in fig. 2.

Solution: First turn a mouth up with a mouth down; repeat—then invert two mouth downs.

Just for fun, set up glasses with middle one mouth down, others up; and give it a try.



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences: 1 Pipe is missing 2 Valve is smaller. 3. Skateboard is smaller 4 Rag is missing 5 Light is missing 6 First aid box is missing



TRUNK LINE! It's picnic time...load up the car and we're under way. Add these colors neatly: 1—Red 2—Lt. purple. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. Green. 7—Dk. brown 8—Dk. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

PREACHER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagrams: Chair, pear.



Dipa Karmakar, Calcutta 20, asks "Whom did Charlotte Corday assassinate?"

During the French revolution, the Reign of Terror was conducted chiefly by three men, Danton, Robespiere and Marat, the last named being the most merciless in sending hundreds to their death on the guillotine as traitors to the revolution. A high-principled and beautiful young woman from St Saturnin, Charlotte Corday (Marie Anne Charlotte Corday D'Armont), incensed with the revolutionary slaughter, walking the 200 miles to Paris, resolved to assassinate Marat.

Corday was shown into Marat's bath chamber. The "Father of the People," as Marat was called by his followers, sat in a bathtub, his chest bare, a bandanna soaked in vinegar to relieve his headaches, wrapped about his head, a board stretched across the tub with paper, ink and quill on it.Marat motioned the attractive 25-year-old Corday to be seated on a stool next to the tub, asking what she wanted. Corday coolly told him she had come from Caen and that she possessed important information about the uprising there. Marat gleefully seized his pen and began to write down a new list of traitors. As Corday spoke, Marat wrote; the woman, unseen by her victim, edged the stool closer to his tub

Having finished the death list provided by Corday—all the names she supplied were fictitious—Marat put down the pen triumphantly, turned to the woman and grinned, saying: "Excellent. In a few days' time I shall have them all guillotined in Paris!"

Corday's response to this was to withdraw a large knife from a sheath hidden in her blouse. With one movement, the woman rose, and plunged the knife downward into Marat's chest, where it cleanly penetrated a lung and cut into the aorta. The murderous Marat cried out with his dying breath: "*A moi, ma chere amie; a moi!*" (Help, dear friend, help!).He was dead by the time his servants rushed into the room.

Corday had left the bathroom but was stopped in an antechamber before she could reach the front door. A servant, Laurent Bas, crashed a chair on top of her head, then grabbed her brutally by the breasts and held her until revolutionaries rushed in and dragged the assassin off to prison and a speedy trial. Charlotte Corday was humiliated at the trial, her dress torn away before a drooling court of revolutionary cretins who quickly condemned her to death. She was beheaded on July 17, 1793. Her executioner, Sanson, stated in his memoirs that the alluring assassin met her death with womanly virtue. Another account supports this claim "After her head fell into the basket, one of the attendants—a most brutal and inhuman wretch—lifted it up by the hair and struck the beautiful face—the face flushed with indignation."



Jacques Louis David's *Death of Marat*

CBS

11th Question: **How did Albert Einstein jokingly explain relativity ? (Ethtesham Anjum, Shaadmaan Palace, 5th floor, flat no. D, 19/A, Ripon Street, Calcutta 16).**
Ans: **He said, "When you sit with a nice girl for two hours you think it's only a minute, but when you sit on a hot stove for a minute you think it's two hours. That's relativity."**

QUESTIONS

10. What is the significance of the "Day of Black Disaster" and "Jerusalem Day" respectively? (Vikas Kapoor, Calcutta 26)

19)

stopped his carriage, purchased a hen, killed it and stuffed it with snow. He was later seized with a sudden chill which resulted in his death. Who was he? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54).

— Who won the first gold at Seoul Olympics? (Sanjay Agarwal, Rourkela 12)

7. Which country has the lowest voting age? (Arijit Kr Sarkar, Sainik School, West Bengal)

8. What is common to Pushapgiri, Kusumpur, Pushpagram, Patigram and Pattipukur? (Ashok Kr Srivastava, BIT, Sindri)

9. When Napoleon defeated the Austrians in 1800, his chef gave a victory ring of which dish? Rajon Neogi, Calcutta

ANSWERS

1. Igor Davydov (USSR in 1988).
2. Abdul Sharif Odaing—wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams.
3. Kalu. The name Nehru is derived from the Persian word *nahar* meaning "canal". One of his ancestors was given a plot of land and a house adjoining a canal by the ruler of Kashmir.
4. Alan Davidson.
5. Francis Bacon.
6. Soviet Union's Inna Chikova in rifle shooting.
7. Philippines. Only 15 years.
8. All are ancient names of Patna.
9. *Poulet Marengo* (Chicken Marengo) made with chicken, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions and parsley.
10. The "Day of Black Disaster" is observed by Palestinians in protest against Israel's statehood and annexation of Jerusalem. "Jerusalem Day" is celebrated by Israel to mark Israel's capture of the eastern part of the city from Jordan in the 1967 West Asia War, including the revered Wailing Wall of the ancient Jewish temple.

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

The Illumination of Touch

On a day like this she could be told,
on a rainy day like this.
But I have nothing to tell,
there are no words now to be told,
now there is only the signature of touch,
only the illumination of touch

Touch, touch!
kernel of fire,
body of God.
Now there is nothing to be told.
Now there is only the blossoming of the scarlet
flower of touch

Why am I alone?
Why is the lament of the wind in this time of rain
echoed in my heart?
Why are you alone, why is your face so pale,
why does the black flower of fatigue show beneath your eyes?
Why is this wall of Man between us?
Buddhadev Bose
(Translated from the Bengali by Manubhash Mitra)

They All Did It

When they dragged me by my hair
to the police station in front of my parents
I knew it right then that they meant business
My only crime was growing up (and I was born
a scheduled caste) ahh numerous
There they broke my bangles and wiped my *bindi*.
Not that my husband was dead I wore those things
for my fancy, partly my customs demanded it
And they did it for their sheer fancy
and appreciated my body in its widowed silhouette.
They peeled off my *sari* that hardly hid my body.
I protested. I prostrated before their feet.
I sensed their hunger the way their body shook.
They turned me inside out. Four in their uniform
of lust bit my neck, lips, thighs and cheeks
and one pressed against me while others held me tight.
What a prized corpse was I to their vulture sense!
They all shouted in chorus, it will work fantastic!
I shouted. I cried. Those five were my time
that consumed my shouting and my crying,
a time that watched me reducing to a thread
of breath and departing in a wrong passage.
And I was a log left to the woodpeckers
Would the first man upon me have been you,
my boy! I could not give you the promised pond
of my dark-lily body. They churned it
on the first day of its opening They had been
watching it grow They all did it.
Ruthlessly
Rabindra K. Swain

Destiny

The denizens of the twentieth-century city
Live in their concrete caverns
At the top of high clifts,
Scraping the canopy of a blue sky
In the far bottom of the concrete jungle
Under the shadow of its jumbled outline,
The eternal struggle of life and death goes on,
In the elemental question of survival.
And wild is the passion for existence
In the pulsing tapestry of networked veins,
Filled with the surges of movement and action:
The life-blood of the living city.

Where the metronomic kaleidoscope of light and darkness,
As day and night sweep over the city,
Goes unheeded in the quest of the living,
Where the sound of sweet rain is lost
In the clamour of shuffling footsteps and turning wheels,
Where the starlight shine is forgotten,
In the brilliant blaze of the neon-lit streets

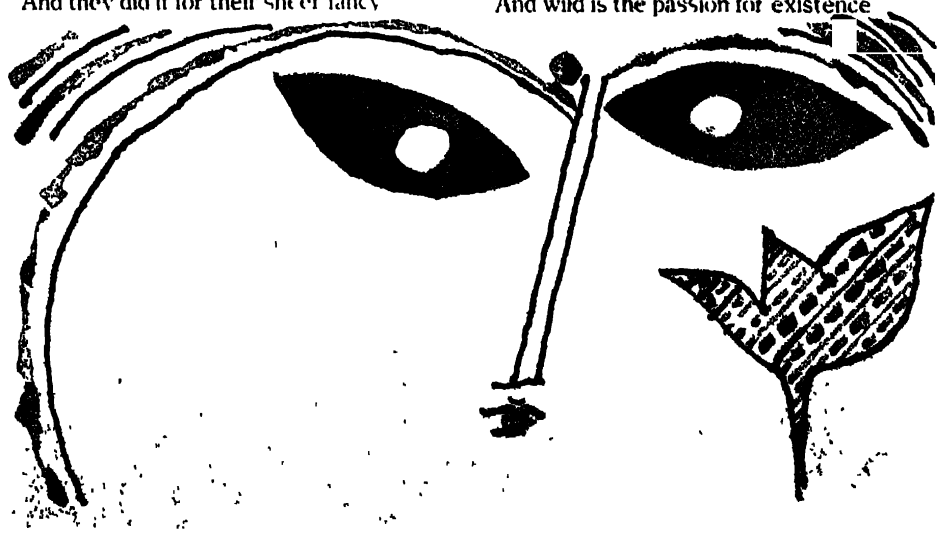
Who would have guessed
That after his birth,
Man was fated to descend from his home
At the caves on his high cliff-tops,
To conquer the land
And again work his way up
To these heights of cement and steel!
Srinjay Chakravarti

In Praise of Life or Why the Grass is Greener on this Side of the Fence

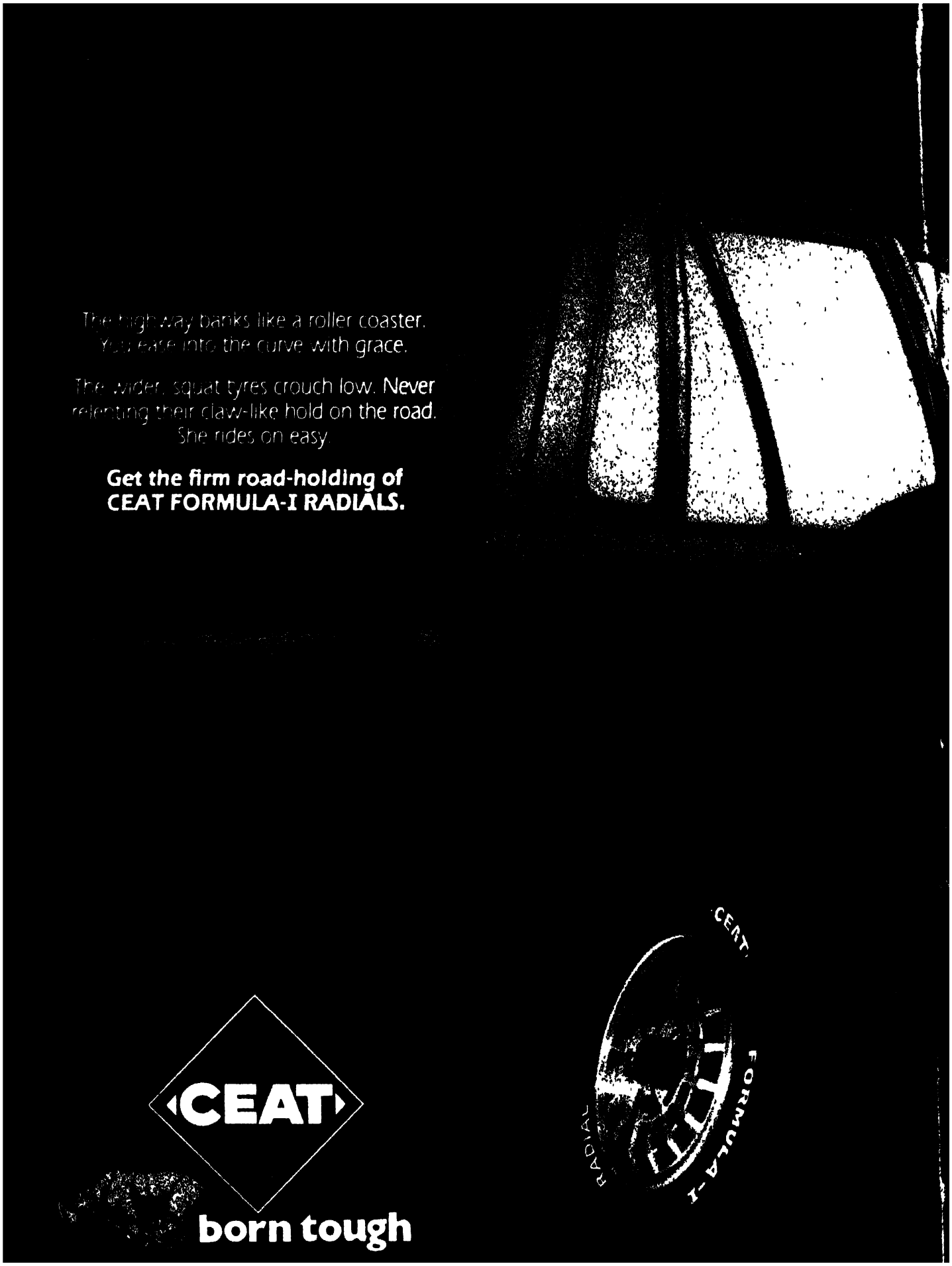
I believe
Every gap yawns in yearning
for a bridge,
every cloud takes the message
of the sea to the skies,
Every tree bends to beat the earth
hum to the tunes that the winds compose,
Every ripple rushes to the shore,
to say 'hello'
Every sail locks the blasts in loving embrace,
Every shoot squeezes out of its crust
to peek at the green world outside,
Every stone clonks and rolls,
it has somewhere to go,
I believe,
everything has its own purpose
and some strange rhythm
knits everyone together
Though the music moves our noisy machines
towards silence
Keyvee Arar

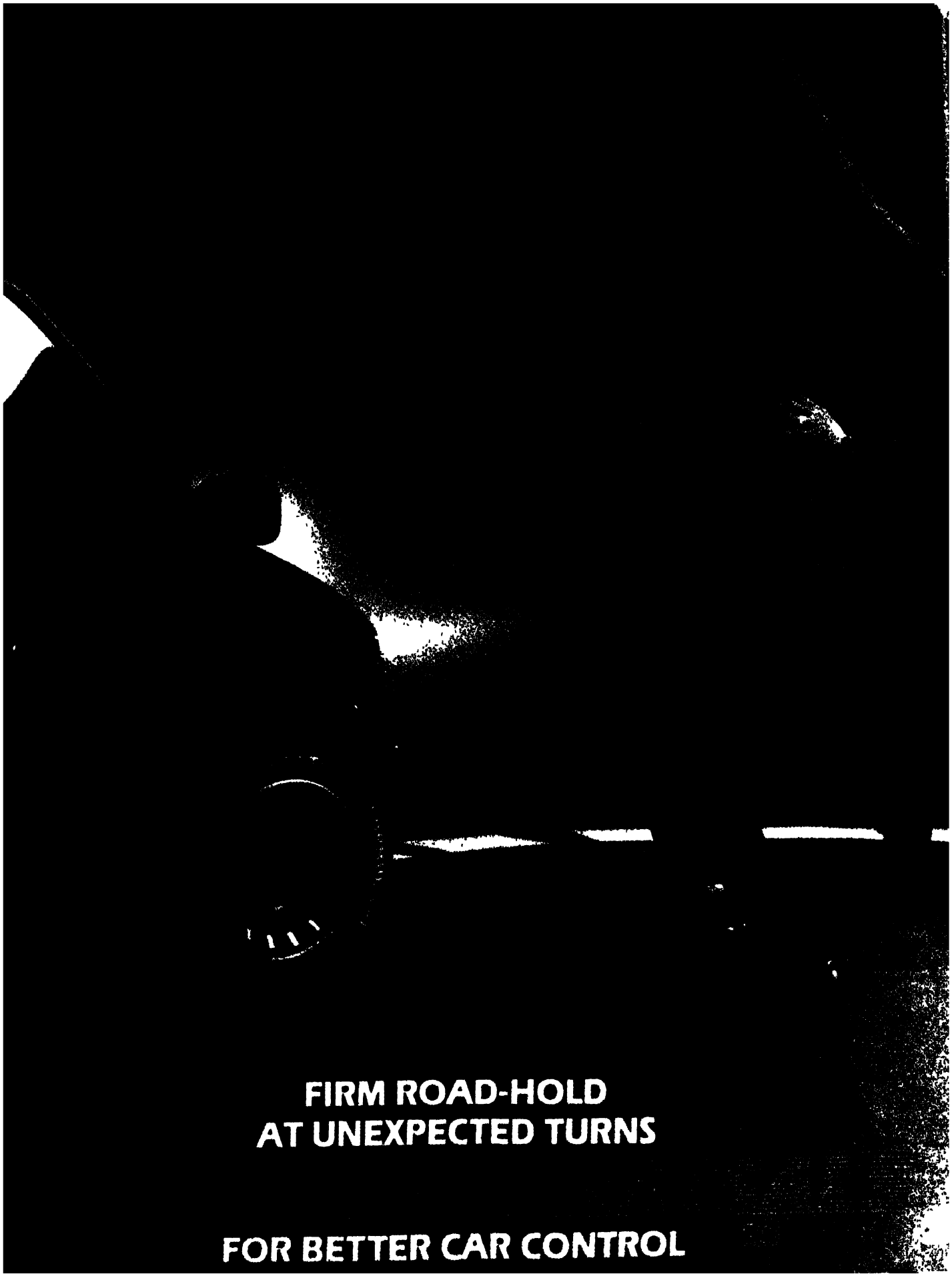
A Jolt

All took place as was destined
The steps in the moon,
An Indian in space,
The summits, the assassination, the wonder of bombs
And I travelled on,
Hurried to school, fled classes at college
Never missed those coffee-house sessions.
All took place as was destined
He left.
Only this was not prophesied
Hiya Bhattacharyya

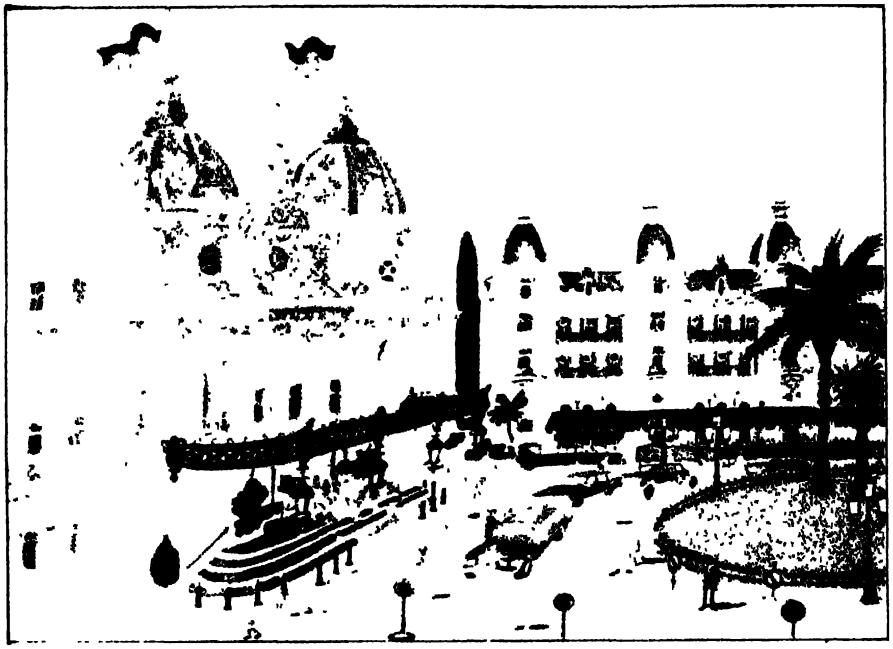


KRISHNENDU CHAKI


The highway banks like a roller coaster.
You ease into the curve with grace.
The wider, squat tyres crouch low. Never relenting their claw-like hold on the road.
She rides on easy.
Get the firm road-holding of CEAT FORMULA-I RADIALS.
CEAT
born tough
CEAT
FORMULA-I
RADIAL


FIRM ROAD-HOLD
AT UNEXPECTED TURNS
FOR BETTER CAR CONTROL

HOW GREENE IS H



LOSER TAKES ALL

I put on my dressing gown and went out on to my balcony The front of the Casino was floodlit it looked a cross between a Balkan palace and a super-cinema with the absurd statuary sitting on the edge of the green roof looking down at the big portico and the commissionaries everything stuck out in the white light as though projected in 3D In the harbour the yachts were all lit up, and a rocket burst in the air over the hill of Monaco It was so stupidly romantic I could have wept '

Graham Greene writes: 'Loser Takes All' was based on an experience of my own, when I and my companion were stranded in Athens (not in Monte Carlo) by my very dear friend Alexander Korda who had promised to join us on a certain date in his boat, the Elsewhere, and had failed to turn up It's odd how invention can affect the memory, for in my memory I placed our adventure in Monte Carlo more often than in Athens, and it was in Monte Carlo in the hotel facing the casino that later I spent two weeks working out its invention and playing every morning and evening for small stakes in the casino (I ended up only five francs to the good, not having the system invented by my character) The millionaire Deuther has, I think, the genuine tone of voice of my friend Korda, who refused to let Alec Guinness play his part in what proved to be a very bad film of the book I could hear his voice, as I looked out of the window at the casino, uttering these words of wisdom "My second wife she left me and I made the mistake of winning her back It took me years to lose her again after that She was a good woman It is not easy to lose a good woman If one must marry it is better to marry a bad woman "

Paul Hogarth draws vivid pictures of some of the places that Graham Greene wrote about and which the famous writer regards "with a certain sadness." The results of the artist's travels are presented in the exquisite book, *Graham Greene Country*

Extracted from *Graham Greene Country*; visited by Paul Hogarth; foreword and commentary by Graham Greene; Pavilion Books Limited and Michael Joseph Limited, London; £9.95

A BURNT-OUT CASE

"The river drew a great bow through the bush, and generations of administrators who had tried to cut across the arc with a road from the regional capital of Luc, had been defeated by the forest and the rain The rain formed quagmires and swelled the tributary streams until the ferries were unusable, while at long intervals spaced like a layer of geological time, the forest dropped trees across the way In the deep bush trees grew unnoticeably old through



'S VALLEY

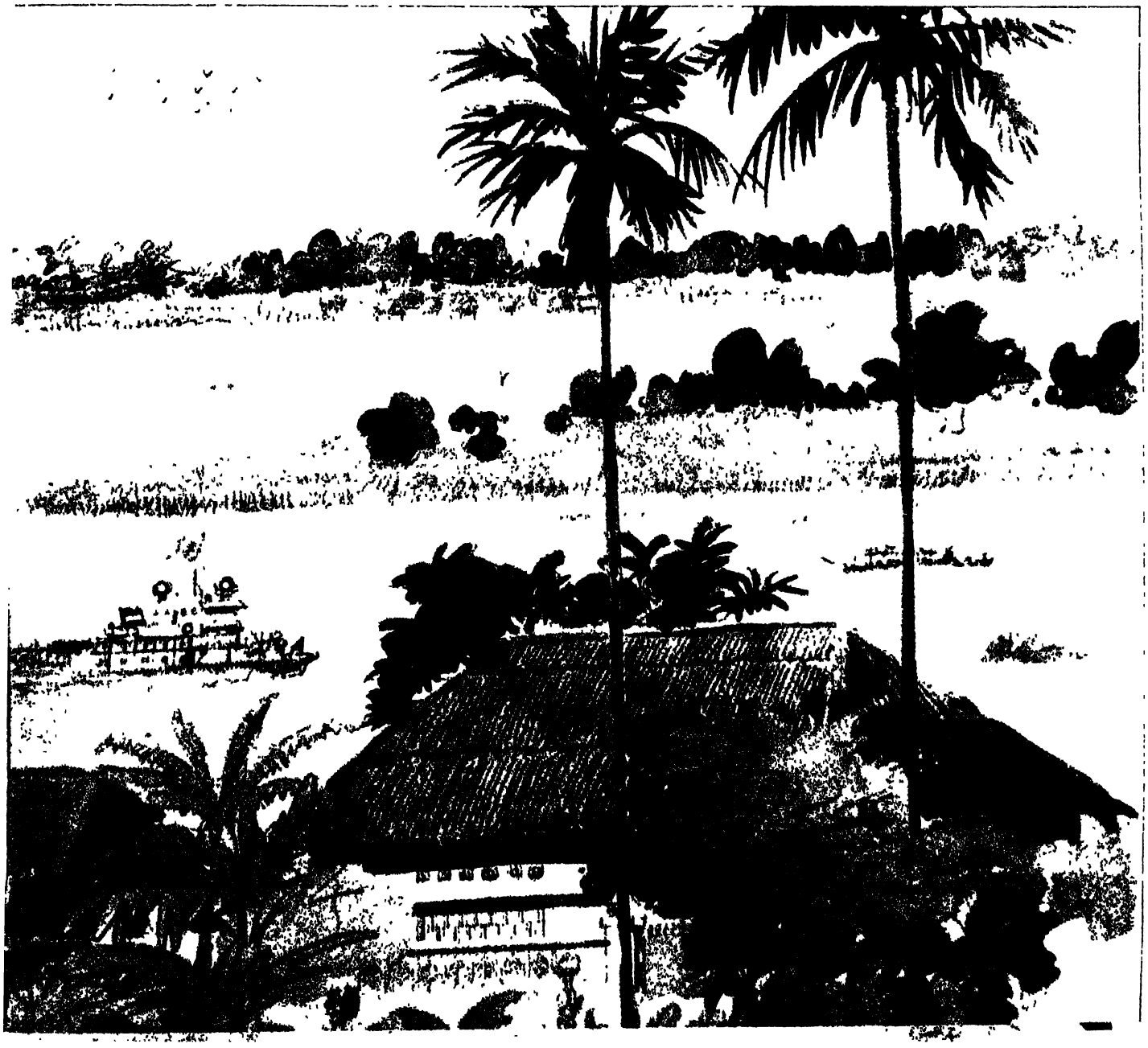
centuries and here and there one presently died lying half collapsed for a while in the ropy arms of the lianas until sooner or later they gently lowered the corpse into the only space large enough to receive it, and that was the road, narrow like a coffin or a grave There were no hearses to drag the corpse away If it was to be removed at all it could only be by fire

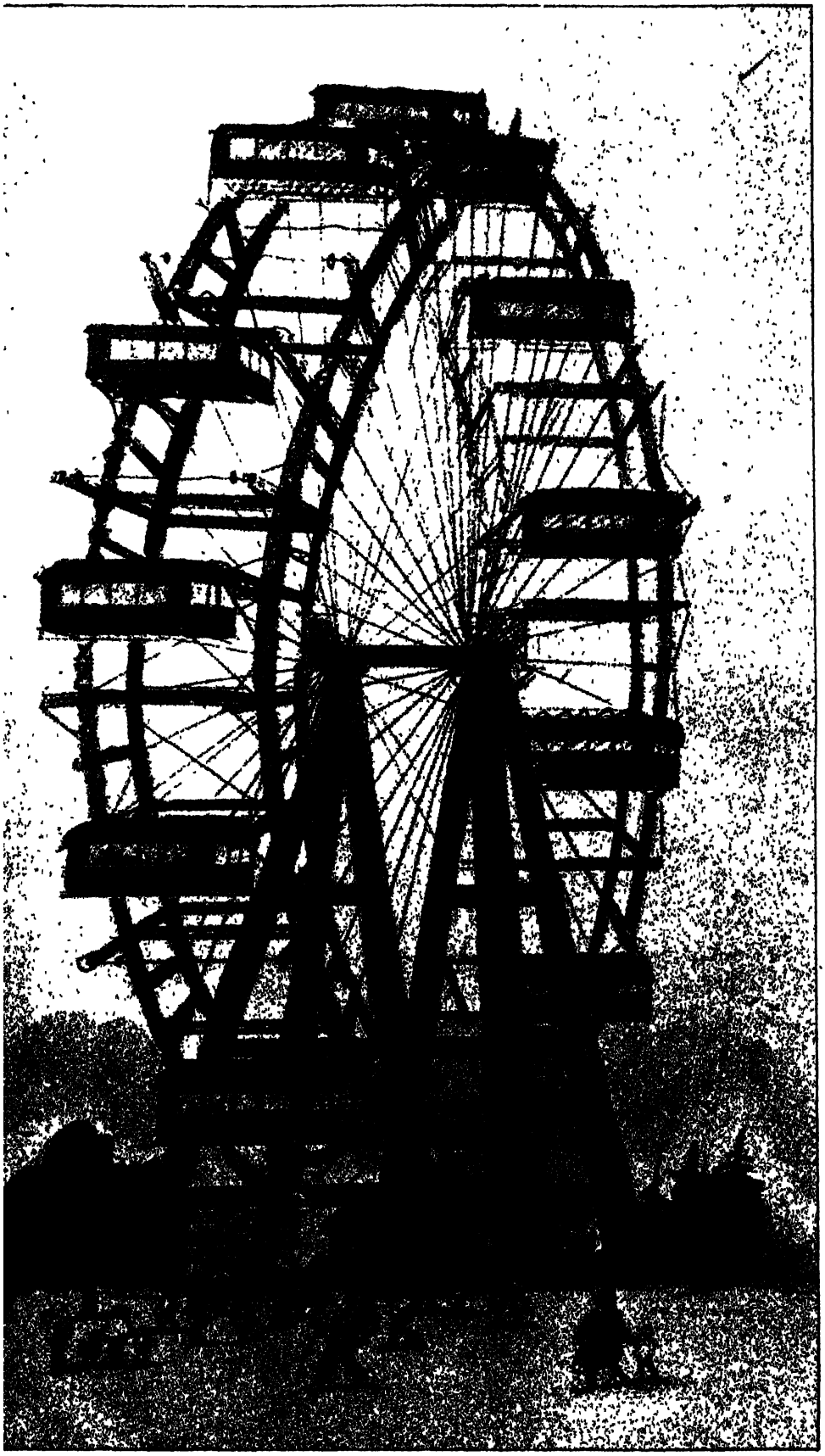
During the rains no one ever tried to use the road a few colons in the forest would then be completely isolated unless, by bicycle, they could reach the river and camp there in a fisherman's village until a boat came Then when the rains were over, weeks had still to pass before the local government could spare the men to build the necessary fires and clear the road After a few years of complete neglect the road would have disappeared completely and foreover The forest would soon convert it to a surface crawl like the first scratches on a wall of early man, and there would remain then reptiles, insects a few birds and primates, and perhaps the pygmoids - the only human beings in the forest who had the capacity to survive without a road

Graham Greene writes:
'In 1959 I spent about three months in and around the leper colony of Lyonda in the then Belgian Congo and this is very like the river scene I would watch every morning It was not a depressing experience What was depressing was writing the novel and having to live for two years with a character like Querry I thought it would be my last novel

THE THIRD MAN

For an hour he waited walking up and down to keep warm inside the enclosure of the Great Wheel the smashed Prater with its bones sticking crudely through the snow was nearly empty One stall sold thin flat cakes like cartwheels, and the children queued with their coupons A few courting





couples would be packed together in a single car of the Wheel and revolve slowly above the city, surrounded by empty cars As the car reached the highest point of the Wheel, the revolutions would stop for a couple of minutes and far overhead the tiny faces would press against the glass "

BRIGHTON ROCK

"The Boy paid his threepence and went through the turnstile He moved rigidly past the rows of deck-chairs four deep where people wee waiting for the orchestra to play From behind he looked younger than he was in his dark thin ready-made suit a little too big for him at the hips, but when you met him face to face he looked older, the slatey eyes were touched with the annihilating eternity from which he had

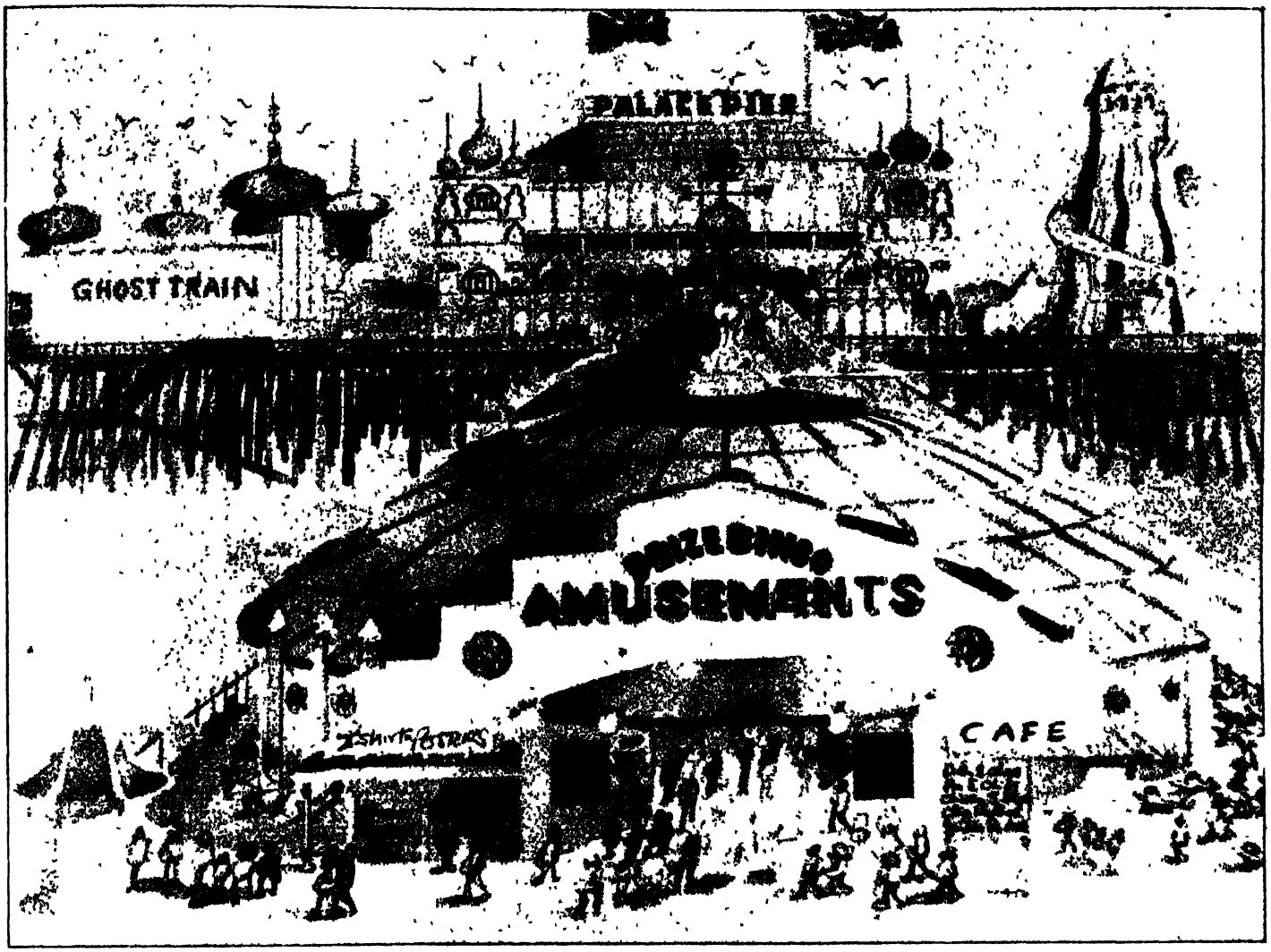


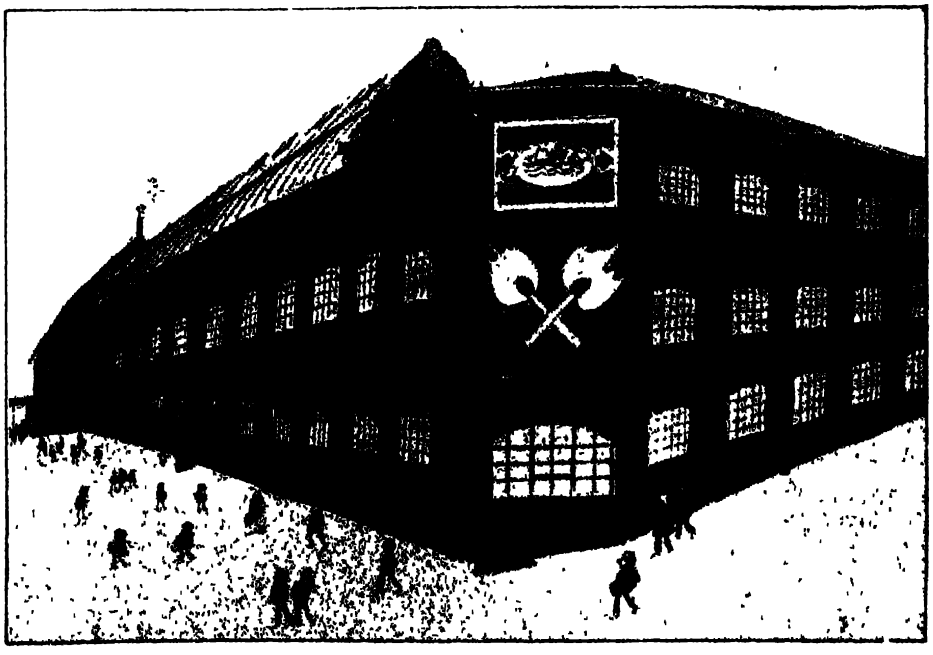
come and to which he went The orchestra began to play he felt the music as a movement in his belly the violins wailed in his guts He looked neither right not left but went on

In the Palace of Pleasure he made his way past the peep-shows, the slot-machines and the quoits to a shooting-booth The shelves of dolls stared down with glassy innocence, like Virgins in a church repository The Boy looked up chestnut ringlets, blue orbs and painted cheeks, he thought—Hail Mary in the hour of our death 'I'll have six shots,' he said "

IT'S A BATTLEFIELD

"The clock in the high tower struck six-thirty, and the siren cried through the dusk No one responded, overtime was being worked in the match factory off Battersea Rise, but the siren which was connected electrically with the clock, screamed on for

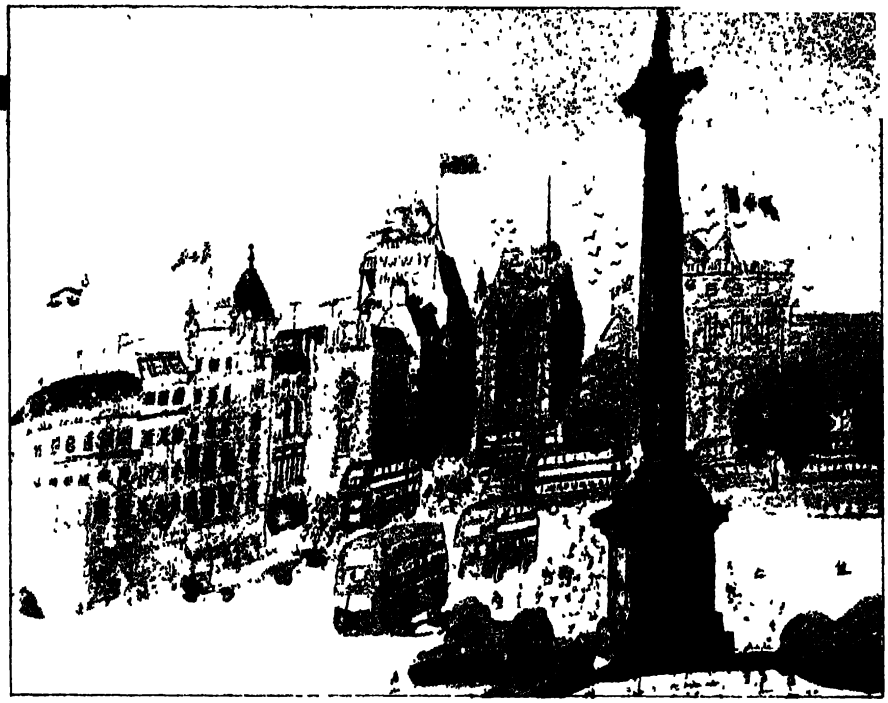




a minute and a half while a hundred blue-and-white matchboxes jumped from the machines on to a gret moving stair which drew them with slow solemnity, as if they were small coffins in a crematorium, to the blast of heat in the drying chamber The hundred and fifty girls in the machine room worked with the regularity of a blood beat, a hand to the left, a hand to the right, the pressure of a foot, a damp box flew out turned in the air, and fell on the moving stair It was impossible to hear the boxes falling, or a voice speaking, because of the noise of the machines, the machines in the hall, the machines in the cellar where tree trunks uncurled into thin strips of wood, the machines in the room above, where on a revolving band the pink-headed matches marched fifty deep up towards the ceiling, down towards the sulphur vats "

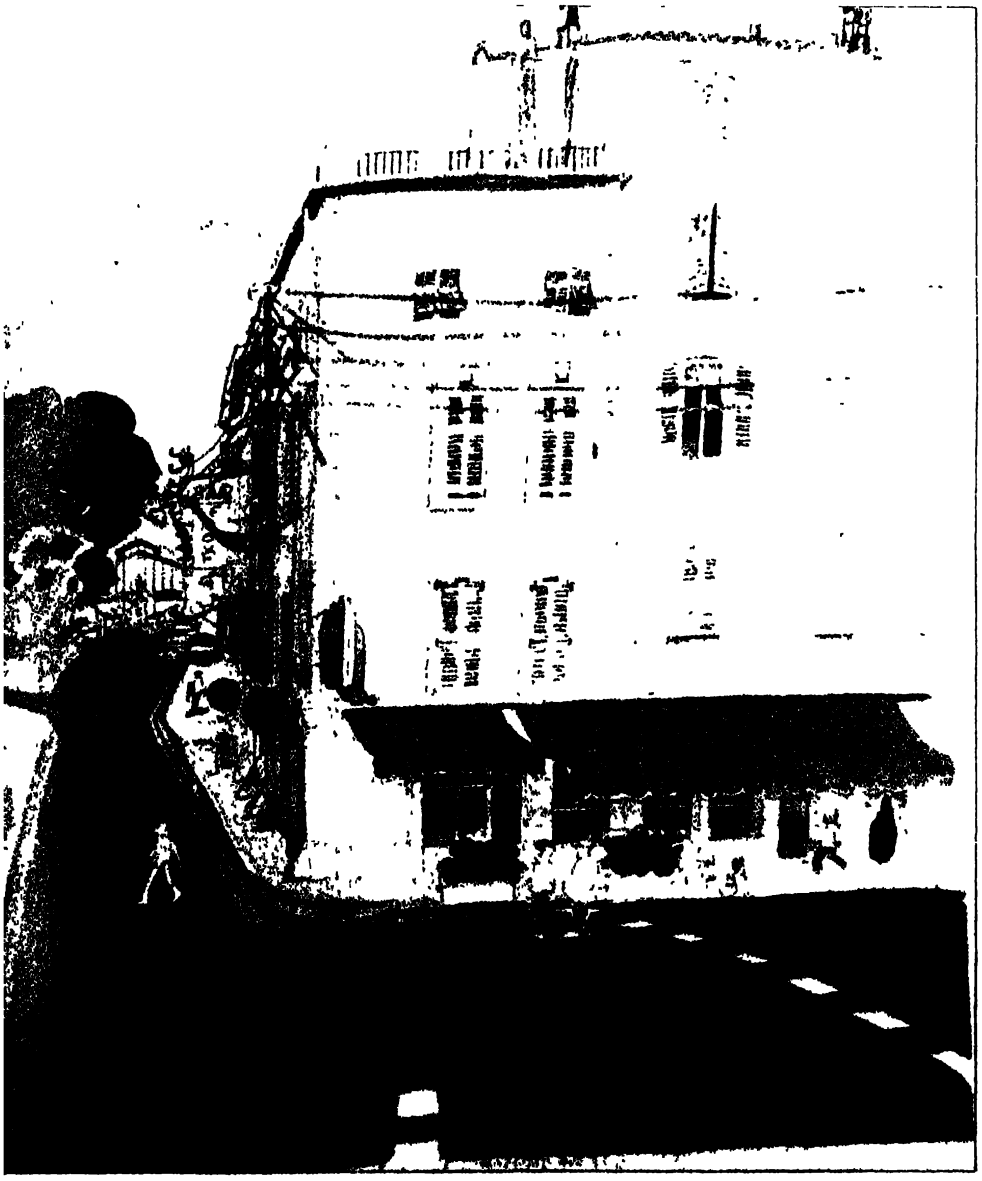
Graham Greene writes

"The Gloucester factory came my way because while I was living in Gloucestershire in 1952 a box of matches exploded in my hand I wrote a letter of complaint and



promptly received enough matches to last me for a year and an invitation to visit the factory. I had already visited Wandsworth Prison and my visit to the factory in Gloucester provided me with an ironic contrast for the novel I was writing. How much a novelist owes to lucky breaks."

"They packed into a single car. The great lit globe of the Coliseum balanced above the restaurants and the cafes and the public-houses in St Martin's Lane. Round and round Trafalgar Square the buses went like circus horses. The high squeal of the Wolseley's hooter pierced through a traffic block, cars ground their brakes, a policeman raised his hand, and they were shaken out into Charing Cross Road temporarily bare of traffic. The whores flowed down one pavement and up another, flat dago faces printed on song sheets filled the window of a music shop and a salesman inside played with passionate melancholy 'My Baby Don't Care,' A row of men peered into peepshows, and 'A Night in Paris' and 'What the Butler Saw' and 'For Women Only' rattled and whined and jolted and stuck



YOUR HUSBAND

"It was the time of year I liked best when Juan les Pins becomes as squalid as a closed fun-fair with Lunar Park boarded up and cards marked 'Fermeture Annuelle' outside the Pam-Pam and Maxim's and the Concours International Amateur de Striptease at the Vieux Colombiers is over for another season. Then Antibes comes into its own as a small country town with the Auberge de Provence full of local people and old men sit indoors drinking beer or pastis at the glacier in the Place de Gaulle. The small garden, which forms a roundabout on the ramparts, looks a little sad with the short stout palms bowing their brown fronds, the sun in the morning shines without any glare and the few white sails more gently on the unblinding sea.

You can always trust the English to stay on longer than others into the autumn. We have a blind faith in the southern sun and we are taken by surprise when the wind blows icily over the Mediterranean. Then a bickering war develops with the hotel keeper over the heating on the third floor and the tiles strike cold underfoot.

Graham Greene writes:
'Since 1959 the restaurant Felix au Port has been my "home from home." No restaurant can compete with it for the simplicity and excellence of its cooking and for the friendliness of its welcome. Dining alone I found short stories served to me with my meal – at least two found their way into print in the volume, "May We Borrow Your Husband?"

7DAYS



Sharon Prabhakar and Sonu Walia in *Akarshan*

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Akarshan** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani 270147

Directed by Tanvir Ahmed the film stars Akbar Khan Sonu Walia Girish Karnad Rohini Hattangadi and Sharon Prabhakar with Parveen Babi Smita Patil and Raj Babbar in special appearances The music is by Ajit Singh

• **Dayavan** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani 241132) Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417) Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road 277273) Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue 553046) Malancha (Regent Park)? Jaya Town, 5739J6)

A film by Feroz Khan who also stars along with Vinod Khanna, Madhuri Dixit and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Ganga Tere Desh Mein** Roxy (Chowringhee Place 284138) Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266) Krishna (T C Dutta Street 250437) Uttara (Bidhan Sarani 552200) Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464440)—4 shows Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 249828) Chhava (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 351382)—3 shows

Directed by Vijay Reddi and with with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal the film stars Dharmendra Shatrughan Sinha Jaya Prada Dimple Kapadia Raj Babbar and Kader Khan

• **Hero Hiralal** Orient (Bentinck Street 281917) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 254956) Talkie Show House (Shubdas Bhaduri Street 552270) Rupali (Ashutosh Mukherjee Road 474403)

The film stars Naseeruddin Shah, Sanjna Kapoor Deepa Sahi, Kiran Kumar and Saeed Jaffrey It is directed by Ketan Mehta and has music by Babal

• **Khoon Bahaa Ganga Mein** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road 242664) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road 391090) Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552932) Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757)

Directed by Praveen Bhatt and with music by Anand Milind the cast includes Amrita Singh Aditya Pancholi Annu Kapoor Anju Mahendru and Leena Das with Suresh Oberoi in a special appearance

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue 4 3

Directed by K R Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain the film stars Dharmendra Amrita Singh Govinda Rishi Kapoor Sanjay Kapoor Kulbhushan Kharbanda Shakti Kapoor Sudhish Annupurkar and Anupam Kher

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak** Paradise (Bentinck Street 280442) 12 3 6 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan play the lead in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A)** Opera (Lenin Sarani 231849)

Rajesh Khanna Rishi Mohan Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the main attractions in this film directed by B R Ishara and music by Anand Milind

Foreign Films

• **Death Wish (A)** Globe (Lindsay Street 296665) 4 shows

• **For Your Love Only (A)** Jamuna (Marquis Street 243715) –4 shows

• **Lovers of the South Seas (A)** Elite (S N Banerjee Road 241383)—4 shows

• **One Night at Dinner (A)** Metro (Chowringhee Road 280141) 4 shows

• **Predator** Lighthouse (Humayun Place 291299) 12 3 6 8 30

• **The Exorcist (A)** New Empire (Humayun Place 291011) 4 shows

Bengali Films

• **Chhoto Bou** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 7 3) Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road 473162) Chhabighar Mahatma Gandhi Road 552 40) 3 5 45 8 4)

Ranjit Mullick Sandhya Roy Kali Banerjee Manik Goswami Bhabesh Kundu Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Swapan Chakraborty

• **Dena Paona** Sree (Bidhan Sarani 551515) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666) 3 shows



Tapas Paul and Debashree Roy in *Surer Akashe*

Directed by Sukhen Das and with music by Ajoy Das, the cast includes Deepankar De, Swarup Dutta, Satya Banerjee, Sumitra Mukherjee, Sandhyarani, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das

• **Jyoti:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—3 shows

Directed by Shabd Kumar and with music by Swapan Jagmohan, the film stars Rameshwari, Prasenjit, Anooradha Patel, Utpal Dutt and Pradeep Kumar

• **Madhuban:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567), Mini Jaya (Lake Town, 573936)—3 shows

A film by Ajoy Kar, starring Victor Banerjee, Tanuja, Utpal Dutt, Swarup Dutta and Chinmoy Roy. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Surer Akashe:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7

Tapas Paul and Debashree Roy are the lead pair in this Biresh Chatterjee film. Others in the cast are Abhishek Chatterjee, Navana Das, Anup Kumar, Subhendu Chatterjee and Beena. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

Theatres

• **Jay Jayanti:** Rangana (155/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 556846)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm, Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Subhendu Chatterjee and Basabi Nandy along with Premangshu Bose, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Dipika Banerjee, Arindam Ganguly, Gita Dey, Nandini Malleya and Abhishek Chatterjee comprise the cast. Drama and direction: Ganesh Mukherjee.

• **Kalanka:** Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street, 558402)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Supriya Devi, Chinmoy Roy, Jun Banerjee, Samir Majumdar and Sulata Chowdhury are the chief attractions in this play, whose music and direction are by Samir Majumdar.

• **Natghat:** Tapan Theatre (Sadananda Road; 425471)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30pm.

Haradhan Banerjee, Shakti Thakur, Kalyani Mondal and Tarun Kumar are in the lead in this play, directed by Subhas Basu.

• **Neelkantha:** Rangmahal (76/1B Bidhan Sarani; 551619)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm, Sat., Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm.

Soumitra Chatterjee, Goutam Chakraborty, Ajit Banerjee, Nirmal Ghosh, Sumita Chatterjee, Debika Mitra, Sumanta Mukherjee and Sayani Mitra comprise the cast of this play. Drama, music and direction: Soumitra Chatterjee

• **Nesha:** Protap Mancha (opp Rajabazar tram depot)—Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm, Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Directed by Tarun Kumar, the cast of this play includes Ashim Mukherjee, Saikat Pakrashi, Tanima Sen, K Debraj and Miss Shefali

• **Rater Kuheli:** Boys Own Hall (P-29 CIT Scheme, Dalimtola Lane, near Biswaroopa, 552757)—Thurs at 6.30 pm, Sat., Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Rakhi Mukherjee plays the lead in this drama.

• **Sukher Thikana:** Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road 355598)—Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm, Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

The chief attractions in this play are Deepankar De, Biplab Chatterjee, Lily Chakraborty and Jnanesh Mukherjee who also directs

Special Events

6 and 12 November: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play, *Raja Lear*, based on the Shakespearean tragedy, *King Lear*. Directed and designed by Fritz Bennewitz and Franz Havemann, respectively, the play has Shyamanand Jalan in the lead.

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2): AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5) AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4). RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555, Dep (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1): JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1530, Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7). IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240, Dep. (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6). TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7) RA-214 at 1110 Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-247 at 1740 Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 3, 7) RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6): IC-248 at 1425, Arr (7) IC-248 at 2055

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7). IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7). IC-444 at 1920, Dep. (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-223 at 1800, Dep (7). IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-224 at 2000, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220 Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6). GQ-102 at 0730; Arr. (1, 2, 5): GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily): IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily): IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Raipur-Delhi: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-478 at 1045; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-477 at 1005.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr. (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6). IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr. (4, 6). IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7): IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1535, Arr. (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 2120

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1) IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4). IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505. Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr (daily). IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr. (daily). IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625; (7): IC-220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100; Arr. (1, 4): IC-240 at 1040. Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) 7): IC-227 at 0835; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815; Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-256 at 1000, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1145; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1405.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (2, 4)

IC-243 at 0830. Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-243 at 0610. Dep. (daily) IC-241 at 1440. Arr (daily): IC-244 at 1030. Arr. (daily) IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Agartala

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar: Dep. (daily): PF-705 at 1030; Arr. (daily) PF-706 at 1525.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0610; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0910.

Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi: Ranchi: Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-715 at 0555; Arr. (1, 3, 5) PF-716 at 1010.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (1, 3,5) PF-701 at1115. Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-701 at 0830; Arr (1, 3, 5). PF-702 at 1445. Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-702 at 1200.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-729 at 1500. Arr (1, 3, 5). PF-730 at 1720

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 1220. Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1610.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 1900; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1805.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh & Back: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF 736 at 1610.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu & Back: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1620.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	18-20	82
103	8-45	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	18-20	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues., Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs. & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thursday & Saturday Arri —Tuesday & Thursday	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tuesday Arri —Saturday	7-30	972

SEALDAH

43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
33	20-45	**Mughal Sarai Express** via SBG Loop	12-50	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	20-45	**Madras Mail**	6-00	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-50	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Arri —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat	14-15	59
134	21-00	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-10	133
52	22-35	**Bangalore Super Fast Express** Dep & Arri.—Wed. & Sun.	13-45	51
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-15	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
37	23-15	**Madras Janata Express** Dep Mon, Wed & Sat	4-30	38
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-20	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-50	**Sambalpur Express**	5-55	6
15	21-30	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-30	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	5-45	8
9	19-00	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	7-45	10
45	10-00	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-15	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-35	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
939	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	—
—	22-35	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	940
952	22-35	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep. & Arri.—Tuesday only	13-45	951

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).

ARIES

March 21 - April 20

Communication, job, journeys and business returns are highlighted Health may cause concern While you may drive a hard bargain, it will not pay to be totally selfish and unfair Learn to put other people's interests in the forefront Fuse ambition with tolerance If you do so, you will get the best mileage Romance is probable for the eligible and fancyfree

TAURUS

April 21 - May 20

Expenses will rise but it will be well worth it Business transactions will be successful Those in import-export, collaborations, teaching, research, public relations, education and interior designing will work out a scheme or thesis perfectly Health safeguards are essential for the first two days Learn to fuse business with pleasure

GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Architects, businessmen, professionals teachers, editors, students and real estate dealers will make it big Your friends and wellwishers will not neglect you At the same time, learn to be innovative and self-motivated The time is right to launch a new enterprise or venture Children and friends will demand attention Love is in the air for the fancyfree.

CANCER

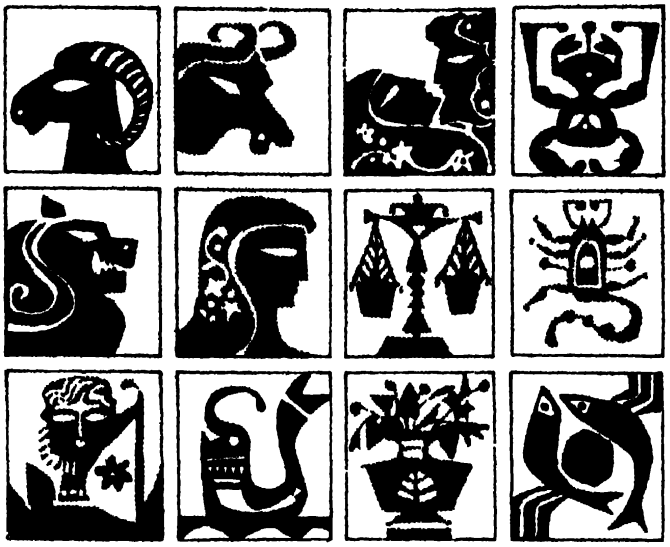
June 21- July 20

Your hard work and authoritative attitude will make you an undisputed leader Success in work, happiness at home, a round of romance and fun, increased income, rewards and lucky breaks are foretold The last four days are ideal for pushing a project through Take the initiative and grab every opportunity that comes your way Guard against those who pose to be friends.

LEO

July 21—August 21

Romance is in the air for Leons. You will work at a feverish pace and accomplish much Yet, you will also be able to have fun It will be best to follow a hunch, play it by the ear and disregard mindless criticism. Home affairs, entertainment, socialising and are foretold Income will now rise



VIRGO

August 22 - Sept 22

Take a chance on writing, teaching, communication, scoops, news, views and debates Attend to financial affairs and consult experts before signing agreements A lucky time ahead for businessmen, professionals and builders Meditation, prayers and yoga will give you peace of mind Health will not improve but precautions are nonetheless advisable

BIRTHDAYS

November 6

No strong aspect: A job-hop or promotion is on the cards An assignment, shift or transfer is also probable Producers, import-export dealers, scientists, educationists and students will do well

November 7

Moon sextile Uranus. Expenses mount But relationships, love and friendships claim you totally House and property matters are also favoured. New enterprises can be launched Children, hobbies, sports and the fine arts, give great joy. A year of attachments

November 8

Moon conjunction Pluto: A journey could have an extra dimension now. Artists, politicians, actors, producers and editors should beware of nagging communication gap. If that is sealed, success is definitely yours.

November 9

Moon trine Mars: Not impulse but careful planning and right motivation will lead to glory. This is also action time so do not sit back on your laurels and past achievements Luckily you will have the cooperation to push ahead Romance blooms.

November 10

Moon square Rahu You are on a winning wicket. Take chances and thus consolidate your position You will score a big victory on the work front Opening a new branch, trying out a new job if so interested, selling an idea or commodity and taking on responsibilities should come naturally to you.

November 11

Moon sextile Venus. Entertainment, merrymaking and money matters are highlighted. Many Scorpios will settle down. Those in business will do extremely well Therefore, there is no need to lose confidence. Emotional attachments are foretold.

November 12

Moon conjunction Neptune: Expansion and progress are foretold as are promotions, perks and rewards. The eligible have a chance to marry. A reunion is also indicated. Children and grandchildren will give ample satisfaction. You could put on weight this year. Friendships and socialising make Sagittarians deliriously happy.

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

You will socialise, entertain and make friends this week. Learn to be on good terms with people Your popularity graph will soar. Accept invitations and respond to requests. Sweethearts, friends and relatives will warm the cockles of your heart.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Ganesa says job opportunities, financial security, a legacy or a windfall will come your way July is also important for ceremonies, rejuvenation, home, property, funds and romance The last four days will be eventful and an attachment, a letter, a call or a meeting is destined

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23- Dec 20

Romance is in the air for the eligible and fancyfree Marriage is on the cards for some The next 21 days also highlight matters pertaining to joint-finances, insurance, loans and funds Ceremonies, rites and rituals are a probability

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 19

While home and property affairs will be highlighted, you will have a difficult time solving personal and professional entanglements Be alert and shed all inhibitions Rules may have to be broken and initiative taken Expect success and happiness in all that you do

AQUARIUS

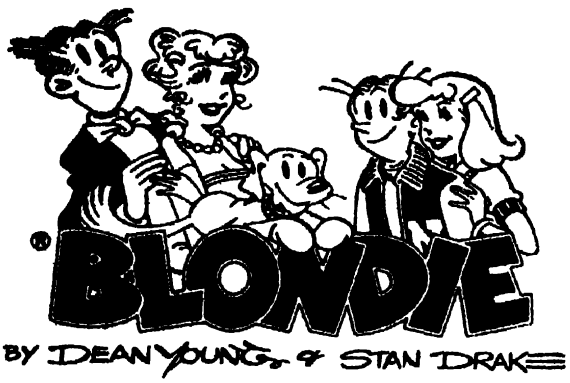
Jan 20—Feb 18

You will be working at a feverish pace this week Your level of communication will be at an exceptionally high order A few of you will be busy attending to matters pertaining to renovation, decoration and alteration Health may cause concern

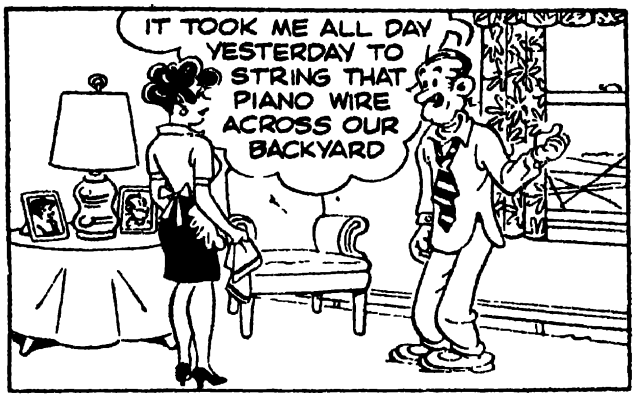
PISCES

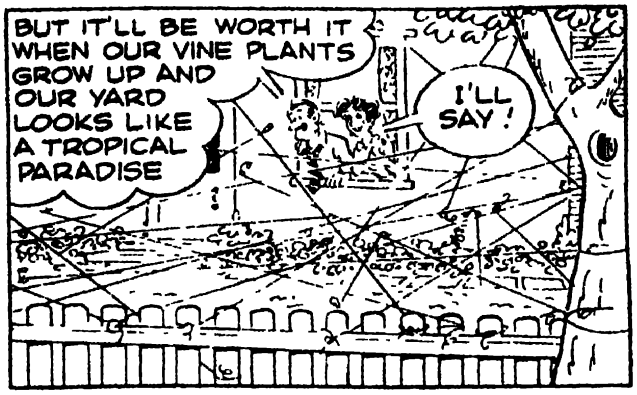
Feb 19—March 20

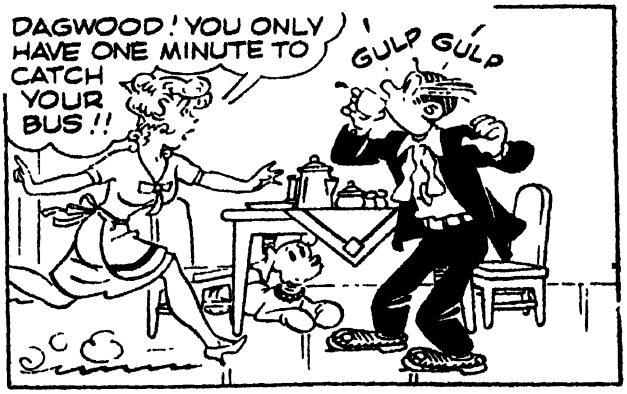
Buying, selling, investing and shopping are highlighted. An enterprise can be started You will have your fill of dinners, partying, socialising and entertaining. Pisceans will also succeed in fanning out to people and places, signing contracts and taking on new assignments. Romance is also slated for the fancyfree.



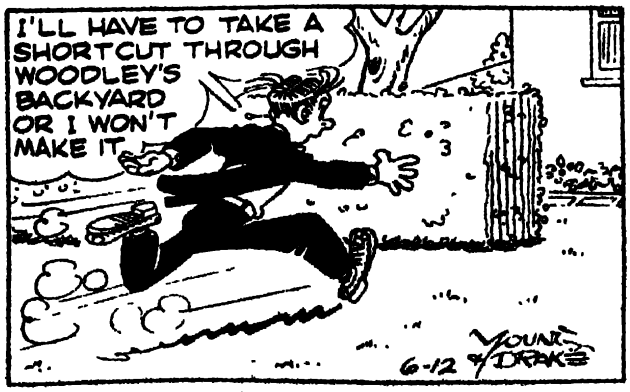




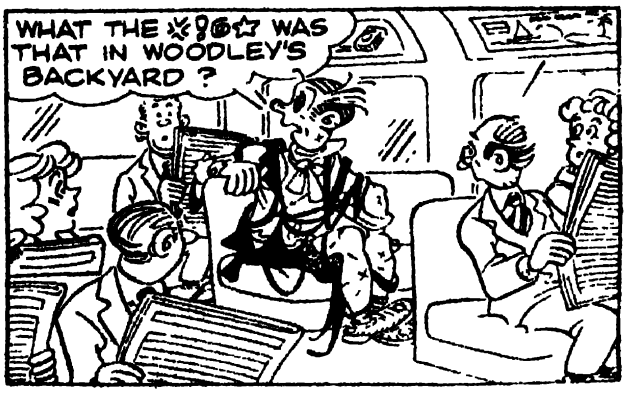


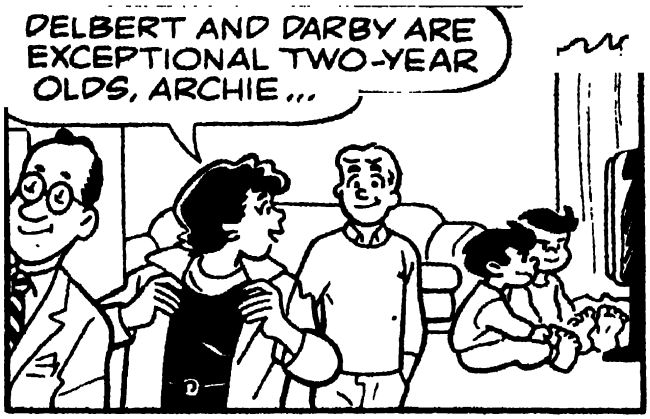




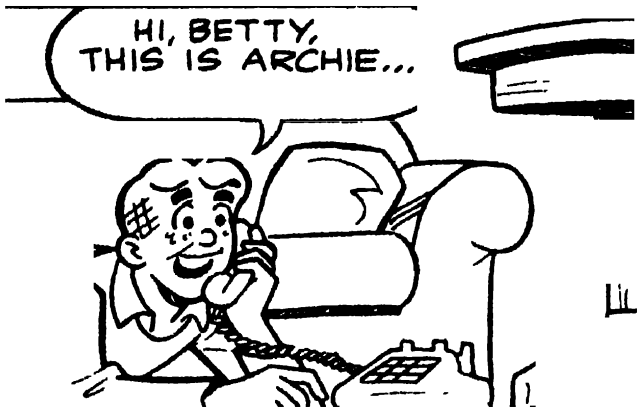


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DELBERT AND DARBY ARE EXCEPTIONAL TWO-YEAR OLDS, ARCHIE...

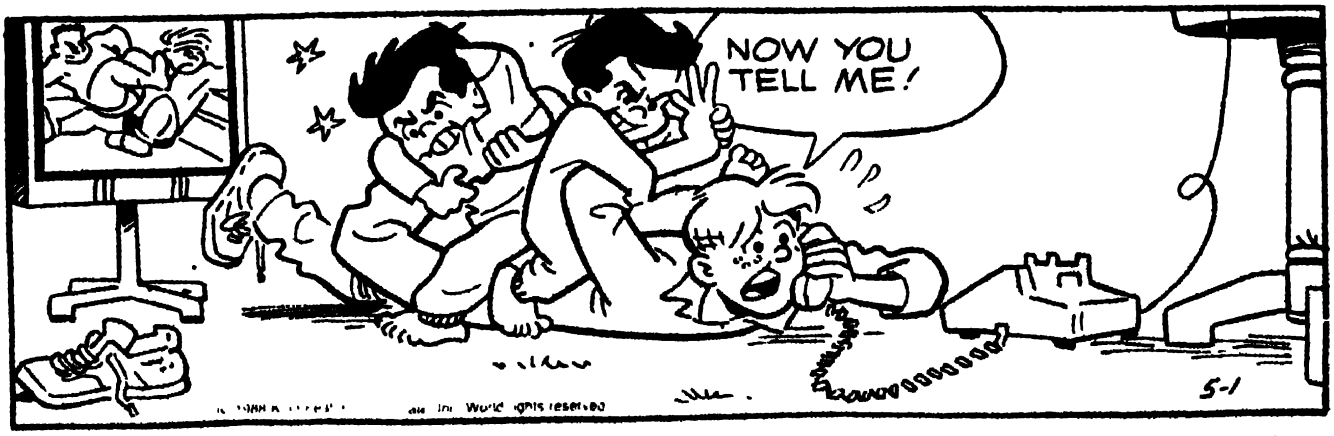

THEY CAN ALREADY RECITE ALL THE NETWORKS' CALL LETTERS!
N..B..C..

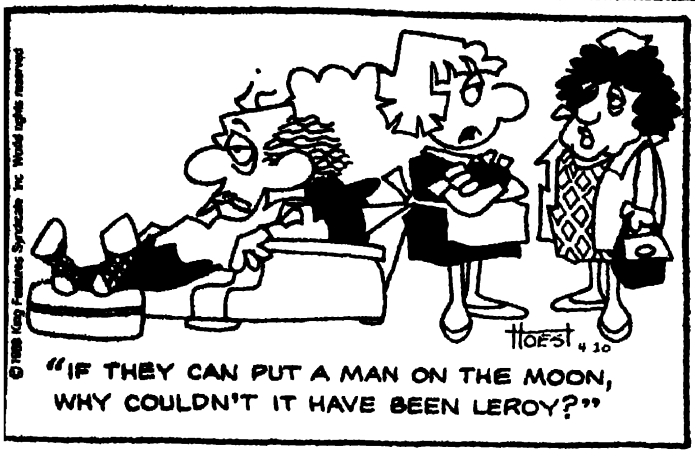

HI, BETTY, THIS IS ARCHIE...

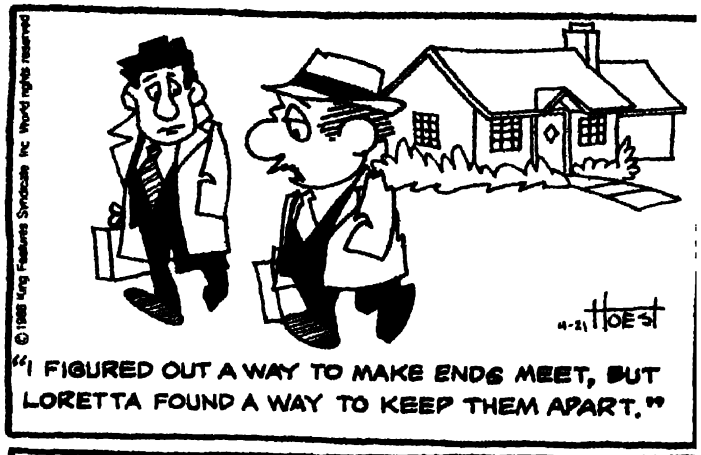

OH HI, ARCHIE! HOW'S YOUR BABY-SITTING JOB GOING?

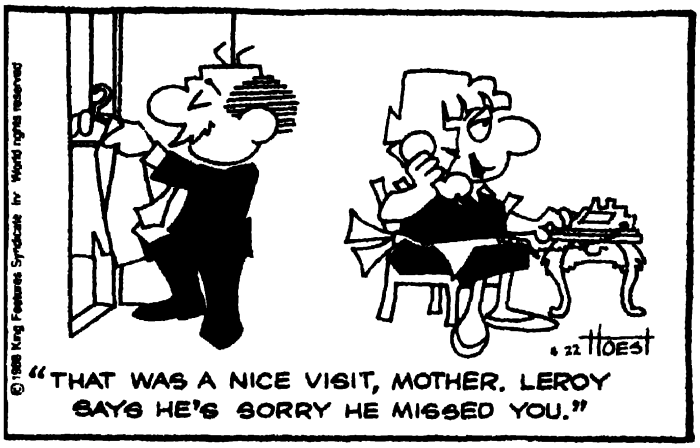

OKAY! THE BOYS AND I JUST FINISHED WATCHING WRESTLING ON TV!
OH, REALLY!

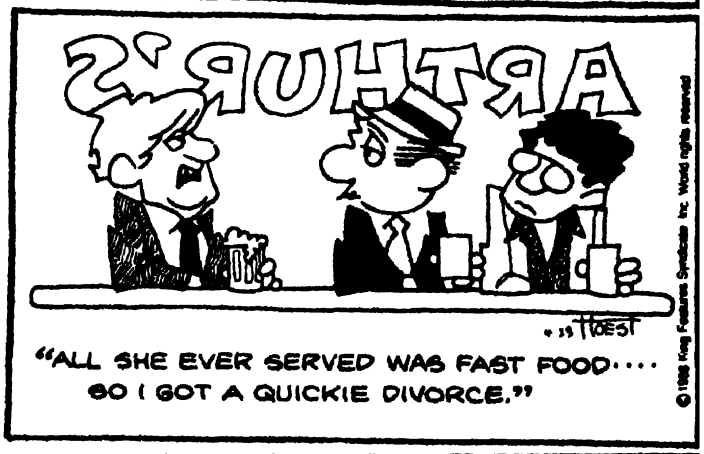

THEY SAY PROGRAMMING LIKE THAT SOMETIMES INDUCES VIOLENT BEHAVIOR!

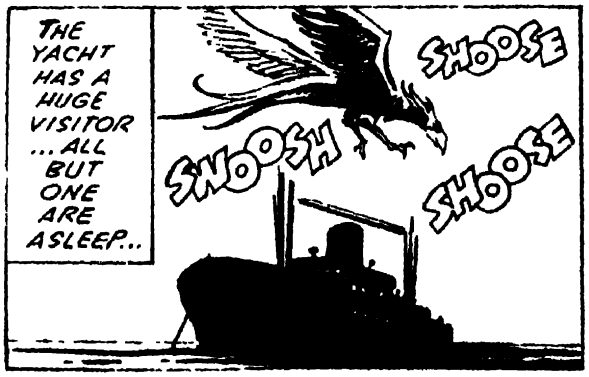

NOW YOU TELL ME!
5-1

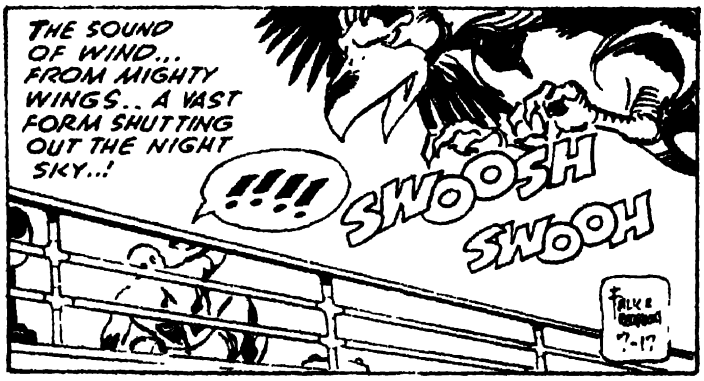

HOEST 4-20
"IF THEY CAN PUT A MAN ON THE MOON, WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN LEROY?"

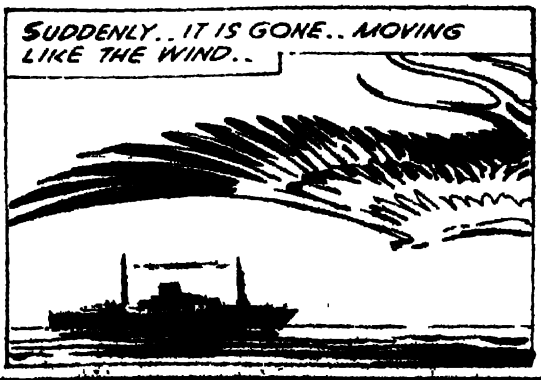

4-21 HOEST
"I FIGURED OUT A WAY TO MAKE ENDS MEET, BUT LORETTA FOUND A WAY TO KEEP THEM APART."


4-22 HOEST
"THAT WAS A NICE VISIT, MOTHER. LEROY SAYS HE'S SORRY HE MISSED YOU."


ARTHUR'S
4-23 HOEST
"ALL SHE EVER SERVED WAS FAST FOOD.... SO I GOT A QUICKIE DIVORCE."


THE YACHT HAS A HUGE VISITOR ...ALL BUT ONE ARE ASLEEP..
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
SWOOSH


THE SOUND OF WIND... FROM MIGHTY WINGS.. A VAST FORM SHUTTING OUT THE NIGHT SKY..!
!!!
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
FALK & BARRETT 7-17


SUDDENLY.. IT IS GONE.. MOVING LIKE THE WIND..

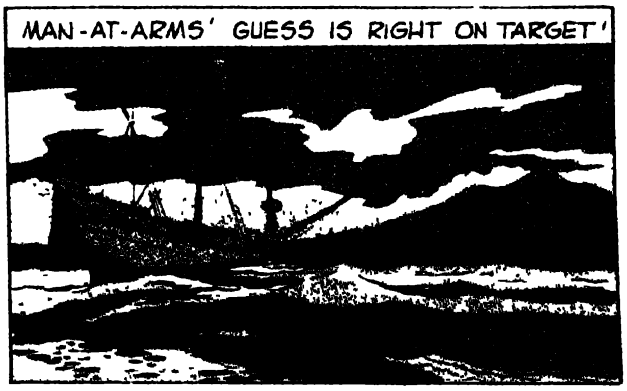

!!
..BACK IN "TABOO ISLE"!
CONT'D


WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PIERRE! NICE OF YOU TO INSIST WE BUY YOU A DRINK.
DEAR ME! IS THAT THE TIME? HOW IT FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN! WELL, WE MUST BE OFF!
BAR.
SNACKS
CHEER-CHOE THERE! LET'S HAVE A BIT OF SERVICE IN THIS DUMP!
WELL, MANY HAPPY RETURNS, PIERRE!
WHERE I COME FROM, PEOPLE GET PRESENTS ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS.
YOU-YOU MEAN OUR PRESENT HASN'T ARRIVED YET?
DENNIS, GET IN TOUCH WITH HARRODS AND SEE WHAT ON EARTH THEY'RE UP TO!
DON'T MOVE. I'M GOING TO GET SOME MORE WINE.
HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW HAVING A BIRTHDAY HAS SOFTENED MAD PIERRE?
HE ONLY BIT OFF ONE OF THE WAITER'S EARS.
THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING. THE OWNER IS REFUSING TO SERVE MAD PIERRE.
FOR THE LAST TIME, NO MORE DRINK! AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR EMPTY BOTTLE?
THAT WAS ONE OF THE GREAT SILLY QUESTIONS.
WHAT'S THAT FUNNY THING DOWN THERE? IT LOOKS LIKE A GORILLA WITH A HAT ON!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
GET DOWN!
THAT'S MY DORIS!

HE-MAN MASTERS









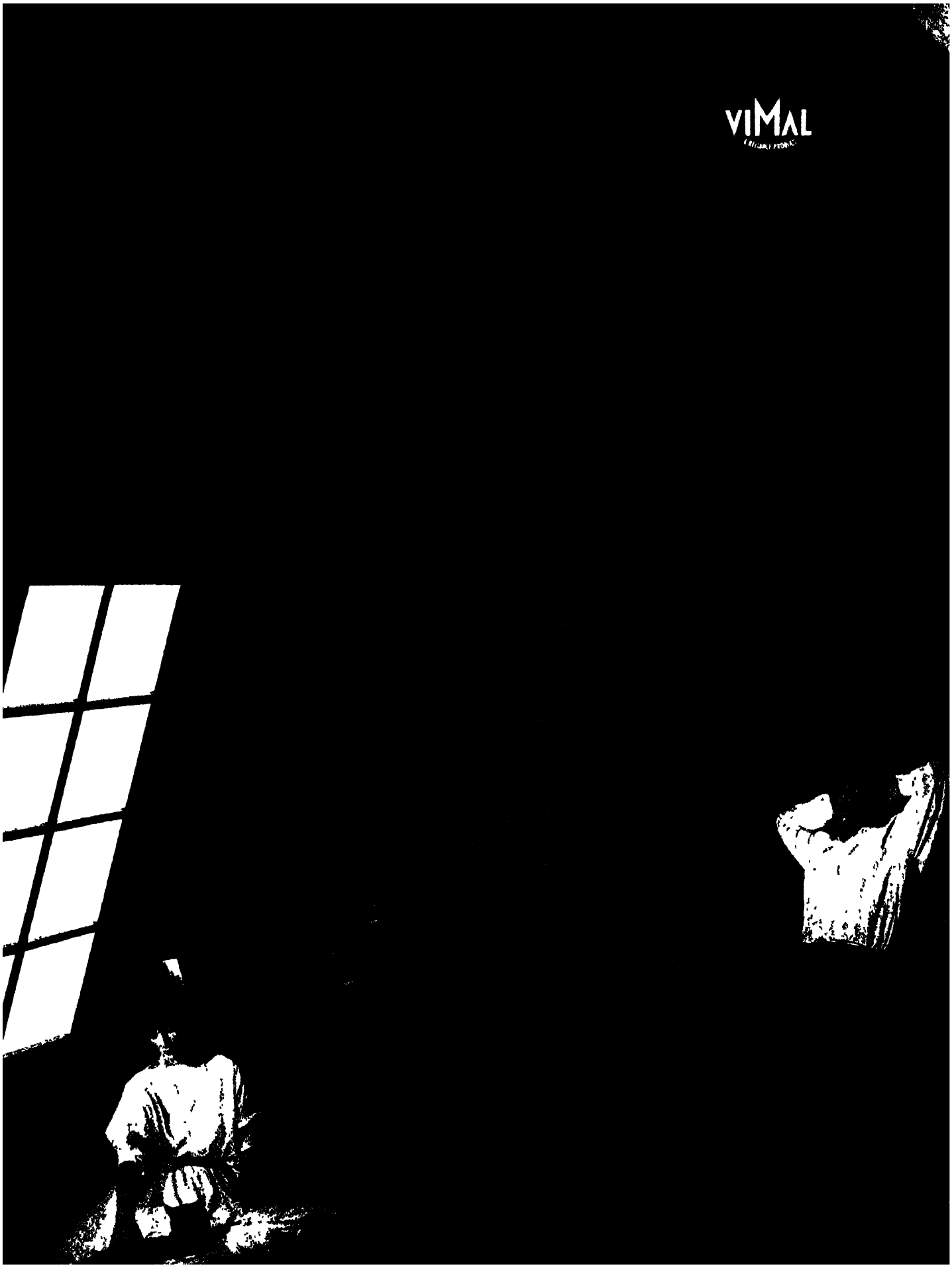




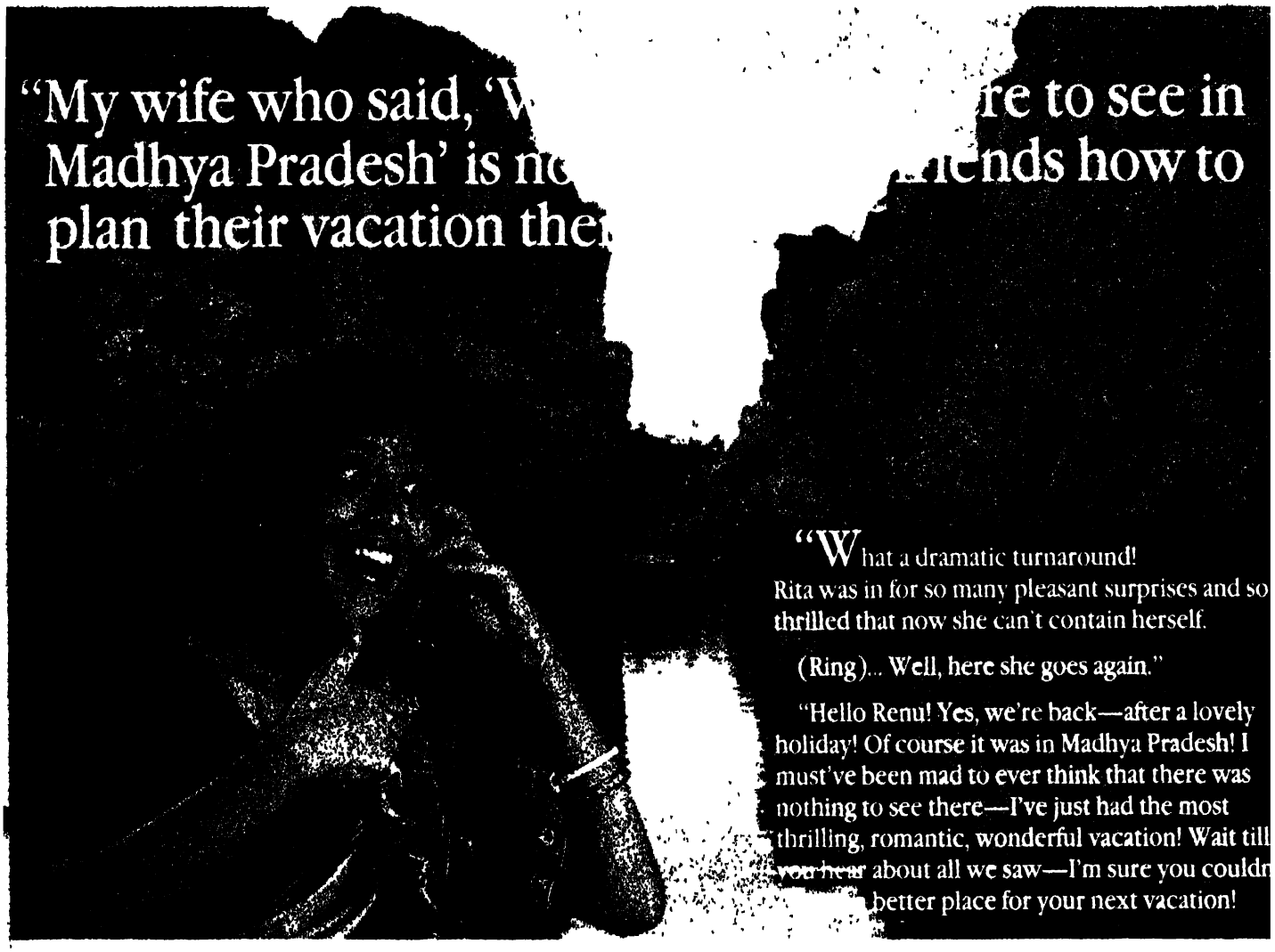




Photograph: **Pathik Deb Mallik**


VIMAL

"My wife who said, 'W…re to see in Madhya Pradesh' is n…iends how to plan their vacation the…



"What a dramatic turnaround! Rita was in for so many pleasant surprises and so thrilled that now she can't contain herself.

(Ring)... Well, here she goes again."

"Hello Renu! Yes, we're back—after a lovely holiday! Of course it was in Madhya Pradesh! I must've been mad to ever think that there was nothing to see there—I've just had the most thrilling, romantic, wonderful vacation! Wait till you hear about all we saw—I'm sure you couldn… better place for your next vacation!

You should begin your trip from **Gwalior**, as we did The massive fort and battle scarred ramparts brought visions of booming cannons and clashing swords vividly alive

From there we went to **Khajuraho** The temples were exquisite—as if living, breathing beauty had magically been frozen into stone

Our next stop was **Mandu**—the 'City of Joy' The beautiful mahals seem to echo with the love songs of Roopmati and Baz Bahadur We also saw Hoshang Shah's tomb, said to be the inspiration for the Taj

Oh, d'you remember those Jataka Tales we read as kids? Well, they're all depicted on the gates of the Stupa at **Sanchi**, and it is so quiet that you can almost hear the silence

And of course, we went boating by moonlight at the **Marble Rocks** Pearly cliffs and the gentle splash of oars wish we'd gone there for our honeymoon!

The biggest surprise was finding a hill station in Madhya Pradesh **Pachmarhi** is just the place for picnics and lazing

But Ramesh was itching to go tiger watching, so off we went on a safari—to **Kanha, Bandhavgarh** and **Shivpuri** Funnily, our excitement hungry hero chickened out when it came to tiger tracking, so we watched chinkara, nilgai and chital instead



While we were in **Bhopal** to see the Bharat Bhavan, Mum and Dad surprised us with a call—and promptly packed us off on a pilgrimage to **Ujjain, Omkareshwar and Maheshwar.**

What with all that to see and do our vacation just flew past! All too soon it was time to leave and so much we hadn't seen! The medieval city of **Orchha**, and the rock paintings at **Bhimbetka... Amarkantak**, and the legendary **Chitrakoot!**

Getting there? There are many well organised tours Transport? You can choose from coaches, cars or jeeps And there are log huts and tourist villages to stay in. You'll go next holidays? Great! Maybe we could all go together ."

Come to Madhya Pradesh... It's surprising a lot of people like you.

For more information and bookings, get in touch with Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd **NEW DELHI**: 204-205, IInd Floor, Hotel Kanishka Shopping Plaza, 19 Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001 Tel 3321187, 3327264 Telex 031-63417 MPT-IN. **BOMBAY**: 74 World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Bombay-400 005. Tel: 217603, 218860, 219191 (ext. 299). **CALCUTTA**: Chitrakoot Building, Room No. 7, 6th Floor, 230 A, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, Calcutta-700 020. Tel: 448543.

Let Down

The Olympic Special (September 18) was not up to the mark and you also let us down by not bringing out a records booklet as you had done in 1984.
S.K. Thapa,
Kurseong



Kalyan Chakravorty

Jatin Chakraborty

ighting Spirit

Jatin Chakraborty fully deserved a cover story ('Jackie', October 9). It is the first time in the 11-year history of the Left Front rule in West Bengal that a cabinet minister has accused the chief minister of showing favouritism to a particular firm, even at the risk of being sacked.

One should appreciate his fighting spirit even if his action cannot be supported. There is at least one person in the Left Front ministry who does not ditto every odd thing the chief minister chooses to do
N.D. Roy Chowdhury,
Kharagpur

■ Most Bengalis think of Jatin Chakraborty as a lover of press publicity. But I find in him a man of conscience, a lover of sport and, overall, a middle class 'Bangalibabu' rather than a communist or a minister
Syed Lutfullah,
Ambhua (Birbhum)

The Later the Better

In her article, 'Computers, Bit by Byte', (September 11), Ranjini Mohan has written, "...the greatest technological advance has been the introduction of computers and their application in various fields... Even bank employees decide to bury the hatchet and do a 15-minute task in 15 minutes."

Banking transactions are done well enough by a huge mass of human resources which is the cream of professionals and has been recruited after being successful in competitive examinations. There is a likelihood of tightening the recruitment of the educated unemployed youth if computers are installed in our banks.

As for rendering better customer service, the computer is required on a very limited scale if the skilled manpower is employed in an effective manner.

I think the computer, in the long run, will control every part of our lives, but the later the better
Sunil Kumar Kundu,
Bankura

More About Gems

I would be dishonest if I did not protest about certain lines which were attributed to me by your reporter in the article, 'What the Gems Foretell' (October 2). I did not say that astrology is an inexact science based on experimental methods and that by prescribing stones the astrologer can only hope that it will work, for there is no guarantee that it will.

I emphasised to your reporter that astrology is a science like any other branch, with continuous research going on. A true astrologer prescribes stones with the best of his knowledge and experience of astrology and gems. In most of the cases, the results are achieved. A quack with shallow knowledge does falter.
Srivyasdev (R.L. Sarkar),
Calcutta

Nandika Jaitly replies: Srivyasdev did use the words, "inexact" and "experimental". The rest of the letter does not differ substantially from my report.

CONTENTS

The Telegraph
13 NOVEMBER 1988



6 Tomorrow is Pandit Nehru's birth centenary. We throw some light on his role in the Partition of the subcontinent

14 This time it was Willingdon Club in Bombay that objected to M F Husain's being 'improperly dressed' on its premises. These recurring incidents throw up the question: Is the culture too elitist for India?

SECTIONS

4 Quiz
5 Heritage
13 Poetry
18 Focus
20 7 Days
23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
25 Comics
30 Candid Camera

Cover: Jawaharlal Nehru by M F Husain

PANDIT JI AND PARTITION



Henri Cartier—Bresson

1948. Pandit Nehru with the Mountbattens outside Government House

By GOVIND TALWALKAR

The much awaited and much publicised unexpurgated version of Maulana Azad's book, *India wins Freedom*, is claimed to be a bombshell. But from the extracts which *India Today* has published it seems the 30 pages are a damp squib.

The title of the book was suggested by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and these pages were held back not because of Nehru's objections, but because Azad wished it to be so. One wonders why it was necessary to withhold the publication of these pages as they contain nothing new or explosive.

Maulana Azad had blamed Pandit Nehru on two accounts. One was the failure to have a coalition of the Congress and the Muslim League after the 1937 elections in UP, the other was the "sabotaging" of the Cabinet Mission Plan. Fortunately, a mass of documentary evidence is available which goes to prove that Azad's criticism was invalid and unfounded. Let us begin with the 1937 elections.

In the elections to the Provincial Assemblies, the Congress contested 1161 seats out of 1585 and won 711. The Muslim seats totalled 462 of which the Congress contested 58 and won 28. The Muslim League was successful in 109 Muslim constituencies, but could not form a ministry in any province. In provinces like Bombay, Bengal, Sind, Punjab etcetera, the Congress could not get elected a single Muslim candidate.

As the success of these two premier organisations was not unalloyed, it was expected that both would be objective and think of some compromise. But unfortunately leaders of both the Congress and the League were in no mood to change their course of action. Pandit Nehru thought that after the elections there were only two parties, one, the British and, second, the Congress. Mohammad Ali Jinnah reminded him that there was a third party and that was the Muslim League.

Whatever the public posture, Jinnah tried through B.G.Kher, Bombay's chief minister, to have some compromise. But his offer was suspect as it was thought that he wanted to have Muslim members of the coalition cabinet under his direction. Besides, Jinnah was to launch on a different course of action and resort to rabid communal politics. What Lord Brabourne, the then Governor of Bombay, wrote to the Viceroy on June 1937 is significant. He wrote: "Jinnah went on to tell me some of his plans for consolidating the Muslim League throughout India and how he is doing his utmost to awaken the Mohammedans to the necessity of standing on their own feet more then they do now. His policy is to preach communalism, morning, noon and night "(*Towards Freedom*, pg-625).

We have to examine the happening in the UP in this general background. It was Mohanlal Saxena who thought that a coalition would be helpful and Pandit G.B.Pant shared the same view. Khaliquzzaman was a former Congressman and desired a post in the cabinet. Though the Congress and the League fought the elections against each other they avoided conflict in some constituencies. The informal talks were held between the provincial leaders of these two parties and G.B. Pant and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai carried on the talks. Maulana Azad as a Congress leader in charge of the eastern provinces, including the UP was associated with these talks. Nehru was not connected, partially because he was ill and also because he was out of India. When he come to know of the talks he reminded Pant that the League would have to accept the Congress programme, and wondered how the League, which was dominated by feudal elements, would subscribe to it.

The UP Congress committee nominated a small committee comprising Pant, Kidwai, Acharya Narendra Dev and P.D. Tandon to carry on negotiations with the League. Khaliquzzaman wanted one third of the seats in the cabinet for the League.



Nehru with Stafford Cripps and Abul Kalam Azad when the British Cabinet Mission visited India in April, 1946

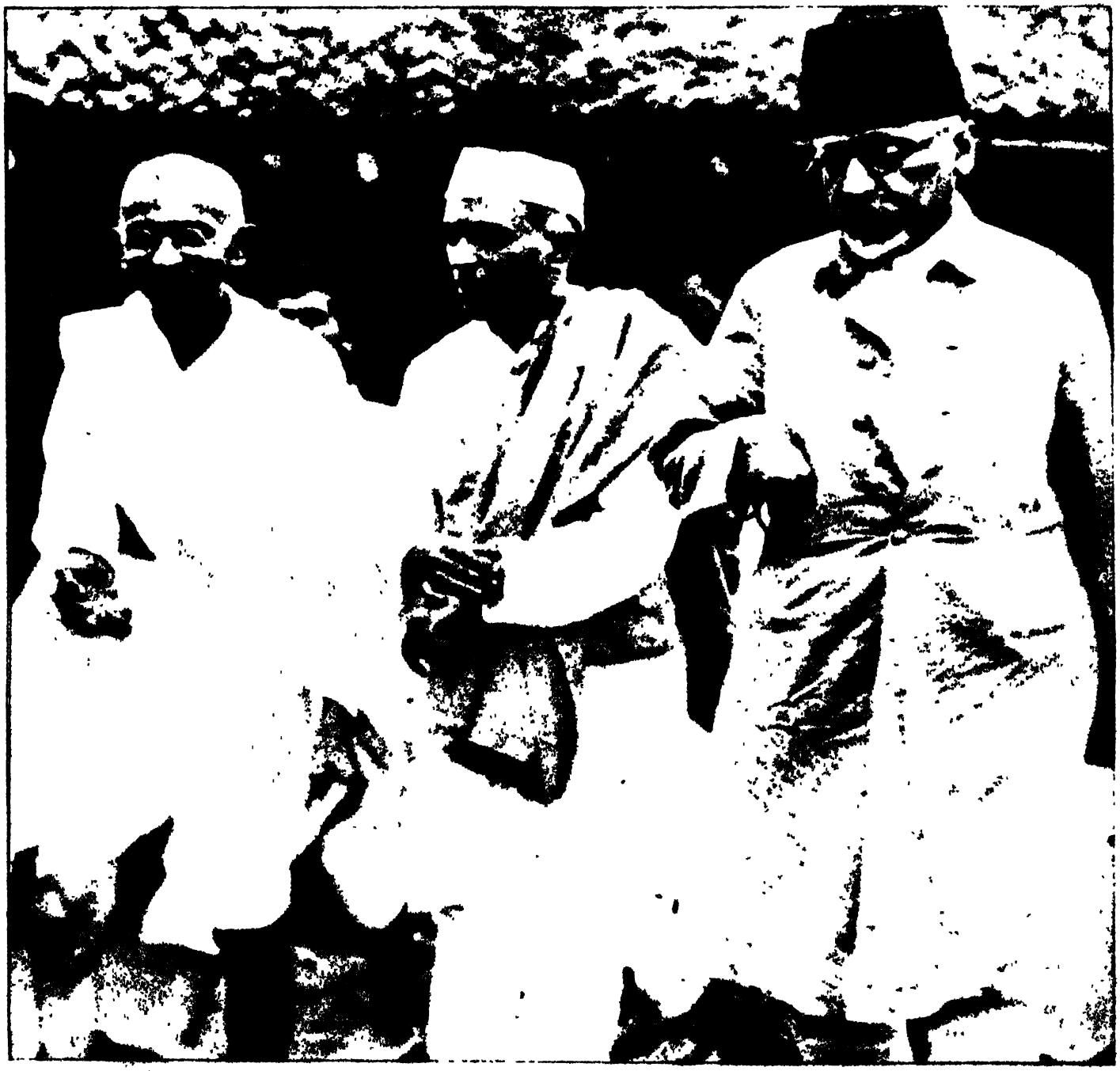
The author is the editor of the Maharashtra Times, *a post he has held since 1968. He was awarded the Maharashtra government award for his book* From Naoroji to Nehru

He also said that all matters pertaining to Muslims would be decided by the League ministers The Congress, on the other hand, wanted the League to accept joint responsibility and agree not to contest any future byelections

Maulana Azad thought that if the League accepted the terms it would eventually merge with the Congress It was he who handed over a note on behalf of the Congress to Khaliq and it is strange that Azad does not make any reference to this note. This is what Khaliq had to say. "After going through it I said: 'Maulana, this is a very strange document. You want me to sign the death warrant of the Muslim League parliamentary board as well as the Muslim League organisation, which I represent here'" (*Pathway to Pakistan*, pg 161). Khaliq refused to sign the document.

Pandit Nehru had contradicted the Maulana's claim that he had obtained consent from Khaliq or Ismail to accept the Congress programme, in his reply in the Lok Sabha on March 27, 1959. Nehru also said, "There were accounts of certain events which were not correct as the Maulana had recalled them from memory" (*Pathway to Pakistan* pg 187). To be generous to the Maulana we can say that he did not mention the note which he gave to Khaliq because of amnesia.

Azad also says that he made the mistake of his life by suggesting that Pandit Nehru succeed him as the Congress president. This is because, according to him, Nehru by his intemperate announcement regarding the Cabinet Mission Plan brought



Jawaharlal Nehru with Gandhiji and Abul Kalam Azad at Wardha in August, 1935



Mountbatten discussing his plan for the partition of India and transfer of power with leaders at the Viceroy's House in New Delhi in June, 1947. Seated around the table, clockwise, from left are: Baldev Singh, J.B. Kripalani, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mountbatten, M.A. Jinnah, Liaquat Ali Khan and Abdur Rab Nishtar

about the partition of the country As an afterthought he felt that Sardar Patel would have implemented the plan and averted partition. At the same time he referred to Sardar as the flagwaver of partition and did not mind the fact that he was contradicting himself.

It is true that Azad proposed Nehru as his successor. But he had no other choice. We were on the threshold of Independence and Nehru was the obvious choice as the Prime Minister. As the Congress president would be invited to form the cabinet, it was only natural that Nehru should take this office There is evidence to show that Mahatma Gandhi took the initiative in bringing about this change of presidents. S.Gopal has this to say: "Azad's handling of the Congress case in the discussions with the Cabinet Mission had merited no confidence and there was general agreement that Jawaharlal should take over" (*Jawaharlal Nehru*, vol.1, pg 326).

What was this Cabinet Mission Plan? It was another version of the Cripps Plan which was rejected by the Congress in 1942. The Cabinet Mission plan was to have two aspects. One was interim government in which both the Congress and the League were to be accommodated. There was much haggling over this and ultimately the interim government was formed.

But the aspect of the Cabinet Mission Plan which had considerable significance for the future was the division of the country into three sections and the grouping of the provinces. Bengal and Assam were clubbed together. Punjab, North West Frontier, Baluchistan and Sindh were to comprise another zone. The central government would have authority over defence, communications and foreign affairs. No thought was given as to how these departments would be financed. All residuary powers were to be vested in the provinces. The provinces were to be in the sections and there would be groups. These sections would prepare the constitution and ultimately the Indian Union would have a constitution with the three subjects being with the Centre. No province had any authority to opt out. This option was to be exercised after 10 years.

The Congress Working Committee initially rejected this part of the Cabinet Mission Plan. Lengthy discussion and debate followed. What was the stand of the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi? Mahatmaji denounced this aspect of the plan as being worse than the creation of Pakistan. Pyarelal, providing an insight into Gandhi's mind, says, "Thus, whereas under the grouping arrangement proposed at the Simla conference in May, 1946, the right to opt out of the original group, if the group's constitution or the provincial constitution framed by the group was not to the liking of a province, rested with the province itself, now freedom was in effect taken away from the province and made over to the majority in the section which would settle the provincial constitution.

"For instance, in Assam there were 34.42 lakhs of Muslims as against 67.30 lakhs of non-Muslims. But the latter included 24.84 lakhs of tribals. The Muslim League's plan was well known. It was to seperate the tribals from the Hindus, give them seperate electorates and promise autonomy and convert Assam into a Muslim majority province by organising a mass immigration of Muslims from some of the densely overpopulated border districts of Bengal" (*Last Phase*, vol 1, book 1, pg. 203-4).

In an article in *Harijan* (May 26, Pg 46) Gandhi wrote, "But what about the units? Are the Sikhs for whom the Punjab is the only home in India, to considerthemselves against their will as part of the section



A refugee train during the Partition of India

which takes in Sindh, Baluchistan and the Frontier Province? In my opinion the voluntary character of the statement demands that the liberty of the individual unit should be unimpaired. Any member or section is free to join it".

Gandhi was much more specific in his after-prayer speeches. Later when Bijoychandra Bhagavati and Mahendra Mohan Chandhari saw Mahatmaji on December 13, 1946, he asked Assam to revolt. He said, "I told Bardoloi (the then Assam chief minister) that if there is no clear guidance from the Congress Working Committee, Assam should not go into section. It would lodge its protest and retire from the Constituent Assembly. If Assam keeps quiet it is finished. No one can force Assam to do what it does not want to do. It must stand independently as an autonomous unit. It must become fully autonomous and independent."

When it was pointed out to him that the Maulana felt that no exception could be made in the case of Assam, Gandhiji said, "Here there is no question of exception. Assam rebelled. But we have that slavish mentality. We look to the Congress and then feel that if we do not follow it slavishly something will go wrong with it. I have said that not only a province but even an individual can rebel against the Congress—tell Bardoloi, I do not feel the least uneasiness. My mind is made up. Assam must not lose its soul" (G.D. Birla's *Bapu*-vol. 4, pg. 426-29).

The Congress Working Committee was initially against the Cabinet Mission Plan and passed a resolution accordingly. As the president of the Congress, Maulana Azad wrote to the Mission conveying the views of the Congress. All these are



documented. Despite this, not heeding Gandhi's advice, the working committee passed a resolution on June 25, 1946, accepting the Mission plan—of course, with reservations. But after a few months the British government published the legal opinion regarding the scheme which made it clear that no province could opt out and had to sit in section.

This rattled all the Congressmen. Sardar Patel wrote to Sir Stafford Cripps on 15 December 1946, saying that "your interpretation means that Bengal can draft the constitution of Assam. It is amazing. Do you think that such a monstrous proposition can be accepted by Assam, particularly after the sad experience of wholesale forcible conversion, arson, looting, rape and forcible marriages? If you think that Assam can be coerced to accept the domination of Bengal the sooner you get rid of that illusion the better—you know that when Gandhiji was strongly against our settlement, I threw my weight in favour of it. You have created a very unpleasant situation for me. All of us feel that there has been a betrayal" (Pyarelal's *The last Phase*, vol.1 book 2 pg. 122).

Pandit Nehru's much criticised interview has to be considered in this context. Azad has made much of it. One can admit that Nehru made a tactical mistake. After the resolution was passed by the working committee and endorsed by the AICC, Nehru gave an interview. Whatever he said was not in the heat of the moment. He dealt with various points. "Referring to grouping," Pandit Nehru said, "the big probability is that from any approach to the question, there will be no grouping, obviously, Section A will decide against grouping. Speaking in betting language, there was four to one chance of the North West Frontier Province deciding against grouping. The Group B collapses. It is highly likely that Assam will decide against grouping with Bengal, although I would not like to say what the initial decision may be, since it is evenly balanced. But I can say, with every asurance and conviction there is going to be, finally, no grouping there, because Assam will not tolerate it under any circumstances whatever. Thus grouping business approach from any point view does not get on at all" (*The Transfer of Power*, vol.8, pg. 26).

It will, therefore, be clear that though Nehru was tactically wrong, essentially he was voicing the opinions of almost all Congressmen and Gandhiji. He did not go beyond the brief, leave aside the timing of the interview. So Azad's criticism is unfounded and partition did not come because of this interview. Nehru later said that Azad was inclined to view the events through a personalised angle but historical forces do not work in that manner.

The Mountbatten Plan was nothing but the Cabinet Mission Plan and Nehru rejected it outright. Both these plans would have Balkanised India which Azad was blind enough to forget. The Cripps Plan as well as the Cabinet Mission Plan were worse that the outright division of the country. If Jinnah was assured of these two plans he would not have compromised. The experience of the interim government and the great Calcutta killings sealed the fate of the country. There had to be a salvaging operation and Nehru and Patel salvaged the country and saved us from Balkanisation. ■

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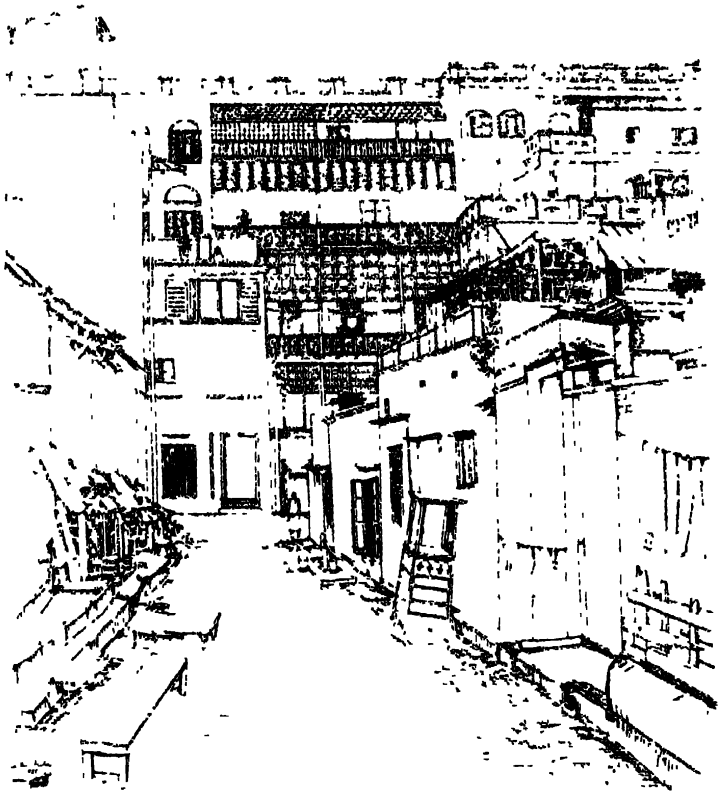
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HIRACHAND DUGAR (1898-1951)



The illustrious son of the Marwari community who grew up to be one of India's leading artists, Hirachand Dugar was born in 1898 in West Bengal's Murshidabad district in Jiaganj Before he could complete his formal education, his father, Surajmal Dugar, involved him in business But young Hirachand had no interest in business matters, instead he used to watch for hours how his mother designed saris with *chumki* and *sulma*. He would copy the designs on a piece of paper and later began to draw various objects of nature

Hirachand was greatly inspired by the paintings of Abanindranath Tagore and his disciples. He joined the Government School of Art much against the wishes of his family. He was fortunate to have Percy Brown as principal and Asit Halder as senior teacher at the art school. After graduation he joined the Kala Bhavan and Santiniketan

Though Hirachand always longed to be a direct disciple of Abanindranath, he never regretted the fact of learning under Asit Halder and Ishwari Prasad. The latter left a lasting impression in his life, he taught young Hirachand the techniques of Mughal miniature painting on the elephant's tusk.

Hirachand was very methodical and submissive. He expressed his thoughts with very fine lines Among his earlier paintings, *Chahani, Sangeeter Sammohani, Expecting Someone's Arrival, Mother and Child* and *Padmavati* deserve mention. The 1920 annual art exhibition catalogue of the Oriental Art Society mentions another set of his five paintings: *Refugee, Blind Singer, Expectation, Mohini* and *Mother and Son*. Some of his works, especially the *Blind Singer* was published in *Rupam*, edited by O C. Gangooly, with the comment: "Hirachand Dugar of Bolpur deserves special mention. His *Mother and Child*, an unpretentious drawing in pencil, is a popular favourite."

The following year he toured Kashmir He left Kala Bhavan and settled in his birthplace in Jiaganj. Within three months of his mother's death in 1936 his wife died. He came to stay at Rajgir with his three sons where his artistic pursuits were revived once more His works were exhibited for the first time at Kumar Singh Hall in Calcutta in 1950. His eldest son, Indra Dugar, is one of the leading artistes of the present generation.

Hirachand spent his last days in the house (situated at 22, Mott Lane in Calcutta) sketched above, where he painted some of his masterpieces.



S■ Mukherjee on an open Calcutta quiz

"Close on the heels of the closing ceremony of the Seoul Games came to this quiz capital, Calcutta, the annual Argus Close-Up Quiz 1988. About 100 teams participated in this Calcutta classic. Two days of gruelling sessions saw four each of the elimination and preliminary rounds which finally led eight teams to the climax. Or was it an anti-climax! Because not more than three of last year's finalists could retain their positions. Not only that, the average age of the participants in the finals remained close to about 20 or so.

"The keen contest and enthusiasm was evident all through. Tie-breakers decided the finalists in two of the preliminary rounds. In the finals, the contest was even keener. At the end, the winners, DI 'A', Neil O'Brien, Derek O'Brien, Stanley David and Francis Groser with 27 had just an edge of two points over TNT Tears and Magnum was just a little away with 19-and-a-half points. But then there were four teams which stood between 16-and-a-half and 15. Oh! What a close finish it was.

"Billed as ' a quiz with a difference,' the Argus Close-up Quiz has remained an attraction for both the initiated and the uninitiated. Questions ranged from Venusian Eye (a vast storm in Venus) to housekeeping (a computer term), and women's cricket. All these and a lot more

"The arena too looked different than most ' usuals, but what was significant was the keen contest for the best audience prize As many as seven fought closely, but Ms S. Jagannathan, with her strong foundation in Oriental studies went home with the Argus Peacock.

"G. Kashinath and Ram Ritwik Sen handled the elimination rounds well. The latter also helped his father R.M. Sen in conducting some of the rounds. While some of the teams at times



Participants at the Close-Up quiz

were at their wit's end, the senior Sen, despite being visibly exhausted, kept the audience and the participants on their seats' edges with his wit and humour. The audience too, though thinner this year, braved the sweltering heat and mild drizzle with heartwarming spirit.

"The contest, for the eighth year, was sponsored by the personal products division of Hindustan Lever Ltd. Mr. V.R. Nair of HLL gave away the prizes. "

Palash Ghosh, Burla, writes:

"Some months ago in the quiz column there was a list of people who made it big under assumed names. I am sending another list of people who have made it big under pseudonyms.

" Iosif Vissanionvich Dzugashvibi (Stalin); Francois Marie Arouet de (Vontaire); Nanik Bhardwaj (Lala Amarnath); Sampio De Sousa Ferreira (Socrates); Krishna Bhanji (Ben Kingsley); George Panayiotou (George Michael); David Robert Jones (David Bowie); Artur Coimbra (Zico); Rene Brabozon Reymond (James Hadly Chase); Allen Stewart Koningsberg (Woody Allen); Paul Hewson (Bono); Md Hamidula Khan (Ajit); Omkarnath Durgaprasad (Jeevan); Diane Debmount (Lucille Ball). "

CBS

11th Question: **To customs officials, who is a "mule"? (Manoj Kumar Singh, 94/7, Circular Road, Danapur Cantt., Patna 801503)**

Ans: **One who employs internal body carriers to smuggle drugs which are enclosed in either fingers of surgical gloves or condoms.**

QUESTIONS

captain? (Mohan Kumar Agarwal, Bargarh 28)

6. In 1974 and 1975, Ford Motor Co. did not pay although it made profits. Why? (Sunil I Calcutta 54).
7. What is common to an earthworm, an and a packet calculator? (Dipankar Dasgupta, Rourkela 3).
8. What are Symmes
9. Why was the film Limelight banned in the US for 20 years? (Supriyo Choudhuri, Calcutta 72)
10. Who said-

creating man, somewhat overestimated his ability."? (Srinjay Chakrabarti)

ANSWERS

18. Oscar Wilde.

8. Two imaginary holes believed to exist, one in
7. All the three have same (i.e. they all have an IQ of 0.001).
6. Because expense, payers at the tax- those years of the tax- payers received a $ 188 million refund for paying US income-tax in 1974 and 1975, but not only avoided investment tax-credits and foreign tax-credits
5. A lack of knowledge of
4. day interviewed
3. and had
2. to be
1. a

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Sunil K Dutt

To the Girl I Love

The sky is the sky,
painted white, facing the sun
like a blind man's frosted glasses.
The sky has no face, no lips to kiss.
The hill is the hill,
rock beaten brown, stone sweating water
like grapes crushed for wine.
The hill has no breast, no nipples to touch.
The sea is the sea,
turning blue, lashing shore and sand
like a sadist's whip cutting flesh for fun
The sea has no navel, no legs to spread.
Smiles kill you,
Smooth symbols and twisted syntax
the knife and the sword
separating flesh and time, time and desire
as blood drips from the body
of a sky-lipped woman with hill-topped
breasts,
legs waving like a frothy sea.
To live in language, I cannot kill reality.
Abhijit Dutta

Mock Show

How long will this mock show endure —
To gorge on lust, yet swear by friendship,
Or spin love's yarn in the name of poetry?
Mute earth! Beloved without speech!
Look at this search for the banal in
heart of miracles,
Feel this loss of soul in love's
passion.
In this love or defilement—
Your presence here, while
turns to ash?
Subir Chowdhury

Loneliness

Loneliness my gaunt aunt,
Who smells of grease
And sucks knives like sweets,
In her black purse of a mouth
The terrified touch-me-not
Flattens itself, hiding from the night.
Chandni

An August Song

It's August A time for writing
about endless rains and swollen rivers

Black frogs, black socks, black boots, rain.
It's August. Her entire body must be still a
storm,
a cloud settled on the tip and waiting.
The bird looks up, night still raining,
a death face beside the sooted black,
its arms, its fist of dying, damtily raised
It's not a nice day. It never is.
The innocent rain fades into its dying
In the broad visible darkness
memory gurgles into the desert full of
The Word had failed
Singh

Three Poems for a Woman

poem for a woman
her bra
ng tree
ts bark
er shrinkage
of dry wood and sagging breast...
The rebel burning sexist bondage
as fingers feel and unhook a lover's
privilege.

This is a poem for a woman
lost to life and love and labour
of cooking a square meal,
squealing for a square deal
from a man who cannot stand
squalor, dust and disorder...
The witch-wife weaving a ritual theme
of murdering her man in a moral dream.

This is a poem for a woman
willy-nilly warming her sullen sister,
a bride that deserves burning
not for a dead groom or dowry
but for the voiceless scream of prudery,
the frigid cry denying love's punishment
and the pride of being a woman..
The libber's breastband is boredom,
fuel for fire, singed in flame
Bela Datta

To a Journalist

Small man, do not raise a shout...
Write in green ink, set in neat offset,
print in black the mute sound of protest
of a man alone in the world, alone against
the world of lawless legality, to end like
Christ,
even as the flesh falls off a boneless notion
that pen is permanence, defying the gun
and the bullet and a bulletproof politician.
Small man, do not shout a slogan .
Satyen Dutta



CLUB CULTURE

What's common between Bishan Singh Bedi and Ananda Shankar? Both chose to be Indian, walked into clubs of the elite dressed in *churidar-kurtas* and were told, sorry, ahem, but the door's that way. This time painter M F Husain, described as the most expensive signature in the land and, who has always been barefoot in the park and elsewhere, had to leave his dinner unfinished and stride out of Willingdon Club, Bombay.

And what do Madras Cricket Club, Calcutta Swimming Club and Willingdon Club have in common? They and many other such clubs still have an invisible Union Jack fluttering full mast.

Much heat is generated on either side each time a celebrity is stopped at the gates, or at his dinner plate for not being dressed according to the rules. And the rules usually spell it out nice and propah. These clubs are basically relics of the Raj which, according to Husain, "do not realise Indian tradition and culture." He adds: "I went to the Rajya Sabha (as MP) barefoot and that was not considered 'indecent'. But here, colonial-minded people have not changed after 40 years of Independence. It is not an insult to an individual, it is an insult to India."

The clubs, on their part, maintain that "rules are implemented without favour or distinction regardless of position any individual may hold." Most members are proud of this and observe that some clubs have become shabby because of not insisting on the rules.

Bedi feels that it is a "self created complex" and "Discrimination on matters of dress should not exist in a country which openly condemns apartheid in South Africa. The British relented and let Mahatma Gandhi wear a *dhoti* and see the king. We are being more British than the British." What Bedi finds ironical is that the educated elite who are on the managing committees of the clubs allow such outdated rules to exist.

Ananda Shankar resents the "vulgar snobbery" of the elite clubs and points out the discrimination in allowing casual western clothes like jeans, bush-shirts and sneakers, but not a *churidar kurta*, "a dress which even the Prime Minister favours." In each case he adds: "The club officials showed an uncanny scorn for Indian dress and habits."

It is agreed that when such clubs do exist, they have every right to frame their rules and the rules must be obeyed by the members and their guests. Nobody is obliged to join, but having done so voluntarily, the rules are to be followed. But having said that, and considering the increasing number of unhappy incidents, the question arises: Should such elitist institutions exist at all in India today?

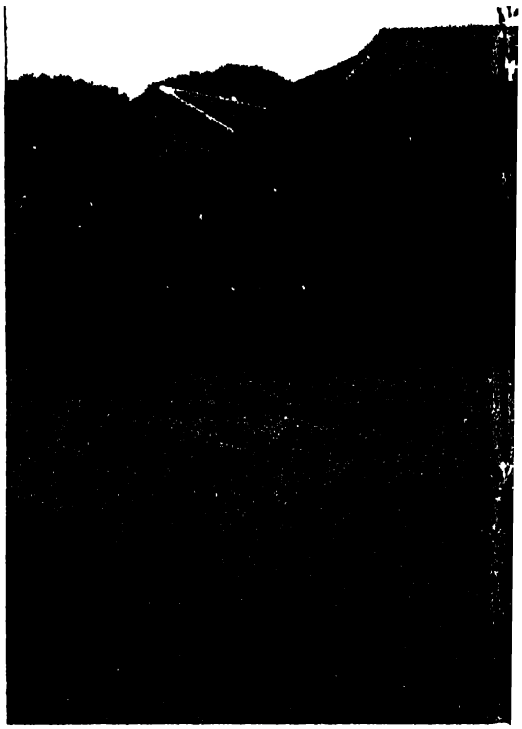
This time Bombay's Willingdon Club considered M.F. Husain improperly attired and showed him the door. Which makes one wonder if India today must live with such elitist institutions. Anil Grover reports on what the cream of society feels

Additional reportage by Soutik Biswas, Novy Kapadia, Lekha Dhar and Debashis Aikat

Says *Sunday* editor and man about town, Vir Sanghvi: "The idea of a club is a legitimate one and nobody can possibly object to it. What is offensive is when clubs, because of their colonial origins, attempt to recreate the ethos of the Raj, particularly its more objectionable manifestations. I think it's appalling for the Calcutta Swimming Club to regard Ananda Shankar's *churidar-kurta* as inappropriate dress when it holds that a shirt and a pair of trousers are perfectly acceptable. That's the brown sahib mentality at work.

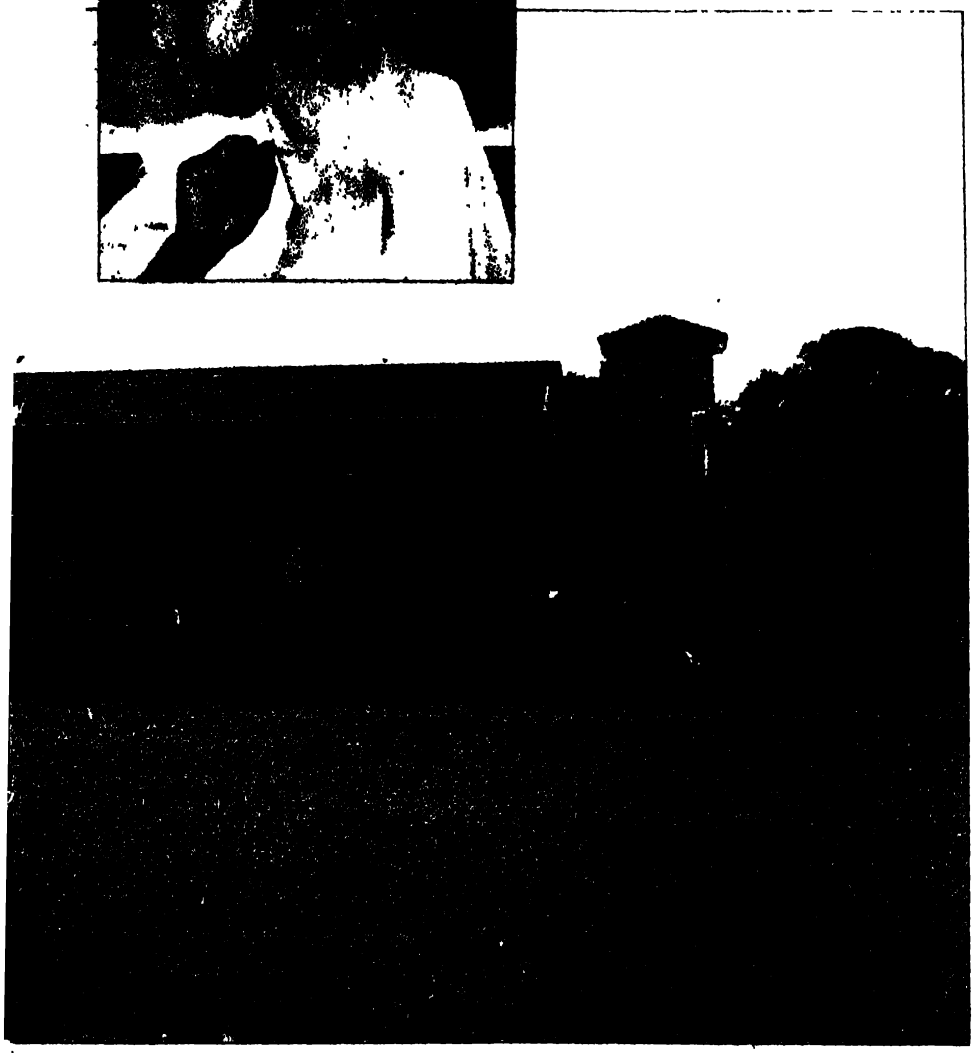
"The Husain incident, however, falls into a different category. The objection to Husain is not that he was dressed like an Indian rather than a Brit. The objection here is that he was, in a sense, incompletely dressed. You can argue that clubs have no business insisting that people are fully dressed or whatever, but it's got nothing to do with a Raj hangover.

Sanghvi, who has been to Oxford and back without seeing the Queen, stops to ask: "Just one question. If the Willingdon had turned out a poor man who couldn't afford shoes rather than a celebrity millionaire painter who likes going barefoot, would there have been the same kind of uproar?"



P C Sen, managing director, Peerless, and a member of three clubs, agrees there is little relevance of such clubs in modern India. "I think people go there mainly to show off and drink, an utter waste of money." Sen himself was evicted from the Fort William Club two years ago for wearing a *dhoti* - which action he calls "idiotic." Another member of "several clubs" is noted novelist Buddhadev Guha who feels that Indians are "not club-minded at all." He finds it "really pathetic to see Indians hankering for admissions to these clubs which not long ago refused to take in Indian members." Guha, a chartered accountant by profession, makes an exception for clubs that serve a definite purpose as promoting sport, but does not consider the elitist ones "meaningful" because there, "people go only to gossip and





Willingdon Club, Bombay, and (inset) M F. Husain: Out of step?

standards are objectionable. These clubs only exist to display one's power and position and they have no place in Indian society."

Ram Rai, chief of Response, advertising agency, however, champions the cause of clubs and is quite definite about their relevance. "They have been created to play a role and they have played their role well," he asserts. Rai's response is clear. "These clubs are places for relaxation, for camaraderie and for privacy. Most important, I think, is the privacy role. Sometimes you just want to be with yourself. And the clubs provide you with the right atmosphere."

The Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly, H.A. Halim, too, supports the existence of clubs which are 'private organisations, like someone's residence, and which one can enter only according to *their* dictates." Halim observes that different ownership buildings have different rules, for instance, but they have to be obeyed. "If one of them makes an exception for me as an outsider and allows me to park my car in the compound it is a graceful on its part but I can't make a fuss. There are so many kinds of clubs and social societies. I may not agree with the Burwari guys, but the Constitution guarantees them right what can I do?"

The debonair Marxist who becomes a member of one such club to scan 'two columns' the term elitist and retort: We may happy, but are we also elitist by being different from others. Wearing *khadi* dhoti or denim jeans may be elitist. And some would say that not wearing shoes is also elitist. He has also noted the question coming too often in the debates. "But let's look at income. Have we a different situation, a different perspective. Then we can wonder whether such clubs should exist in that society or not."

A number of people, though, support the claim and have no reservations. M. Mukherjee calls them 'necessary evil' and goes on to say: "In the old days there existed a social club brought up in the Oxbridge tradition. Such clubs were necessary for them – they provided a sort where they could let their hair down. Today it is necessary for a section of society, which is composed of the *nouveau riche*, who would like to flaunt having acquired money, that they are different from the other Tom, Dick and Harry. In order to establish the difference they try to gain a social status by securing entry into such clubs. We all like to proclaim the cause of egalitarianism in society, but there are many who in the heart of hearts believe that they are more equal than others."

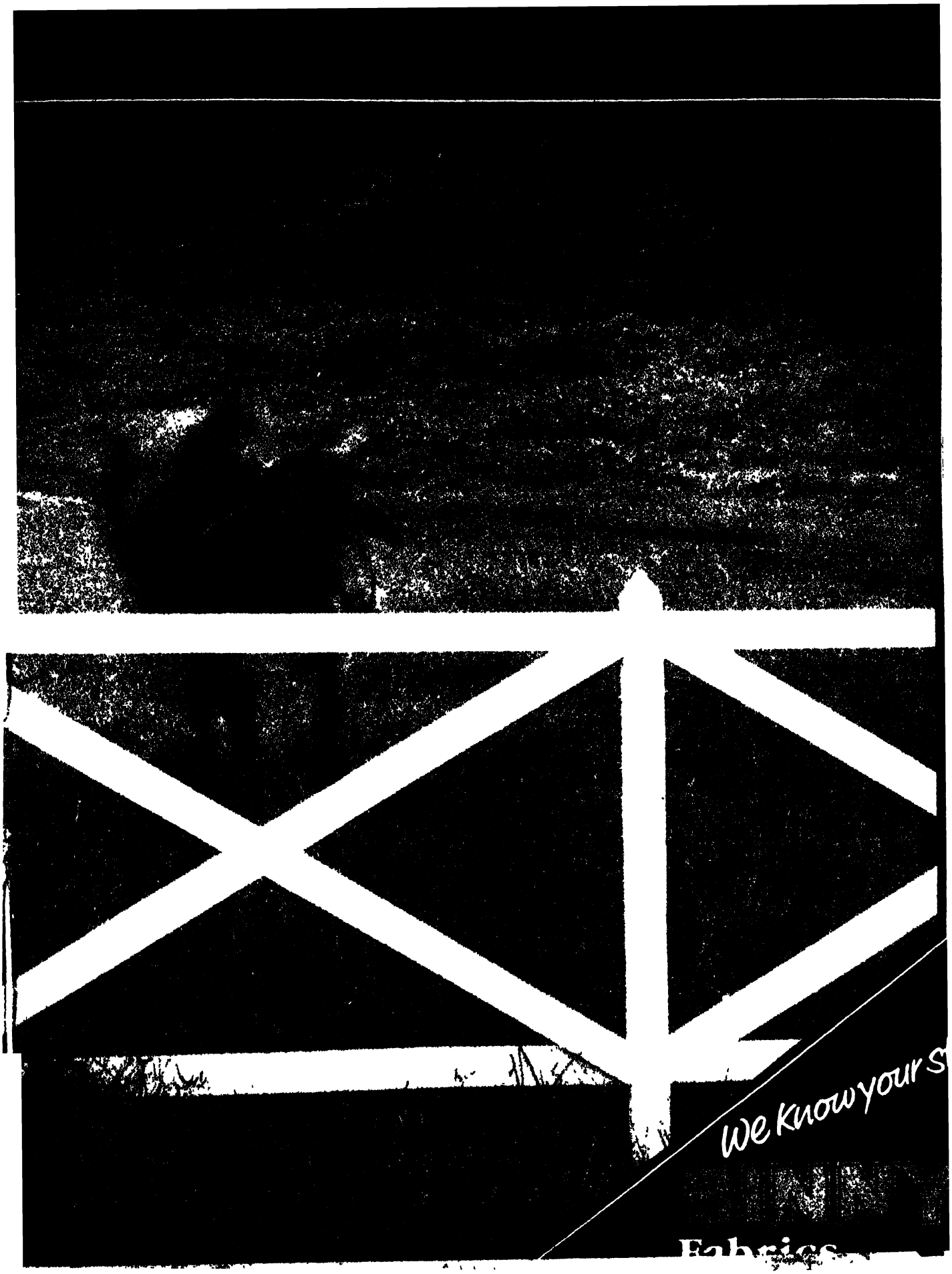
Having had an illustrious career and having prematurely retired as PWD secretary on a point of principle recently, Murshed also speaks of the essential hypocrisy in our attitudes when we try to banish English from schools and do away with elite educational institution for the general mass and yet when it comes to our own children queue up before St. Xavier's or La Martiniere and even try to send them to the UK and the USA. Even leading communist in this state, he adds, have gained entry into these elite clubs. "Clubs are a statement to the world that we have arrived," he adds.

Murshed put his finger on the latent Anglophile element in Indians because of which we go to ridiculous extent in holding wine and cheese parties or insisting on dinner jackets – but cannot distinguish between a fish knife and a meat knife. It is said somewhere by Murshed that in the days gone by, people joined clubs to lend prestige to them while now people joined to acquire prestige for themselves.

Without trying to link them together that, perhaps, sums it all up ■

It takes a lot more to ruffle you




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Fabrics

A Sanct

The Ranthambhor National Park shot into prominence soon after the Prime Minister's visit. But, says Milap Chand Dandia, the reserve has since been ruthlessly exploited by unscrupulous park officials

Photographs by Subhas Bhargava

Ranthambhor National Park in Rajasthan shot into the limelight after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi spent a few days there in January 1986. So impressed was he with the rich hilly forests and their resplendent flora and fauna that while leaving he complimented the state minister for forests, "Your forests in Ranthambhor National Park are good and you are preserving them well." But in less than three years since the Prime Minister's visit the Ranthambhor National Park has undergone a metamorphosis for the worse.

Before attaining the status of national park in 1980, Ranthambhor was among the seven reserves selected for launching Project Tiger in 1973. It was elevated to the status of national park seven years later. The park, which spreads over an area of 392 sq km, consists of a core and buffer zone of 260 sq km and 132 sq km respectively, has a wide range of wildlife and abound in tigers, hyenas, sambhars, blue bulls and deer, besides a number of species of birds, both Indian as well as migrant.

Following Gandhi's visit the Ranthambhor National Park became a much sought after spot by both foreign and Indian wildlife lovers.



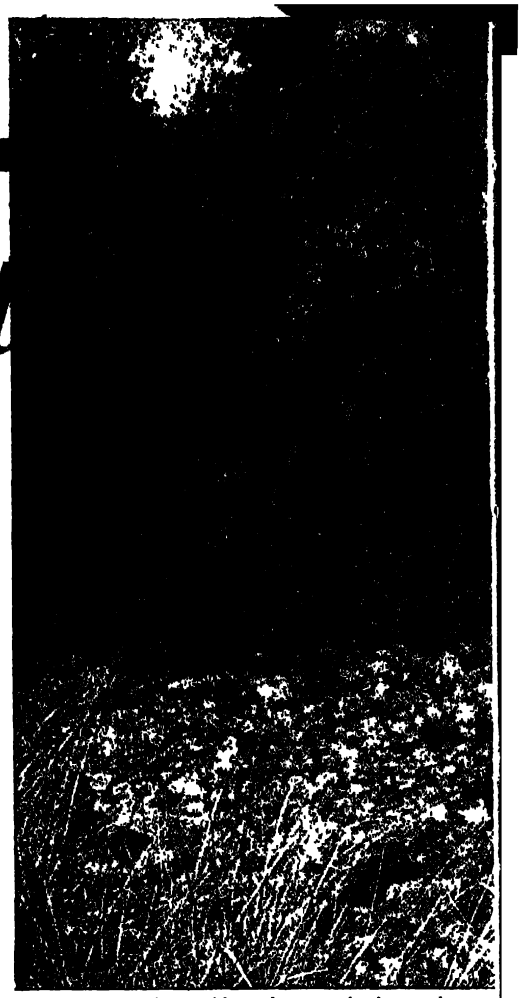
A brick kiln at the Ranthambhor National Park

Initially it was expected that the forest department officials would use the freshly awakened interest in Ranthambhor to the fullest extent by providing better management and improved condition. But instead corruption and mismanagement reigned.

The star attraction at the park is the tiger. According to park officials there are more than 40 tigers in the sanctuary but most visitors return disappointed not even having had a glimpse of the splendid animal. A trip within the forest for watching tigers costs between Rs 200 to Rs 250 in hired jeeps. The park has prescribed certain specific routes on which the jeeps can ply. Each jeep is allotted a specific route number and the jeep driver is supposed to assiduously follow it. But this is often not the case for in most cases tourists return disappointed not having sighted a single tiger. It is alleged that routes on which tigers are generally spotted are allotted only to the favoured few taxis owned by forest department officials who consider the national park their personal preserve.

A few months ago a group of tourists was delighted to witness the rare phenomenon of a tiger hunting a sambhar and then eating it even as it was alive. By chance the chief wildlife warden of the state who also happened to be present was eager to capture the rare and unusual scene on film. Other visitors equally taken aback wanted to take photographs but were snubbed and asked by the chief wildlife warden to immediately disperse. All protest that they were there after having paid the prescribed fees and were hence fully authorised to move or stay on the specific route indicated were to no avail. They were rudely asked to move on to some other spot and the taxi driver perhaps intimidated complied.

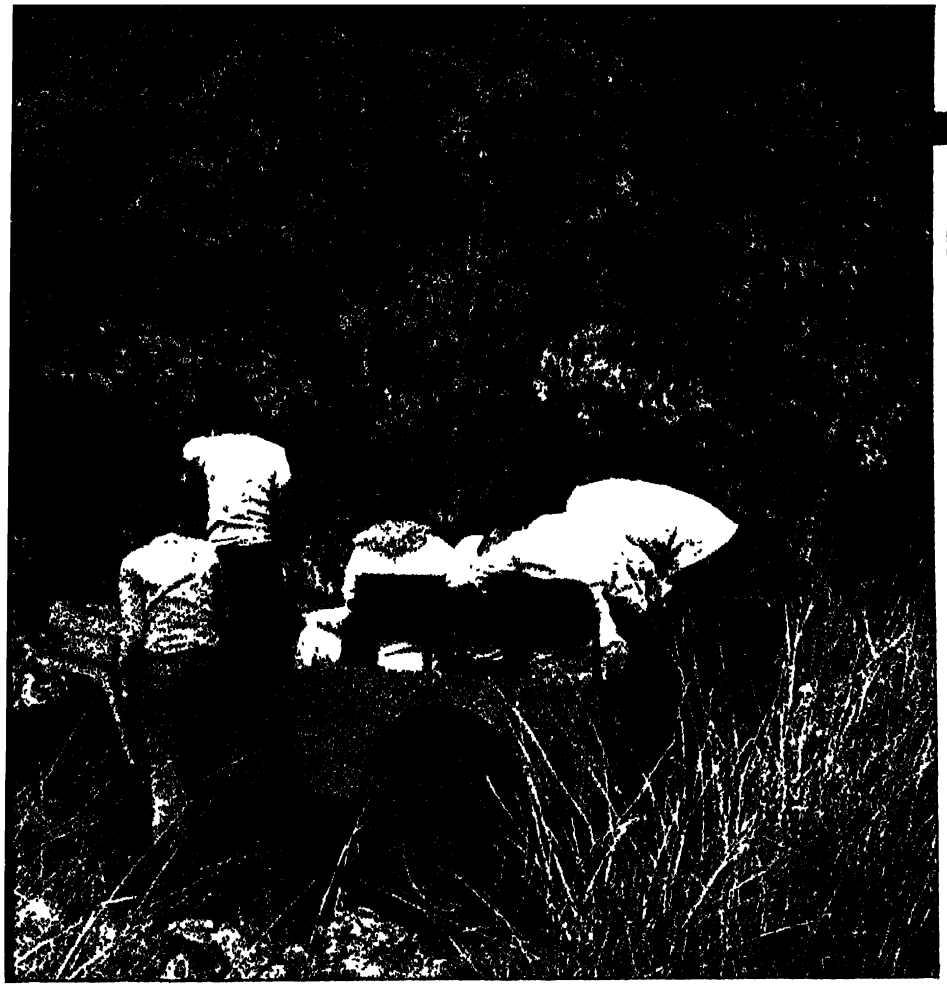
One of the first steps the forest department officials initiated after the Prime Minister's visit was to raise the room rent of the Jogi Mahal rest house where Rajiv



Occupants of an official jeep alight in the



A tiger at the park feasting on a live sambhar

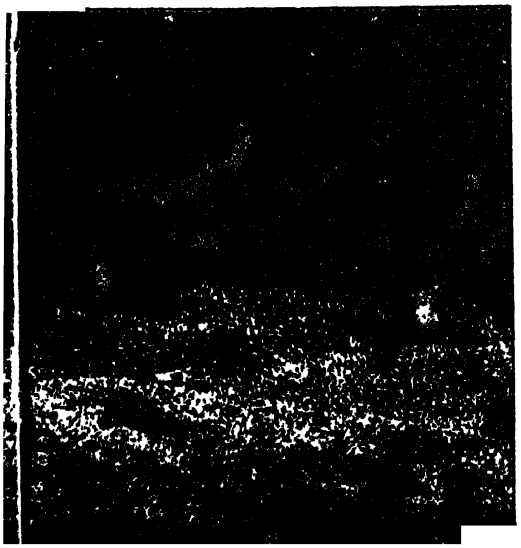


park in clear contravention of rules

Gandhi and his party had stayed. The tariff for a double room was raised from Rs 60 to Rs 200 per head per day. The hike was effected on the pretext of increasing the revenue from the growing traffic which showed a steady increase. Actually, the motivating idea was to keep the Jogi Mahal free from tourists and solely for government officials, their families and friends who continue to enjoy all the facilities at a nominal cost of Rs 3 a day if they choose to pay anything at all.

Rules to be obeyed while in the park have been prominently displayed on a huge board at the entrance. One, among these, stipulate that vehicles should not be taken off the road and visitors must not, under any circumstances, get off the vehicle. This rule has obviously been made for the safety of both the wildlife and the visitors. To ensure that the rule is strictly followed, the park management is supposed to send a forest guard with each vehicle. The underlying idea is that by accompanying the tourists, the forest guards will also be able to keep a watch on the goings on in the forest. However, it has been seen that rarely is a forest guard sent though the fee for doing so is invariably charged. Unfortunately, it is the forest department officials, other government officials and their families who enjoy hospitality at government cost and disregard prescribed rules.

During a recent trip to the Ranthambhor National Park, this correspondent saw the national park's official jeep being misused by friends of a sanctuary official. The jeep was not only parked off the road but the visitors had got off and were standing by the side of the vehicle. When the driver's attention was drawn to the rules, he shouted that no rules applied to them as it was an official jeep. Another Maruti Gypsy some distance away was not only off the road but was also deep in the forest hardly 10 feet away from a resting tigress. It was sheer providence that the tigress ignored the visitors and did not charge at them- despite all provocation.



The law stipulates that forest areas in national parks should be kept untouched and undisturbed and nature should be allowed to develop without any human interference. Accordingly, felling of trees, cutting of grass or commercial exploitation of any forest produce for earning money or any other purpose is strictly banned. After the law came into force the department stopped auctioning various forest produce. This of course reduced the department's income but the exploitation has hardly stopped.

One can see large number of felled trees strewn in the Ranthambhor National Park awaiting removal from the preserve to be sold. The forest here has hundreds of mango trees. Previously their produce was auctioned. The auction has since been done away with but as a forest employee confessed, the mangoes are now plucked and sent to forest officials even as far as Jaipur as gift. The recipient senior forest official rarely knows where the gift is from.

But the biggest excesses are the brick kilns that operate in the national park. The bricks are made from the soil dug in the park area itself and they are fired by the wood obtained by felling the trees in the reserved area. This correspondent saw a large number of freshly felled stumps of green trees and deep excavation in the earth caused by rampant digging by the owners. The earth is transported to the kiln site by donkeys without any restriction. How can anybody stop us. The owner of the kiln is paying the officials regularly, was the cryptic response of a labourer employed in a kiln.



The stump of a freshly cut tree and earth dug out for a brick kiln

As things stand today, the Ranthambhore National Park will be a mere tourist spot for nature lovers and forest officials. Perhaps even Prime Minister Gandhi will find it hard to believe tigers in the same national park he visited over a year ago. The only testimony will probably be the notice board at the entrance - the one that remains the same. ■

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Dayavan**: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani 241132) Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551143) 4 shows Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417) 3 shows

A film by Feroz Khan who also stars along with Vinod Khanna, Madhuri Dixit and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Ganga Tere Desh Mein** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138) Krishna (J C Dutta Street, 250437) Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440) Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) 4 shows

Directed by Vijay Reddi and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal the film stars Dharmendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Jaya Prada, Dimple Kapadia Raj Babbar and Kader Khan

•**Mar Mitenge.** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270) Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471760) Malancha (Regent Park)

Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty Bhanupriya and Madhavi play the lead in this Kawal Sharma film The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue 272143) 4 shows

Directed by K R Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain the film stars Dharmendra, Anita Raj, Govinda, Farha, Tanuja Kulbhushan Kharbanda Shakti Kapoor Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Anupam Kher



Rameshwari and Anooradha Patel in *Jyoti*

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) 12, 3 6 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in the Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A).** Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 298228) 4 shows

Rajesh Khanna Farha Moon Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the major attractions in this film directed by B R Ishara The music is by Anand Milind

Bengali Films

• **Anjali** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 553143) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 369061), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686) 1 4

A film by Anjan Choudhury starring Ranjit Mullick Moon Moon Sen George Baker, Kali Banerjee and Madhabi Mukherjee The music is by Goutam Basu

• **Chhoto Bou** Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) Bipodi (S P Mukherjee 473062), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 362740) 3, 5 45 8 30

Ranjit Mullick Sandhya Roy Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami Bhabesh Kundu Dolika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Sapan Chakraborty

• **Dena Paona.** Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551510) 3 shows

Directed by Sukhen Das and with music by Ajoy Das, the cast includes Deepankar De, Satya Bandopadhyay, Anup Kumar, Swarup Dutta Rajat Das Sandhyarani, Sumitra Mukherjee, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das in a double role

• **Jyoti:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 558015) 2 30, 5 30, 8 15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282) 2 5, 7 45, Ujala (Russa Road, 478066) 2 45, 5 15, 8 45

Directed by Shakti Kumar and with music by Sapan Jagmohan, the film stars Rameshwari, Prasenjit, Anooradha Patel, Utpal Dutt, Rakesh Bedi and Pradip Kumar

• **Madhuban:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567) – 3 shows

A film by Ajoy Kar, starring Victor Banerjee, Tanuja Utpal Dutt, Swarup Dutta and Chinmoy Roy. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.



Tanuja and Victor Banerjee in Ajoy Kar's *Madhuban*

Theatres

• **Jay Jayanti:** Rangana (153/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 556846)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

Subhendu Chatterjee and Basabi Nandy along with Premangshu Bose, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Dipika Banerjee, Arindam Ganguly, Gita Dey Nandini Malleya and Abhishek Chatterjee comprise the cast. Drama and direction: Ganesh Mukherjee

• **Kalanka:** Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street, 558402) Thurs at 6.30 pm; Sat , Sun & holiday at 3 & 6.30 pm

Supriya Devi, Chinmoy Roy, Juin Banerjee, Samir Majumdar and Sulata Chowdhury are the chief attractions in this play Drama and direction: Samir Majumdar

• **Natghat:** Tapan Theatre (37A & 37B Sadananda Road, 425471)—Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm; Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm.

Haradhan Banerjee, Shakti Thakur, Kalyani Mondal and Tarun Kumar are in the lead Direction Subhas Basu.

• **Neelkantha:** Rungmahal (76 1B Bidhan Sarani 551619) - Thurs at 6.30 pm, Sat , Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm

Soumitra Chatterjee, Goutam Chakraborty, Ajit Banerjee, Nirmal Ghosh, Nihar Chakraborty, Sumita Chatterjee, Debika Mitra, Sumanta Mukherjee and Sayani Mitra comprise the cast of this play Drama, music and direction Soumitra Chatterjee

Special Events

13 and 19 November: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play, *Raja Lear*, based on the Shakespearean tragedy, *King Lear* Directed by Fritz Bennewitz and designed by Franz Havemann, the play has Shyamanand Jalan in the lead

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

19 November: 6.46 pm

Natasena will stage the Bengali play, *Gorurgaru Headlight* Drama and direction Saroj Ray

At Girish Mancha (Bagbazar)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2) AI-103 at 0035

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5) AI-306 at 1830, Dep (5) AI 306 at 1930

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) AI-315 at 1820, Dep (6) AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr (6) AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1) JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1). JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2). SQ-416 at 1125 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1530; Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep. (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 3, 7): RA-214 at 1110, Dep (2, 4, 7): IC-247 at 1740, dep (3, 6). IC-247 at 1510; Arr (1, 3, 7). RA-213 at 1010, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6). IC-248 at 1425, Arr (7) IC-248 at 2055.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7). IC-444 at 1920; Dep. (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily). BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-223 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5). IC-223 at 1800, Dep (7): IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily): BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-693 at 1615, Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-224 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-224 at 2000, Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5): BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7). IC-225 at 1305, Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 1220, Arr. (1, 4, 7): IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr. (1, 2, 5): GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000, Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily): IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily) IC-410 at 1110; Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr. (7) IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6). IC-281 at 1535; Arr . (3, 5. 6): IC-281 at 2120

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1). IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800, Arr. (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6): IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr. (daily). IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4): IC 204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta; Dep (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr (daily). IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily): IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily): IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625; Arr. (7): IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100; Arr. (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6). IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-227 at 0835, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7). IC-255 at 0530, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-255 at 0815, Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily): IC-221 at 1145, Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 14.05

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (2, 4): IC 243 at 0830, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC 243 at 0610, Dep. (daily). IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily): IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (daily) IC-242 at 1640.

BARTER BANK

• **Novels** and **guitar:** I offer Harold Robbin's *Betsy*, Sidney Sheldon's *Catapolus Terror* and a guitar for novels by Jeffrey Archer or anything of corresponding value. Contact Ajay Tantia, 297, G.T. Road, Salkia (North), Howrah 711106.

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's Mastermind series MM 4 (1988) for the MBA entrance examination for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sunil Manwandia, Babylon Apartments, 2/1A, Burdwan Road, Calcutta 27.

• **Camera:** I offer a Hot Shot 110 camera for Indian currency notes for the period 1861 to 1915. Contact B. Bader, 95-C, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta 13.

• **Novels:** I offer *Vital Parts* by, *The Golden Threshold* by Harriette de Janette and *Only Make Believe* by Clarissa Ross for anything of corresponding value. Write to Mohammad Sayeed, c/o Mood Photographers, 28/B, Elliot Road, Calcutta 16.

• **Sofa set:** I offer a three-piece Nu Built sofa set for anything of corresponding value Write to Purnima Das, 55/7, Purna Das Road, ground floor, Calcutta 29

• **Study material:** I offer the complete set of Brilliant's Elite course (with solutions) for IIT-JEE, 1988, and YG File (with solutions) for IIT-JEE, 1987 and 1988, for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sanjeev Chandak, Midnapore Cotton Mills, Midnapore, Pin 721101.

Calcutta-Agartala Silchar Dep (1 3 5) IC 237 at 0650 Arr (1 3 5) IC 238 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong Dep (2 4 6, 7) PF 701 at 0830 Dep (1 3 5) PF 701 at 1115 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF 702 at 1200 Arr (1 3 5) PF 702 at 1440

Calcutta Aizawl Silchar **Guwahati** Dep (daily) PF 705/704 at 0930 Arr (daily) PF 706/703 at 1635

Calcutta Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5 7) PF 707 at 0600 Arr (1 3 5 7) PF 708 at 0855

Calcutta Jamshedpur Dep (2 4 6) PF 717 at 0600 Arr (2 4 6) PF 718 at 0800

Calcutta Jamshedpur-Patna Dep (1 3 5) PF 725 at 0600 Arr (1 3 5) PF 726 at 1100

Calcutta Agartala Dep (1 3 5) PF 729 at 1500 Dep (2 4 6) PF 729A at 0600 Arr (1 3 5) PF 730 at 1740 Arr (2 4 6) PF 730A at 0835

Calcutta Guwahati Dep (daily) PF 709 at 0700 Arr (daily) PF 710 at 1800

Calcutta Imphal Dimapur Dep (2 4 6 7) PF 727 at 1220 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF 728 at 1850

Guwahati Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari Dibrugarh Dep (Guwahati 1 3 5 7) PF 735 at 0900 Arr (Guwahati 1 3 5 7) PF 736 at 1540

Guwahati Jorhat-Lilabari Dibrugarh Tezu Dep (Guwahati 2 4 6) PF 735 at 0900 Arr (Guwahati 2 4 6) PF 736 at 1550

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19 00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8 30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8 05	6
3	20 15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12 55	4
81	9 15	**Air Cond Express** Tr Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arr —Tues Wed & Sat	17 55	82
103	9 15	**Air Cond Express** B Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delh Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arr Mon & Fr	17 55	104
101	16 00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon Tues Thurs Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed Thurs Sat & Sun	10 55	102
173	23 00	**Himgiri (Jammu Tawi) Exp** Tri Wkly Dep —Tues Fri & Sat Arri —Tues Wed & Sat	10 40	174
947	13 15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4 15	948
9	20 05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7 10	10
7	9 45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18 30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15 45	50
11	20 45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6 05	12
39	21 10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5 20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11 45	20
21	16 05	**Mithila Express**	6 45	22
57	5 45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20 50	58
59	17 35	**Kamrup Express**	6 30	60
307	6 10	**Black Diamond Express**	21 25	308
309	17 15	**Coalfield Express**	10 30	310
305	18 15	**Asansol Express**	8 45	306
31	21 00	**Danapur Express**	6 35	32
105	23 00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arr —Friday	4 15	106
171	22 30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9 55	**Santiniketan Express**	15 45	16
959	15 25	**Gwalior Bi weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thurs & Sat Arri —Tues & Thurs	7 30	960
971	15 25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tues Arri —Sat	7 30	972

SEALDAH

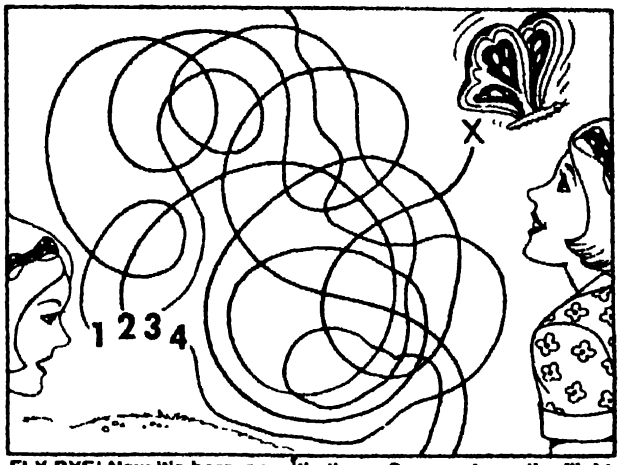
43	19 00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8 45	44
53	20 10	**Gaur Express**	6 15	54
51	11 20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16 10	52
33	20 45	**Varanasi Express** via SBG Loop	14 30	34
303	18 25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10 25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

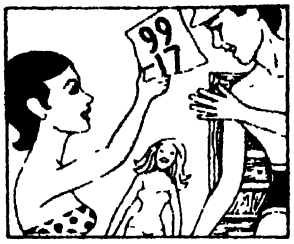
3	21 35	**Madras Mail**	6 10	4
2	20 30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7 10	1
60	13 40	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	14 15	59
134	21 30	**Ahmedabad Express**	4 15	133
30	12 30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15 00	29
141	15 30	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11 15	142
51	22 30	**Bangalore Express** Dep —Thurs Arr —Sun	13 45	52
13	17 30	**Tata Steel Express**	10 20	14
11	6 15	**Ispat Express**	21 50	12
5	21 45	**Sambalpur Express**	6 45	6
15	21 15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6 00	16
7	22 45	**Puri Express**	7 00	8
9	19 30	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8 00	10
21	6 45	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22 30	22
979	20 00	**Tirupati Express**	5 30	980
45	11 30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14 45	46
317	16 45	**Purulia Express**	11 30	318
902	22 30	**Guwahati Howrah Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22 15	
	14 10	**Trivandrum Central Howrah Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13 45	901
—	14 10	**Cochin Harbour Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13 45	939
940	22 30	**Guwahati Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22 15	
952	22 30	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep —Tues Fri & Sun Arri —Tues Wed & Fri	13 45	951
976	22 30	**Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Wednesday only	22 15	
—	14 05	**Bangalore City Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Monday only	13 45	975

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-64 for incoming trains; 203536-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted



FLY BYE! Now it's here, now it's there. Can you trace the flight of the butterfly from lower left to top right?

• **SUM FUN! From any whole number having two or more digits, subtract the sum of the digits The result will always be divisible by 9 Example. 123-6 - 117; 117 is divisible by 9.**



SHE'S SAVVY ABOUT AGE

She knew he was older than she was, but not how much To find out, she subtracted her own age from 99, jotted the answer on a sheet of paper, gave the paper to him She asked him to add his age,' remove first digit of the sum and add it to the last digit When he revealed the total, she had the information she wanted

For example Say she is 17, he's 20 Then 99 minus 17 is 82, 82 plus 20 is 102, 1 plus 2 is 3—the age difference

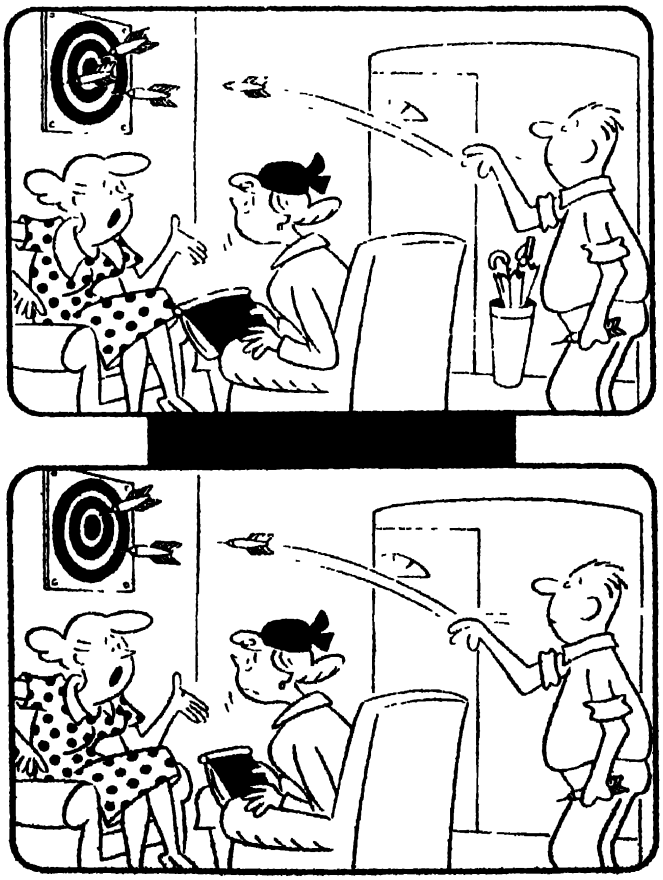
P S If he s younger, the same age, or a lot older, she may need a new scheme

PIN GAME! ... uickly can you build up a list of seven words beginning with PIN, below? Each word contains one more letter than the one before it. Random letters may be used—which is to say, letters of previous words may or may not be used again. Time limit is two minutes.

One possible list: PIN, pinch, pinata, pink eye, pinafore, pineapple, pincushion

1 PIN _
2 PIN _ _
3 PIN _ _ _
4 PIN _ _ _ _
5 PIN _ _ _ _ _
6 PIN _ _ _ _ _ _
7 PIN _ _ _ _ _ _ _

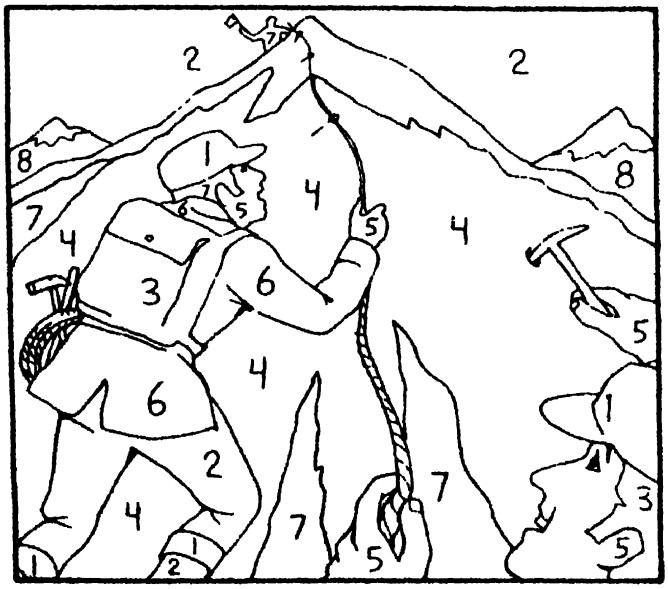
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences: 1. Dart is missing. 2. Cedar is smaller. 3. Purse is smaller. 4. Elbow is concealed. 5. Arm is lowered. 6. Umbrella stand is missing.

FUNSPOT



UP AND UP! Apply crayons or colored pencils neatly to numbered segments of the scene above. Code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

BAILSMEN

- - - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram: bans, nabs, sab [illegible]

ARIES

March 21—April 20

A week of peace and harmony lies ahead You will settle disputes, restore harmony and heal hearts and minds. Moon conjuncts Saturn-Uranus this week and people will recognise your worth. Loans, funds, trusts and contracts will be secured. Mars in your sun-sign according to Western astrology will give you pep and push but will also make you accident prone. Passion characterises all that you do Love on the cards.

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Turmoil and tranquillity will paradoxically, go together, as Saturn shifts to the ninth angle from this week. This implies evolution, travel, alliances both personal and otherwise collaborations, contracts, joint ventures and marriage for some. Expenses will spiral Money matters and property disputes demand attention A confrontation cannot be ruled out. A wedding in the family is likely. Try to steer clear of misunderstandings.

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

The Diwali legacy for Geminis is a job-hop or a promotion in the same organisation. Pets, specially dogs, cats and squirrels will demand attention Do not take chances with your health Travel to distant lands, campaigns, new ventures and an affair of the heart are signified. Go for regular health check ups Do not ignore even minor coughs and colds.

CANCER

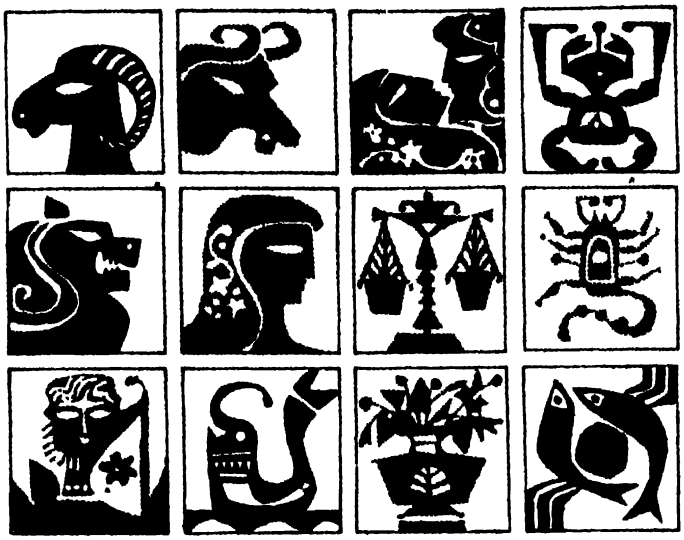
June 21—July 20

Even if you try something too elaborate, it will succeed. Rely on your intuition in all matters and grab every opportunity. Childrens, sports, hobbies, romance, films, publicity and sports will take a great deal of your time. Important news will come your way towards the weekend. Except visitors and new assignments.

LEO

July 21—August 21

Home affairs, property disputes, renovation, decoration and alteration will demand time. This is the time to branch out and do what your heart tells you to. An exciting week for most of you when you will be able to satisfy a long-standing wish.



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

Last week's new moon will now help you to gather news, write effectively, communicate ad finalise important deeds and documents. Trips and excursions are in the offing for Virgoans Old friends and sweethearts will get in touch. You will make new friends as well Your creativity will reach new heights now. Hard work cannot be ruled out.

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

Money matters are likely to worry you now. However, trips and family get-togethers are indicated Those in business, industry and real estate are assured of loans and funds. Mortgages, buying, selling, renovation and decoration are on the cards Mid-week is the time for it The last three days will bring entertaining and socialising.

BIRTHDAYS

November 13

Moon conjunction Saturn-Neptune. Your moods will oscillate wildly. A shift is not ruled out. Correspondence and responsibilities will definitely multiply. Expect a break-through in May and September next year. A year of hard work, partnerships, links, ceremonies and partings lies ahead.

November 14

Sun sextile moon: This sextile signifies opportunities for, rapid advancement, be it job, profession, business or freelancing. If you are ready to work, you can start out on your own. Your [illegible] and influence should be [illegible]

November 16

Moon trine Venus: The moon's quarter will helps you to go places. Deals will be struck, collaborations possible and renovation, decoration, buying, selling and alteration probable. Those in import-export, sales and films will do well.

November 17

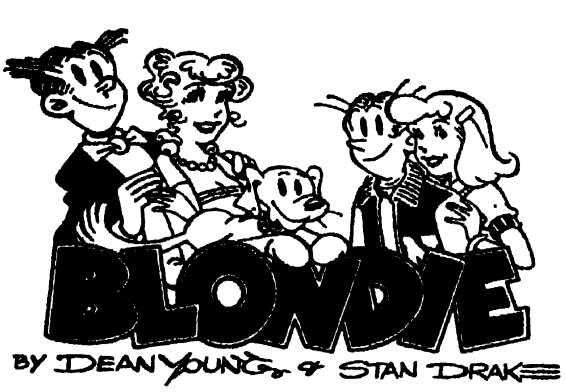
Moon square Jupiter: Children, romance, creative pursuits, and hobbies are indicated. Artists, painters, teachers and sportsmen will excell in all that they do. This is a year to put your message across.

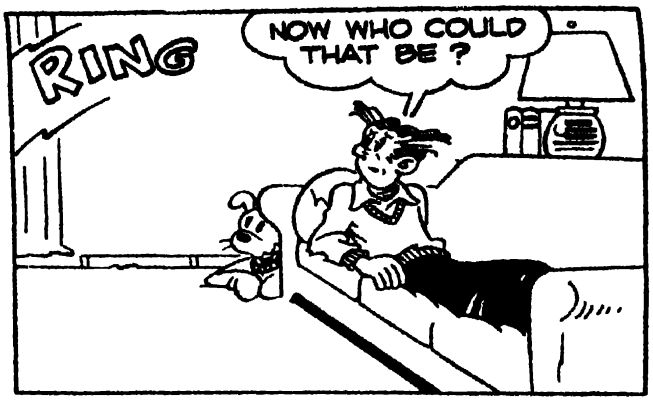
November 18

Moon trine Pluto: This trine gives you zeal and power. Enthusiasm, in turn, promises success. Group [illegible] is ideal for the year [illegible]

[illegible] 18

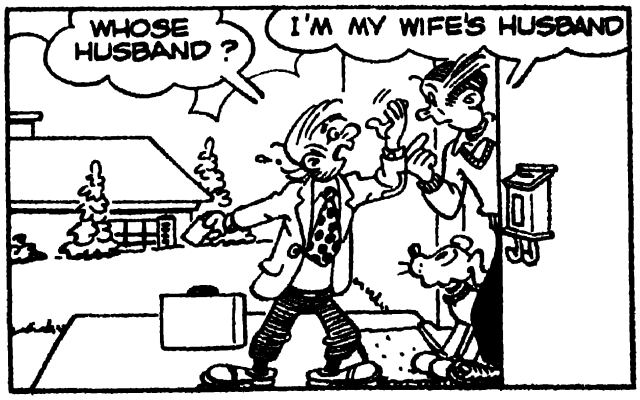
[illegible] with [illegible] year of [illegible] [illegible] will prove their [illegible] [illegible] will [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

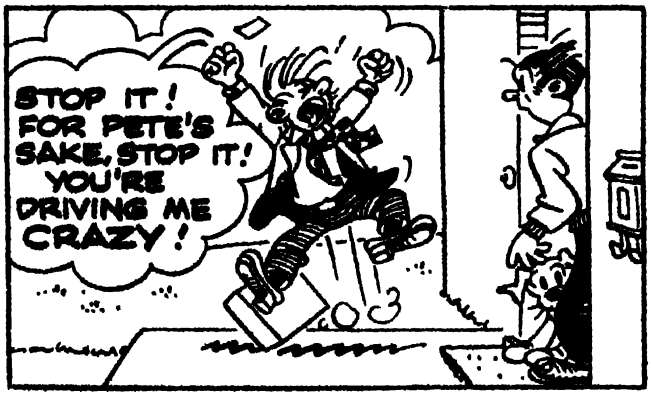






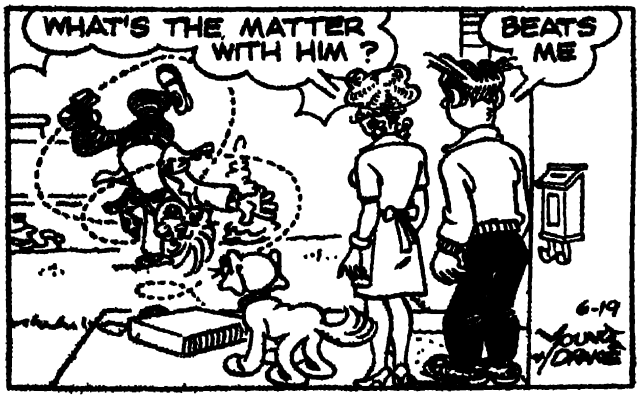








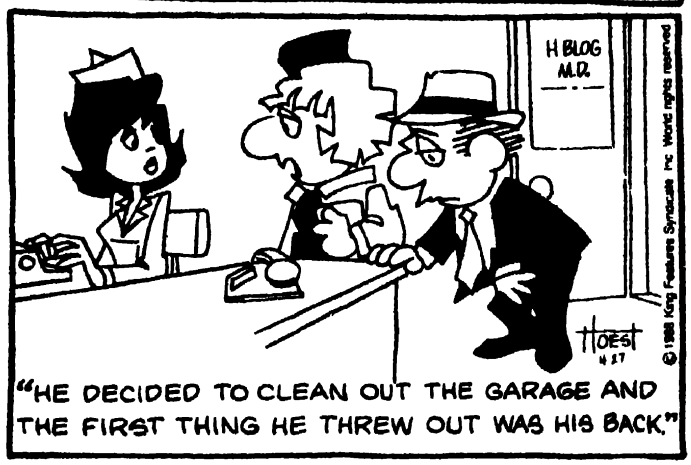
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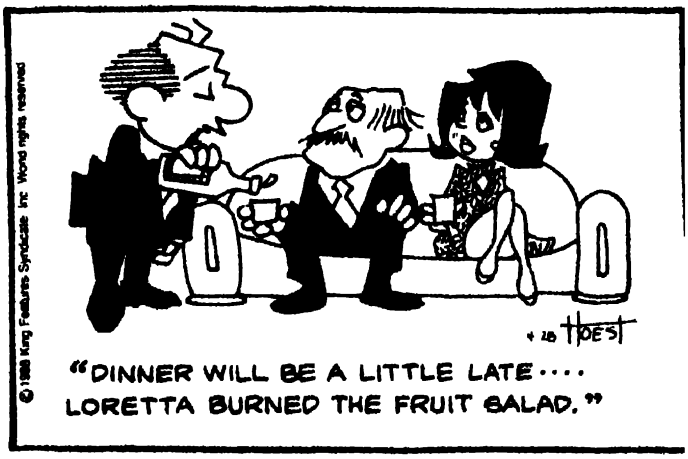



THIS IS VIRGINIA HAMM...
SPUT! BANG!
SPUT! BANG!
ROLL BACK THE TAPE AND WE'LL TRY IT AGAIN!
THIS IS VIRGINIA HAMM SPEAKING TO YOU FROM RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL!
5-8
WHERE TODAY, MR WALDO WEATHERBEE, THE PRINCIPAL, WILL BE HONORED FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE!
R
AND I'M GOING TO INTERVIEW SOME OF THE STUDENTS HERE TO GET THEIR VIEWS OF THIS NOTED EDUCATOR!
DUH-H... MR. WEATHERBEE'S A GOOD PRINCIPAL!
R
WOULD YOU SAY THAT HE'S OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD?
DUH-H... NO! I THINK HE'S SITTING DOWN IN HIS OFFICE!
R

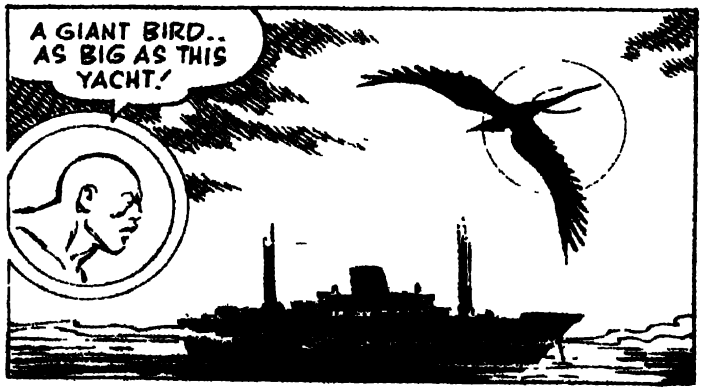

HOEST 4-25
"NO MORE FOR ME, THANKS. I THINK I'VE ALREADY HAD A LETHAL DOSE."


HOEST 4-26
"I'M GOING FOOD SHOPPING. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET?"


H BLOG M.D.
HOEST 4-27
"HE DECIDED TO CLEAN OUT THE GARAGE AND THE FIRST THING HE THREW OUT WAS HIS BACK."

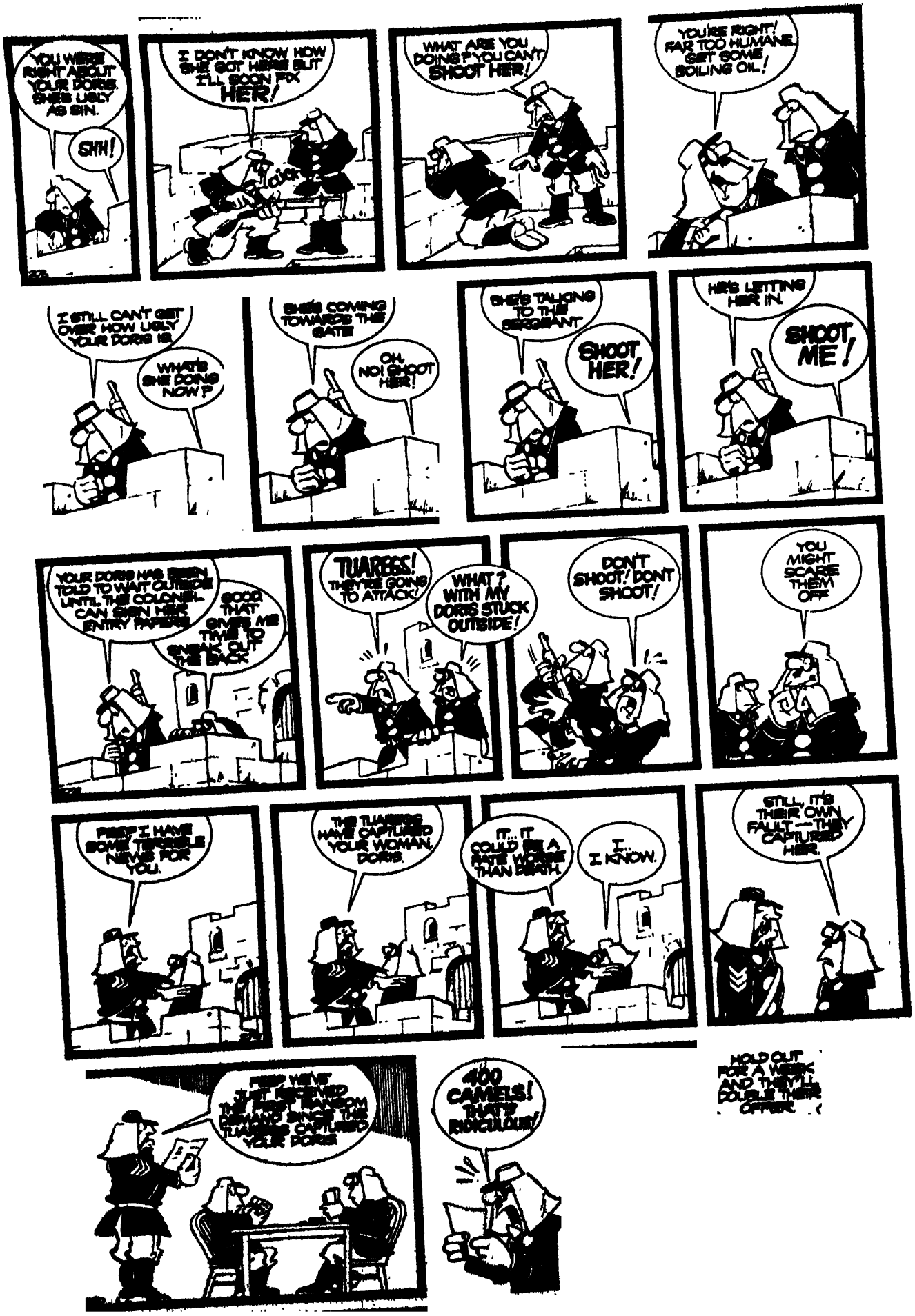

4-28 HOEST
"DINNER WILL BE A LITTLE LATE.... LORETTA BURNED THE FRUIT SALAD."


...I WAS ASLEEP ON DECK.. SOMETHING WOKE ME UP.. WIND ON MY FACE... A SOUND OF... GREAT WINGS!


A GIANT BIRD.. AS BIG AS THIS YACHT!


..BUT IT SPED OFF.. LIKE THE WIND.. TO THAT PLACE.. TABOO ISLE!
NOW.. LOTHAR...!

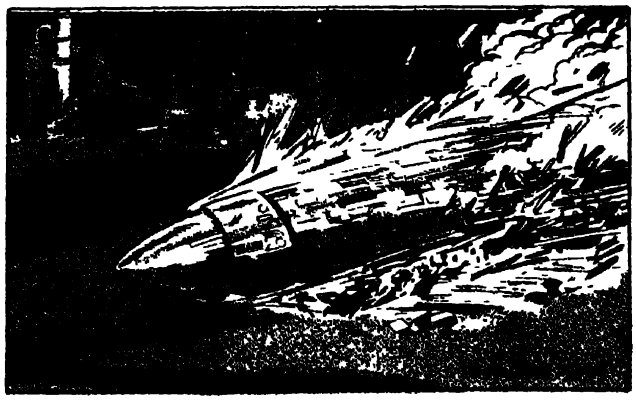

A BIRD AS BIG AS THIS SHIP?
A DREAM! MAYBE YOU DREAMED IT!
NO.. I'M SURE.. PRETTY SURE.. I SAW. I.. DON'T THINK IT WAS A DREAM.. OR.. WAS IT?
7-24
NEXT WEEK: PROOF


YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT YOUR DORIS. SHE'S UGLY AS SIN.
SHH!
I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE GOT HERE BUT I'LL SOON FIX HER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T SHOOT HER!
YOU'RE RIGHT! FAR TOO HUMANE. GET SOME BOILING OIL!
I STILL CAN'T GET OVER HOW UGLY YOUR DORIS IS.
WHAT'S SHE DOING NOW?
SHE'S COMING TOWARDS THE GATE
OH, NO! SHOOT HER!
SHE'S TALKING TO THE SERGEANT
SHOOT HER!
HE'S LETTING HER IN
SHOOT ME!
YOUR DORIS HAS BEEN TOLD TO WAIT OUTSIDE UNTIL THE COLONEL CAN SIGN HER ENTRY PAPERS.
GOOD! THAT GIVES ME TIME TO SNEAK OUT THE BACK
TUAREGS! THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK!
WHAT? WITH MY DORIS STUCK OUTSIDE!
DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!
YOU MIGHT SCARE THEM OFF
FIRST I HAVE SOME TERRIBLE NEWS FOR YOU.
THE TUAREGS HAVE CAPTURED YOUR WOMAN, DORIS.
IT... IT COULD BE A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH.
I... I KNOW.
STILL, IT'S THEIR OWN FAULT — THEY CAPTURED HER.
FIRST WE'VE JUST RECEIVED THE FIRST RANSOM DEMAND SINCE THE TUAREGS CAPTURED YOUR DORIS
400 CAMELS! THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HOLD OUT FOR A WEEK AND THEY'LL DOUBLE THEIR OFFER.


HE-MAN
MASTERS
UNARMED, THE "QUEEN ILEENE" IS AN EASY MARK FOR BLADE'S GUNNER
FOOLS! YOUR GOOD INTENTIONS ARE NO MATCH FOR MY LASER CANNONS!


BRACE YOURSELVES! WE'RE GOING TO HIT HARD!

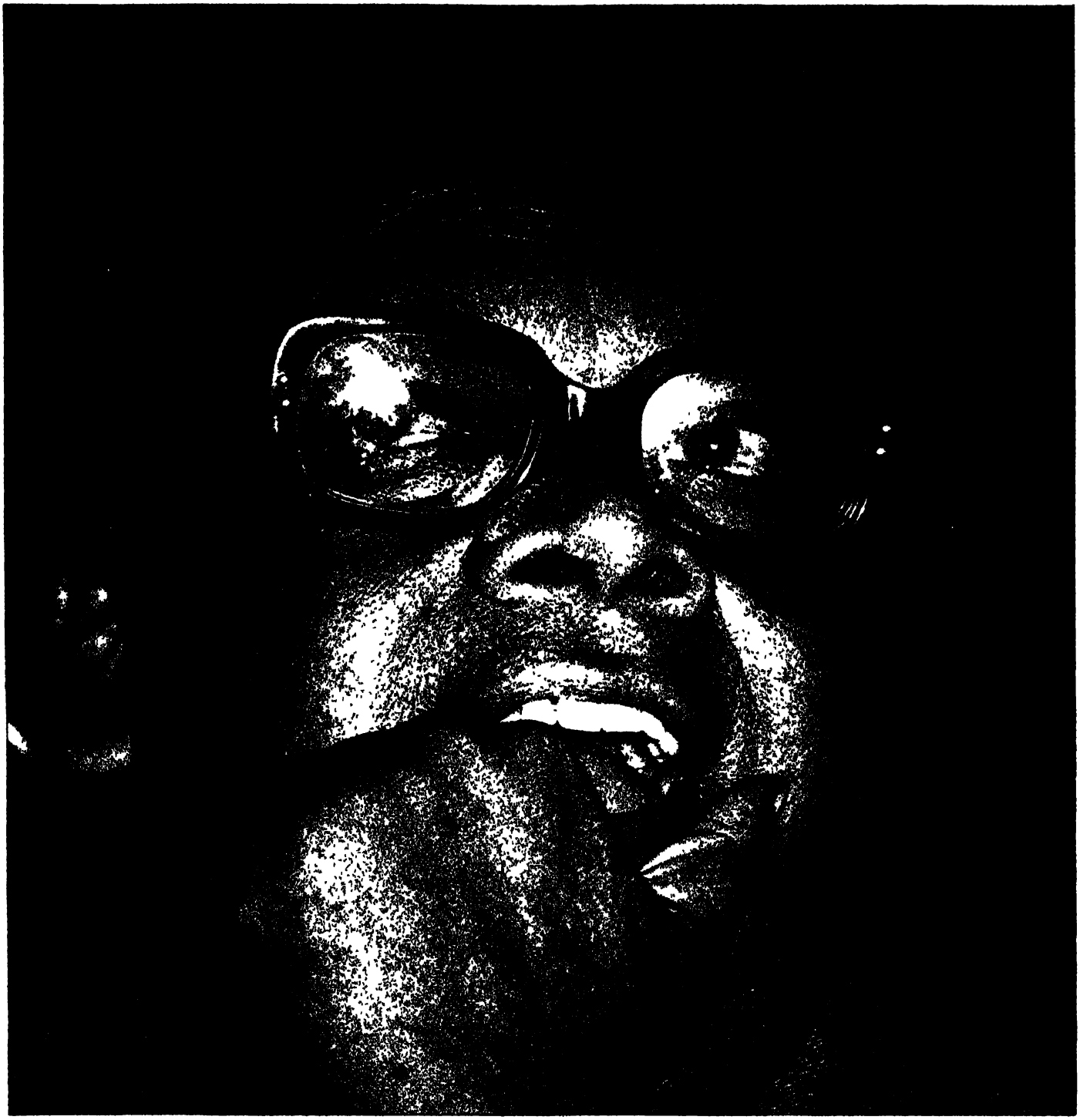





WE SURRENDER! MT VULDAN IS YOURS! JUST LET US GO IN PEACE!


INSIDE, THE "QUEEN ILENE," A SINGLE VOICE RISES ABOVE THE TRIUMPHANT SCREAMS OF BLADE'S PIRATE CREW.
TEELA.. TEELA?!

CANDID CAMERA



And now, **A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury** returns as president of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress(I) Committee in the hope that he might succeed in putting Humpty Dumpty together. Barkatda, as he is popularly known, must be ready to get his teeth into the problem, but one hopes that he won't end up as another president who has bitten off more than he can chew. Photograph by JAGDISH YADAV

CALLING ALL WIZ KIDS



Help Unicef promote greeting cards and get a gift

The festive season is here again and with it the time to send greeting cards to friends and relatives. Add to it a special thought for the needy children of the world. Unicef has a super range of cards for Christmas and New Year—in rainbow colours and attractive designs. And for you Unicef and the Grand Wiz have worked out a special treat loaded with glorious gifts, each more enticing than the other.

All you have to do to get the gift is to buy cards from the Unicef office. Don't forget to take your passport along! The scheme is on till January 31, 1989. So rush for your gifts, Wiz kids!

Unicef, East India Office,
3 Sunny Park, Calcutta 700019.



• For five packs you will get an attractive pencil, scale and eraser set.

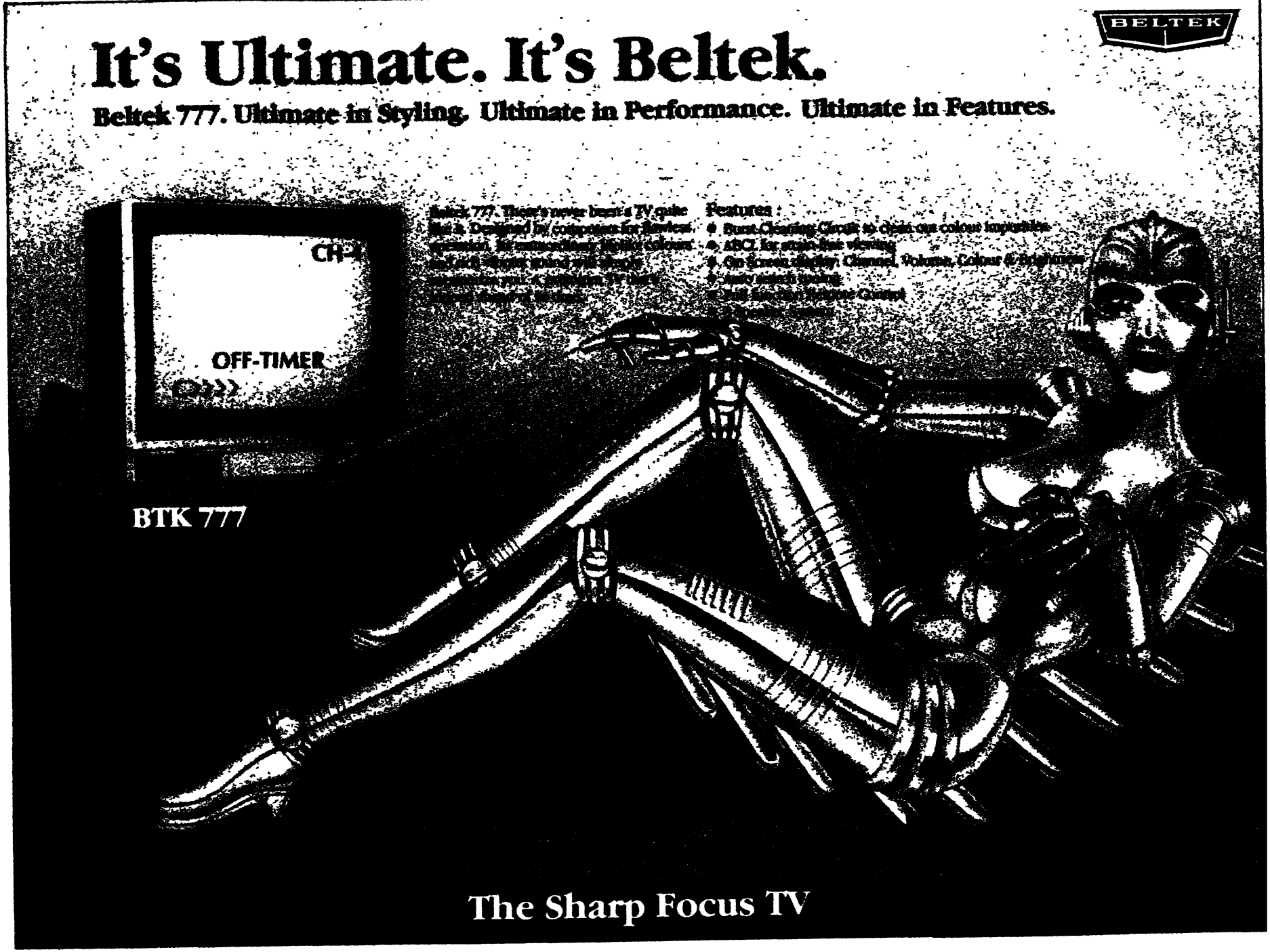
• The Olympics Pocket Quiz and a Japanese seven colour marker pencil is yours for 10 packs of cards.

• Take home a digital watch with 25 packs.

• One crime-fighter eraser comes with two packs of cards

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Beltek 777. Ultimate in Styling. Ultimate in Performance. Ultimate in Features.



The Sharp Focus TV

POST MORTEM

Bringing Them to Light

Your focus on the 'Six of the Best' (September 4), which included a Kushan gold coin at the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, was praiseworthy.

The Parishad is also enriched with priceless objects of sculpture, terracotta, old manuscripts, pictures and books which throw light on the cultural heritage of India. These should also be made accessible to the reading public through your pages. The Colour Magazine has set a delightful trend by publishing material about the six priceless items in Calcutta's collection, so long hidden, so to say, from the public eye

Kanai Chandra Paul,
Secretary, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad,
Calcutta

Being There

Sunil Gangopadhyay in his Puja Special article, 'The Terrific Ten' (October 16), said that Aparna Sen would have ranked with Shabana Azmi and Smita Patil had she moved to Bombay

Aparna *had* moved to Bombay in the early part of her career, but unfortunately could not get a foothold there.

Sumit Kumar Roy,
Calcutta

And Jewellery for Men?

Your Jewellery Special issue (October 2) was not a complete one. You completely ignored the men. Fashion is meant for both men and women and jewellery is part of fashion.

Debasish Nandi,
Jaherpur (Nadia)

The Spirit of the Puja

Mamata Shankar's 'The Spirit of the Bengali Woman' (October 16) made a mockery of the Puja spirit. Reiterating time and again that she is not one of the 'burn-the-bra libbers', she, nevertheless, mocked the men who go to the deity to offer *puja*—blind in her belief that the men, like the *rakshasas*, fear Her.

Instead of indulging in chauvinistic mud-slinging, I would just like to advise her not to confuse the humility on a devotee's face with "chauvinism thrown off-gear." This humility is reflected on all devotees' faces, so why single out men?

Vikesh Sinha,
Jamshedpur

■ The article by Mamata Shankar was very inspiring. It is true that during Durga Puja, one should always try to bring the inner resources out of one's self, but coming back from the Puja *pandal*, one feels very depressed. Where is that inner strength? Most of the girls today are busy with their dress and ornaments, limiting themselves to 'enjoyment.' Why is that spirit of the Bengali woman missing today?

Pamela Banerjee,
Jamshedpur

Humans, Too

I appreciate Madhavi Irani's sympathy for the canine species in her article, 'After Faith, Indignity' (October 9), but cannot help reminding her that charity begins at home. Thousands of human corpses are treated with even more indignity since they are not fortunate enough to be claimed by their more affluent fellow beings.

Tanusree Chatterjee,
Calcutta

■ My dog, an Alsatian, died the year before last and I went through the same motions as Dinesh Trivedi. The only difference being that I did not meet any kind-hearted nuns. I was forced to give her a watery grave which appeared to be the lesser evil as compared to the filth of Dhapa.

This has been the main reason why I am not inclined to keep another dog. I sincerely wish something is done for the disposal of our pets' bodies.

Sriram Srinivasan,
Calcutta



Vivek Das

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The Telegraph

20 NOVEMBER 1988



14 As the saying goes M F Husain needs no introduction. We publish some choice paintings of the master extracted from his latest book which covers a range of 60 years. It's, simply, Husain

4 It doesn't take too much effort to get back to the old favourite, Calcutta. This time it's the roads

SECTIONS

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11 Heritage
12 Quiz
13 Poetry
20 7 Days
23 Junior Whirl
24 Inner Eye
30 Candid Camera

Cover M F Husain

ALL ROADS LEAD TO...

...potholes, speedbreakers, and worse. At least, in Calcutta, says Tumuluru Sri Ramchander

One possible reason why people look down upon Calcutta is because they have to! Consider you are driving on a two wheeler on the large test-tracks of land, which the civic authorities with ich audacity call 'roads' or more pom ously 'avenues' or 'sarani'. On, to name it a few, Burdwan Road, Circular Garden Reach Road or the road approaching Lak Gardens, you would, of nec ssity, have t look down rather than always look straight ahead. That would be to reduce th considerable physical tortu e (aggravate if you are a pillion) and me ital strain the you as a morta and helpless resident c Charnock's city would have in trying t avoid the built-in speedbreakers in com mon parlance, potholes. As not a potholes are in a straight line you would be compelled to carry out this exercise doing a Maradona, that is, follow a non linear path even on the elite Park Street where a recent traffic sign declares lane cutting to be an offence.

This city, I would reckon, must be having the dubious distinction of having the largest, both in size and number, potholes, for I do not seem to have come across a single road, barring the understandably better Red Road, which doesn't have a pothole or a manhole now submerged in the middle, the adjoining road having been built upon over the years. Driving a mobike here sharply contrasts with the pleasure of driving (or call it the spirit freedom, so forcefully suggested b motorcycle ads, the only similarity bein the rough terrain portrayed in the ads which however is used to depict th superior strength of the vehicle and the macho qualities of the driver. Indeed, driving could be an unpleasant, risky and unsafe experience for those of us who do not normally take part in safari or Himalayan rallies and particularly, I would imagine, for women in an advanced stage of pregnancy. To distort an ad of a leading tyre manufacturer: A pothole is a pothole. Always ahead.

This well-meaning article is written after several worn-out soles and retreaded tyres, in the earnest hope that it would, however optimistic it may sound, provoke the civic authorities to better the health of Calcutta's roads by at least filling up these boundless craters which we mortals have to traumatically endure *ek din pratidin* or, at least, to resurrect their conscience (if they ever had one) for their callous disregard and remarkable insensitivity to maintain roads (which is their job).

A recent newsitem that the city's mayor had announced that the potholes at select areas would be filled does give some hope, but this is both predictable and understandable when either elections or the Pujas are around the next pothole crea



as, around the corner). To assist the pothole-filling authorities (I think it was Robert Lynd who, so aptly described them as the RSPMT—the Royal Society for the Prevention of Motor Transport), the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) has appropriately announced, it is learnt, a photography contest on Calcutta's VIPs (VIPs are Very Impossible Potholes, so designated on account of their comparative superiority of length x breadth x depth and potential for inconvenience). While similar protests airing public discontent have in the past been promoted by various groups, the AAEI, and at times, by the local media, after which we have witnessed some level of activity in repairing roads, these have, at best, been (very) short-term measures.

Often, in our frustration, we, in resigned weariness, do hope that a tonic would be administered to the roads rather than perishable ointment being applied on select bruises. One does hear or read of the World Bank funding projects for the betterment of roads but there appears to be no visible evidence (or rather there does!) of the (mis)use of such funds.

While western engineers are planning a road of the future visualised as an ultrafast automated stretch of road using laser, radar and ultrasonic beams (notable experiments having been conducted in West Germany), our planners seem to have a positive plan to take our roads back into the dark ages (and that is, literally, during loadshedding) of yestercentury It is not that the authorities are incapable of laying good roads. Achievements like the Red Road and the Eastern Metro Bypass are sterling in comparison. But such achievements are so few that the problem, it appears, is the lack of a political will dampened, perhaps, by the lack of vociferous protests from the more vocal residents

I have often wondered why no one takes out a procession against that sorry state of public utilities such as telephones, loadshedding and, of course, poor roads (though various other forms of mock protest have been in vogue) in a city where effecting processions appears to be the profession of certain sections of the populace, even for seemingly remote and aimless causes. A procession protesting against bad roads would certainly be very down to earth!

Road conditions are, suffice it to say, pathetic (or is that the understatement of the century?), but what worries me greatly is not so much the incessant cribbing, increased helplessness, growing cynicism and worsening outlook that the roads offer, as the mute acceptance of the inevitable fate of roads by us fatalistic residents, something which we swallow day in and day out as though it were a sweet pill Perhaps, what we need is an organised body of residents called, let us say, the Calcutta Pothole Manch (CPM) to bring pressure on the authorities to alleviate our sufferings. This is necessary because we residents must ensure that the roads of this historic city must be built upon and be devoid of potholes rather than basking on the glory of yesteryear which incidentally also has the legacy of the Black Hole.



The pothole syndrome can be particularly telling on a newcomer who, say, has been transferred to the City of Joy from the capital city and is driven mad by the roads. Though the city indeed grows on you (as you are faithfully told no sooner than you arrive here) one does tend to get bitter at the woeful absence of basic systems so well summed up in the contemptuous answer one gets on asking, 'How long have you been in Cal?' "Two years, one month".

In this circle of residents, who have not yet woken up to the reality of living in an otherwise lovable city, where basic and efficient systems and amenities appear to be extinct and which is seemingly full of government authorities with an immoderate propensity to do nothing about it, one hears true but frightening stories. They, sadly though, only reinforce one's contempt for existing here

One such story, bordering on the impossible, is of an uncle and nephew who were pushing their car after a breakdown, one fine morning on the Howrah Bridge The nephew, one is led to believe, soon discovered that his uncle had disappeared as he had, in not-so-blissful ignorance, parachuted from a manhole deep into the river below (Imagine pushing your vehicle on one of those rainy days when Calcutta looks like Venice)

Yet another recent accident involved a yuppie on his motorcycle on his way to work on Taratala 'Road', whose bike skid after a close encounter of the disastrous kind with a pothole and who was immediately run over by a public carrier that was speeding from behind Thankfully, one does have a lot more helpful people in this city unlike some other cities which are ruled by an air of indifference, perhaps because here, they realise that something similar could happen to them, and they jump into action by taking the victim to the nearest hospital.

Having vented some of my feelings on Calcutta's roads thus, I can only recall, after re-reading about the above two mishaps, what the 14th century British philosopher, William of Ockham, had to say after years of study in search of God: You are here and anything may happen. ■

Lost and Never Found



The two accused in the Anurag Agarwal case, Debashish Banerjee and Bijon Barua, being produced at the Bankshall court

Anurag Agarwal, a 13-year-old boy, was kidnapped from in front of his school in south Calcutta. Till the time of writing he has not been traced.

Sanjoy Basak and **Tapas Chakraborty** report on the rising incidents of kidnapping in the city

Anurag Agarwal, a class 8 student of Julien Day School, was very excited. It was the day his producer friend Debashish Banerjee would be coming to fetch him for the film shooting Debashish had told him that he was to feature as a child artist in a television serial. At the appointed time, Anurag met his friend outside the school who arrived in a taxi with four others

Telling Anurag that "the shooting will be in Howrah," Debashish took Anurag to an abandoned godown of S K.K Dikshit and Company in Golabari. The plaster was peeling off the walls and it smelt dank and musty. Suddenly, Anurag's enthusiasm dampened and he pleaded with his companions, "I want to go home to papa." And here started the child's nightmare. Debashish, the gang leader, pinned the boy down while someone else administered a pethidine injection. This reconstruction of events is based on Debashish's confession to the police.

Meanwhile his worried parents contacted the Park Street police station All attempts to trace Anurag proved fruitless and finally on October 14 this year, the family received an anonymous phone call. The caller claimed that "Anurag has been kidnapped and if an amount of Rs one lakh was not paid, the boy will be killed."

Officials of the detective department (DD) advised Anurag's parents not to pay up but the family went ahead thinking it would secure Anurag's freedom. A rendezvous was decided in front of Basusree cinema in Hazra, south Calcutta, and Aurag's family members reached the

assigned spot with Rs 80,000. The sum was collected by a 10-year-old boy but Anurag's relatives received another call from his kidnappers claiming that they had not received the money and that the rest should be paid up by November 3. In panic they contacted the DD but as one officer said, "The mistake had already been made."

The DD laid a trap on November 3 and managed to nab the ring leader, Debashish Banerjee. The following day, another gang member, Bijon Barua, was apprehended But Anurag remained untraced Finally on November 5, the kidnappers confessed that they had killed the boy only a few days after kidnapping him. "We throttled him at Golabari in Howrah and threw the body in the Hooghly," Banerjee allegedly told the police Later, however, the accused retracted the statement and said "Only with the arrest of the others would the truth be revealed."

The police on their part, maintain a stony silence Deputy commissioner, DD, S.I.S Ahmed said, "Nothing can be said till the other three men are arrested." But despite all efforts, Anurag has yet not been found and neither has "the body" been recovered

Sanjeeb Singh, 10, was luckier than Anurag One afternoon in 1981, he had gone to a confectionary shop near his house in Uttarpara, Hooghly He did not return home Five years later he was found working in a tea stall at Duliajan in Assam Investigations revealed that he had been kidnapped by some miscreants who sold him to a rickshaw puller who once again sold him to the tea stall owner

Anurag and Sanjeeb represent only a very small fraction of the total number of children who are kidnapped every year According to unofficial estimates, 150 are listed as lost every month and at least 25 per cent of them are victims of kidnapping In most cases, the police cautions the realtives of those abducted from disclosing details but the rate recovery of the lost persons is hardly encouraging

Revenge, racketeering and ransom are some of the motives behind kidnapping. "Often what impedes the investigation is the reluctance of the parents to lay bare the full details of the background of the incident," said a senior police official The police, however, does not come out with flying colours. Its role, at least with respect to abductions, has always been very low-key. If the kidnapping gangs are organised and powerful, more often than not police investigations go awry and the kidnappers are never traced or those abducted are killed.

Usually, the services of women are used to entice female victims. On April 10 this year, a 14-year-old girl was abducted



Anurag Agarwal

from her residence in Paikpara. The police later arrested one Jharna Naskar who disclosed that she had sold the girl to a businessman in Lucknow. While police sources admitted that flesh trading was rampant in the city, parents of victims were hardly forthcoming because when it came to legal proceedings against the accused, they refused to allow their daughters to stand in the witness box

It may be recalled that early last year three children were kidnapped and never traced Two of them were abducted from NRS hospital and one from Lower Circular Road near Sealdah In each case the same gang used the same modus operandi

One day during visiting hours Rukhsana Devi along with her 10-year-old daughter and seven-month-old child went to visit a relative at NRS hospital She left the baby with her daughter and went inside As soon as she left, a middle-aged lungi-clad man approached the girl and gave her money to buy a cake. A soon as the girl left to buy it, leaving the baby with the man, he disappeared. Within a week the man struck again and another one-year-old child was kidnapped from the hospital The police pulled up its socks and kept a strict vigil at all the city hospitals but the kidnapper merely changed the site of his operations. He struck where he was sure of success and his victims were usually from the economically weaker section. This time, he approached a girl near the Sealdah flyover and asked her to get him food from her father's kiosk. He offered to look after her one-year-old brother but when she returned she found no one there DD officials worked round-the-clock but failed to trace the man "After two years there is no chance of getting back the children Moreover, they cannot be identified," a police official pointed out

Another major failure was the case of 10-year-old Ujjal Mondol in 1984 The child was kidnapped for ransom from his Kasba residence The state and the city police pressed their best sleuths into service only to recover the child's body from a pond in South 24-Paraganas

An official of the detective department admitted that if the parents and the local people fail to cooperate 'becomes difficult to trace the kidnapped boys and girls " But he also admitted that "due to their heavy committment to law and order duties do not find time to investigate cases thoroughly "

There is a school of thought which believes that young women and men like to be kidnapped so that they can fulfil the masochistic desires they harbour against their parents By getting themselves abducted they fulfil the desire of humiliating their parents and punishing them for what they perceive as neglect and rejection. "What has compounded this psychological drift is the exposure of children to video and adult programmes on television," said a police official He added, "Unless something is immediately done to stop this, the present generation will suffer permanent psychological damage " But, surely this is not the only solution to stop this spate in abductions ■

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT

Footfalls echo in the memory
Down the passage which we did not take
Towards the door we never opened
Into the rose garden My words echo
Thus, in your mind
Burnt Norton, *Four Quartets*

Because so little is known for sure about Eliot's (b September 26, 1888) almost life-long attachment with Emily Hale, and virtually nothing about the contents of the thousands of letters they exchanged over decades, the field is wide open both for research and fiction. A number of highly controversial questions have been raised. What was the precise nature of their relationship? Had

Apurba Chakraborty analyses T.S. Eliot's love life on the occasion of his birth centenary year

they really been in love at all? How deeply was Emily's heart engaged? And what about Eliot's? Were those thousands of letters all *billets-doux*? Or were they merely friendly ones? Did he share his secrets with her? And did she with him? And, of course, that thousand-pound-question: Did they or did they not.. ? These questions have been asked and answered several times before, but certainly not to everyone's satisfaction.

Was it just a 48-year-long smile and shake of the hand? Certainly not to Emily's mind, and not on Emily's part. She was his oldest friend and, perhaps, his closest. "It was more than a friendship," concludes T.S. Matthews, definitely not a flirtation, something a little less than a love affair but very like a long engagement." John Slow observes: "Emily Hale may have been the most enduring love of his life....That Eliot kept her at arm's length for decades does not, considering his character, disprove the supposition of love."

When Eliot set off from Harvard for Europe in 1914, not to return again for 18 years, he was 25, she 22; old enough to be in love though hardly at the age of committing themselves! We may hazard a guess though—that she was "fond of him, ' that he liked her very much but, for the present, preferred to get it alone, and she could understand and accept it

In a gesture of surrender, hoping to overcome his chronic detachment from life, in 1915, Eliot had in two months courted and wed an English girl, Vivienne Haigh-Wood, "the sometime governess, sometime painter, sometime ballerina" whom he first met "at an Oxford punting-party." The unexpected word of his almost clandestine marriage came to Emily as a very buffeting blow However, she managed to recover from the shock and came to terms with its implications. Yet, it must have chastened her, *altered* her opinion about him would have been perhaps too drastic a word Eliot seemed to Emily less wise than she had thought him, more unstable, and liable to "the awful daring of a moment's surrender" (*The Waste Land*)

Eliot, nevertheless, had to endure the consequences of his youthful folly The marriage was a disaster. They had a "disastrous *pseudo honeymoon* at Eastbourne," observed Lyndall Gordon, "not far from suicide " Sickly, high-strung, cuttingly sarcastic Vivienne showed, according to Bertrand Russell, "a Dos-



T.S. Eliot

Bibliography: *Eliot's Early Years* by Lyndall Gordon, *Great Tom* by T S Matthews, *T S Eliot* by Peter Ackroyd

toievsky kind of cruelty, not a straightforward, everyday kind." Most possibly, Russell, who had "the sexual morals of an alley cat," had also seduced Vivienne within months of her marriage to Eliot. Vivienne quickly exhausted Eliot's patience and his slim financial reserves They would eventually separate in 1933. But until then, Eliot lived in constant confrontation with the demon of his own impotence

After Eliot's marriage, it was several years before he met Emily again; but letters went back and forth They kept in touch. Meantime, she had her life to live The marriage was certainly a rude interruption of their intimacy, but no more than an interruption. The relationship, momentarily severed, knitted itself together and survived, stronger than ever

But was it from him or from someone else that Emily learned about the failure of Eliot's marriage? She must have seen him when he came to Harvard in 1932—after 18 long years He had not yet broken the news to Vivienne herself that he was not going back to her, did he tell Emily either?

Whatever peace Eliot had been able to make with himself about the separation was fragile at best Since 1933, it had been threatened a number of times by Vivienne's effort to arrange a reconciliation or, at least, to stage one more scene. But after Vivienne's nervous breakdown, her eyes became "the eyes I dare not meet in dreams" (*The Hollow Men*)

Emily had condoned Eliot's youthful lapse, which she considered unworthy of him, but still forgivable. Much later, she made an obvious and unmistakable reference· "A very dear friend of mine was involved, early in life, with a weak and selfish and seriously unstable partner. For many years, I observed the disastrous effects of this marriage—the blighting, debilitating, irreversibly destructive effects of it on my friend." She had endured with Eliot his prolonged expiation. She understood and at least partly sympathised with his conviction that as long as Vivienne lived, he was not free.

When Vivienne died in a mental hospital in 1947, Emily was 56, Eliot nearly 60. Too late to marry now? She might have thought so, and might have reconciled herself to that prospect. For eight more years, their platonic affair went on. They met in many places, over many years: in California, at Chipping Campden, at Northampton, Massachusetts, Andover. The days that marked his visits to her were the brightest of her life.

(When in April, 1949 Mary Trevelyan expressed her feelings for Eliot and in fact suggested marriage, Eliot explained that his past affection for Emily rendered any new relationship impossible for him.)



Emily Hale

Nevertheless, Eliot had his other Egeria in England—Valerie Fletcher—of whom Emily was unaware, as Valerie was ignorant of Emily. Not much later, in the eyes of Emily, Eliot came to stand convicted in the words of his own mouth: "Do not let me hear / Of the wisdom of old men, but rather of their folly"—as like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, the unexpected, unacceptable, stunning news came to her ears that at the age of 68, he had married his secretary! If he was capable of repeating the folly of youth in the foolishness of old age, felt Emily, if he was capable of making the same mistake twice, he could not be the man she had known, admired and loved.

"Poor Emily was incurably and almost uncomfortably in love for so many frustrated years, always believing that if she were patient long enough, her moment of glory would assuredly arrive," wrote Emily's friend. "But it didn't, and when Mr Eliot married his second wife, the poor woman nearly went out of her mind." Thus ended Emily Hale's precarious happiness. "I led a busy life..." she concluded herself, "but not a gay life."

With Valerie clinging to the Eliot papers so passionately, and so very possessively and so very very protectively, it has not yet been possible to have a glimpse of the umpteen letters Emily wrote to Eliot. She once wrote a 'treatise' about her friendship with Eliot with an idea of publishing it; and then deciding it too intimate, destroyed it. But there are a good many letters from Eliot to Emily—more than a thousand—gathering dust in the University Library at Princeton. By the terms of her bequest and by her promise to him, however, the letters and the tale they tell may not be made public till January 1, 2020.

Should Tom Eliot and Emily Hale have married? Were they ever actually engaged? To some of her friends she certainly gave the impression that they were. Was it a lucky escape for her, or for him, or for both of them, that their lives turned out as they did? No one can possibly know the answer—at least not yet, at any rate

And then, the thousand-pound-question again: Did they or did they not...As late as 1914, even after Eliot left Emily behind on the other side of the Atlantic, he was still a virgin "I should be better off, I sometimes think, if I had disposed of my virginity and shyness several years ago: and indeed I still think sometimes that it would be well to do so before marriage (*The Letters of T.S. Eliot*, Ed. Valerie Eliot, Vol. 1: 1898-1922) And a relationship conducted across the Atlantic by means of flowers could not, of its nature, be a passionate one!

Yet, the less charitable observer would perhaps leap to an agreeably scandalous conclusion that they *did*— but their observation should perhaps be taken with a larger pinch of salt than the recipe calls for when one remembers that Vivienne herself complained "he has not average strength," and that Eliot "lived in constant confrontation with the demon of his own impotence."

And four years before he was to see Emily again in 18 years since 1914, Eliot took a vow of celibacy in 1928; whether owing to his lack of "average strength" or otherwise, remains a matter of conjecture though. Lyndall Gordon reiterates this in her latest book, *Eliot's New Life* (Oxford, 1988), a sequel to her *Eliot's Early Years* (Oxford, 1977) where she previously hinted: "About March, 1928 ..one of his first tasks was to come to terms with celibacy and to find it easy for the first time."

Notwithstanding the furore of controversy that hovers over the question, it would perhaps be safer to suggest that the kind of close intimacy they maintained for decades—sexual relationship between them was neither sufficient, nor was it really necessary. Such closeness can quite frequently be seen between husbands and their lovers—but such closeness can also be seen between a nun and her mentor

Like that "very *private* man" Eliot, Emily too was by nature mysterious and secretive: a lady of significant silences, a lady of barely hinted-at situations Like Eliot, Emily's "every speech, every move, every gesture, all had one thing in common: they were all the right ones." In many ways, she was like him, perhaps too like him: intelligent, elegant, arrogant, immensely discriminating. Her fair warning to one of her pupils who intended to write her life was: "My dear, you will need to sharpen many pencils." Emily was left only with fond memories of Eliot to echo him: "These fragments I have shored against my ruins"; (*The Waste Land*) and her life which has been nourished and sustained by her belief in Eliot, however, fell into dust and ashes. ■

POLICE TALK

Since early childhood, I have been relentlessly exposed to the police When I was born, my mother was away at some hospital, and my earliest memories are of suckling the toe of my left foot (or was it the little finger of the right?) and gurgling with thoughtful trepidition at the face of an uniformed police officer leaning over my cradle.

Later events revealed him to be my own father

My next major brush with the police came when I was a seven-and-a-half-year-old child being interrogated one rainy night at the police-station after a robbery at our house I, strangely, was suspect number one The case was simple it had been raining heavily all day, and I had found a man taking shelter under our covered verandah Father was away and mother was in the kitchen at the back of the house Feeling that the duties of the host devolved on me, I had innocuously invited the man in Subsequent events revealed the Julius Caesar in him, for, he came, he saw, he grabbed and took off. Naturally I exclaimed rather vociferously at his unsociability and, hearing it, my mother emerged from her lair with a rolling pin in one hand, dough on the other and a shout on her lips.

Wrenched out of normal pursuits by her shouts, the neighbours soon joined us in hot pursuit of our socialistic stranger, with me leading the posse. After the initial enthusiasm of running barefoot in the dark had been washed away by the rain, we returned to gossip and formulate theories over hot cups of tea and then proceeded to the police-station, where I was unable to explain that the chase had been inspired not by

A humorous account by one who has been on both sides of the law

our fleet-footed comrade before us but by the thought of a rolling pin toting mother behind me. I was, therefore, unable to trace his route

The officer looked me hard in the face, and after grilling the other witnesses, finally pounced on me, thus beginning his interrogation The questions were comprehensive, always ending with "Why" and covered the entire range from apples to Apollos; the only thing he did not ask was whether Dr Crippen had been any relation of mine. In conclusion, he drilled it into what he was pleased to call my head, that thieves are made to be run after; that though there be a mother attached to a rolling-pin, it is a very inferior sort of inspiration for a bigger and better life.

On another occasion, the water-meter of the tank on the top of our roof was stolen. A conscientious police officer turned up, and after superlatively "sir-ing" my father, took to the scene of the crime with me as guide After innumerable grotesque stances of kneeling, bending, balancing on his belly button, tapping and pursuing of lips, this between grunts and dictating facts to his assistant, he asked me the million dollar question "Who," he said, "stole it?"

Adolescence is a period of identity crisis, this fact revealed itself to me the hard way The Pujas had come, and our *para* had roused itself from the stupor of summer-induced inactivity for the annual bash Competition, as always, was rife between rival clubs to make the maximum waste of money I, too, was caught in the flurry, but being congenitally incapable of any sort of hard work, thankfully left the job of collecting subscriptions and the myriad other odd jobs to others, and was content issuing instructions from my perch, a packing crate In vain did the rival neighbourhood try to match our extravagance, they put thinking caps over their gloomy countenances and watched the waning of their *para*'s prestige, while we smiled in complacent satisfaction

Then, a few days before the actual orgy, a tall, dark and police-um persona called on us As usual, the others were away doing overtime public relations to stretch subscription amounts from alms to respectability, and I was on the crate directing the decorators He cleared his throat, took out a list as long as his arm, and asked, "Who is...?" There followed some 20 names led by mine. "Why?" I asked. "Because," he said, "these antisocials are allegedly extorting subscriptions, and the OC wanted to have a chat about it with them." Leadership, I have always held, is an enviable proposition, but head of the department of antisocials leading a deputation to the police station was a different kettle of fish altogether, especially if your father happens to head the anti-rowdy department of the police

The chat was decidedly one-sided, and if I remember correctly, our practical socialism was discouraged in very strong terms. We protested, and thankfully, the report against us was proved false by our alleged "victims " Luckily, too, I was able to conceal my father's relation to the force Our rivals did not have any chance to compete with us that year for they were all apparently in police custody for lodging a false complaint.

Call it luck, or call it irony of fate, I say *Que sera sera.* whatever will be will be. Now, when I am not shooting the odd man, I'm generally doing as has been done to me, like frightening children, arresting people who are later found to be unarrestable, or asking stupid questions.

They say I make a great policeman

Dipendra N. Chatterjee

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DR AMAL ROY CHOWDHURY (1892-1959)



Born to Bhabanath and Bijoybasini in a Taki zamindar family on June 9, 1892, Dr Amal Roy Chowdhury was an outstanding medical practitioner of his time. He had his schooling at Metropolitan Main and later joined Calcutta Medical College in 1908. He obtained gold medals in anatomy, physiology, meteria medica, pathology, midwifery and medicine. He did his MB in 1914 and was awarded the prestigious Good Eve medal of Calcutta University. He obtained his MD in 1918.

In 1915 Dr Roy Chowdhury married Snehalata Devi, daughter of the renowned anthropologist, Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Roy. He began his medical practice in Calcutta while working as a demonstrator in anatomy at Carmichael Medical College. Subsequently he became the associate professor of medicine and later the professor. During 1955-57 he served as the principal of R.G. Kar Medical College (formerly Carmichael).

A founder member of Indian Medical Association, he was also the chairman of its reception committee during its silver jubilee celebrations. After Independence he was appointed the personal physician of the West Bengal governor; he retained this post till he died on March 31, 1959, at Giridih in Bihar.

Author of several volumes of medical literature and editor of *Indian Medical Forum*, Dr Roy Chowdhury was the founder chairman of INAC health clinic. The house sketched above shows his residence at 8 and 9 Williams Lane (later renamed Dr Amal Roy Chowdhury Lane).

S A Ahmed, Calcutta 16, asks about the French Foreign Legion

King Louis-Philippe of France established the Legion in 1831 to garrison the new French possessions in North Africa with headquarters at Sidi bel Abbes (Algeria) Commanded by French officers, it has always accepted into its ranks men from other countries, many of whom were political refugees or adventurers Recruits take an oath not to serve France and the Legion's unofficial motto is *Legio Patrio Nostra* (The Legion is Our Fatherland) The Legion was often in action against the Arabs who opposed French rule, but it also fought in many parts of the world–Spain, Italy, the Crimea, Mexico and Indo-China. During the second World War many Frenchmen joined it after their government surrendered to Germany Units of the Legion fought against the Germans and took part in the liberation of France Withrawn from North AFrica after Algeria gained independence, the Legion now has its headquarters near Marseilles Its units of infantry, armour, and paratroops, whose members vary according to commitments, are stationed in France, Corsica, Africa and Tahiti The legion has been a favourite subject for romantic films and novels of action. Remember *Beau Geste*?

CBS

11th Question: **What is the "Turing Test" in the world of computers? (Tathagata Chatterjee, BC-118, Salt Lake City, Calcutta 700064.**
Ans: **Devised by British computer scientist, Alan M.Turing, it is a test to see whether machines will ever be able to think in artificial intelligence circles. Turing imagined an "imitation game" in which a human interrogator communicates with two unseen objects (a man and a machine) via teletype. The interrogator can ask any question he likes, the goal being to determine which is a man and which is a machine. The catch is that the machine is free to lie egregiously and will try to deceive him. If the machine succeeds in fooling the interrogator into believing that it too is a human, it passes the test.**

Brother Mark D'Costa of St Vincent's School, Asansol, has asked us to publish this report.

"Two inter-school quiz competitions were held recently in the mining town of Asansol.

"The first was organised by the State Bank of India, Burnpur branch. Ten schools participated in a written elimination round from whom six were selected for the final round. In a keen contest, St Vincent's High and Technical School emerged victorious, followed by Riverside School, Burnpur,whichcame second beating M.C.T I. School, Hirapur, in an exciting tie-breaker. The quiz was conducted by Saibal Guha Roy of State Bank of India.

"Two days later, Rotary Club, Asansol, organised an invitation inter-school quiz Here again St Vincent's came first with Loreto Convent and Assembly of God Church School coming second and third, respectively The quiz master was P D Mukherjee

"On both occasions, St Vincent's was represented by S Burman, A Lahiri, A. Modak and S. Niyogi "

Postscript: All are welcome on November 25,26 and 27 (6 pm daily) to the Christ the King Parish hall, Syed Amir Ali Avenue, to witness the Eddie Hyde Memorial Quiz Contest, the city's oldest open quiz.



Ray Milland, Gary Cooper and Robert Preston (from left to right) in *Beau Geste*

QUESTIONS

1. Before the Challenger space mishap, how many people were killed in space accidents? (Ajay Tandon, BIT, Mesra)
2. Which famous smoker said that quitting smoking was easy and that he had "done it 100 times"? (Sunil Madhogarhia, Calcutta 54)
3. Which country has the oldest national flag in existence? (Nilesh Kuthari, Guwahati 1)
4. Who said: "The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and intelligent full of doubt"? (David Laithantluanga and T. Laltinthanga, Calcutta 6)
5. Name the world's largest volcano crater? (Anuva Prasad, Calcutta 19)
6. Which politician is nicknamed "The Shrimp"? (Rajat Chatterjee, Calcutta 2)
7. Whose autobiography is *Shiberay Kini Nomay?* (Mohan Agarwal, Bargarh 28)
8. What is the name of the "gold crown" which Kristin Otto got for her outstanding performance in the Seoul Olympics? (Debasish I 4)
9. In cinema parlance, what is "dragging"? (Natarajan Anand, Calcutta 16)
10. Quoting from the song *Maggie May* while referring to herself turned out to be embarrassing for Margaft Thatcher. Why? (Soumyadip (Calcutta 29).

ANSWERS

Indian Story

Sometime in the night,
A drop of dew
Fell from the open skies

In the morning,
The village was flooded.

Tabish Khair

Ballad of the Wind

The shrill whistle of the wind
blew through the ruins of the graveyard,
flowing from the red of the sky
into the blood of the unknown, the abandoned clouds
watching the shiver of the cold command
on the sky. Pushing through the leaves
hearing their vulnerability cry.
And suddenly the catacomb opened, its secrets
like a cracked smile on his face, the tomb
reflecting on its dome the real ballads
of a king and his kingdom.
All was fine: the bird, the leafy tree
and all, till the vampire of time
pulled the pillars of the castle down
one by one. Only the smile remained
frozen in the catacomb of history
unknown.
I hold the head of that king in my lap
blowing life into him watching the
beginning of a twitch in his eye, feeling
the slow awakening of his desire
in the labyrinth of the day.
But the wind has gone, feeding
the bones of history to the insects of
darkness,
to blow away yet another
to shatter yet a other
to make real ballad
unreal kings and
Samay Das

Memories

The sun-drenched, silent afternoon
brings in a breeze with the flavour of
familiar days,
resounding with the revelry of many a
spring,
echoing the deep sighs of many a fruitless
fall,
without reason,
many a familiar fond face floats into
remembrance...
Where are they?
The stream of time flows eternal,
and so
the yesterdays are no more today.
This wandering wind from the south,
this sky, endlessly
every blade of grass,
each speck of dust,

They, too, must have looked broodingly at
the sky
and the clouds that pass by,
tell me that those that went away
have entered a kingdom of no return.

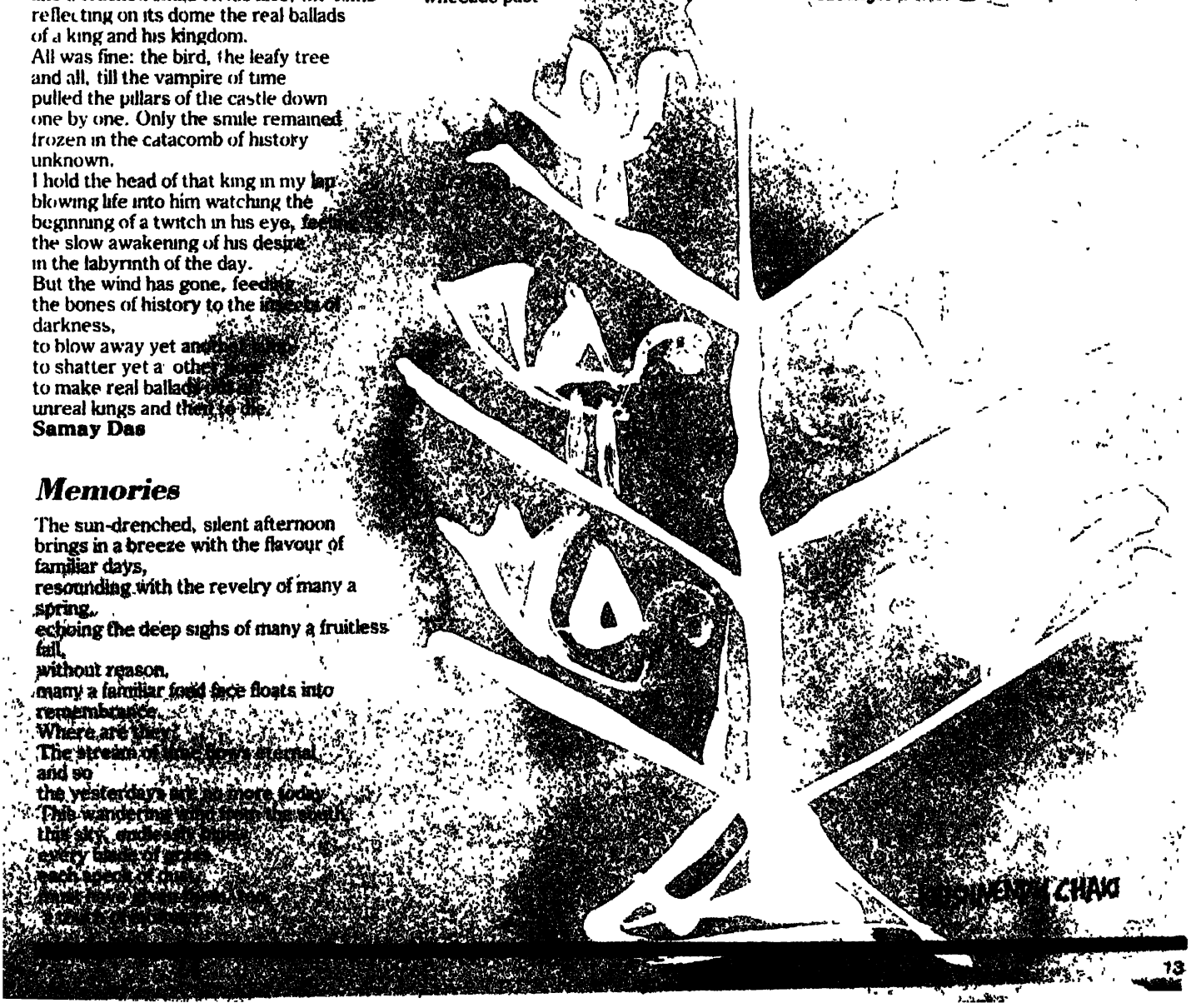
All that's lost in the womb of this full earth,
all the portraits poignant with the paint of
sorrow,
fade slowly, yet inevitably, out of
recognition.
Sailesh Mukherjee

Stasis

All day long birds chirp
the birds chirp and bicker
on the cold, green tree
till it grows very dark
and strange insects buzz
from the ghost-crowded fields.
All day long the tree whispers
to itself as a lonely car
wheezes past
defusing behind clouds of dust
into a world beyond the enchanted place
All day long the Sun hardly moves
so still seems everything
on the fissured walls of dying
ancient houses
gathering dust in spooky silence
Falguni Dutta

A Parable

Born to bleed, bred for slaughter,
lost in darkness, living in desire,
a poet has to devise rhythm and colour
in parables that last through history,
the sea of satin touching a sandkey
the singing seaweed, the blowing sea
horn,
as false as Rilke touching rose, feeling the
thorn,
or Goethe growling in a moment of
trouble:
"All things that corrupt me are a parable."
Abhijit Dutt

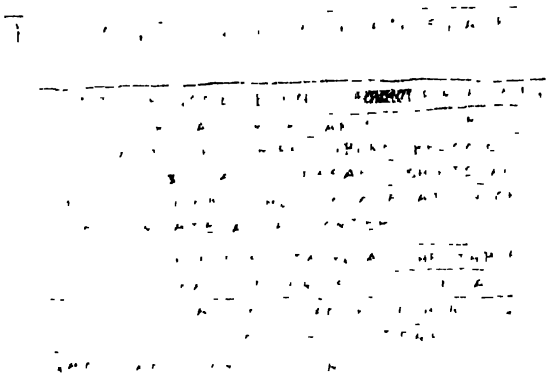


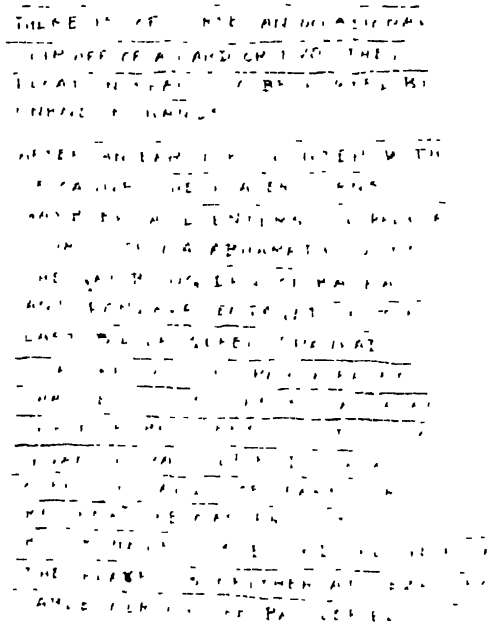
COVER STORY

Husain BY HUSAIN

A selection of some of the work by the great master in the past 60 years









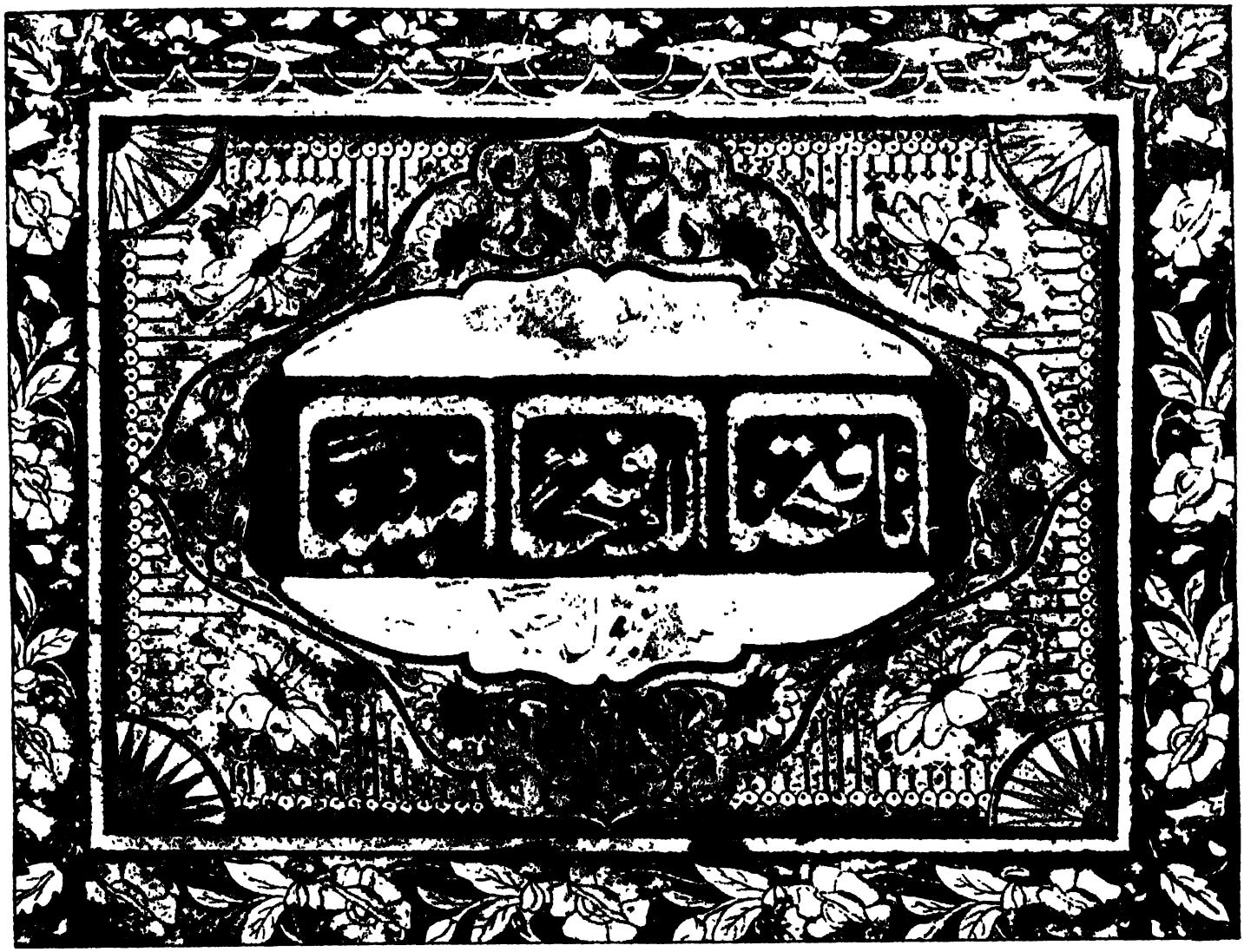
Mustafa Husain

M.F. Husain

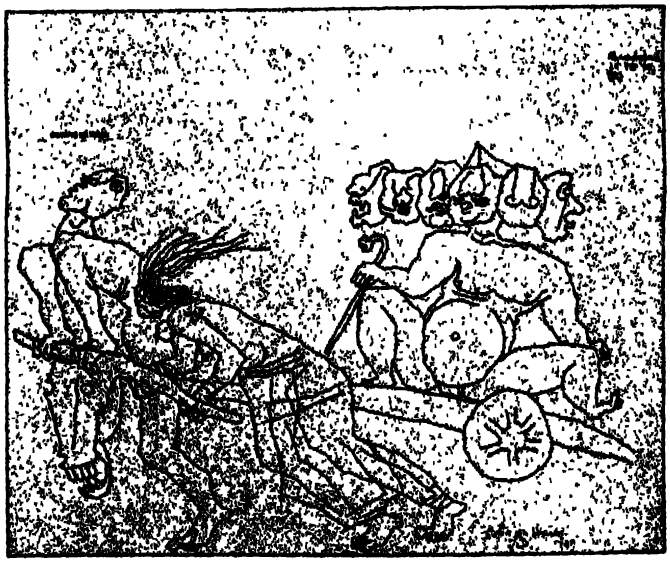


THAT IS CALLED AMRITAMANTHAN"
HERE THE PLAYER WANDERING THROUGH
THE AGES, TOUCHES THE VEINS OF
LORD SHIVA" TURNED GREEN BY DRINKING
VISH" THE EXTRACT OF AMRITAMANTHAN"
VISH THE ULTIMATE POISON WHICH
REINCARNATES THE FORCES OF LIFE

Extracted from *Husain;* text by Dr Daniel Herwitz; foreword by Russi Mody; a Tata Steel production; March 1988



At the age of 11 Husain was painting 'Calligraphy' on glass, 1928



Ahmedabad III, 24/8/74, drawing on paper



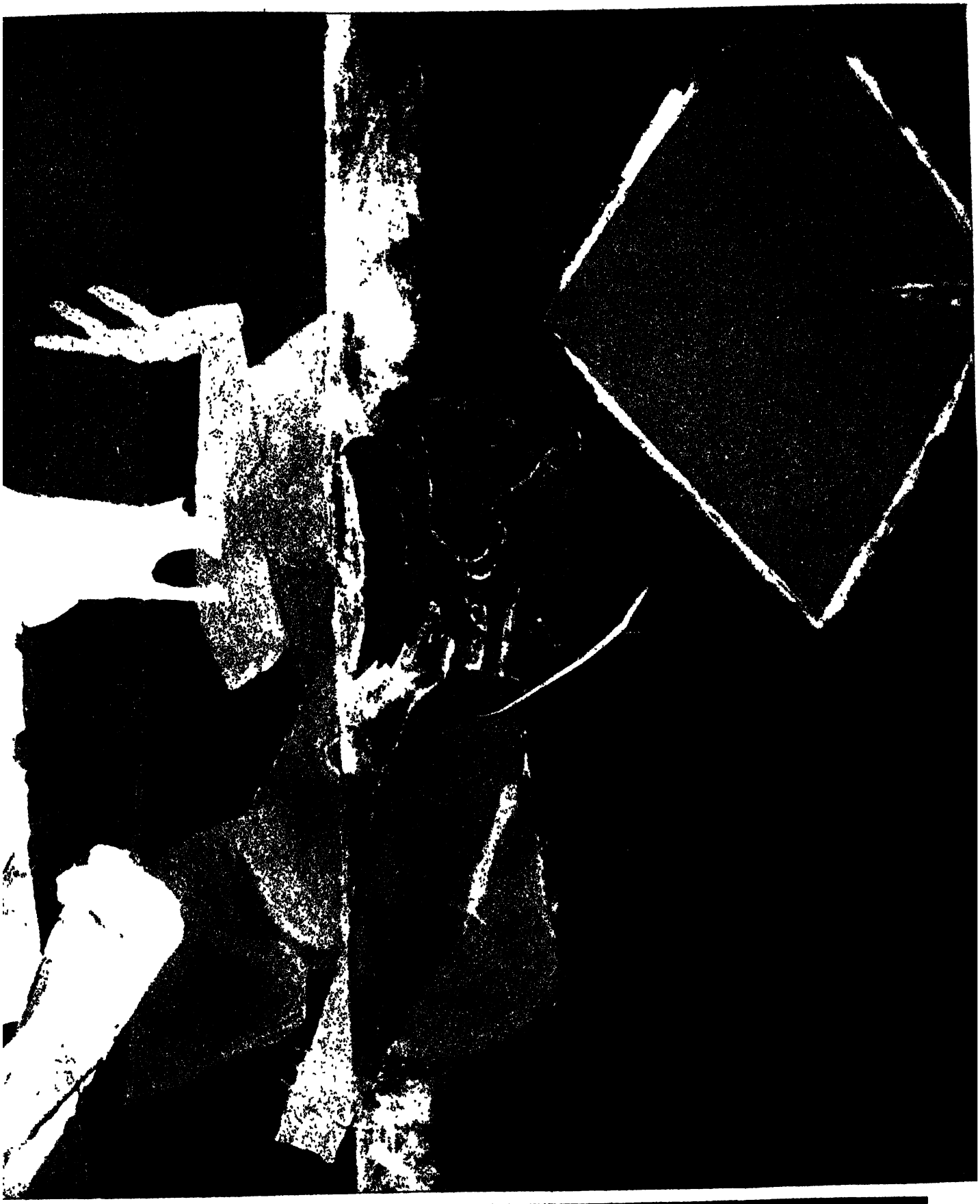
Durga



Ganesha, hand woven in Tassar silk

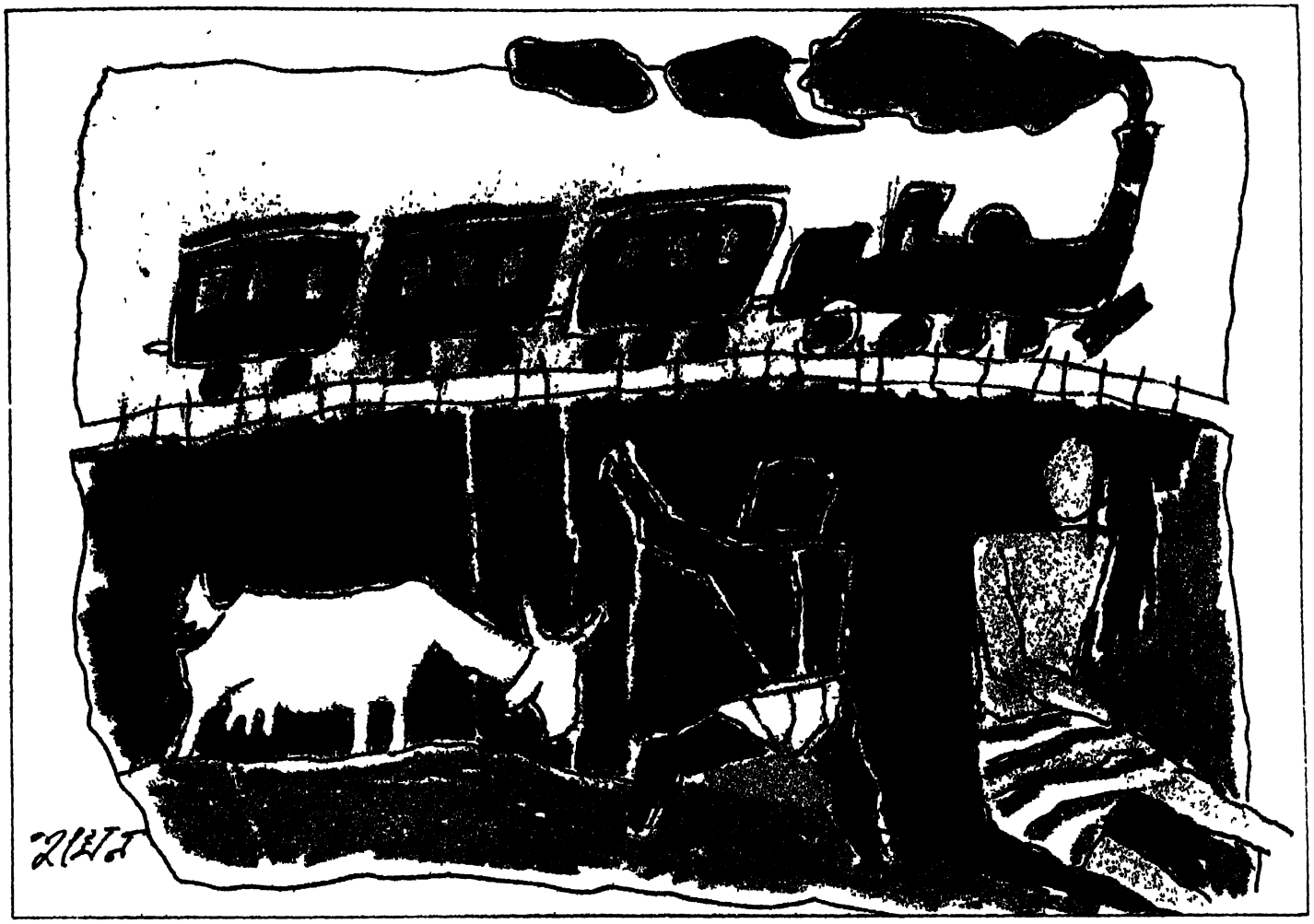


Param horses, oil on canvas





Hanuman the original Superman, graphic



Apu and the train
('Pather Panchali'),
oil crayon on paper



Mother Teresa

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Dayavan:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133) - 4 shows, Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417) 3 shows

A film by Feroz Khan who also stars along with Vinod Khanna, Madhuri Dixit and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Ganga Tere Desh Mein:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Krishna (T C Dutta Street 250437), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) 4 shows

Directed by Vijay Reddi and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Dharmendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Jaya Prada, Dimple Kapadia, Raj Babbar and Kader Khan

• **Mar Mitenge:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757) Malancha (Regent Park)

Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Bhanupriya and Madhavi play the lead in this Kawal Sharma film The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Paap Ko Jalaa Kar Raakh Kar Doonga:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473)- 4 shows

Directed by K R Reddy and with music by Ravindra Jain, the film stars Dharmendra, Anita Raj, Govinda, Fatha, Tanuja, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Shakti Kapoor, Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Anupam Kher

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442)- 12, 3, 6, 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

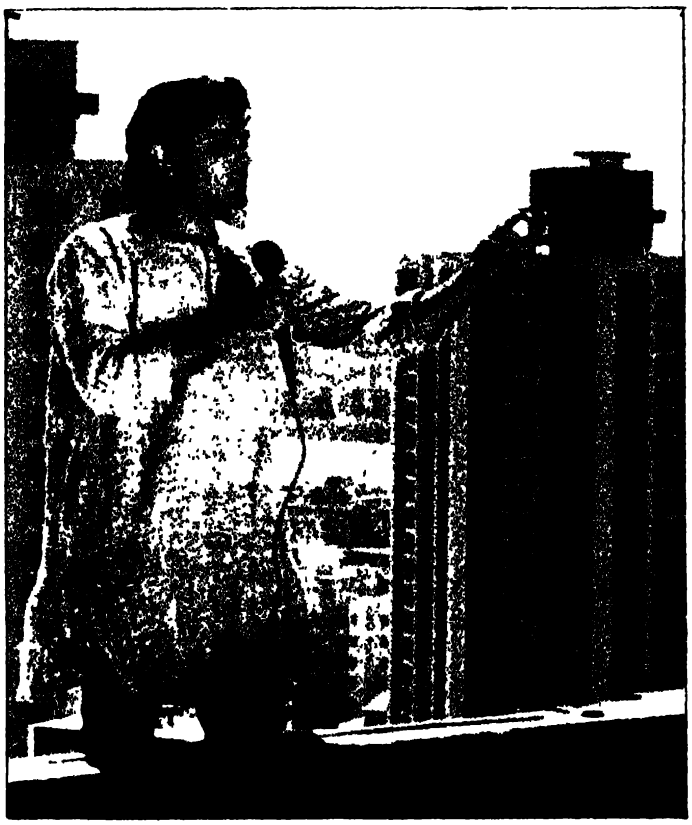
• **Woh Phir Aayegi (A):** Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828) 4 shows

Rajesh Khanna Farha, Moon Moon Sen and Javed Jaffrey are the major attractions in this film, directed by B R Ishara The music is by Anand Milind

Bengali Films

• **Anjali:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 471686) - 1, 4, 7

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Ranjit Mullick, Moon Moon Sen, George Baker, Kali Banerjee and Madhabi Mukherjee The music is by Goutam Basu



Prasenjit in *Jyoti*

• **Chhoto Bou:** (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740) 3, 5.45, 8.30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Sapan Chakraborty

• **Dena Paona:** Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515) 3 shows

Directed by Sukhen Das and with music by Ajoy Das, the cast includes Deepankar De, Satya Bandopadhyay, Anup Kumar, Swarup Dutta, Rajat Das, Sandhyarani, Sumitra Mukherjee, Satabdi Roy and Sukhen Das in a double role

• **Jyoti:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2.30, 5.30, 8.15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 7.45, Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—2.45, 5.45, 8.45

Directed by Shabd Kumar and with music by Sapan Jagmohan, the film stars Rameshwari, Prasenjit, Anooradha Patel,, Utpal Dutt, Rakesh Bedi and Pradeep Kumar

• **Madhuban:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567) -3 shows

A film by Ajoy Kar, starring Victor Banerjee, Tanuja, Utpal Dutt, Swarup Dutta and Chinmoy Roy The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.



A scene from *The Exorcist*

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• **Agnee:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Jaya (Lake Town; 573936)

Directed by J Om Prakash and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the cast includes Mithun Chakraborty, Chunkey Panday, Amrita Singh, Mandakini and Anupam Kher

• **Inteqaam:** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 244822), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue, 390762), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515, Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—4 shows

Directed by Raj Kumar Kohli and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Sunny Deol, Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri, Kimi Katkar, Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Prem Chopra

• **Maar Dhaad (A):** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147) Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141) - 4 shows

Hemant Birje, Mandakini, Sadashiv Amrapurkar, Puneet Issar and Navin Nischal comprise the cast of this Yesh Chauhaan film The music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Tazaab:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Society (Corporation Place, 241002), Moonlight (T.C Dutta Street, 254956), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033)—4 shows

A film by N Chandra, starring Anil Kapoor, Chunkey Panday, Madhuri Dixit, Kiran Kumar and Suresh Oberoi. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

Bengali Films

• **Shudhu Tomari:** Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)—3 shows.

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Samit Bhanja, Debika Mukherjee, and Prasenjit are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Prabir Mitra. The music is by Ajoy Das.

Special Events

20 November: 6.30 pm

Rangakarmee presents *Lokkatha*, directed by Usha Ganguly.

At Kalamandir (basement), Theatre Road

23–26 November: 10 am -6 pm

Exhibition-cum-sale of exotic planters by Lila Patel and Suman Burman of Flora International

At Bombay Photo Stores Private Limited, 33-34, Park Mansions, Park Street, Calcutta 16

Theatres

• **Jay Jayanti:** Rangana (153 2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 556846)-Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm, Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm

Subhendu Chatterjee and Basabi Nandy along with Premangshu Bose, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Dipika Banerjee, Arindam Ganguly, Gita Dey, Nandini Malleya and Abhishek Chatterjee comprise the cast Drama and direction Ganesh Mukherjee

• **Kalanka:** Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street, 558402)-Thurs. at 6 30 pm, Sat , Sun. & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm

Supriya Devi Chinmoy Roy, Jum Banerjee, Sami Majumdar and Sulata Chowdhury are the chief attractions in this play Drama and direction Samir Majumdar

• **Natghat:** Tapan Theatre (37A & 37B Sadananda Road; 425471)-Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm; Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm

Haradhan Banerjee, Shakti Thakur, Kalyani Mondal and Tarun Kumar are in the lead Direction Subhas Basu

• **Sabash Petopanchu:** Circarena (6, Raja Raj Kissen Street, 557213)—Thurs at 6 30 pm, Sat., Sun & holiday at 3 & 6 30 pm

The chief attractions of this play are Manu Mukherjee, Sambhu Bhattacharya, Kheyali Dastidar, Soma Dey and Rabi Ghosh (in a double role), who also directs

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4) RJ-194 at 0500, Dep (4) RJ-195 at 0630

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr (4), SU-537 at 1555; Dep (4), SU-538 at 1855

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1) JU-492 at 0955; Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1) JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1120 and Dep. (7) SQ-413 at 1540, Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1020 and Arr (4) SQ 414 at 0920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 5) RA-214 at 1410, Dep (2, 4 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1250, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6) IC 248 at 1425, Arr (7) IC 248 at 2055

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7) IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920, Dep. (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily). BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6). BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-223 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-223 at 1800, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily). BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615, Arr. (2, 4, 6) IC-224 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 5) IC-224 at 2000, Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr. (2, 5). BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730, Arr. (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7). IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily). IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily): IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr. (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-542 at 0620, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-271 at 1720; Arr (daily) IC-272 at 2240

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6) IC 277 at 1445, Dep (3) IC 277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6) IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5 6) IC-281 at 1535, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1) IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 4). IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-203 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 5). IC 249 at 1810, Arr (daily). IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4). IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC 250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta; Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC 213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC 201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr. (7) IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4) IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-239 at 1100, Arr (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-227 at 0835; Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-228 at 0805

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815; Arr (2, 4, 7). IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily). IC-222 at 14 05

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4): IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-243 at 0610, Dep. (daily). IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily): IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (daily). IC-242 at 1640

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-237 at 0650. Arr. (1, 3, 5) IC-238 at 1105

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-701 at 0830 Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-701 at 1115, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-702 at 1200, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-702 at 1440

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily): PF-705/704 at 0930, Arr (daily) PF-706/703 at 1635.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-707 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 0855.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-717 at 0600, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600, Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-729 at 1500, Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-729A at 0600, Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF 730 at 1740, Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-730A at 0835.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily). PF-709 at 0700; Arr. (daily) PF-710 at 1800.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-727 at 1220, Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1850.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (Guwahati; 1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0900, Arr. (Guwahati; 1, 3, 5, 7): PF-736 at 1540.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (Guwahati; 2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0900; Arr. (Guwahati; 2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1550

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19 20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep --Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri --Tues Wed & Sat	17-55	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs up to New Delhi Dep --Sun up to Amritsar Arri --Mon & Fri	17-55	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep - Mon Tues, Thurs Fri & Sun Arri --Tues Wed, Thurs Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep -Tues Fri & Sat Arri --Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep - Mon & Thurs Arri --Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17 15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri --Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep - Thurs & Sat Arri —Tues & Thurs	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tues Arri —Sat	7-30	972

SEALDAH

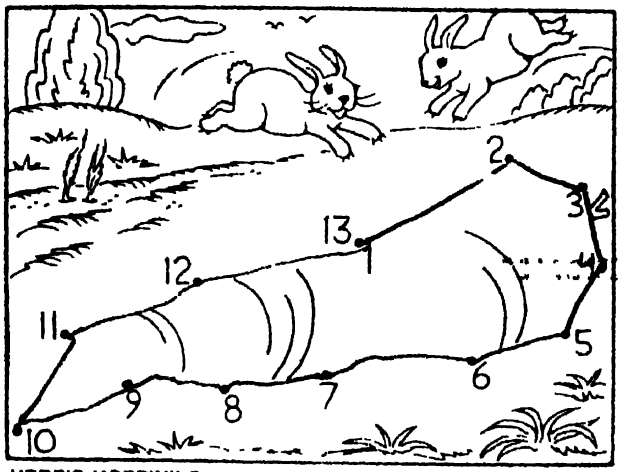
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Varanasi Express** via SBG Loop	14-30	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

3	21-35	**Madras Mail**	6-10	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-40	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	14-15	59
134	21-30	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-15	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-30	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
51	22-30	**Bangalore Express** Dep —Thurs Arri —Sun	13-45	52
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-15	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-45	**Sambalpur Express**	6-45	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-00	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	7-00	8
9	19-30	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-00	10
21	6-45	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-30	22
979	20-00	**Tirupati Express**	5-30	980
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-45	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express**	11-30	318
902	22-30	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
—	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	939
940	22-30	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	—
952	22-30	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep —Tues, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed & Fri	13-45	951
976	22-30	**Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City-Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Monday only	13-45	975

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 9 am to 9 pm weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazet



HERE'S HOPPIN'! Something is causing the bunnies above to jump for joy What can it be? Connect dots to see

• **TOO MUCH!** Translate the following into a readable sentence TOOTTOOTTOTOTOOTTOTOTOTOO Then read it fast as a tongue-tester

Toot to Otto to toot to Toto too



NUMBERS, PLEASE

Three persons who had made calls from the same public phone were questioned afterwards This is how they responded respectively

Jack A. "I called my broker at 352-BOND, but he was out sick "

Tony A "I called the water company at 425-AQUA but the complaint line was busy "

Mary C "I called my hairdresser for an appointment I dialed 478-PERM, but got the wrong number."

One of these persons was not telling the truth Which one, and what gave the lie away?

Tony A – There is no Q on the telephone dial

• **CAKE WALK!** Numbers 9 through 15 may be inserted in the diagram below so that each row, column and diagonal adds up to 33.

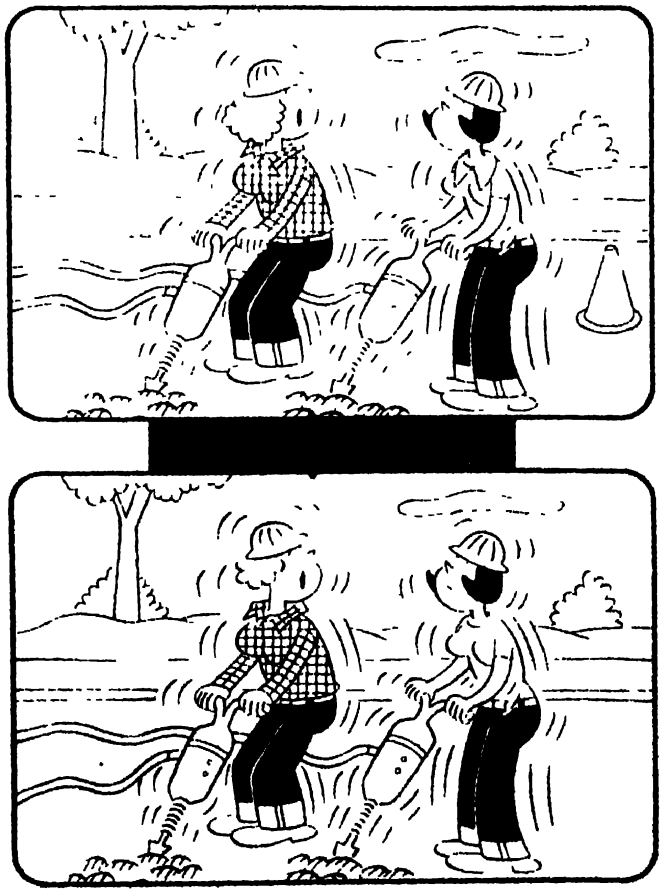
Three of these numbers are already in place Insert one or two more and the rest should be a piece of cake to complete.

Remember, rows in all directions total 33.

Top across 8 15 10 middle 13 11 9 bottom 12 7 14

8		10
	7	

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Difference: 1 Tree is slimmer 2 Air hose is moved 3. Hair is different 4. Cloud is smaller 5 Collar is missing 6 Traffic cone is missing

FUNSPOT



WHAT'S DUNE? Apply the following colors neatly to numbered segments of the beach scene above: 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Dk blue 7—Dk. brown 8—Green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

MODERATE

- - - - - - - - -

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram Read tome

ARIES

March 21-April 20

The full moon in your angle will spur you on to adventure This is the time to take risks Sales, promotion, manufacture, romance, a job shift or transfer speculation and collaborations are highlighted Loans and funds will be made available Travel is destined for most There are chances of building an intense relationship with a relative stranger Marriage is likely to be the outcome

TAURUS

April 21 May 20

Moon trine Neptune indicates that money will pour in now Buying, selling, shopping, trading and investments are highlighted This trend will continue for the next few days Affairs of the heart will also demand attention and life will definitely be more interesting and worthwhile Health problems may trail you and it is advised that you take adequate rest

GEMINI

May 21-June 20

Venus sextiles Uranus and this formation will accelerate changes on the work front and lead to a complete overhauling of policies and plans On the personal front, affairs of the heart are signified Attachments are foretold as are separations However, do not let personal problems get you down Legal disputes and land deeds are also on the cards

CANCER

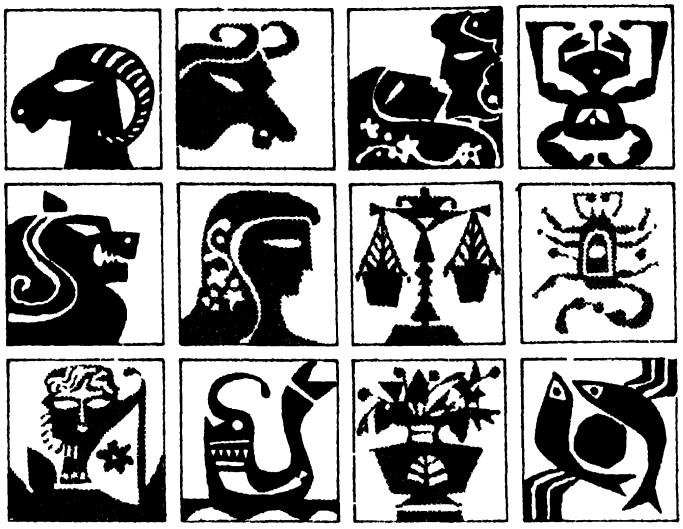
June 21–July 20

Expenses will rise Journeys are a strong possibility over the next two weeks Lady Luck will smile on all that you do and the time is right to embark on a new venture or enterprise Socialising, entertaining and buying and selling are well signified The last two days of the week signify a particularly irksome personal or domestic issue You may now recieve important news

LEO

July 21–August 20

Go ahead with any plans that you might have made for the future Friends will render all possible support and loved ones will stand by you You will shine at meetings and gatherings. Children will provide joy and hope and there is a strong likelihood of an addition to the family soon



VIRGO

August 21 Sept 20

This is the time to marshall your thoughts and get yourself in fighting condition The full moon falls in your slot of hard work and prestige and it will be prudent to keep an eye on office affairs, investment, buying, selling, collaborations and contracts This week is the harbinger for the next three weeks so be prepared for some hectic activity

LIBRA

Sept 21 Oct 20

The Venus Saturn sextile indicates that the time is just right to take part in collaborations, contracts and joint ventures A journey is in the offing for some of you so keep your travel kit ready Visits, interviews, conferences, calls, messages, advertisements and publicity are signified Rely on your intuition and grab every opportunity that comes your way

SCORPIO

Oct 21–Nov 20

Venus in your sign this week implies comforts, buying, selling, land and funds Partying, socialising and entertaining are signified You will be the cynosure of all eyes Additions to your wardrobe are not unlikely Love is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible. There are chances of marriage or at least an official engagement for some

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 21–Dec 20

The full moon will help you to reach out to people and places As Saturn has left your sun sign, communication, correspondence and community efforts are once again highlighted Wedding bells or at least an engagement is on the cards for some of you Collaborations and joint ventures are signified

CAPRICORN

Dec 21–Jan 20

Work pressures will mount as moon opposes Pluto but you will rise to the occasion and win friends and admirers The first three days will set the pace for the rest of the week Your work will get done by the end of the week and rest assured that profits and happiness will both be yours A job hop or promotion with increased responsibilities cannot be ruled out

AQUARIUS

Jan 21–Feb 20

Love, sports, hobbies, creative pursuits, new enterprises and collaborations are in the offing Children, creative pursuits, research and science and matters pertaining to children and friends will demand a great deal of your time. A degree of excellence will characterise your work, making you popular with your superiors at work

PISCES

Feb 21–March 20

Home and property matters will definitely take up much of your time but you should make the effort to come out of your shell and work for the benifit of society at large. Try and take things as they come without losing patience or getting upset. Friends and relatives will like you better if you do this.

BIRTHDAYS

November 20

Moon square Neptune. Changes on the work front especially if you are unemployed or a freelancer are foretold. Health safeguards are vital. Take a long term view of events before reacting.

November 21

Moon trine Uranus: This is an excellent birth year. Money will pour in. Your health will improve. You can now look forward to new assignments and contracts. Your services will be recognised and rewarded.

November 22

Moon opposition Pluto: This year will start on a shaky note but will end by being an astounding success. Friends and relatives will prove their sincerity. Expect money and long-awaited news to come in by May next year.

November 23

Moon conjunction Jupiter: This conjunction indicates personal and professional alliances Travel is a distinct possibility. Rely on your intuition in all matters.

November 24

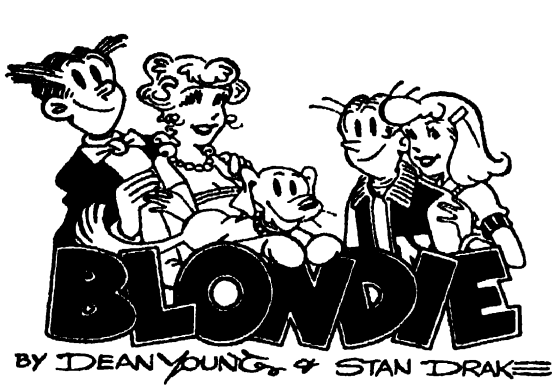
Venus sextile Saturn: This sextile will help you to plan your life better. This is the right time to make an addition to the family if you are so inclined. Any far reaching scheme on the cards will turn out in your favour.

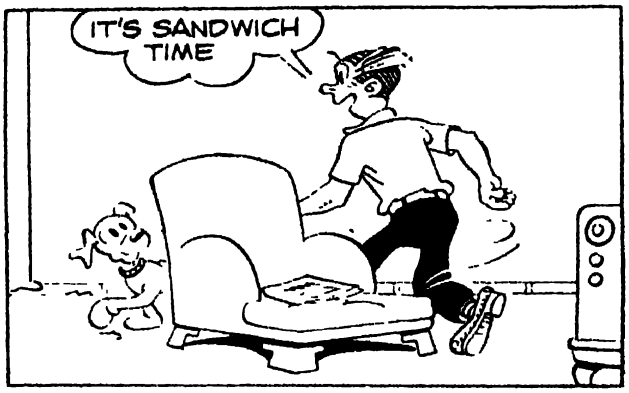
November 25

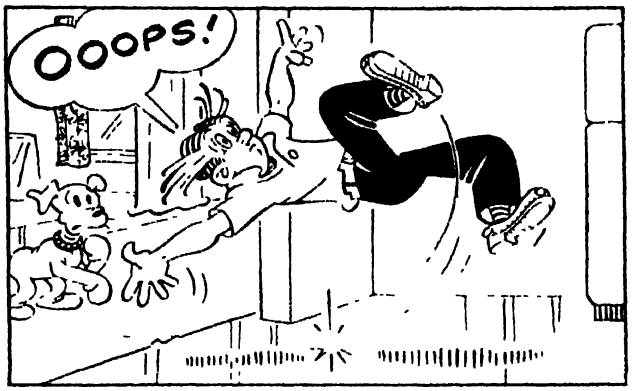
Moon opposition Uranus: A little patience and a great deal of perseverence is the answer to your problems. It will be unwise to give in to impulses. Keep your temper on a tight reign and do not let frustrations get at you.

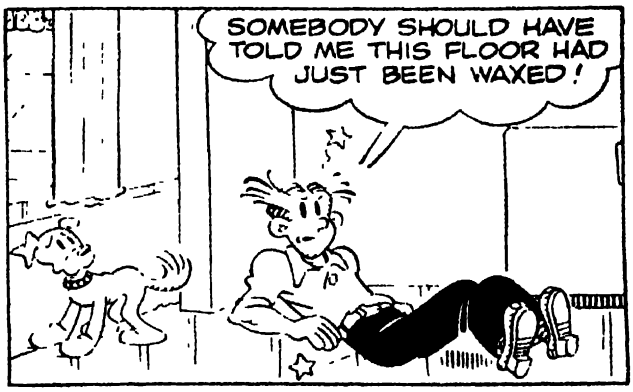
November 26

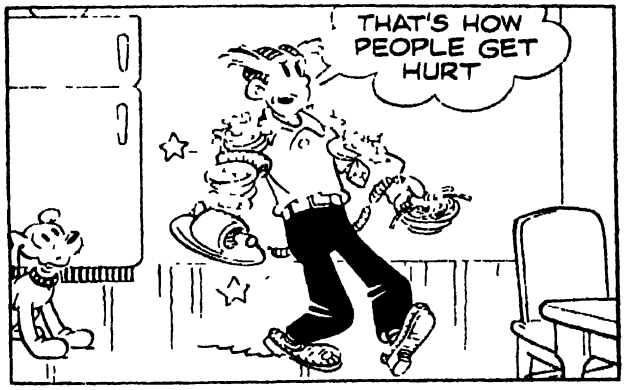
Moon trine Pluto: Home, property, loans, funds, buying and selling are signified. A long distance journey is in the offing. This will be a year for shifts, transfers and collaborations. Romance is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible.

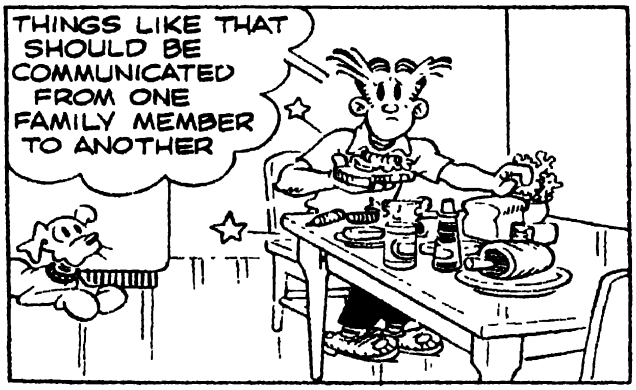


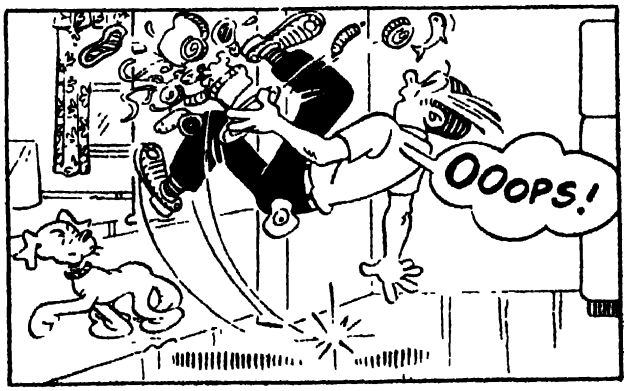




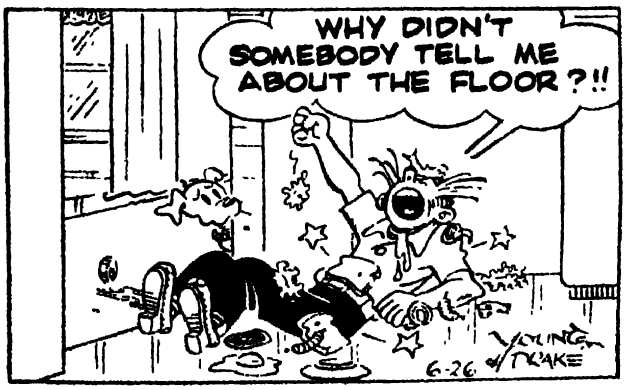


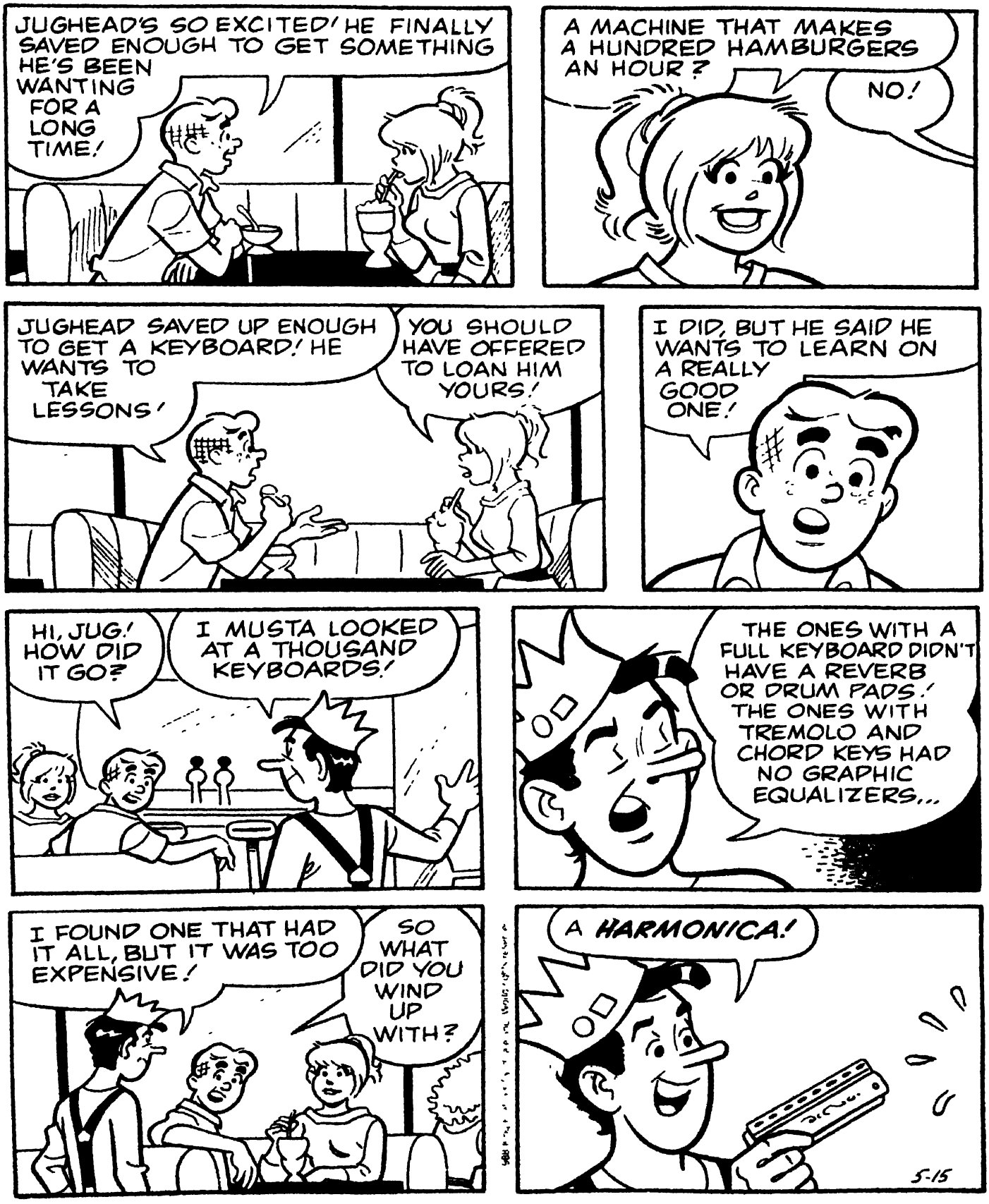


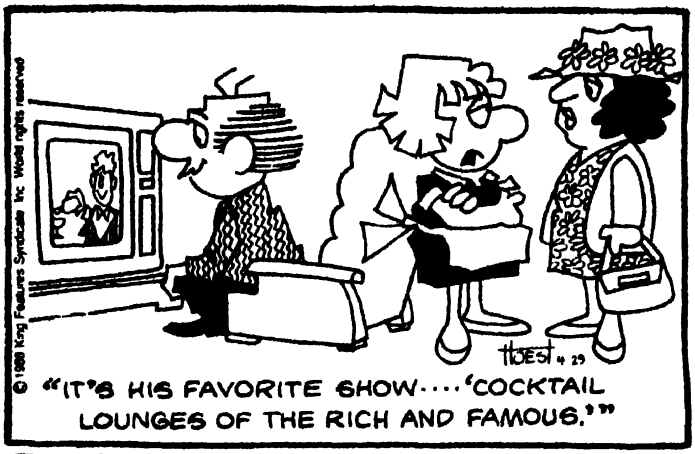




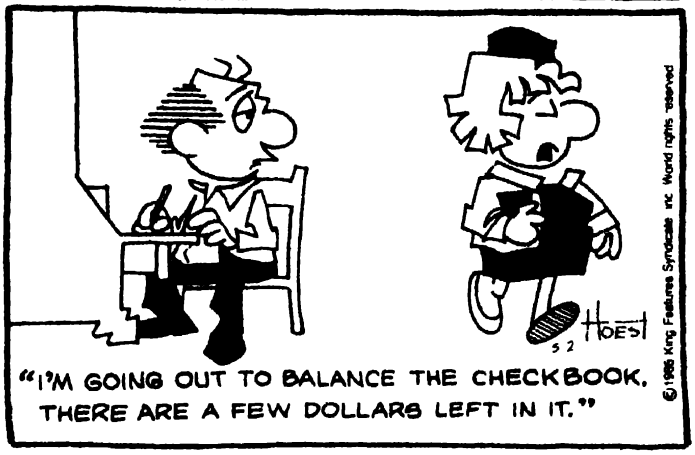
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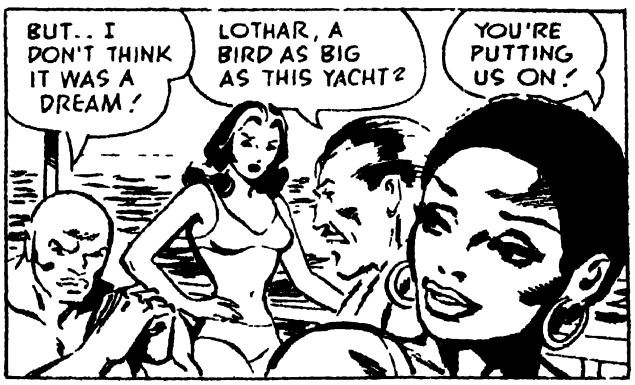

JUGHEAD'S SO EXCITED! HE FINALLY SAVED ENOUGH TO GET SOMETHING HE'S BEEN WANTING FOR A LONG TIME!
A MACHINE THAT MAKES A HUNDRED HAMBURGERS AN HOUR?
NO!
JUGHEAD SAVED UP ENOUGH TO GET A KEYBOARD! HE WANTS TO TAKE LESSONS!
YOU SHOULD HAVE OFFERED TO LOAN HIM YOURS!
I DID, BUT HE SAID HE WANTS TO LEARN ON A REALLY GOOD ONE!
HI, JUG! HOW DID IT GO?
I MUSTA LOOKED AT A THOUSAND KEYBOARDS!
THE ONES WITH A FULL KEYBOARD DIDN'T HAVE A REVERB OR DRUM PADS! THE ONES WITH TREMOLO AND CHORD KEYS HAD NO GRAPHIC EQUALIZERS...
I FOUND ONE THAT HAD IT ALL, BUT IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE!
SO WHAT DID YOU WIND UP WITH?
A HARMONICA!
5-15

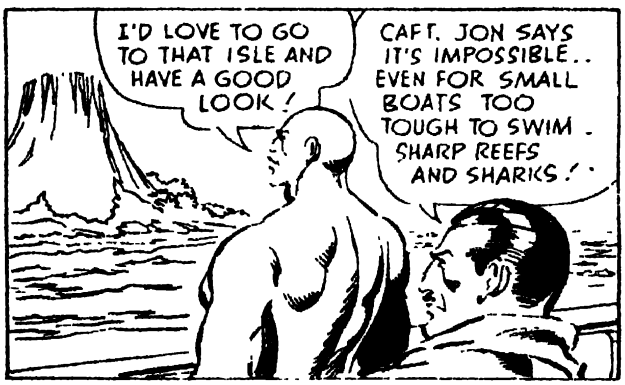

"IT'S HIS FAVORITE SHOW....'COCKTAIL LOUNGES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS.'"
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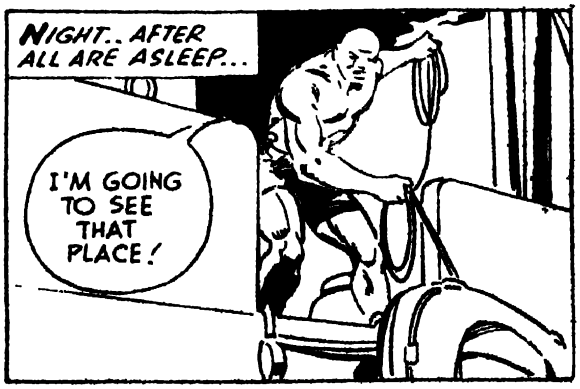

ARTHUR'S
"I'LL GIVE HIM YOUR MESSAGE, MRS. LOCKHORN, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PUNCH HIM IN THE NOSE YOURSELF."
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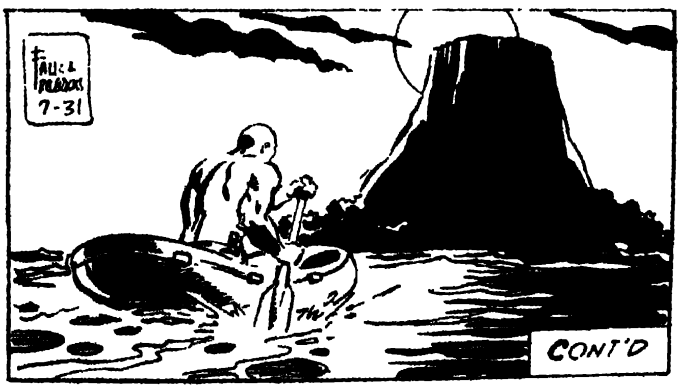

"I'M GOING OUT TO BALANCE THE CHECKBOOK. THERE ARE A FEW DOLLARS LEFT IN IT."
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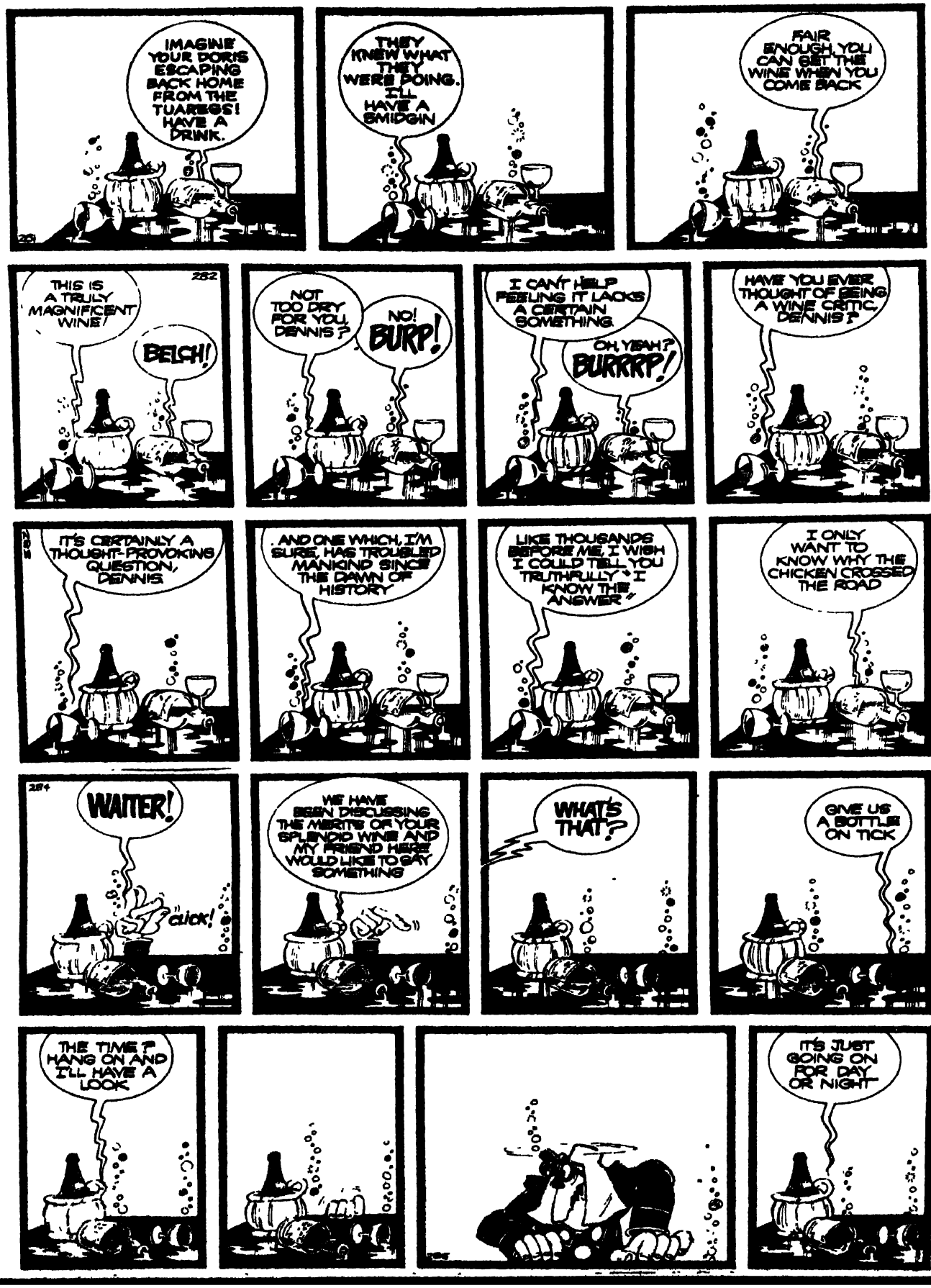

"LEROY LOVES CHALLENGES. STAYING AWAKE IS A TERRIBLE CHALLENGE."
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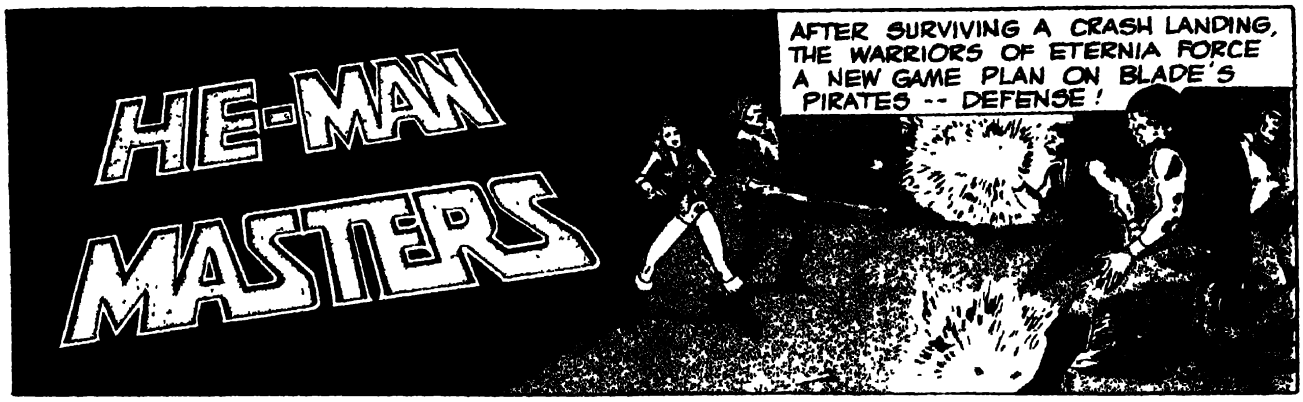

BUT.. I DON'T THINK IT WAS A DREAM!
LOTHAR, A BIRD AS BIG AS THIS YACHT?
YOU'RE PUTTING US ON!


I'D LOVE TO GO TO THAT ISLE AND HAVE A GOOD LOOK!
CAPT. JON SAYS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.. EVEN FOR SMALL BOATS TOO TOUGH TO SWIM. SHARP REEFS AND SHARKS!


NIGHT.. AFTER ALL ARE ASLEEP..
I'M GOING TO SEE THAT PLACE!
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FALK & PRADOS 7-31
CONT'D

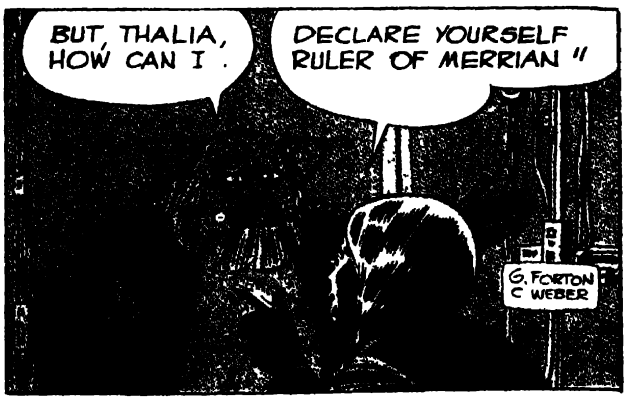

IMAGINE YOUR DORIS ESCAPING BACK HOME FROM THE TUAREGS! HAVE A DRINK.
THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING. I'LL HAVE A GMIDGIN
FAIR ENOUGH, YOU CAN GET THE WINE WHEN YOU COME BACK
281
THIS IS A TRULY MAGNIFICENT WINE!
BELCH!
282
NOT TOO DRY FOR YOU, DENNIS?
NO! BURP!
I CAN'T HELP FEELING IT LACKS A CERTAIN SOMETHING
OH, YEAH? BURRRP!
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BEING A WINE CRITIC, DENNIS?
IT'S CERTAINLY A THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTION, DENNIS
AND ONE WHICH, I'M SURE, HAS TROUBLED MANKIND SINCE THE DAWN OF HISTORY
LIKE THOUSANDS BEFORE ME, I WISH I COULD TELL YOU TRUTHFULLY "I KNOW THE ANSWER"
I ONLY WANT TO KNOW WHY THE CHICKEN CROSSED THE ROAD
284
WAITER!
click!
WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE MERITS OF YOUR SPLENDID WINE AND MY FRIEND HERE WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING
WHAT'S THAT?
GIVE US A BOTTLE ON TICK
THE TIME? HANG ON AND I'LL HAVE A LOOK
IT'S JUST GOING ON FOR DAY OR NIGHT

















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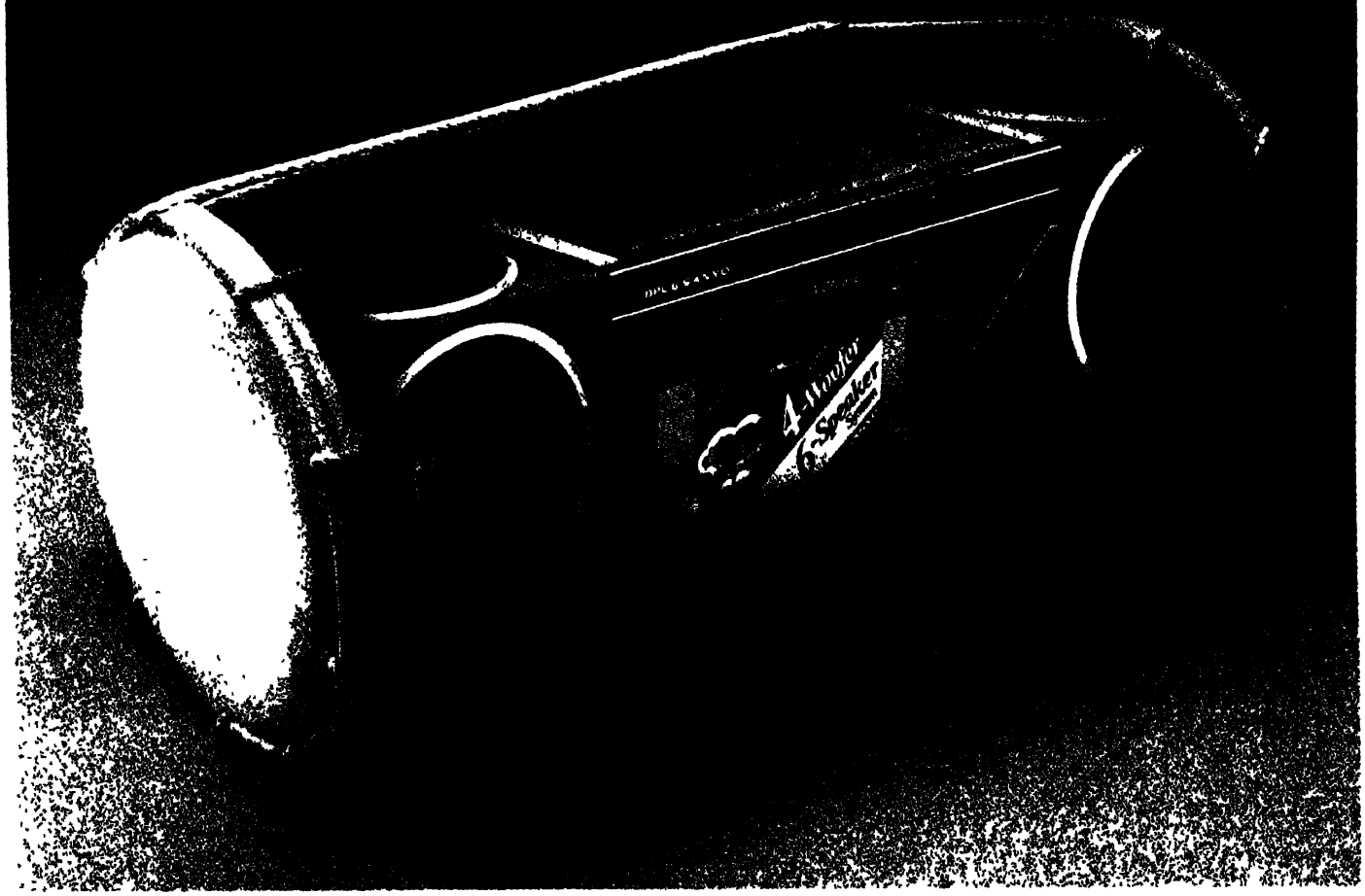


The cancellation of contract by Annfield Plain was not the result of any whisper campaign against **Raju Kulkarni.** It was only the British club authorities looking through the glass darkly after the Indian government refused visas to eight English cricketers who had apartheid links, which led to the scrapping of the tour. The policy seems to be if somebody thumbs his nose at you, stick out your tongue.

Photograph by ASHOK DAS

BPL · SANYO

Move to the beat of today's technology.

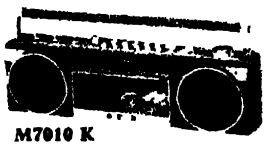


BPL-SANYO music makers.
At last! A world class choice.

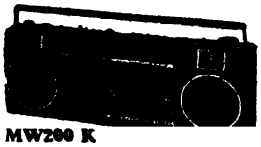
Mono or stereo, cassette recorder or 2-in-1, BPL-Sanyo calls the tune Stylish Packed with features And surprisingly affordable Take your pick today!



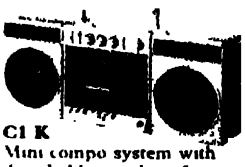
M7740 K
Ultra-sleek 6-speaker 'Boom Box' Feature-packed model with big sound that surrounds you The only one of its kind



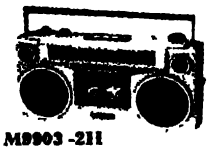
M7010 K
Slimline attraction with 4-band radio 10-watt stereo sensation at a sensational price



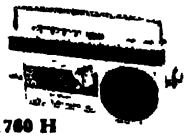
MW200 K
Double cassette 'Mini Studio' with high-speed dubbing and 4-band radio Compact model with high-impact sound Affordably priced



C1 K
Mini compo system with detachable speakers for true stereo effect 4-band radio with FM Excellent bargain

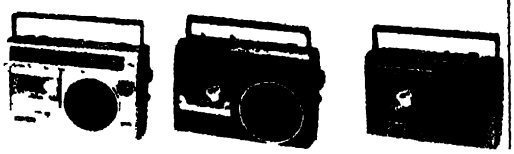


M2003-2H
2-way, 4-speaker marvel Surprisingly affordable Makes more sense than a mono in its price range

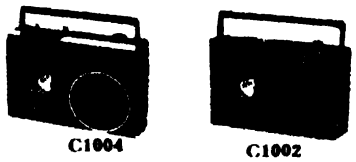


M1760 H
Mini and slim international favourite Small on size, big on sound Unique styling Ideal all-time companion

..More to choose from



M 2429-2H **M 2800-2H** **M 8300-2H**



C1004 **C1002**

BPL-AUDIO
Always the best!

Dear friends

Say it with flowers

SPASTICS SOCIETY OF EASTERN INDIA

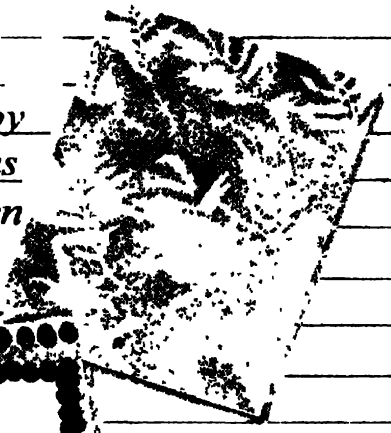


You'll be buying greeting cards this year. I'm sure you will. So, may we suggest you say it with flowers.

When you order cards painted by us, spastic children, you help us rediscover ourselves. Unearth our hidden strengths. And come to terms with our weaknesses.

The Spastics Society of Eastern India is working towards giving us all the encouragement.

Yes, we ourselves have drawn these beautiful cards (and more) you see on this page. We're sure you'll love to send them to your friends. So just fill in this colourful coupon below and post it to us. We'll be glad to meet you and take your order.







Thank you so much.

Raja & Mithu

Yes, I do want to 'say it with flowers' Please meet me to take my order for Spastics Society cards*

Name:

Address:

Company:

Tel. No.:

* Mail this coupon for a minimum purchase of 100 cards.

You can also buy these cards from:

Aavishkar, Park Street A Banerjee & Co , New Market Bengal Home Industries, Chowringhee B Dey Brothers, New Market. Cambridge Book & Stationery, Park Street TheGood Companions, Russell Street Giggles (P) Ltd , Park Street Kwality Book Co , New Alipore. Modern Book Depot, Chowringhee Centre Oxford Book & Stationery, Park Street, Paragon Models, Park Street Rajniklal, Park Street. Women's Friendly Society, Park Lane

Or Please Contact:

SPASTICS SOCIETY OF EASTERN INDIA
P-35/1 Taratolla Road, Calcutta-700 088, Phone 77-7177

Or

Rani Sharma, 8 Rawdon Street, Calcutta-700017, Phones 44-4547, 43-1768

C'eal by OBM Cal

POST MORTEM

The Joneses and the Middle-class

Abu Abraham's essay on 'The Travails of the Middle-class' (September 11) proves his high class understanding of middle-class people

He could have added the following about the class that feels or pretends to be upper-class, at least in the eyes of their wives/relatives/neighbours, to make the essay more lively

Purchase of household luxury goods on instalment payments system; purchase of a colour TV (though black and white could have been purchased in a single payment), VCP or VCR (not a necessity) in instalments with high interest rates, purchase of old vehicles with a whole life's savings and keeping it permanently parked in front of the house, for want of funds for repairing/maintenance, purchase of essential goods from 'No bargaining shops', that is, fixed prices shops, at a higher price, as a status symbol, and finally, bargain in petty purchases with a small grocer and feeling proud of it.

Ratnanka Choudhury,
Shillong

Olympic Queen

We want to know more about the Olympic queen, Florence Griffith-Joyner. The Colour Magazine should carry a feature and some colour pictures of Florence soon.

Sudipta Roy and **Sumita Kar,**
Calcutta

Why?

It is unfortunate that Rani Sircar has unnecessarily chosen to introduce malicious comments against the Anglo-Indian community, quite obviously born of envy (November 6).

One wonders why her mother sent her to an Anglo-Indian school in the first instance. Also, has she, like countless thousands of others, clamoured to send her daughter to an Anglo-Indian school?

Verner Grieff,
Calcutta

Sport and Politics

It was sad reading about the promising but punished cricketer Raja Mukherjee ('Missed Catch', October 23) In India, many other sportsmen, too, have suffered the same fate and been overtaken by circumstances. Ambar Roy, Samuran Chakraborty and Bula Chowdhury deserve mention

We are shocked when we learn about their fate, but take no remedial steps to avert such national tragedies Sport should be kept free from the jaws of dirty politics and talent alone should be rewarded.

Ashim Kumar Dey,
Balitikuri (Howrah)

Jewels and Jewels

Your Jewellery Special (October 2) must have been a great attraction for your women readers, but it should have been slotted for another Sunday. October 2 is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, and a jewellery special on that day seemed so ill-timed.

R.K. Sanatomba Singh,
Imphal



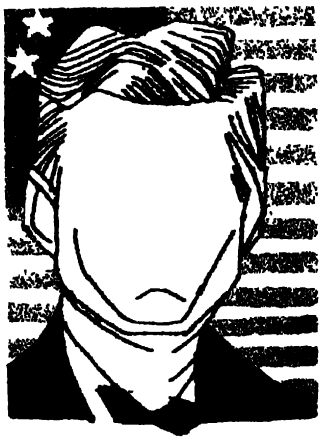
Soumitra Sinha

Raju Mukherjee

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The Telegraph

27 NOVEMBER 1988



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Cover Jacques Lowe



QUIZ ◻ Neil O'Brien

The American Civil War was a war between the 11 Southern states of America and the rest of the Union The dispute arose over the question of slavery and whether the Southern states had the right to make a decision independent of the rest of the Union on this matter

During the 19th century world opinion began hardening against slavery, and the election of Abraham Lincoln as President in 1860 showed that the American public opinion was moving in the same direction. Slavery was clearly not compatible with the Declaration of Independence with declared that "all men are created equal " But on the other hand the Constitution had laid down that each state in the Union had the right to decide its own internal affairs At the end of 1860 11 Southern states decided to leave the Federal Union and form themselves into a separate nation called the Confederate States of America, with Jefferson Davis as President The North declared that the Federal Union was unbreakable, so by the time war broke out, the issue had shifted from the question of slavery to the right of the Southern states to leave the Union

On April 12, 1861, Confederate guns opened fire on Fort Sumter, a federal fortress on an island in Charleston harbour. During the four years of the war, large armies were raised on both sides—larger than in any previous war Most of the advantages were with the North, which had a bigger and wealthier population.

Northern ships blockaded the Southern ports, preventing the export of the cotton crop, on which the South depended for its prosperity A number of stubborn and often bloody battles were fought, among them the battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863), from which Lincoln's memorable speech on democracy takes its name, but none resulted in a decisive victory for either side Thus the war became a struggle by each side to wear the other down

Robert E Lee, commander of the Southern armies, was a soldier of great toughness and competence, and his subordinate, Thomas Jonathan Jackson (who earned the nickname of "Stonewall"), showed himself a detachment leader of genius. The North was slower in finding their good leaders—Thomas, Sheridan, Sherman and especially Ulysses S Grant (who later became President) In 1864 the North took the offensive Sherman marched through Georgia, devastating the lands on which the South depended for its supplies, while Grant advanced on Richmond, the Southern capital The Southern army, caught between the armies of Sherman and Grant, surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

Slavery was abolished altogether, but the period of readjustment after the war was not well handled by the Northern victors, and much bitterness was left behind, with bad relations simmering between the Whites and Blacks

Postscript: This evening at 6 pm, the finals of the Eddie Hyde Memorial Shield Quiz will be held at Christ the King Parish hall Do come

CBS

***11th Question*: Vicenzo Peruggia stole the Mona Lisa from the Louvre, Paris, in 1911 and tried to sell it to Italy. But he was given a relatively light sentence of 1 year, 15 days. Why was he given such a concession in his punishment? (Sunil Madhogarhia, P-55, C.I.T. Road, Scheme VII M, (Kankurgachi), Calcutta 700 054).**
***Ans*: He convinced the tribunal that his act was one of patriotism—that his sole motive was to return the portrait to the land of its creator.**



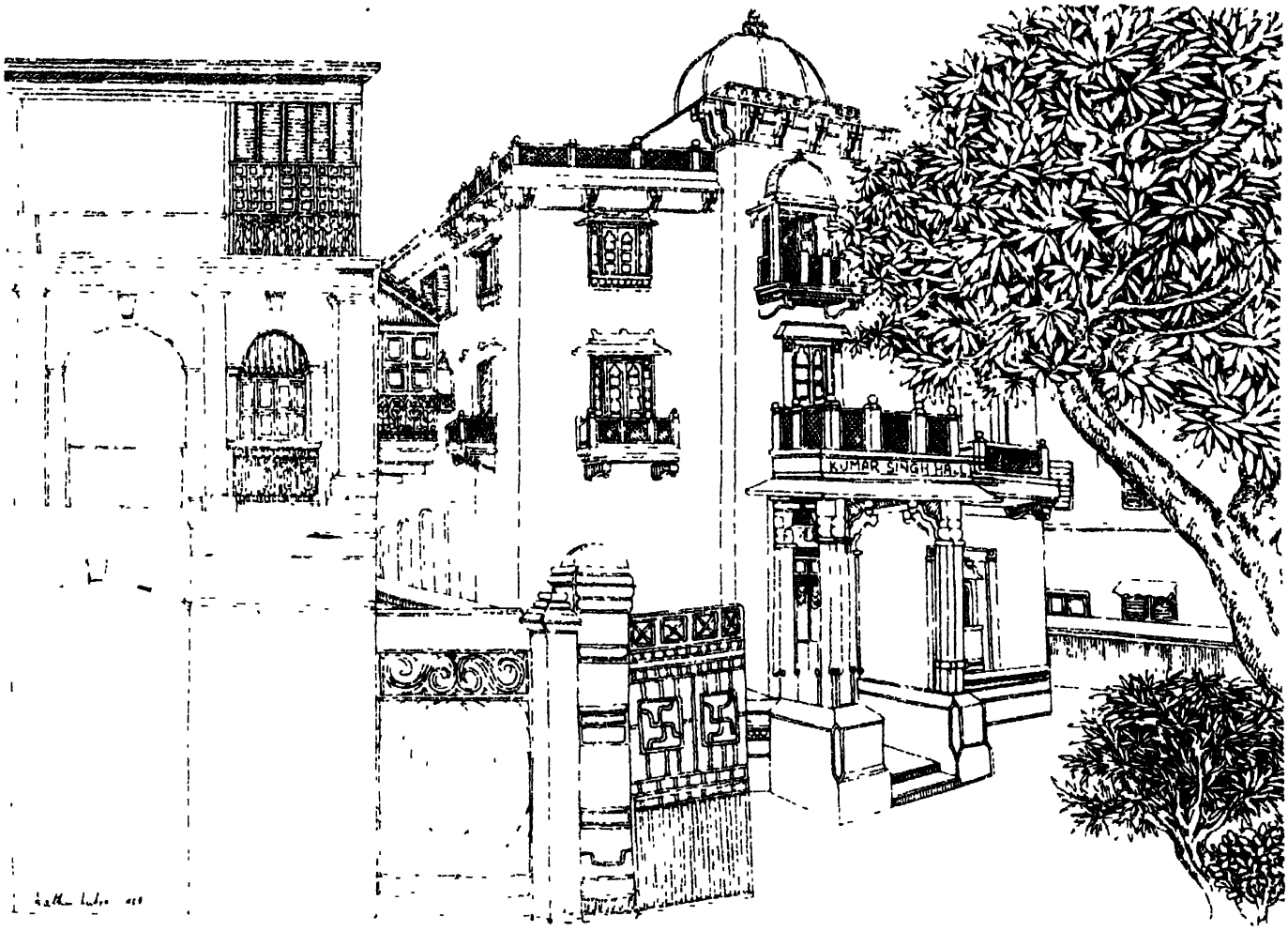
Paul Revere portrays the beginning of the conflagration in Boston

QUESTIONS

1. What is the world's most popular board game? (Nishit Kumar, Calcutta 19).
2. Where is the Nine Degree Channel? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4).
3. To whom is the "Sheikh Ahmed Bin Isa Al Khalifa" award given? (Mohan Kr Agarwal, Bargarh 768028).
4. Which country has the record for the most *coups d'e*tat?
5. What is the title Sikandar Sani? (Md. Zahid, Calcutta 24).
6. Whose autobiorgaphy is *Chronicles of Wasted Time?* (Nirmalya Sarkar, Asansol 1).
7. Defection is a recurring problem in most Olympics. What is unique about the defection of Machinahari, a Taiwanese Olympic participant? (C. Jayshree, Calcutta 29).
8. Who said, "Music is well said to be the speech of angels"? (Farhat Seban Ansari, Calcutta 22).
9. Mumtaz Jahan Begum stole the hearts of most men in the 50s. What was her screen name? (Amit K. Roy, Chalbasa 1).
10. What do the three swirls of the emblem of the Seoul Olympics represent as they move outward and inward at the same time? (Prakash Jha, Calcutta 6).

ANSWERS

KUMAR SINGH HALL



The youngest son of Rai Bahadur Setab Chand Nahar, Kumar Singh Nahar purchased a plot of land on Indian Mirror Street in central Calcutta for his residence. The building was constructed after he died in 1914. There is a large hall on the ground floor while the first and second floors house the Gulab Kumari Library and Sri Adinath Jain Temple, respectively. The library was established by Puran Chand Nahar in memory of his mother.

The Nahar Museum on the ground floor at Kumar Singh Hall (sketched above), situated at 46, Indian Mirror Street, was inaugurated by Lord Carmichael in 1916. It boasts of rare paintings, stone carvings, metal pieces, illuminated manuscripts, ceramics, terracottas and other objects of art.

The first graduate lawyer of his community, Puran Chand was born in 1875. He was a member of the Royal Asiatic Society and was also a nominated member of various oriental and Indological societies in India and abroad. He belonged to the Murshidabad Nahar family, reputed for its devotion to learning and culture.

Among the Nahar collection, the 'Battle scene from the Mahabharata', painted by Khizir in 1650, is an immaculate illustrative miniature painting in Persian art. Another interesting item of the collection is the illuminated Jain scrolls. Puran Chand's son, Bijoy Singh Nahar, a former deputy chief minister of West Bengal, has enriched the collection with ancient Indian coins.

Kumar Singh Hall also bears testimony to several historical meetings of nationalistic leaders like Subhas Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Moulana Azad and Indira Gandhi. Besides music conferences the hall was also used by renowned dancer Uday Shankar for his practice sessions.

The Romance of KENNEDY

Twenty-five years ago, the world saw the shocking assassination of the American President. But the charisma that grew with him, refused to die. Photographer **Jacques Lowe** tries to capture the essence of that appeal while **Wilfrid Sheed** attempts an analysis of what in JFK made the world's heart throb

It is frequently said that Ronald Reagan has made Americans feel good about themselves—which many outsiders might not consider much of a trick; Kennedy pulled off the infinitely more difficult one of making other people feel good about us, too. Item: a bristly, tart sort of expatriate Englishman—the type from whose opinions one usually flinches even before he utters them—confided in me that Americans were far and away his favorite tourists: more curious, tolerant, and good-natured than anything bloody Europe had to offer these days. It's funny; we had never seemed that way before. (Incidentally, what made this tribute truly worth having was that he took me for an Englishman, which I partly am.)

The first thing to be said about the Kennedy feeling was that it was closely linked to action, to getting things "moving again," and not only in the United States, but in what we optimistically call the

Photographs and text extracted from *The Kennedy Legacy: A Generation Later*; by Jacques Lowe and Wilfrid Sheed; Viking Studio Books; represented in India by Penguin Overseas Ltd, New Delhi; £15.95



free world as well. The *intelligent* good will generated by Kennedy had an obvious ripple effect, from leaders like de Gaulle and Harold Macmillan on down to street level and below, and thus other nations' policies may have been affected by it, besides our own. Kennedy's sense of possibility had an almost contagious quality to it—you could catch it even in Franco's Spain—and it is my own unsubstantiated bet that in many odd corners of the globe, from Africa to South America, even to motionless India itself, things began to stir in their sleep, not always directly because of Kennedy but as part of a long chain reaction to his legendary vitality. And if this isn't greatness, it might as well be.

All right, concedes an indulgent revisionist of my own invention,



The president needed eyeglasses from time to time, and when working, he would push them up on his forehead. In time, he became sensitive to the need for glasses, and this photographer (Jacques Lowe), unaware of this, got into trouble while preparing a major magazine cover showing the glasses



maybe he did perform some of these putative miracles on the strength of a pleasant manner and a radiant wife (whom, incidentally, you seem to have forgotten completely), but you can't give *him* credit for that. We live in star-struck times, and the Kennedys were stars, and everyone had a swell time at the party.

At that early stage most of what the general public knew about Jack it got from the gossip columns, which gravely informed us that he was dashing, glamorous, and a new face—a hundred different ways of saying "lightweight," to my jaundiced mind. But in those days only a handful of fanatics knew what actually went on in the Congress, and candidates had not yet hit upon the device of taking two years off from work to parade themselves around the

On February 13, 1961, United Nations Ambassador Adlai Stevenson called to report that former premier Patrice Lumumba of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (now Zaire) had been assassinated. Lumumba in fact had been murdered before Kennedy's inauguration

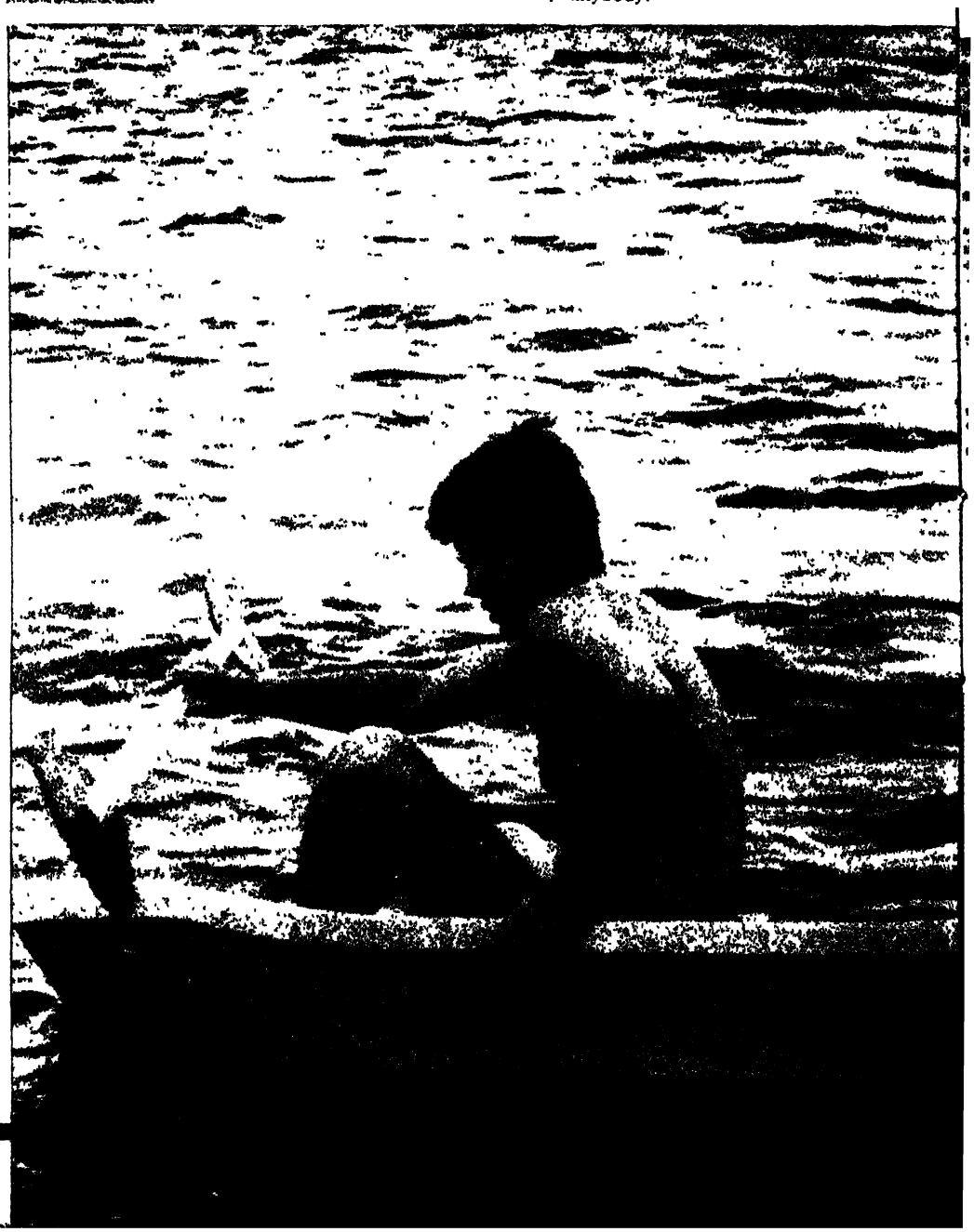
country becoming known. So the average working senator had about the name recognition of a bit player in the movies: hence the extreme difficulty (and rarity) of men who have made the leap directly from the Hill to the Big House.

We did know even then that Jack had a reputation for being a somewhat lazy senator and a somewhat more energetic ladies' man: and I sometimes wondered why the Republicans didn't make more use of the latter in the subterranean branch of their campaign against him. (I concluded on this that the GOP might have sensed that public feelings are not all that clear or predictably edifying in respect to virile leaders so long as the virility is mostly based on rumor—getting caught brings us to our senses.) We also knew that Jack was a war hero, but Capitol Hill was crawling with those, real and imaginary, in the forties, and we hadn't yet sorted out the mountebanks; and offsetting the war record was the rather obvious fact that he had to be a rather young man to have acquired it, so there was much chitchat about what constituted "too young" for the presidency. World War II had obliged us to revise our notion about what was "too young" to lead troops into combat, so our minds were still more open on such matters than in the past

My own experience was about average: the convention, the debates of course, the jolly jousts with the press—and then one sunny day I heard that he was about to appear in Union Square, and I skipped on down to step into the aura for a moment or two: and felt not so much knocked out by it as, well, "cheered up" sounds flat, but something like that. This, as reflected off the faces around me, was suddenly the sunniest day in the history of the world, and it was going to be this way from now on. *That* was the Kennedy effect, as I experienced it.

I've stepped into a great many auras before and since, but never into anything quite like this. More prosaically: Jack seemed bigger and healthier (rumors of Addison's disease had been spread by the LBJ camp, but fortunately we didn't know what it looked like) than I'd expected—in fact, I thought to myself, *Aha, I've got it. Irish monsignor* (an Irish men look like priests if you've known enough of both). He also looked, as advertised, radiant with vitality, confidence, and honest-to-God humor—not the canned kind that candidates drag around wearily from city to city, but a view of life which probably never left him. His whole face would light up with a kind of incredulous merriment as a pleasantry struck him, and there was never any doubt where the jokes came from. He never had to steal one from anybody.

Jack Kennedy loved the water He was a superb swimmer, a fine sailor Here, during a campaign break in the summer of 1959, Jack and Jackie enjoy themselves immensely, navigating a tiny boat in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts





The senator would try to get home as often as possible from his campaign trips, which were piled on top of his Senate duties. Here he is with Jackie and their daughter, Caroline, on the porch of the Kennedys' Hyannis Port home.

He simply seemed too well balanced, a strong man secure in his strength, to tip over too far in either direction. He also seemed like a very natural man in an artificial profession. Jack remains to this day perhaps the only politician who could ever stroll the sands hand-in-hand with his children without looking as if he'd rented the kids for the day. His pictures with Jackie and the family also seem completely unposed, partly because he *always* seemed unposed, almost unguarded, in fact, like a prizefighter who knows that his guard will take care of itself if needed.

And then there was Jackie. If there were indeed growing rifts between her and her husband over his alleged infidelities, she must have been an even better actor than he was, because she positively radiated happiness during those years to a degree surely quite unique among cheated wives. And then later, after Jack was gone, she positively outdid herself by weeping like a child over Camelot. It is hard to believe that those weren't awfully good years for her. Whatever Jack's putative sins, he must have found extraordinary ways to make it up to her—and clearly not just with gifts, which she was unusually adept at obtaining for herself.

For members of my generation, the scene of Jackie clambering clumsily over the death car to reach her dying husband in Dallas more or less clinched the matter, and pretty well put it out of bounds at the same time. She was doing exactly what we had been led to expect of her, and no actress who ever lived could have done it so convincingly.

One obvious but quite unusual thing that Jack did for his wife was simply not to stand in her way. Most presidents treat their wives only slightly better than their vice presidents, apportioning various good works to them in the Victorian manner, and basking in their adoring smiles when obtainable. Eleanor Roosevelt, of course, created her own limelight anyway, and Bess Truman flatly refused to play: but, with all exceptions noted, there has never been anything quite like Jackie in the White House.

For one thing, Jack himself never seemed to mind how much limelight his wife shared with him.

WORDS' WORTH

In the latter half of the 20th century, the word has lost its meaning. Despite the communication revolution and the profusion of books and magazines and newspapers, or perhaps because of it, the word has lost its power. It has lost its power to inspire, to soothe, to heal. Words these days are like public relations; a pretence at sincerity but actually possessing innate soullessness.

Nadezhda Mandelstam says that words have become "mere verbal chaff used for selfish purposes by high priests, soothsayers, heads of states, and other charlatans. Words are desecrated as a result and made to perform the function of a hypnotist's crystal. Sooner or later, the desecration will show up for what it is, but people are always in danger of falling for every new imposter who turns his crystal in a new direction."

In the public sphere, words are used with great skill by four different kinds of people, namely, the politician, the journalist, the religious leader and the artist or writer.

Perhaps the greatest corruption of words occurs when it is used by a politician. He uses words to lie, to distort, to conceal. It is rare in the overflowing language of the politician, to find anything that is sincere and heartfelt. It is the expert manipulation of the listener's feelings and sense of trust. It is only much later we discover that he is a fake.

The secretly-taped speech of Diwakar Raote of the Shiv Sena highlights another angle: the use of words to inflame passions. Here is a man who coerces Hindu traders to donate more to the Shiv Sena while at the same time he exults in the fact that he has killed Muslims. It shows clearly the frightening state of the Indian polity. If such men are in positions of power, then what hope is there? The word has become a terrible weapon in the hands of the *goonda*-politician.

Earlier, they had the power to arouse or console. But today they have become meaningless mouthings or else, deceptive snares

Words can also be used in another way. A journalist, writing in a national weekly on Jyoti Basu, said that the master politician was a skilled user of words, able to shift the nuance every now and then to suit current political needs. For example, during the campaign for the Assembly elections last year, he described Ghising's attempts to establish a Gorkhaland as 'anti-national.' And yet, a year later, when he felt it imperative to solve the Gorkhaland problem, he termed the movement 'democratic.'

After the politician it is the journalist who uses words constantly. He plays a tremendously vital role in a democracy, that of informing the citizens about the goings-on in society and the 'goings-ons' in the government. But the press, because of its enormous influence, has come under great pressure. Journalists succumb to the lure of money and power. They lose their impartiality and take sides. As Nikhil Chakravartty said in a recent interview: "It is no longer indecent to be corrupt. It is extremely difficult to keep your integrity." Hence, journalists of lesser moral fibre fall and when they write, they convey nothing. "A word," says Nadezhda Mandelstam, "is too easily transformed from a meaningful sign into a mere signal, and a group of words into an empty formula. We begin to exchange set phrases, not noticing that all living meaning has gone out of them."



Then there is a religious leader who uses words in perhaps the most damaging manner possible. The quintessential image of the fanatical religious leader is that of Ayatollah Khomeini inciting the masses about taking part in the war against Iraq during large prayer meetings in his home town of Qom. The face of Khomeini, twisted about by hatred and the eyes—hard, cold, ruthless and bloodthirsty—so similar to General Zia's and a thought arises: Can this person be a man of God? And yet, in the name of God, he is using words that lead to mothers wailing the loss of their strong-limbed sons in a stupid, wholly meaningless war.

Where, normally, because of their positions and the reverence that they are held in, religious leaders could have used words to create compassion and peace, now they lead men to bloodshed and killings and the creation of a brutal schism between different communities.

Finally, there is the artist or writer who uses words as constantly as those mentioned earlier. He, of all people, as the creator of the literature of his land, needs to use words with great thought, sincerity and commitment. He must have the full force of his soul behind every word he writes. But the corruption of the writer in the 20th century is a widespread tragedy. It is rare for a modern writer to withstand success, money, fame and power. They corrode his integrity and he loses his force.

"Success," says Graham Greene, "is a mutilation of the natural man." Adds Boris Pasternak, the great Russian writer, "Writers look at life when they are young, but when they have achieved fame, confine themselves to abstractions, to rehashing, to cautious common sense." And the history of modern world literature, especially Western literature, is fraught with tales of writers who began with great sincerity, but soon lost their way and were finally sunk in the abyss of self-destruction. Truman Capote may be a recent example.

These are then the people in public positions who could have created peace but they have all let us down. It is remarkable, that despite such powerful assaults by the word on society, the latter still continues to function. Perhaps, it is the common man, unlike the gifted writer or politician or priest, who seems to have more character than the people we look up to.

The best thing in these troubled times is to ignore the public figure and instead listen to our own intuition and conscience. Perhaps that is the only way to preserve our society. And lastly, one ends with a plea to future generations in the words of Elias Canetti: "To the administrator of words, whoever he may be: I want words that don't fall away, words that don't wither. I want thorns and roots, and occasionally, very occasionally, a translucent leaf, but I do not want any other words, you can distribute them to the rich."

Shevlin Sebastian

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Witness to a Funeral

I want to be in this quagmire, this ghetto,
this dug up absurdity
I want to be there when they
Light up the pyre of myriads of flesh blood
and souls.
Let me shed my few tears for this
monstrosity they call Calcutta
I am not sure whether my parents had
queued up when they bred me,
But they have jostled about for the rest of
their lives.
When for the first time my neonatal lungs
filled up
With air pungent with odours of dung, dust
and gunpowder,
I screamed and the scream echoed and
resonated and was
Picked up and amplified by other baby
voices
It escaped along the narrow alleys,
pot-holed avenues to
The only patch of green and onto the red
and tricolour rostrums
There in the open, in the lashing rains, a
large flock
Herded in by trucks and buses listened to
the screams
And they knew they were coming—the
pall bearers
As awestruck eyes roved over the marble
regalia, stained teeth
Nibbled staled doles, they saw it all They
saw the coming.
They were there in the crowded buses,
young and old elbowing
Together for the last feel of soft flesh,
shadowy figures
In last embrace screened by scanty
foliage
They would come from the high rises, the
lowly slums,
With odours of hot dogs and hamburgers,
of stale fish cooking
On pavement chulas, Chivas Regal,
Chanel and sweat together
Eyeballs flicker in hollow sockets, a small
nod this way and that
And they get it all.
Comrades, Bhaiyo and Bahenos, we are
here,
We are at last ready, the pall bearers,
Knee deep in slush and mud and stenching
rain waters.
What is your number in the crematorium
queue? Cash change pockets
You are up ahead. Pinch your nose
you pass
The decaying bodies Don't bother, they
decayed for generations
No power! Don't squeam Make the pyre
with the starved bodies
And kindle with flames of agony
And sprinkle it with essence of
decomposing garbage.
Let incantations of Inquilab Zindabad fill
the air.
Omit the Zindabad? Job Charnock agreed,
Turning his weary powdery bones under
his crumbling mausoleum.
The end has at last come.
Punyabrata Dobe

Remember...?

Remember?
You in the crib,
Watching a hundred admiring faces
peeping through the bars,
Just to look at you,
You were brand new then

And then you learnt to walk and talk,
And everyone would listen.



KRISHNENDU CHAKI

Clinging on to every word you said and
clapping at every step you took,
You thought you were born to be pleased.

You went to school and met other saplings
like yourself,
The first competition from others for your
throne,
But Mama said you were something
special,
You believed her.

You embraced youth with characte
vigour,
They tried to teach you words like
Honesty, Integrity and Religion,
But you mocked their bygone era of
myopia and conventionalism,
You believed in the generation gap

You seldom lost a battle,
Because they were wrong and you were
right,
Because they were old and you were
young,
You were always so damn sure of yourself.

You were the epitome of idealism,
Wanting to build, create, love and hate
But somehow the days flitted by and the
saga of your deeds was never written,
You never seemed to find the time

Then you became the breadwinner,
And God knows you tried so hard,
But there were so many brick walls and
just one head to break,
You weren't getting any younger

Sometimes you look back with despair,
At the years so full of promise that gave
you the slip when your back was turned.
At the sun now setting all too soon,
You wish there was someone to say you
are still special.

You started off with so much,
To explore the enigma of life,
To live and let live in a world—they told
you—that never forgets a good deed.
But now,
You brand life as a cycle of futility
Kalpajit De

In Memory of a Swiss Farmer

The news of his death recalled
The sharp, sharp sweetness breaking
upon the tongue
Of strawberries fresh-picked in the little
back under the Alps

Sunlight quiet on ruined stone

And the unsuspected permanence
Of certain farewells
Chandan Das

End of the Road for

Mohinder Amarnath recently mowed down the national cricket selection committee with an uncharacteristic outburst. ASHOK KAMATH on the classic love-hit relationship



Photographs Nikhil Bhattacharya



Mohinder: The selectors' *bete noire*?

"Amarnath calls the selectors a bunch of jokers." A headline like this would not have been startling had the Amarnath in question been the great Lala. But it was not the ailing elder statesman of Indian cricket fuming from his sickbed. It was his son, Mohinder, the only man in international cricket who has come back to a Test team 14 times. Fourteen times so far, that is.

Mohinder Amarnath's outburst against the national selectors on the eve of the first Test against New Zealand in Bangalore last fortnight could not have won him friends or influenced people who matter. But to the lay cricket follower in this country there can be no doubt that the omission of Mohinder from the national squad has been yet another case of injustice to international cricket's longest serving cricketer currently.

"These selectors are a bunch of jokers," Mohinder fumed at a crowded press conference in Bangalore. The choice of the adjective may have been indiscreet - why, downright offensive - but it was reflective of the man's frustration over what he described "being on trial everytime I go out to bat."

Mohinder made his debut in the fifth and final Test of the 1969-70 series against Bill Lawry's Australians in Madras. It was another six seasons before he played another Test. Mohinder was played in his debut Test primarily as a seam bowler who could swing his bat around when necessary. He may not have had a spectacular debut but he did do his bit with the ball in the second innings when he had both the Australian wickets that fell in that drawn match. Yet, he was denied the next available opportunity and had to twiddle his thumbs for the next 21 Tests that India played while someone like D. Govindaraj, the seamer from Hyderabad, went on two tours abroad without playing a Test or creating an impression during any of the first class side-matches.

Apart from his record 14 comebacks to the Test team (not to speak of the occasions he bounced back into the national team for the one-day Internationals) a very telling commentary on the way he has been treated by national selection committees between 1969-70 and now is that he played 69 Tests (for his 4,377 runs) but missed 66 during the same period. Surely, this must be an extraordinary case of a top-flight cricketer being in and out of a Test team with such consistency. (And it is not as though he opted out of tours like, say, Geoff Boycott, did; only on six of the 14 cases of him losing a place in the Test team were because of injuries.)

No less telling than the statistics of his comebacks is the one about his single longest run of Tests: 13, between the first Test against Pakistan in the 1982-83 series and the third Test against Pakistan in Jallandhar in 1983-84. It took a truly extraordinary run of scores to see him retain his place in the Test squad for those

Ir Comeback?



12 matches without a break. He scored 584 runs at an average of 73.00 in the series in Pakistan and followed it up with a whopping 598 runs at 65.44 against the West Indies in the West Indies. En route, Mohinder topped the 1,000-run mark by May 3—the world's quickest 1,000 runs in a calendar year. During the entire season of 1982-83, he scored a staggering 2,355 runs at 81.00 per outing. It was nothing short of Bradmanesque, this performance. It was the kind of performance which ensured Mohinder could take his position in the team for granted. But not for long.

Mohinder went through a lean patch thereafter, the kind of run-famine anyone of lesser mental fibre would not have survived. But comeback he did. Again, and again, and again...

Will he return to the national squad this time? How much damage has his tirade against the selectors in Bangalore caused as far as the chances of his return to the team is concerned?

Theoretically, there is no reason why Mohinder should not stage yet another comeback. The shocking aspect of his latest omission is that it came after a very good 74 not out when it mattered—in a vital league match against Pakistan in the Asia Cup in Dhaka. What may however stand against him is his rumoured links with the organisation of a rebel Indian series to South Africa. This more than his accusations against the selectors could come in the way of his return.

How justified was the volcanic eruption by Mohinder? "If my name was not Amarnath I would have played more Tests," he said. "I have been taking this for the last 20 years.. What about Sunil Gavaskar in 1984-85? He scored one 50 in the series and he was made captain for the World Championship of Cricket in 1985. What about Ravi Shastri ?" Mohinder asked after his omission from the team for the recent Bangalore Test. The fact is that like Shastri, Mohinder too had a poor series against the West Indies at home the last time India played Test cricket. But if Shastri got an extended run it was primarily because of his admittedly useful left arm spinning abilities and the fact that his is younger and agiler than Mohinder.

Which brings us to the moot question about the sacking of Mohinder Amarnath. Who was it who ought to have been dropped from the team that eventually played the first Test against the New Zealanders? Mohinder's middle order slot was taken up by Navjot Singh Sidhu who, with Arun Lal opening alongside Krishnamachari Srikkanth, had to occupy the one-down slot. Mohammed Azharuddin had a close call, what with a string of low scores. But selectorial thinking must have run along the line that Azhar is worth a handful of runs because of his fielding along and other things remaining the same the younger man gets the nod when it comes to an extended run ■



Gavaskar: Could stand up to the selectors

Shastri: 'What keeps him there?'



An Autumn





Sunil K. Dutt captured the vibrancy of India's rich heritage at the week-long festival organised by the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre in Sikkim





Celebrations







Sikkim comes alive in Autumn. Flowers burst into flames of colour and *dhachoes* or prayer flags flutter in the backdrop of gently sloping hills, soft, blue skies and shimmering monasteries.

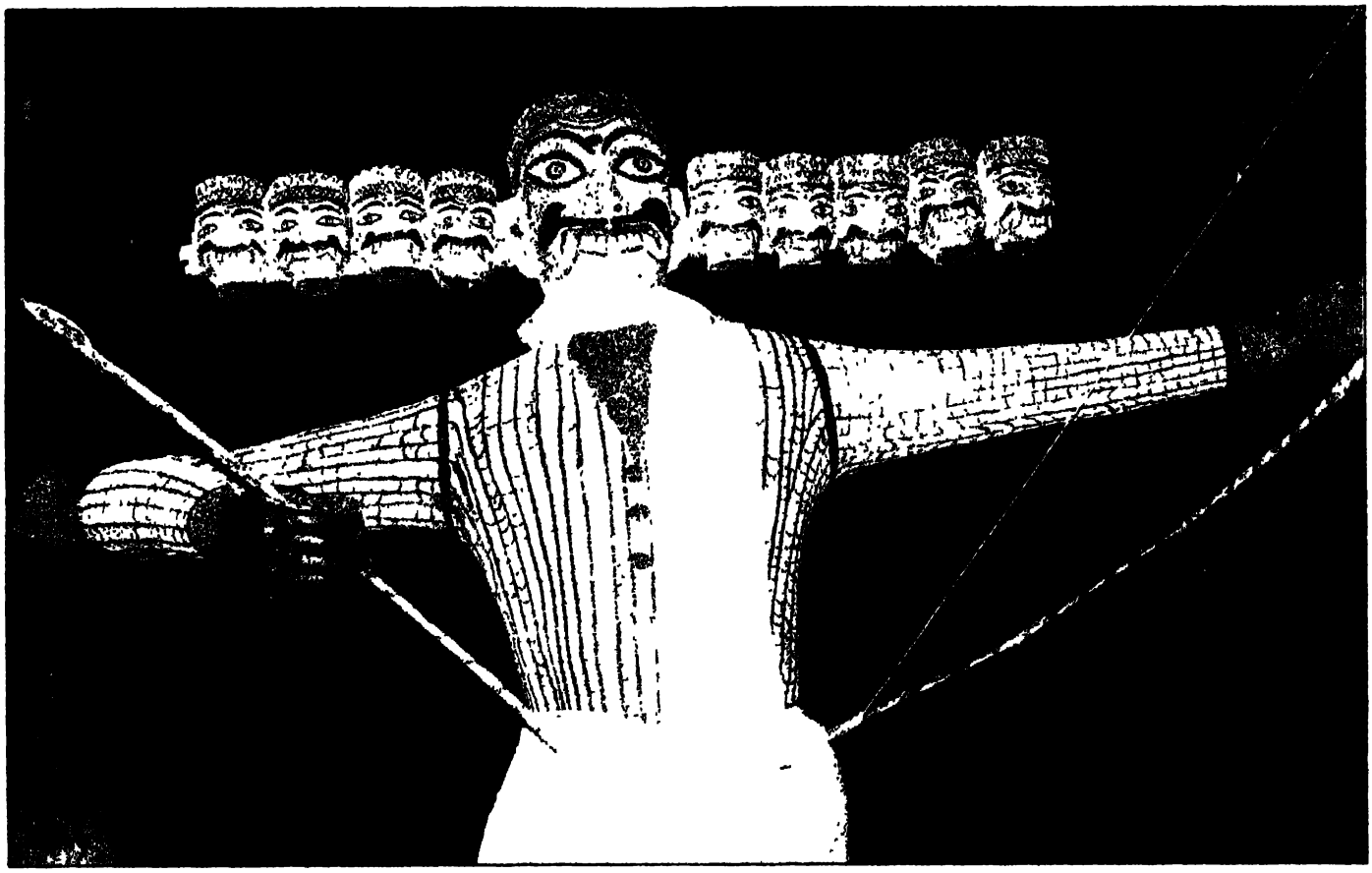
At the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre at Gantok, a week long cultural bonanza was recently organised with artistes from 10 states coming together in a festival of dance and music to depict what is truly and only Indian.

The underlying message remains the same, only each state says it differently. While Sikkim says it with Denzong *nehna*—an ensemble of brocade *kaikus* and *shablhams* or the throb of Chhabrung drums, Arunachal Pradesh sways to the gentle rhythm of *Dodom Dalo Yhokovevo* and *Phedong Lekong*, the tinkle of silver jewellery in perfect harmony.

Both Bengal and Bihar take up the refrain with the Bagroomba Moshaglengnei and the haunting Bihu. Manipur perfectly symbolises the delicate *Sanga* of Lai Haroba and Kabunaga while Tripura rejoices in the *Mimata*. The Kajri of Bihar and effervescent Bhangra of Punjab add life and colour to the rough mountain terrain as Orissa's sculpted temple figures seem to come alive when the Odissi dancers perform. The unforgettable Kathakali dancers of Kerala bring alive tales of days gone by. But food and traditional hospitality is definitely not ignored as the platefuls of momos amply demonstrate.

Champak Chatterji

MYTHS AND MASKS



The Ravana Katha Naach is a unique celebration which takes place in Bishnupur, West Bengal

Text and photographs:
Ravi K. Dwivedi

The day was quite hot; four figures, clad in coloured jute fibre and rather heavy wooden masks, accompanied by drummers and a battery of children, collected donations from house to house dancing on the streets of Bishnupur (district Bankura).

This is the *pankrama* of the Ravana Katha Naach,' said Sukumar Adhikari, one of the dancers, wearing a Bibhisana mask. 'It is more of advertising or propaganda than alms collecting.' Apart from other rituals and festivals, the Ravana Katha Naach, a mask play, is held every year at Raghunath Ashram of Bishnupur on the day of 'Dwadashi', the twelfth lunar day (two days after Vijaya Dashami or Dassehra). This is another special feature, because in other parts of India, the killing of Ravana takes place on the eve of Dassehra as depicted by its name--*Dashara*, das (ten) and *hara* (lost)- as Ravana had ten heads and lost all of them. Vijaya Dashami is celebrated as the victory day of Goddess Durga over the *asuras* (demons).

Some myths exist at Bishnupur, as Rama wanting to worship Durga and Brahma suggesting that the worship be conducted by a Brahmin priest who had never missed an evening prayer. The only such Brahmin available was Ravana himself, who conducted the worship of Durga. At the end of the worship, on the day of Dashami, after immersion, Ravana asked Rama's desire. Knowing very well that it was nothing but to kill him, Ravana nevertheless blessed Rama and asked the goddess to grant him his desire.

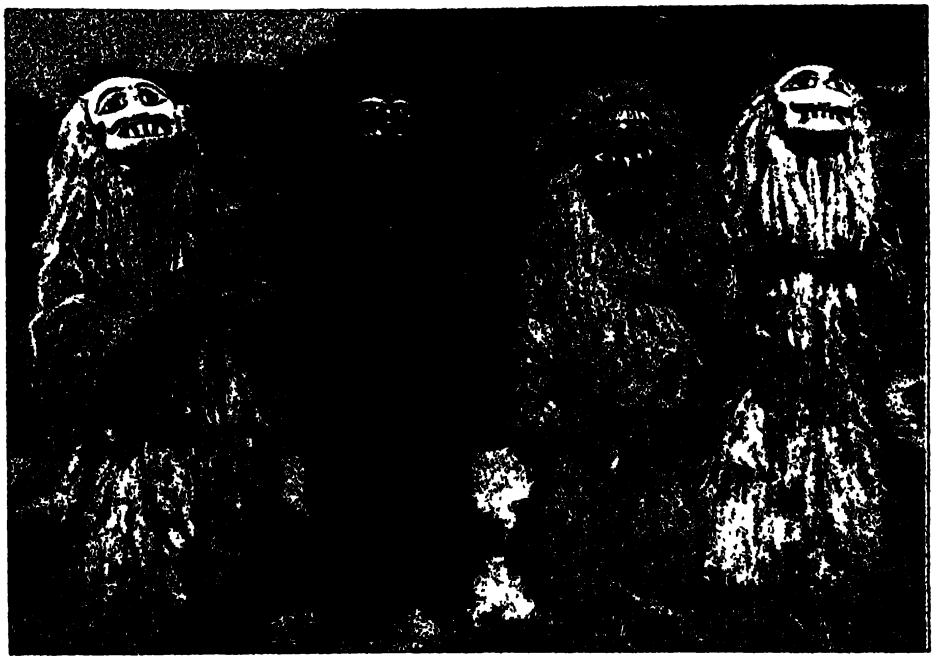
This is the reason why the killing of Ravana takes place two days after Dassera. On Dashami, the killing of Meghnath takes place, follows the killing of Kumbhakarna the next day, and of Ravana the day after.

There are five main masks, one big mask of Ravana along with the nine small masks (non-performing) and four performing ones of Bibhisana, Jambubana, Hanumana and Suggriva. The mask of Ravana was given to the ashram with the large chunk of land and other masks to the ancestors of Subal Barik (Jambubana), Dhananjoy Das (Suggriva), Sibadas Garai (Bibhisana) and Sukumar Adhikari (Hanumana) along with the land and permission to dance.

Though the use of the mask is almost prehistoric, this festival is not very old and was introduced by the king, Vir Hambir, 300 years ago. Vir Hambir might have visited a place where there was a tradition of mask play. Did he then bring in the masks? Or did one of his court carpenters (Fauzdar) introduce the art of making masks as his family was used to making the images of gods and goddesses? Or did the king not give them masks in the

real sense, but only the permission to wear them as the use of the mask was restricted in the belief that if someone wears a mask, then he is not an individual and not only representing the character of the mask, but is the character itself and should be worshipped

To come back to Ravana Katha Naach There is a controversy regarding the type of wood used for the masks, but knowledgeable persons said that these are made of ***neem*** (azadrachta indica) or ***bel*** (aegle mermelos). The masks are very old and repainted every year by the Fauzdar family or other image makers Previously, earth colours were in use, but nowadays cheap, available oil paints are used Hence, the effect and quality have deteriorated The masks of Hanumana and Sugriva are white and look like the faces of monkeys, the masks of Jambubana is black and looks like that of a bear and the mask of Bibhisana is red and looks like that of a human face except the teeth which give an impression of the demon cult The Ravana mask is very majestic and the way it fits with the figure, the totality is quite impressive There are five or six 'substitutes' for each mask - this development is very recent as one cannot continue the dance for three days and one night with the heavy mask and costumes of jute fibre



The costumes are jute fibres stitched to the pants and shirts, so that they cover the whole body and look like fur The costumes of Jambubana and Bibhisana are dyed black and red, respectively and of Hanumana and Sugriva remain in their natural colour The figure of Ravana is made of straw and clay, which is made by a particular family down generations Straw is tied on a bamboo structure, then a few layers of mud are added to give it a shape, and then it is painted A cotton *dhoti* and a scarf are tied to its waist and neck and the masks of Ravana are tied with an extended bamboo over its body The height of Ravana is nearly eight feet (in a kneeling position) and kept on a hand-cart

"The final day is very tiring for us," said Subal Barik, who is a lime dealer by profession, "because the ***parikrama*** starts early, around 9 am and we have to cover the whole town along with some nearby villages No doubt, others replace us in the dance when we are exhausted, but all of us have to walk with the procession which may continue up to late in the evening."

The ***mahanta*** decides the time for the 'killing' ceremony which falls generally late at night He conducts the worship of Raghunath who is on the chariot outside the ashram and 50 yards away, face-to-face, is Ravana on a hand-cart After some rituals the *mahanta* selects one person among the three (except Bibhisana) and gives him the right to kill Ravana as the representative of Raghunath The final dance starts on tired legs and now they cannot exchange the masks

At a suitable moment (it was 2 30 am last time) the *mahanta* gives the sacred sword to the selected person and he goes straight to Ravana, touches the sword on its neck, someone pulls out the mask of Ravana from behind and the imagemakers take out the *dhoti* and scarf from the body and then push down the 'corpse'. The crowd jumps upon it to collect pieces of clay, as *prasad*, which they put on the *tulsitala* (basil tree) in their houses

"The response was better before Nowadays, people have lost interest From whatever we collect, the dancers get 60 per cent and 40 per cent goes to the musicians The 60 per cent is shared among us four equally What we get in our hands is nothing in comparison to the labour we put in, yes, we get Rs 30 per day and food from the ashram during the three day festival We hear our tales that the king had given land long with the masks to our ancestors Where is that? We don't know," said Sukumar Adhikari ■



All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

● **Agnee.** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272173), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 272273), Liberty (Chittaranjan Avenue, 553046), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351882), Jaya (Lake Town 573936)

Directed by J Om Prakash and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Chunkey Panday, Amrita Singh, Mandakini and Anupam Kher

● **Dayavan:** Jyoti (Lenin Sarani, 241132) 4 shows



Madhuri Dixit in *Tezaab*



Tapas Paul and Satabdi Roy in *Shudhu Tomari*

A film by Feroz Khan who also stars along with Vinod Khanna, Madhuri Dixit and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

● **Ganga Tere Desh Mein** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138) & Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) 4 shows

Directed by Vijay Reddi and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Dharmendra Shatrughan Sinha, Jaya Prada, Dimple Kapadia, Raj Babbar and Kader Khan

● **Inteqaam:** Opera (Lenin Sarani 281849), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue, 390762), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551510), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 330680) Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666) 4 shows

Directed by Raj Kumar Kohli and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Sunny Deol Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri Kiran Kathar, Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Prem Chopra

● **Maar Dhaad (A):** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147), Krishna (P C Dutta Street, 250137), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 178141) 4 shows

Hemant Birje, Mandakini, Sadashiv Amrapurkar, Puneet Issar, Huma Khan, Navin Nischal, Rakesh Bedi and Satish Shah comprise the cast of this Yesh Chauhaan film whose music is by Rajesh Rosnan

● **Mar Mitenge:** Metro (Chowringhee Road, 280141), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 171757), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440) 4 shows

Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Bhanupriya and Madhavi play the lead in this Kawal Sharma film The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

● **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285412) 12, 3, 6 9

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

● **Tezaab** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Society (Corporation Place 241002) Moonlight (P C Dutta Street, 259756), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311922) Purnasree (Raja Raj Krishen Street 554033) 4 shows

A film by N Chandra, starring Anil Kapoor, Chunkey Panday, Madhuri Dixit, Kiran Kumar and Suresh Oberoi The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

Bengali Films

● **Anjali:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686) -1, 4, 7

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Ranjit Mullick, Moon Moon Sen, George Baker, Kali Banerjee and Madhabi Mukherjee The music is by Goutam Basu

● **Chhoto Bou:** Mitar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740) 3, 5,45, 8 30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Sapan Chakraborty

● **Jyoti:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045) -2 30, 5 30, 8 15

Directed by Shabd Kumar and



Ranjabati Sircar and Manjusri Chaki-Sircar

with music by Sapan Jagmohan, the film stars Rameshwari, Prasenjit, Anooradha Patel, Utpal Dutt, Rakesh Bedi and Pradeep Kumar

• **Shudhu Tomari:** Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)—3 shows

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Samit Bhanja, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Prabir Mitra The music is by Ajoy Das

Special Events

27 November. 5.45 pm

Rabindra Bharati Society inaugurates Tagore's birth anniversary celebrations with Dancers' Guild's *Tomari Matir Kanya*, based on *Chandalika* The participants are Manjusri Chaki-Sircar, Ranjabati Sircar, Jhuma Basak, Pradipta Niyogi, Subarna Chatterjee, Moushumi Sen, Sriparna Mitra, Nabanita Bose, Sharmila Ganguly, Hamanti Dasgupta, Sanhita Basu, Timir Roy and members of Dancers' Guild The songs are by Indira Shilpi Goshti

At Rathindra Mancha (Jorasanko Thakur Bari)

28 November: 6 pm

Moscow News Club presents a solo Kathak dance recital by Rama

Rama Proshad Chatterjee



Proshad Chatterjee.

At Gorky Sadan (Victoria Terrace).

29 November: 6 pm

Mootree Club presents Dr Manjusri Chaki-Sircar and her troupe, Dancers' Guild, in *Tomari Matir Kanya*, based on Tagore's *Chandalika*

At Gorky Sadan (Victoria Terrace)

2 December: 6 30 pm

Dancers' Guild's annual programme features *Gangavataran Rag o Rupantar* and *Chitrangada* with Manjusri-Chaki Sircar, Ranjabati Sircar, Pradipta Niyogi and Jhuma Basak in dance and Arghya Sen, Roma Mondal Rita Ghosh, Srimanda Mukherjee and Alak Raychowdhury in songs

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Ro 449937)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2)· AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830. Dep. (5). AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7). AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4). RJ-194 at 0500, Dep (4). RJ-195 at 0630

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr (4). SU-537 at 1555; Dep (4). SU-538 at 1855

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep (2) JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (7), SQ-413 at 1540, Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1020 and Arr. (4) SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7)· IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6). TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6). TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 5). RA-214 at 1410, Dep (2, 4, 7). IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1250, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 6) IC-248 at 1425, Arr (7)· IC-248 at 2055

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7)· IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7): IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily): BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6)· IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-223 at 1800, Dep (7). IC-443 at 1720, Arr (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615, Arr. (2, 4, 6) IC-224 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 5)· IC-224 at 2000, Arr. (7) IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5)· BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5)· GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7). GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily). IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7). IC-444 at 2000, Arr. (daily). IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily)· IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily): IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily)· IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5). IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-410 at 1110; Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily) IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep (3)· IC-277 at 0630, Arr. (1, 2). IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6)· IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1535 Arr. (3, 5, 6) IC 281 at 2120

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1). IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1). IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6)· IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7)· IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily)· IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 4) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-203 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810, Arr. (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta; Dep (daily). IC-213 at 1130; Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540, Arr. (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7). IC-219 at 0625; Arr. (7) IC-220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep (1, 4) IC-239 at 0825, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6)· IC-239 at 1100, Arr. (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-227 at 0835, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-228 at 0805

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-255 at 0815; Arr. (2, 4, 7)· IC-256 at 1000, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6)· IC-256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145; Arr (daily) IC-222 at 14.05.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4)· IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-243 at 0610, Dep (daily): IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (daily). IC-244 at 1030, Arr (daily)· IC-242 at 1640.



Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5). IC-238 at 1105.

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-701 at 0830, Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-701 at 1115, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-702 at 1200, Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-702 at 1440.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (daily): PF-705/704 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-706/703 at 1635.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7)· PF-708 at 0855.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6). PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5)· PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5) PF-729 at 1500, Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-729A at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730 at 1740, Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-730A at 0835.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) PF-709 at 0700; Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1800.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-727 at 1220; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1850.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (Guwahati; 1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0900; Arr. (Guwahati; 1, 3, 5, 7): PF-736 at 1540.

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (Guwahati; 2, 4, 6): PF-735 at 0900; Arr. (Guwahati; 2, 4, 6): PF-736 at 1550.

Trains

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-55	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-55	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep.—Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thurs. & Sat. Arri —Tues & Thurs	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tues Arri —Sat	7-30	972

SEALDAH

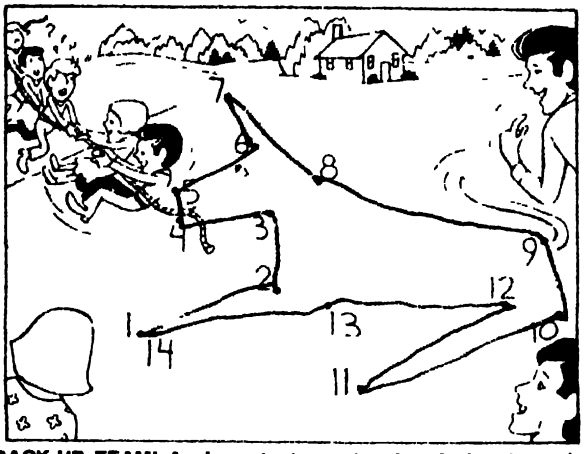
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Varanasi Express** via SBG Loop	14-30	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
3	21-00	**Madras Mail**	6-10	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-40	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	14-15	59
134	21-30	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-15	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-30	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
51	22-30	**Bangalore Express** Dep — Thurs Arri —Sun	13-45	52
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-10	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-45	**Sambalpur Express**	6-45	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-00	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	7-00	8
9	19-30	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-00	10
21	6-45	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-30	22
979	20-00	**Tirupati Express**	5-30	980
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-45	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep —Except Saturday Arri —Except Sunday	11-30	318
902	22-30	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
—	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	939
940	22-30	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	—
952	22-30	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep —Tues, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed & Fri	13-45	951
976	22-30	**Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City-Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Monday only	13-45	975

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203845-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted



BACK-UP TEAM! An important member is missing from the tug-of-war team above. Draw lines to complete the scene

• **NAME GAME! Paul's tall Kay's away Flo's slow.' Sue's blue Daisy's crazy. Billy's silly. Di's shy Jane's a pain. Can you think of some more?**

L	E	O	H	S	I
T	T	N	I	A	D
U	C	O	N	R	R
A	E	T	E	R	E
T	M	O	L	Y	P
O	C	E	P	E	P

SALAD BOWL MIX-UP

Six ingredients used to make salads are included in the letter maze above Starting with L, in the upper left corner, see how quickly you can spell out the following items **Lettuce, tomato, celery, pepper, radish, onion.**

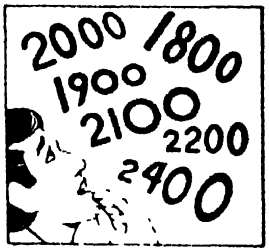
Move up, down or diagonally to adjacent letter in the process, using each letter once

By tracing ingredients in the order named, all 36 letters of the maze may be used That is to say, proceed from lettuce to tomato to celery to pepper, and so on

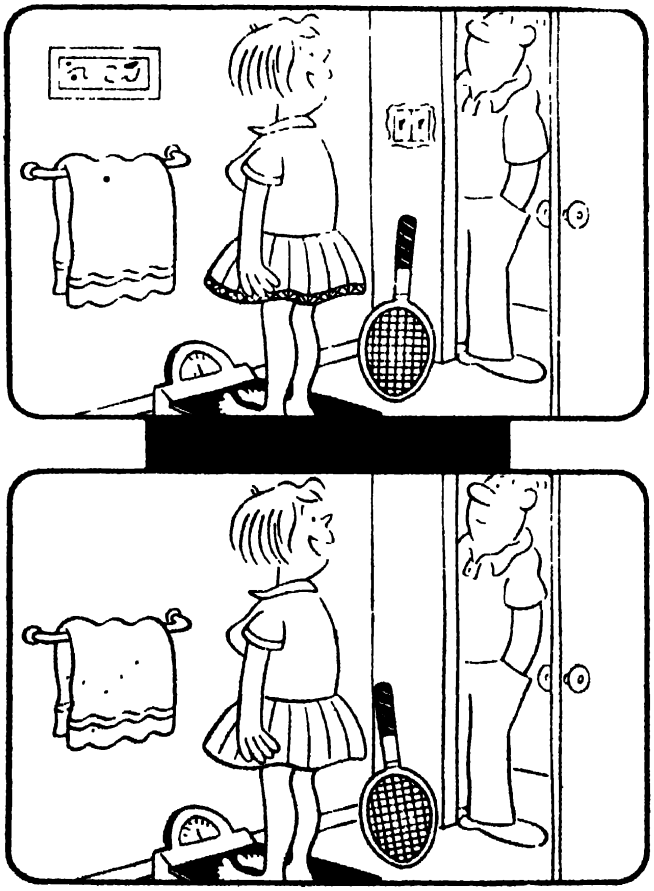
Try to comply in two minutes or less

•SUM YEARS! Not all years divisible by four are leap years. Indeed only two of the six years noted below qualify. This is because all six of these are century years, and century years to be leap years must be divisible by 400. Quickly then, which two of the years shown are leap years?

The years 2000 and 2400

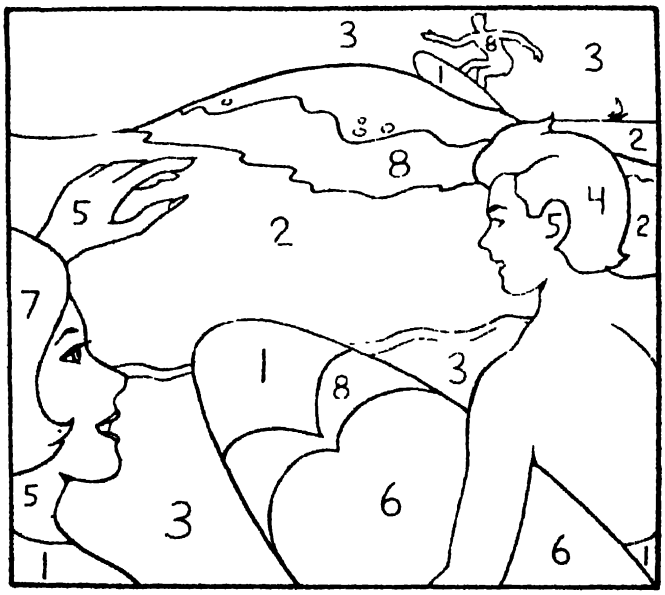


HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference. 1. Picture is missing. 2. Towel is shorter. 3 Skirt hem is missing 4. Racket is moved 5 Switch is missing. 6 Sleeve is shorter.



HIGH ROLLER! Apply these crayons or colored pencils neatly to the beach scene above. 1—Red. 2—Lt blue. 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

IMPOSTER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagram Post, nme.

ARIES

March 21—April 20

This week you need to take risks in whatever you do. Expect strong associations both on personal and professional levels From December 1, Jupiter retrogrades into your second angle of finance. Therefore, family affairs and big deals are well signified. Business transactions will be successful Those in import-export, collaborations, teaching research, public relations education and interior designing will work out a scheme or thesis perfectly

TAURUS

April 21 –May 20

The moon's quarter in your slot of pleasure and profit signifies gains, gaiety, glamour and goodies Also, by Western astrology, Jupiter has retrograded from Gemini into your sign From December 1 you will be further engrossed in investments and intimacies

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

The first four days of the week signify important moves As your sense of timing is perfect, expect happy results Your house and homefront comes in for renovation, decoration and celebration Sun trine Mars helps Geminis in travel, trade and agency business Those in commission and brokerage will build useful contacts Health safeguards are essential for the first two days Learn to fuse business with pleasure

CANCER

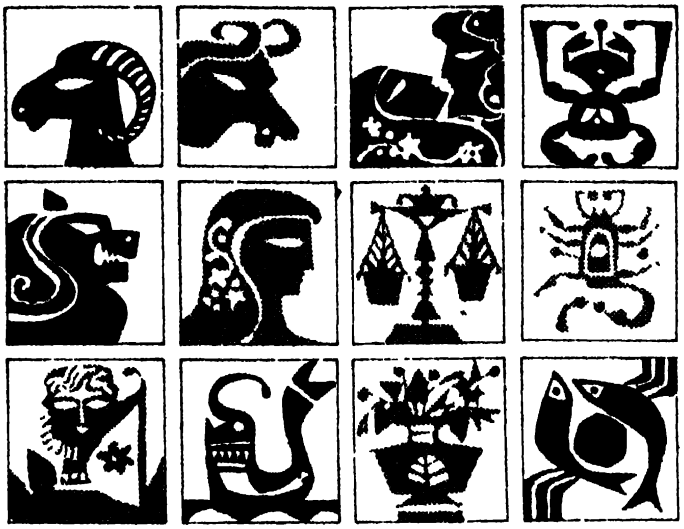
June 21—July 20

As said earlier, the expenses and journey angle continues for crabs Moon sextile sun formation helps Cancerians to reap the rewards of their labour A journey is indicated in December Paradoxically, expect visitors and foreigners to play up to you The first three days of the week are favourable for augmentation of income Expect happy news House and property matters are also favoured New enterprises can be launched

LEO

July 21—August 21

Once again a chance can be taken, specially on November 28 and 29, and on December 3 and 4 Though Christmas is round the corner, your work load will not decrease. On the contrary, full steam



ahead for Leons You will also be thinking of investments, deals and negotiations December 3 and 4 are lucky for news and contacts A journey is possible

VIRGO

August 22 –Sept 22

As mentioned last week, the home front could well be the centrepiece now A bout of hard work also awaits Virgoans, specially as sun conjuncts Mercury For some of you, a home away from home Those in travel, journalism, trade and sales had best chalk out a complete plan of action, but make it adaptable and flexible to the winds of change

LIBRA

Sept 23- Oct 22

This week, too, communication and contacts hold the key The first three days of the week are favourable for making contacts with those who count, and that includes strictly business or pure pleasure or a fusion of both A change is likely towards the middle of the week. A journey is on the cards.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Love is once again in focus Hard work, good company, group activity, parties and a meet or two make the week pleasurable and certainly profitable Put in your best efforts during December 1-4 as circumstances will be favourable and people cooperative Sail with the tide in every sense

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23--Dec 20

Make sure that the fruits of last week fall in your lap Mercury in your sign helps you in rentals, property, partnerships, journey, commission, agency, ceremonies, rituals, inaugurations and initiations It is important to undertake new ventures Sweethearts, friends and relatives will warm the cockles of your heart

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

A job-switch is highlighted this week A promotion is also probable Chances of travel are excellent as sun unites with Mercury in your slot of journey, expenses, religion, ceremonies and rites After December 1 your feelings will be intensified, awareness heightened and love will find fulfilment

AQUARIUS

Jan 20- -Feb 18

This week, too, the law of averages helps you to succeed Mercury trine Mars influences your work pattern favourably Expect contracts, assignments, promotion and favours There may be an opposition due to misunderstanding, but it should vanish shortly November 26-29 and December 3 and 4 are memorable dates Health may cause concern

PISCES

Feb 19—March 20

The last week's trend of home, property and missionary zeal will continue to manifest Partnerships, law suits, settlements, compromises, travel and a touch of romance are signified. Moon trine Saturn makes you ambitious and wilful It also helps to push you ahead with grit and determination.

BIRTHDAYS

November 27

Sun trine Mars: Power and management are on your side leading to success. Expect rapid progress in 1989. A wish fulfilment is on its way. This is also a good time for property matters, investments and romance A shift or transfer is probable.

November 28

Sun trine moon: Your popularity will definitely soar in 1989. Most Sagittarians will take chances and emerge winners. Those in industry, publishing, sales, advertising, showbiz, chemicals and plastic industries will do well,

November 29

Mercury trine Mars: Those in the arts and crafts, science and sales will make it big. A beneficial journey is likely. The swiftness and dexterity of Mercury helps you to hurdle over obstacles and reach your goals. Children and creative pursuits will bring joy.

November 30

Venus trine Neptune: This will give you the imagination and intuition so necessary for an enterprise or a collaboration or an affair of the heart. On the work front you will move and manoeuvre magnificently

December 1

Moon sextile Venus: Ardour and passion characterise your movements and behaviour patterns. For the eligible, matrimony, an official engagement and a strong link are foretold. Sagittarians will be making plans for expansion.

December 2

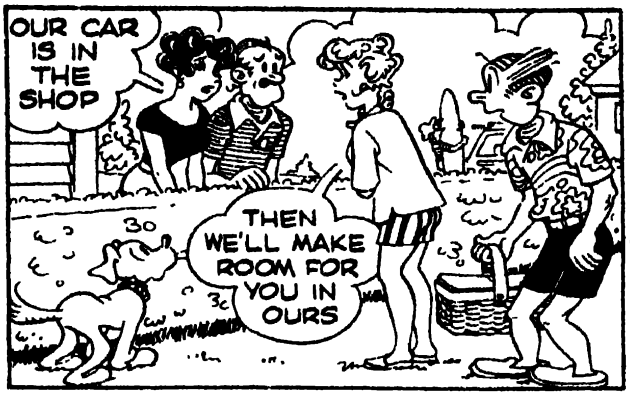
Virgo moon, Western astrology: Virgo moon sans strong aspect gives you a certain freedom of movement. Feel free to try out the unusual. Your abilities will be acknowledged. A complete change in the nature of your work is also possible in 1989.

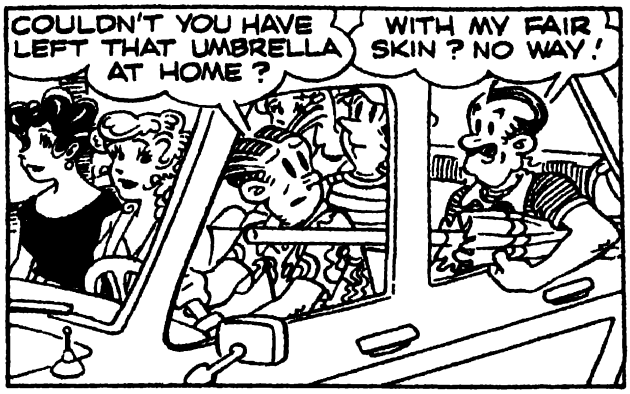
December 3

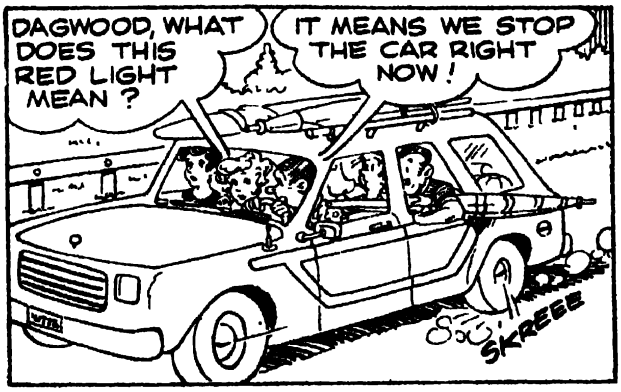
Moon square Uranus: Expect changes in your life. You will certainly hold on to your own. Keep away from muddled affairs and attend to family matters. Fuse ulcit with enthusiasm and the result will be splendid. Hobbies will give pleasure.













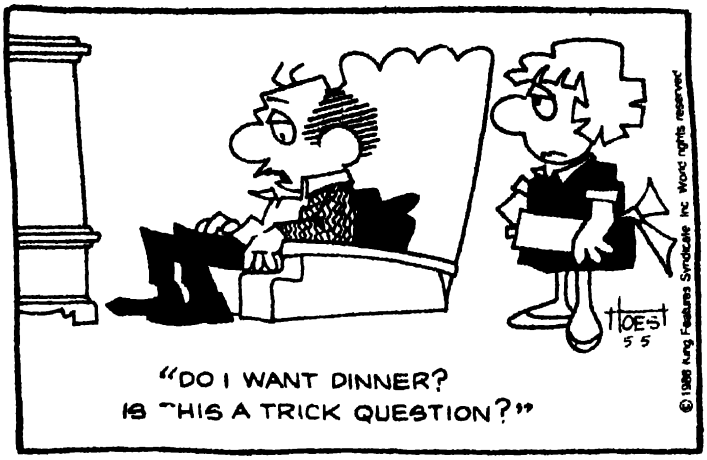


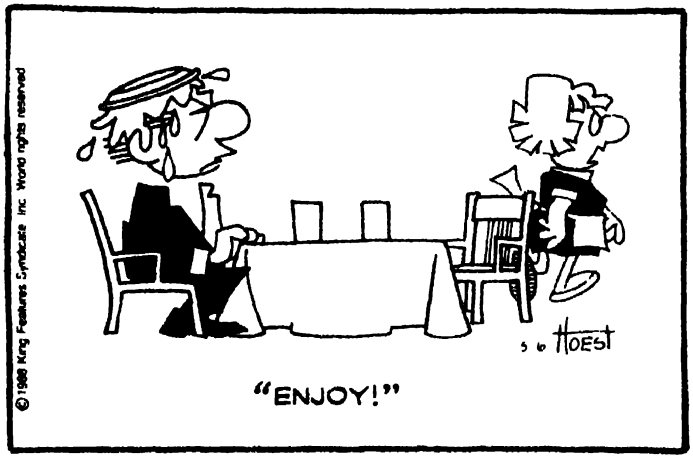
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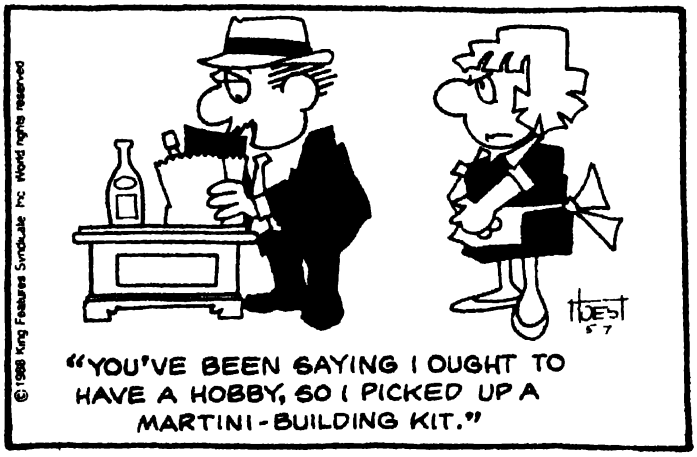


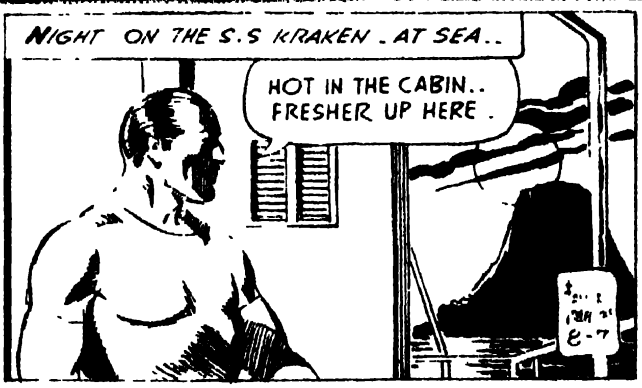

THE CLASS IS MAKING A FARCE OUT OF THE CLASS PRESIDENT ELECTIONS!
THEY ONLY NOMINATED JUGHEAD BECAUSE THEY THINK HE'LL LET THEM GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING!
HEY CONGRATS, JUG, ON BEING NOMINATED FOR CLASS PRESIDENT!
YEAH-YEAH!
WAY TO GO!
5-22
I NEVER WANTED IT! THEY JUST NEEDED SOMEONE TO RUN AGAINST REGGIE!
AND THEY PICKED ME BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE WANTED THE JOB!
ARE YOU GONNA CAMPAIGN?
YES! I THINK I WILL!
?
IF I'M ELECTED, I'LL GOOF OFF AND MESS UP AND DUCK MY RESPONSIBILITY!
A FEW DAYS LATER...
I W-WON ?
BY A LANDSLIDE! THE CLASS ADMIRED YOUR HONESTY!
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D PULLMAN MARRIAGE COUNSELOR
HOEST 54
"UH·····WHAT DID SHE SAY? I WASN'T LISTENING."
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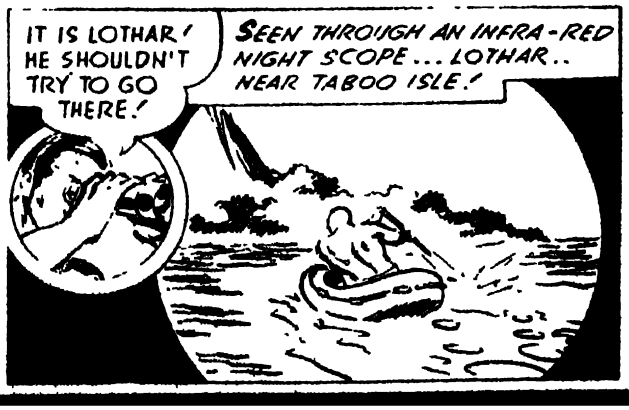

HOEST 55
"DO I WANT DINNER? IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?"
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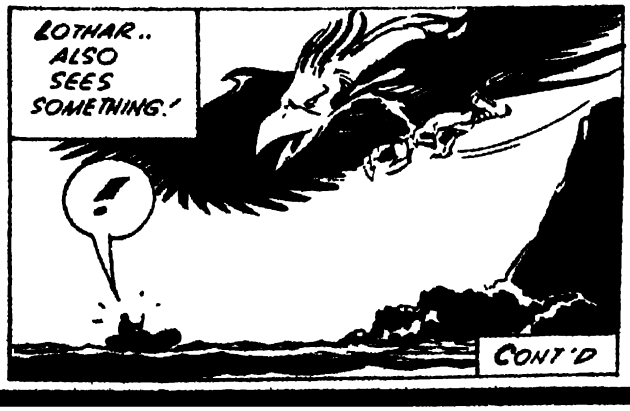

HOEST 56
"ENJOY!"
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HOEST 57
"YOU'VE BEEN SAYING I OUGHT TO HAVE A HOBBY, SO I PICKED UP A MARTINI-BUILDING KIT."
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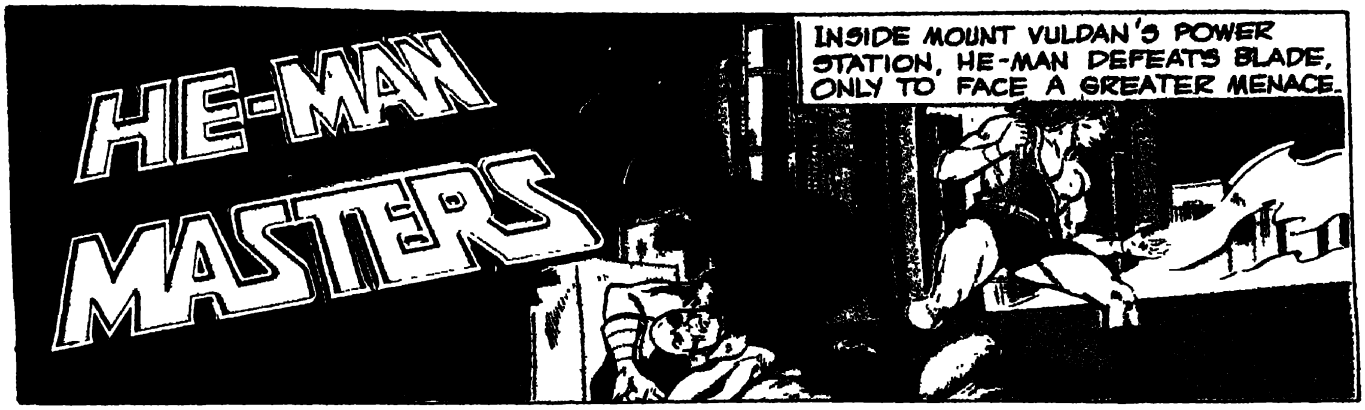

NIGHT ON THE S.S KRAKEN . AT SEA..
HOT IN THE CABIN.. FRESHER UP HERE .

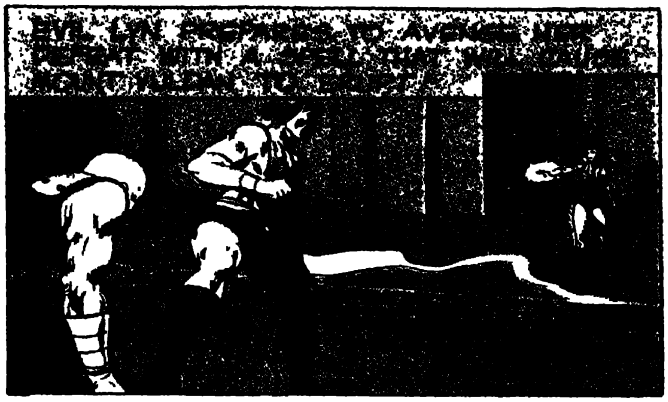

WHAT'S OUT THERE? MAN.. ON A RAFT? CAN IT BE..? I'LL NEED A BETTER LOOK..


IT IS LOTHAR! HE SHOULDN'T TRY TO GO THERE!
SEEN THROUGH AN INFRA-RED NIGHT SCOPE... LOTHAR.. NEAR TABOO ISLE!
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LOTHAR.. ALSO SEES SOMETHING!
!
CONT'D


I BET I CAN!
BET YOU CAN'T
WATCH THIS!
CLUNK!
HA!
YOU LOSE! YOU CAN'T STAND UP!
HURRY UP, EGON! I'M STARVING!
I'M SO HUNGRY, I'M EVEN LOOKING FORWARD TO EATING YOUR COOKING! WHAT IS IT TODAY?
AH! BEANS!
EGON, WHAT CAN I SAY?
THE SUBTLE USE OF HERBS AND SPICES.
...AND THE SAUCE! AN EXQUISITE BLEND OF DELICATE FLAVOURS.
AND STUPIDLY I THOUGHT, "WHAT CAN HE DO WITH A BOILED EGG?"
AND I'M FED UP WITH YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT MY COOKING!
I WORK ALL DAY TO MAKE A LAMB STEW AND...
LAMB STEW! OH, NO!
YOU WIN.
I WAS SURE IT WAS FISH
BEFORE YOU ASK, IT'S SOUP!
AND IT'S FULL OF GOOD THINGS LIKE MEAT AND VEGETABLES.
I WASN'T GOING TO ASK WHAT IT WAS.
HOWEVER, I WOULDN'T MIND KNOWING WHY IT'S BLUE.
CLINK!









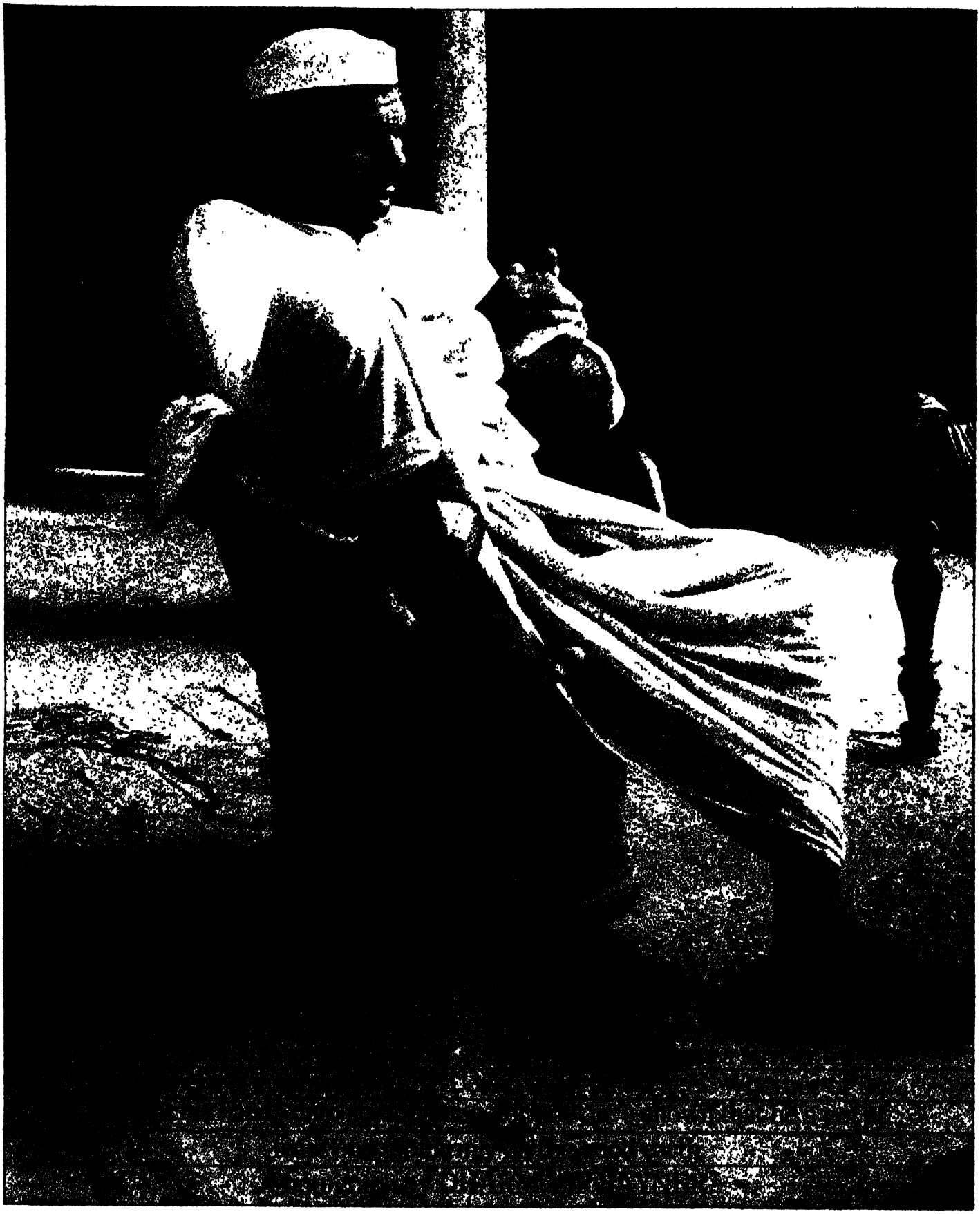








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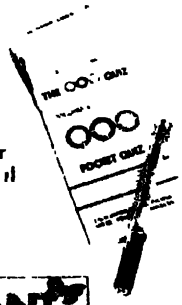
* With 20 packs comes a 100-piece Walt Disney jigsaw puzzle.





* For five packs you will get an attractive pencil, scale and eraser set.

* The Olympics Pocket Quiz and a Japanese seven-colour marker pencil is yours for 10 packs of cards.





* One Hamlyn all-



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- Animal Families Memory

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- Match and Move Memory

So bring home Memory Games. And let your child discover that learning can be fun!

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FUNSKOOL

Rediffusion/FS/713

POST MORTEM

In the Eyes of the Beholder

Seeing a model wearing jewellery and showing bare shoulders on the cover (October 2), reader Arijit Roy Choudhury made her "topless" (November 6). At last, you have a reader with such terrific eyesight!

Thanks for giving us another picture of sweet Oindrilla which came as a Puja bonus.

Debasis Maitra,
Calcutta

■ We were delighted with the picture of Oindrilla Chowdhury on the cover of your jewellery special. As beauty is truth and truth, beauty, please publish more such photographs in every issue of Colour Magazine.

Romendranath Chattopadhyay
and others, Howrah

Yet Again

On every occasion that the Colour Magazine has carried pictures of semi-clad women, there has been a mixed response from the readers. But in the last few months, how is that these occasions have become more frequent?

Arpita Mukharji,
Howrah

Being Indian

The article, 'Club Culture' (November 13), like many others on the M.F. Husain incident, overlooked the other side of the coin. It is true such clubs represent the legacy of the 200-year struggle which our country went through, but the champions of socialism like Ananda Shankar who, on the slightest pretext, make statements about "colonialism", "the brown sahib" and "the Raj", will have to begin their most patriotic campaign at the basic level of Indian life rather than breaking petty rules of private clubs.

These so-called lovers of Indian tradition are people with a celebrity status and an equally inflated ego. They suddenly get worried about the after-effects of India's slavery under the British when they themselves are involved. I have the greatest regard for the



Vivek Das

M.F. Husain

excellence each of these personalities (Bedi, Shankar, Husain) have attained in their respective fields, but that does not give them a certificate to break rules in private places, however patriotic their explanations might be. In any case, walking barefoot may represent one's very personal ethics, but how it represents Indianness eludes me.

I do not support the "vulgar snobbery" of these clubs, but the cause of socialism has to go deeper. We are taught English, we speak English, our five-star hotels maintain British traditions, our schools encourage the British style of dressing, our Prime Ministers are educated in Oxford and Cambridge and English speaking candidates have better job prospects. So, our people cherish the atmosphere of these "elitist clubs," but when they are asked to follow rules, these places are found unfit to exist.

Dhiren Shethia,
Calcutta

For Official Misuse?

It was disheartening to read about the deteriorating state of affairs in the once beautiful Ranthambhor National Park (November 13). The fact that the forest officials and their families misuse the facilities ceases to surprise as this is a common feature all over India.

But it is shocking that the felling of trees and the digging of brick kilns inside the sanctuary are going on so blatantly while the officials turn a blind eye to it all.

Anjan Sinha,
Calcutta

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

4 DECEMBER 1988



Utpal Sorkar

14 Richard Hadlee overtook Ian Botham's Test record of 373 wickets in the Bangalore Test recently. A profile of the new cricket king

6 What do the children of alcoholics go through? We talk to some of the affected children to find out

SECTIONS

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Cover Utpal Sorkar

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The well-to-do Calcuttans with heart ailments are taken care of by the city nursing homes And those who can afford it, fly to Bombay Vellore or Madras for treatment And if one happens to be the people's leader, one is surely the most privileged One can always travel abroad on government expenses

The rest of the city's population with a diseased heart are left with only two alternatives either to go to a government run hospital or straight to the burning ghat Even in the former case, it's not very different. Most of the cardiac surgery patients admitted to government hospitals have little chance of survival

Incidentally, it was in Calcutta where our country's first open heart surgery was performed in 1962 by Dr Ajit Basu on a young girl, Indrani Mitra Thus was followed by Dr K N Dastur in Bombay

Dr Ajit Basu had set up the city's first open heart surgery unit at Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospitals (NRS) The unit was later shifted to SSKM Hospital where Dr Basu first operated on Indrani. Today, the cardio-thoracic surgery department at NRS is languishing According to Dr Ganesh Roy, a cardio-thoracic surgeon at NRS, "Only two operations have been performed this year till October although we hope for another two by the yearend " The average number of such operations at Vellore, Madras or Bombay is about nine per week .

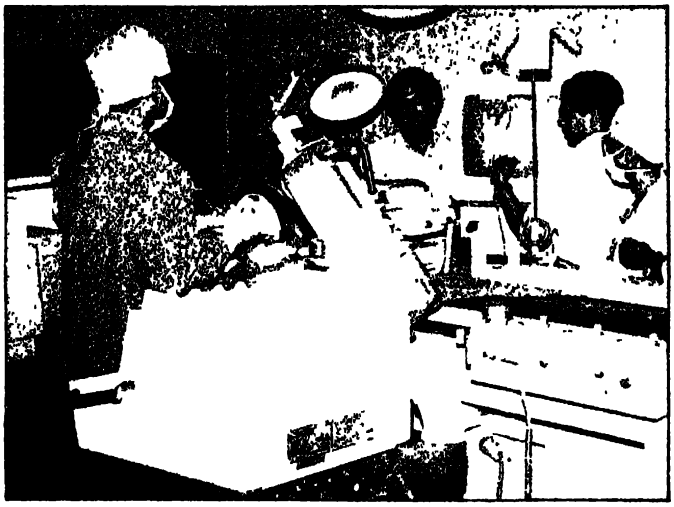
Dr J C Ghosh, head of the department of cardiology at NRS, feels that the state government lacks the will and determination to improve the standards of heart surgery in the city hospitals Another professor who prefers anonymity feels, "The government does not really mean business as this would spoil the chances of bureaucrats and politicians to go abroad for treatment at state expense."

According to Dr Roy, a

Are things looking up in the city as far as cardiac surgery is concerned?

number of sophisticated and expensive instruments at the surgery units are either out of order or stand in need of servicing for the past two years, but the hospital administration has failed to get it done because "the regulations and red tape suggest a very lengthy procedure "

Dr Guha Roy, who was also connected with the city's first open heart surgery, says that on an average three operations



An angioplasty being performed at the SSKM Hospital

a week are performed at Calcutta Medical College and the success rate is "not bad " But the performance of cardio-thoracic units at other government hospitals are below mark For this Dr Guha Roy feels "I would say there is lack of involvement Being the head of the department, I do not pursue private practice and if the government hospitals start performing miracles, how would the nursing homes thrive?"

However, the cardiology department of the SSKM Hospital has recently started performing percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty-- a quick and relatively painless substitute for coronary bypass which is the most common heart operation. "Hopefully, this recent development will protect a common man from exposing himself to the risk of coronary bypass surgery at a government hospital," observes a city surgeon

According to Dr Manotosh Panja, associate professor of cardiology at the SSKM, "The entire process of angioplasty would cost between Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000 whereas a coronary bypass surgery at Vellore or Bombay would run up to Rs 1 lakh " He also laments that while doing angioplasty it is essential that a cardio-thoracic surgery team should be at hand to handle any emergency or complication "but we often do not have this back-up "

A fully-equipped modern cardiac centre with full-fledged angioplasty unit will shortly be in service at the B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre

The intensive coronary care unit (ICCU) and the intensive therapy unit (ITU) will be linked to a central computer system connected to various video screens so that doctors get to know their patients' condition constantly. Besides, a resuscitation squad will be trained to revive failing hearts

The centre will also have up-to-date non-invasive investigation facilities including a six-channel ECG machine and exercise ECG machines for patients suffering from ischaemic heart disease though they may have normal electrocardiogram at rest. A normal ECG at rest does not imply a normal heart, through exercise ECG the ischaemic abnormalities following exhaustion will come into focus An ultrasound imaging system or echo cardiography will be installed to detect the abnormalities in the valves, different chambers of the heart and other related cardiac structures

The invasive investigation facilities will include radio nuclear study, thalium scanning, radio immunoassay, single photon emission computerised technology and blood gas analysis There will also be fully-equipped operation theatres with two full on duty teams for preplanned cardio-thoracic surgery and a round-the-clock team for emergency surgery The operation theatres will be provided with a gas sterilisation system and ultra-clean, filtered, fresh air supply

The B R Singh Hospital, though meant for railway employees, has much better facilities compared to other government hospitals Here the doctors are engaged in a research on "cholesterol factor," which they describe as "one of the biggest coronary risk factors "

The NRS and Calcutta Medical College (CMC) also have ICCUs with six beds each The ICCU at NRS has an echo cardiogram for scanning heart valves and chambers. The unit also receives "partial backup" from the radiology department On the other hand, the state of CMC's ICCU is precarious.

In short, the cardiology departments in different government hospitals are dependent on one another, for one may have a particular facility which others do not have

Monimoy Dasgupta

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

Woody Tales, a serial currently being telecast, is Rachael MacBean's message of love among children

Rachael MacBean's is a pleasing world, busy and colourful and infected with merriment. Her only relatives are her Burmese parents, who live in Jabalpur, and her varied interests as well as houseful of puppets, knick-knacks, pets and adopted children have kept loneliness at bay since her husband's death in 1984. But, perhaps, the more abiding urge behind the activities of this middleaged, utterly affectionate lady whose face beams with goodwill is her desire to spread a special message among children—"Unless we teach the children the importance of loving one another, we cannot save the next generation."

It is a message given fullest expression in a venture aimed at a larger audience than she has ever reached before—the TV serial, *Woody Tales*, currently being telecast at 6 30 pm every Saturday on Calcutta Doordarshan's second channel. Its distinction lies not only in its being the first puppet serial on Indian TV, but also in that it has "a definite message for the family and for the nation as a whole."

There are three stories told through six episodes and, to hear Mrs MacBean talk about them, the plots are ingenious, the message eternal and the presentation appealing. "I made the central character a donkey because I wanted to show how someone who is called stupid can do so much good just by being good, forgiving, loving. And the human characters are a woodcutter and his wife because I wanted to make the point that even people who are so poor can have values and stick by them." she says. The first story, about a fictitious diamond that's supposed to fall out of Halley's comet, shows how power can be misused. The second is about the environment—the cutting down of trees—and the third again about greed over a pot of gold.

The making of the serial, she recalls, was "a learning experience" for everyone involved and it helped to expand the workshop of Rahale (pronounced Ra-hill) Theatre, which is the name of her puppet group. ("Rahale is the Hebrew for Rachael, my name, and, also, there was a little Jewish girl who used to live nearby and I'd grown very fond of her and then she went away to Israel," Mrs MacBean explains.) "We had to make so many new puppets for this project that I called about 15 artistes to help us. And Kalyan Banerjee had never composed music for film before, so he was enjoying learning, too." Though the songs and dialogue are in English, the music has an Indian flavour and lilting, catchy tunes. It was performed by local amateur singers and musicians—"I wanted amateurs so they would take easily to our ad lib style." So satisfied is everyone with the end product that they are keen to begin work on another 13 episodes though Doordarshan is yet to give the go-ahead for the extension.

Another first-time venture that Mrs MacBean will soon be working on is the publication of her two manuscripts—*Woody Tales*(the serial in book form) and *Twisted Tales*, which is written with Calcutta's well-known children's author, Vernon Thomas. Mrs MacBean has been a prolific writer from quite young and an inveterate storyteller from an even earlier age: "In Jabalpur, where I grew up, I was the eldest child in the neighbourhood and I would tell stories to all the younger ones." She has written poetry and short stories—one was broadcast on the BBC's "Short Story of the Week" programme in 1972—and was an accredited correspondent for *The Herald* ("that was when I interviewed Edmund Hillary, Shakuntala Devi, Durba Banerjee and many others") apart from pursuing a successful secretarial career.

Her enormous creative urge has been channelled into making soft toys, dolls and utility gifts as well as tailoring and photography, apart from her work for Rahale Theatre productions which entails visualisation, composition of plot and lyrics and designing puppets and sets. Her puppet shows are in demand as party entertainment and local schoolchildren have enjoyed her exhibition of miniature tableaux depicting the life of Christ. Her earlier successes on TV (a short programme was telecast as part of "Telescope" at Christmas time in 1985 and another one in March this year) had already opened the possibility of a feature film for the Children's Film Society. A short on national integration is also in the pipeline. Despite the limited range in age of her audiences so far, Mrs MacBean's tales of good and evil have the endearing quality of fairy tales and folk lore—from which she draws occasionally—and are, essentially, for all ages.

Not conventionally religious ("I don't believe in doctrine") she has a disarming expression of her faith—"Talent is what God gifts us, and what you do with it is your gift to God." No one can live without faith, she says simply, for that means living without love. Appropriately enough, the mascot of Rahale Theatre is her 17-year-old pet parrot, Perkins ("the parrot is the symbol of love in Indian lore," she explains), who is as affectionate as his mistress.

Whistling to Perkins, patting Patch, the self-appointed guard-dog of her home, chucking a baby under the chin, Rachael MacBean bubbles with both contentment and affection. It is rewarding to see how her quest to add meaning to her life "by spreading the message of love" has found fulfilment in other ways besides the productions of Rahale's Theatre.

Yana Banerjee-Bey



Deepak Bhattacharya

Lost Childhood

Alcoholics' children not only have a traumatic childhood but also grow up to be confused and unhappy adults, reports Nandika Jaitley

"The slam of the car door in the middle of the night makes my heartbeat accelerate The incessant ring of the door bell terrifies me. The crashing sound of furniture has me cowering under my sheets, praying fervently that my father, drunk once again, thinks I am asleep and goes away

"Minutes later I smell the stench of alcohol on my cheeks and his heavy, careless hands roughly tousling my hair. I keep my eyes tightly closed I hate him I hate myself believing that this familiar stranger is not my father," writes a child of an alcoholic.

Alcoholism, is a disease that affects everyone living with the alcoholic—mentally, emotionally and physically Perhaps the most vulnerable are the children of alcoholics. The scars that they bear of a troubled and tormented childhood often develop into a dull ache that permeates their psyche And when the past seems to be just a bad dream, the aftermath of the years of emotional stress become a living nightmare

What is alcoholism and who is an alcoholic? A lifelong disease, it can never be cured, only arrested A progressive sickness, it eats into the drinker whose condition worsens with every passing day. Thus the only "cure" is total abstinence Alcoholics are characterised by an intense urge to drink but the other symptoms are varied and complex, rarely conforming to a pattern Blackouts, memory loss, withdrawal and irrational behaviour are some of the commonly observed symptoms.

Studies have shown that alcoholism is a disease with a genetic base Caused by a neuro chemical imbalance in the body it makes it impossible for the afflicted to drink normally The environment also has an important role to play Ninety five per cent of alcoholics have close relatives who also suffer from the disease

Alcoholics' children try to shy away from the horrible truth They weave an imaginary world around them, an instinctive attempt at self delusion Writes one such tormented child, "My mother calls him for dinner. I can feel the anger and self-pity welling up inside me, and I think, 'Why does he do this to me, when he knows that I hate it Why?' And I bite down hard on my lips or pinch myself to feel pain and the soothing balm of tears." Obviously, it is as difficult for the alcoholic to accept that he has a problem as it is for the child to accept that his or her father is an alcoholic

Every problem child searches for that elusive happiness which makes his adult life confused and somewhat unattainable. As Romesh (27) a chartered accountant, says, "When I moved into my own apartment, I still found myself constantly preoccupied with my father's drinking and what it was doing to my mother I felt obligated to provide money for my brothers and sisters. I felt resentful, because my parents appeared so helpless. At the same time it helped soothe my feelings of guilt for living away from home."

Often the trauma of childhood clouded by an alcoholic parents affects children's adult relationships, their self- esteem and sense of family life. Mamta, a mother of three, came from a home where her mother had a drinking problem. She decided that she would never drink and banned drinking in her house. "I was fierce about everything. My standards and my expectations were extraordinary. My children were not. They began to frustrate me and my outrage turned from screaming fits to brutal spankings. I was tortured with guilt at having become like my mother And I was'nt even drinking!"

The middle and upper classes usually classify alcoholism as a moral or self-inflicted problem while the affected resign themselves to what they call a chronic disease For the lower classes it is usually related to economic constraints, frustration at the place of work and a means to escape the dreary economics of providing for large families living in a one-room quarter in a filthy back alley or slum

Society has never been kind to anyone with a problem And to attach the adjective "embarrasing" or "social



nuisance" to an alcoholic is regressive. Abusing them, nagging them about their weakness or just shutting them out only serves toworsenthe situation. The understanding has to start at home and it has to begin with the children. As the poet, Robert Bly, son of an alcholic put it, "Every child of an alcoholic parent receives the knowledge that the bottle is more important to the parent than he or she is." And every child has to work on that premise.

Most children of alcoholics grow up in an atmosphere where parental influence is minimal. They usually suffer from intense feelings of guilt anger and denial. It is easier for them not to talk, trust or feel and they learn ways of coping with what later prove to be psychologically damaging

Talking from personal experience, Ashok (21) says, "I realise that most of us feel confused. We have a false sense of the self and often a greater sense of despair" Victimised by their own minds and the behaviour of their relatives, the children of alcoholics grow up with numerous complexes Yet, some manage to put up an affective facade while others like 20-year-old Sunil are left with a stammer for life

Ajay (15) is a factory superviser's son. He lives in a typical lower middle-class colony, where privacy is a rare commodity His problem at home is akin to that of many families in the locality. His father, an alcoholic, is given to violent fits of anger which result in either his mother or his brothers getting beaten up. The sequence is always the same—the wife nagging her husband just back from work Burdened with the responsibility of cooking and managing her home and children, she lashes out at her husband who holds a now familiar bottle wrapped in brown paper to see him through the evening The children get the worst deal. Abused and beaten by both parents they usually tend to stay away from home from a very early stage.

As Ajay says, the desire to please, to keep the parent occupied so that he does not drink, makes a majority self-effecting, docile martyrs

Resentment grows quickly. And it is here that the rule of a supportive parent becomes paramount What most parents, egged on by a misguided sense of duty and love do, it is to shut out the child from the problem and not talk about it. But a child can sense its existence even before it can learn to speak Silence leads to emotional damage and years of unhappiness in the relationship between the alcoholic parent and the child.

As a person who preferred anonymity, put it, "Today I find myself on an emotional see-saw. No reaction in a crisis is rational. I am unusually sensitive to what people say, whether it is personal or a comment on my father. I am also given to abusive language towards my father when he is in this state It is an utter and complete feeling of frustration"

Acoholic parents often end up becoming a liability on their children, a shame never to be shared Aruna (18) recalls, "When Dad was at home, I would hunt out his bottles and pour the contents down the sink. I did not want anyone to know that my father had a drinking problem I hardly made any friends" Ill adjusted and wan, Aruna occupies most of her time now reading

Tension, anger and violence become synonymous with childhood Tapan says, "I am afraid of anger I saw it displayed by my father and in the icy coldness of my mother, who refused to talk to me I am afraid of my own anger, of the violence that is in me"

The insecurities and fear of the children of alcoholics leave them as unstable and dissatisfied human beings who crave for attention and affection but not amount of either seems to satisfy them It is like a bottomless well These children make impossible demands like asking their parents to give up drinking "What they and the entire family should try and understand is that the alcoholic is not out to injure them personally. When they accept and understand this, the therapy for both the alcoholic and the family can start Only the love and security of the family can ensure a cure," stresses Dr Madan Mohan, psychiatrist at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi.

According to the Acoholics Anonymous (AA) the largest the most popular de-addiction centre in the country, it is vital that healthy communication exist between the parent and the child By talking to each other they can share their fears and worries and come to grips with reality In fact, AA has started a programme, Ala-Teens, designed for the teenage children of alocoholics Anon is another programme for the wives and adult children of alcoholics The AA office in Calcutta is at St Mary's Church, 92, Ripon street

All said the done, alcoholics the world over can be helped only if one rises above narrow societal paradigms and face the problem instead of pushing it into the realms of the unmentionable

(The surnames, and occasionally the names, of those who have been quoted in this article have been withheld due to reasons of anonymity)



GROWING DOUBTS

When the time for school admission comes, the race is on and the pressure begins to tell on both the parents and the children. Are we doing the right thing in subjecting a child to regimentation? Soumitra Sinha wonders

Like all newly-weds we, too, entered our marital life with a number of resolutions in mind—the usual ones being to save enough for a flat, a car, and of course, to ensure domestic harmony and peace ever after. None of the dreams came true, except one, incidentally the toughest proposition, of admitting our son to one of the prestigious English schools of Calcutta.

Like-minded aspirants may please refrain from hoping to find a direction manual in this story. That is for the host of tutorial homes to guarantee in the handouts advertising crash courses. I am only recounting the scenario of a few years ago, when admission to a good school was already a near impossible task.

My wife is not the sort to learn from the failures of others. She started working on her project sufficiently ahead of time, collecting all data and questions set over the years, drawing up a list of tutorial homes and a comparative statement of their success during the period. She explored all possible avenues, even made friends with mothers whose children were already studying in those schools and occasionally entered into conversation with unsuspecting aspirant mothers to extract a tip or two. Her record book could make a statistician proud and earn her a permanent place in the Intelligence Branch.

Armed with such information, she enrolled her five-year-old son to one such tutorial, which claimed 100 per cent success. She conceded that though the claim was a figment of imagination, the place had the best track record.

Her attempt to impress upon her delinquent son the duties and responsibilities of an English school aspirant was, however, a failure. Nevertheless, efforts continued unabated, under her overall supervision. His favourite bedtime stories of Indian origin, told in his mother tongue, were discontinued. Instead, a simplified version of Hans Christian Andersen was served with a view to fortify his defence at the orals. My son reacted by putting his thumb into the mouth and closing his eyes, feigning to fall asleep, refusing any more bedtime stories.

As the deadline drew nearer, nursery rhymes of all sorts were recited within his earshot, every now and then. My son foiled all attempts to coax him into repeating them and literally turned a deaf ear.

I was not aware of the grind he was being subjected to in the name of coaching. My wife had managed to squeeze him, thrice a week, into the dungeon, on his way back from nursery school. My office timings would naturally clash with his hours. Even otherwise, my wife would prefer to witness the proceedings, within the cubby hole herself, where 20-odd hapless kids would be stuffed like sardines, along with their mothers and teachers, in barely 100 sq. ft of space.

Snippets of Oliver Twist flashed in my mind, as I witnessed blank-faced robots repeat one after another—"I have one head, this is my head. I have two eyes, these are my eyes. I have one nose, this is my nose."

The generously endowed mums, all in their thirties, occupied most of the space on the narrow benches, next to their kids, keeping a hawk eye on whatever they scribbled, rubbing off the occasional errors, with a brisk movement of the



podgy fingers, holding a tiny piece of nylon eraser. Not a second was allowed to be wasted.

I had difficulty in picking up my child, sitting in an obscure corner, with trauma written all over his face, which lit up on seeing me, at the prospect of being rescued. Shortly after, we checked out, elbowing our way through the human barricade of mute children and garrulous mothers, who constituted the next batch, one of the many more to follow.

The city air never appeared fresher before, as we helped ourselves, father and son, to a cigarette and icecream, respectively.

My son was not sent back to the coaching again. Instead we gave his body and mind the well-deserved rest, so that he could regain his normal self. I suppose, we regained our own senses, too, because we realised it would not be after all, the end of the world for him, even if he could not make it to the prestigious school.

With our changed philosophy, we could even mildly amuse ourselves at the cost of panic-stricken parents, who turned up at the interview. Rumour was rife that some parents were actually hiring smart looking, well-proportioned young ladies, fluent in English, to 'replace' their Sati Savitri wives for a while. One fellow cornered me and asked if I could tell him a few lines on Saint So-and-so, which they might ask the parents at the orals. He thought me crazy when I failed to check my laughter.

Nothing of the sort happened. The gentlemen in cossacks did not seem to have any vicarious intention of needling the parents which many had apprehended. My son was through quite effortlessly.

Imagine a thousand boys in each of the two shifts queueing up together with a thousand pairs of parents, to appear in the written test. They had all come one hour too early, and the mothers held last minute discussions among themselves at the top of their voices. None of them, of course, admitted having put their wards into any coaching centre outside the domestic confines. Their hummings could be heard from a distance of half-a-kilometer traffic jam which continued all day long.

The first candidate to have stepped out of the examination hall was mobbed by the ladies. A groan of disappointment spread out at the news that no spellings had been asked. Poor mothers who had taught their kids 300 odd spellings over the last one year, had tears in their eyes.

The marionettes in the puppet show, the tired-looking boys, finally came out one by one, few in a position to answer the queries of the anxious parents, who handed them the promised icecream cones. Some reward indeed, for hard labour.

Four years have gone by, since my son was admitted to the institution his parents had dreamt of. Contrary to what we had imagined, life had not been at all smooth-sailing from our point of view. There had been quite a few summons from the class teacher, particularly during the first three years. Always talking in class, coming back late after the break, in soiled clothes from the playground, shooting paper missiles at others, and many more activities earned him the epithet of the naughtiest boy in class.

Wide fluctuation of test results, resembling the mathematical sine curve, tearing of pages to serve as book cricket score-sheets and total disinterest in studies remained a chronic malady. No amount of parental pursuasion would improve the situation.

So, finally one evening, I told my wife a story my grandma would so often tell my mother, whenever she worried too much for her kids. A man started a poultry in the backyard to supplement his income. Every evening he would take great pains chasing the fowls back to their cages, until one day, a wise neighbour advised him to leave them alone. They would come back on their own, he said, which they did.

We decided to let our son lead his own life from that day onwards. With his small desk and table, blowups pasted on the wall opposite, he now reigns supreme in his tiny room, a world of his own. Sometimes, we hear Shakespearean verses in the wee hours of dawn. We understand it is the day for elocution contest. His neatly polished cricket shoes, drying in the sun, will tell us of the impending inter-house cricket match. I do not know whether his ambition in life — to become a pilot, Sunil Gavaskar and a doctor like his uncle, has remained unchanged or not. But behind those half-open doors, he has grown into a 10-year-old individual, not necessarily in the mould of his father. ■

BARTER BANK

• **Aquarium, comics** and **soft-drink mini bottles:** I offer an aquarium in good condition, 50 *Indrajal* comics and five Campa Cola mini bottles for a camera with flash or a Walkman in good condition. Contact Ajay Gupta, 23A/14-5, Block A, New Alipore, Calcutta 53.

• **Cassettes:** I offer new cassettes of *Disco '84* and *Jalwa* for two cassettes of Kishore Kumar's hit songs or cassettes of *Kalakar* and *Pyar Jhukta Nahin*. Contact Sanjoy Mitra, 1/1F, Abdul Halim Lane, Calcutta 16.

• **Books** and **stamps:** I offer 100 English novels, Churchill's *History of the second World War* and some foreign stamps for a pair of binoculars and a telescope. Contact Sachin Roy, 10, Sourin Roy Road, Calcutta 34.

• **Exhaust fan:** I offer an exhaust fan (18") in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact D K Basu, BB-101, Salt Lake, Calcutta 64.

• **Book:** I offer the complete triology, *The Lord of the Rings*, by J R.R. Folkien for stories by Satayajit Ray or anything of corresponding value. Contact Sourav Mukherjee, Qr. no. E-228, Sector 2, Ranchi 834004.

• **Moped:** I offer an Enfield Silver Plus moped (50cc) for a VCP or a colour TV. Contact Bidyut Dey, 14/1D, Bena Para Lane, Calcutta 14.

• **Walkman:** I offer a Japanese Walkman for a tape recorder or anything of corresponding value. Write to Suchintya Coomar Gupta, 16/7, Dover Lane, Block C-1, Flat no. 27, Calcutta 29.

• **Camera:** I offer a new Yashica camera (model Electro 32) with flashgun for anything of corresponding value. Contact Pawan Adlakha, P-200, C.I.T. Road, Scheme VII-M, Kankurgachi, Calcutta 54.

• **Video game:** I offer a double-screen video game, *Oil Panic*, for either *Mario Brothers* or *Donkey Kong* (part 1) or any other video games or anything of corresponding value. Contact Rajiv H. Jani, Amritnagar Colliery, Knt Area, PO Searsol, Rajbari, Raniganj 713347.

• **Records:** I offer LPs by famous Indian and Western singers for other LPs, books and paintings. Contact A. Majumdar, c/o B.B. Majumdar, 137, A.B. Nagar, Calcutta 64.

• **Novels:** I offer a Hardy Boys' novel, *Outlaw's Silver* and Arthur Conan Doyle's *Hound of Baskervilles* for a magnetic chess board with pawns. Contact Sanjib Mitra, 1/1P, Abdul Halim Lane, Calcutta 16.

• **Video game:** I offer a Nintendo double-screen video game for a 35 mm Hot Shot camera or any other reputed camera. Write to P. Lahiri, 13/71, U.B Road, Behala, Calcutta 60.

• **Study material:** I offer Brilliant's complete set of papers for the MBBS entrance examinations for 1987 for a carrom board and novels by Sidney Sheldon or anything of corresponding value. Contact Swati Banerjee, c/o T K. Banerjee, F.C.I Colony, V-35, Durgapur 12.

Good Times, Happy Times

A round yellow moon rises full and ripe over the horizon of a windowsill. Inside the room, firmly imprisoned in a lap, a child is being thumped to sleep: "Come moon and put my baby to sleep. Come moon, I'll give you rice and milk in a golden bowl, I'll give you the king's daughter for a wife, come moon, come"

Three times a day, twice a day, once a night, whenever a child has to go to sleep, the process is repeated. Once there was a fox who built a wall. *Aaey rey aaey tiye.* Words conjured up to the occasion, bribing, threatening, cajoling, catching the conscious with a pretended story and rocking it to sleep with a rhyme. Adapting to demands for new songs, new stories, new words, anything to distract a child before sleep creeps up and stuns it for the next few peaceful hours. The world of nursery rhymes.

What is the world of the Bengali nursery rhyme? Some of them are more than 200 years old, talking about 'Turkish' invasions on moonlit nights with nightingales in full-throated song, worrying about fired paddy fields and an inability to raise taxes in time. Describing a revolt against the weavers of Dhaniakhali and Hooghly in terms of a frog uprising, 40,000-strong.

The people who sing them are farmers' wives, weavers' wives, someone's daughter, someone's mother, someone's mother-in-law. Long-haired girls in the rain, waist-deep in lotus ponds with marriage on their minds. Girls dreaming of home, looking at the rain splashing on the water and the red flower flames on the trees, begging their brothers to get the *palki* ready and send them home.

Marriage is the subject that recurs most often. *Shibthakur*'s three wives—one to cook, one to eat and one to storm angrily back to her father's house. The unfortunate girl plagued by mosquitoes, crocodiles, tigers and her mother-in-law, in that order, who can find no peace indoors or out. A boy who brings home a *hajar takar bou* secure in the knowledge that her Rs 1,000 dowry will compensate for the defects of her turned-up nose.

Most women were sent to their husbands' homes almost as soon as they could walk and their futures depended on their ability to cook, clean, embroider or even create elaborate hairstyles. The worst thing that could happen to them, barring an unpleasant mother-in-law, was an old, greedy husband, one who only came to life when the rice cooked, spending the rest of his life sitting and coughing over his pipe and tobacco.

Sometimes in the rhymes a despairing mother voices the problems of keeping her sons-in-law happy. Even *panjabis* woven from the finest *Dhakai* muslins will not tempt them to eat, threatening severe loss of face for mother and daughter. Another mother, with an eligible unmarried daughter, dreams of a mythical in-law country where the inhabitants clean their teeth with diamonds, the ultimate in luxurious toilettes. Once in a while, the fortunate mother of a son gets a word in and sends her offspring out to fetch a bride clad in red from head to foot. But mothers-in-law are rarely heard. Most of the *choras* are the work of those less favoured, detailing their day-to-day toils and troubles. Brinjals not sliced, temperamental grooms and, above all, the fear: if my mother-in-law turns me out of the house, where on earth shall I go? How shall I live?

The pleasures of life are fat, freshly-caught *ruhi* cooked in mustard oil, freshly set *doi* and *dekchis* of rice to be served to the fortunate in bowls of gold. The vast variety of *Bangla mushti* is an odd exception or, at any rate, does not feature amongst the essentials of daily life, even as a bribe. Good living is fresh, clean, natural, streams of pure milk straight from the black cow, *chalbhaja, doi* and *chirey*. Homespun *tant* of the finest weaving with a touch of dye as an extra refinement. Flowers gathered by the *malis* or tossed into garlands and left trailing in the woods. Hair arranged so ornately that the art is worth at least Rs 1,000.

> **Bengali nursery rhymes have very little of the darker side of life and retain their age-old flavour still**

The most constructive work for kings and queens is to eat and sleep or lead large processions with all the noise and pomp and circumstance possible. The processions culminate in nothing more constructive than noise, but then, the royal meal produces nothing more constructive than sleep—the most idyllic way of drawing out a long, sunny afternoon from *rajah* down to the ghee-surfeited royal *jhee*.

Throughout the early rhymes people are bathing, fishing, cooking and sorting out the turmoil of their domestic life to the beat of drums and the blare of trumpets. There is very little of the darker undercurrent which lurks in English nursery rhyme, the fall element prevalent in *Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill* and that cheerful chronicle of deaths in the *Great Plague, Ring a Ring a Rosies*. The only darkness that exists is in the obviously threatening rhymes designed to force naughty children into good behaviour. That of the 'Kankatar Boori' who walks around armed with a knife and a handy bag of salt with which to stanch the bleeding after having lopped off the offending ear. Or an angry elder brother flinging his pen in exasperation.

Bad luck is realistically un-Freudian, the problems of a rural society: whining mosquitoes, ants in the sugar, hungry tigers invading the cattle pens, crocodiles, bats, a son-in-law's capricious appetite, the shrewish tongue of an unloved wife, raiders carrying off the grain necessitating the sowing of the garlic crop.

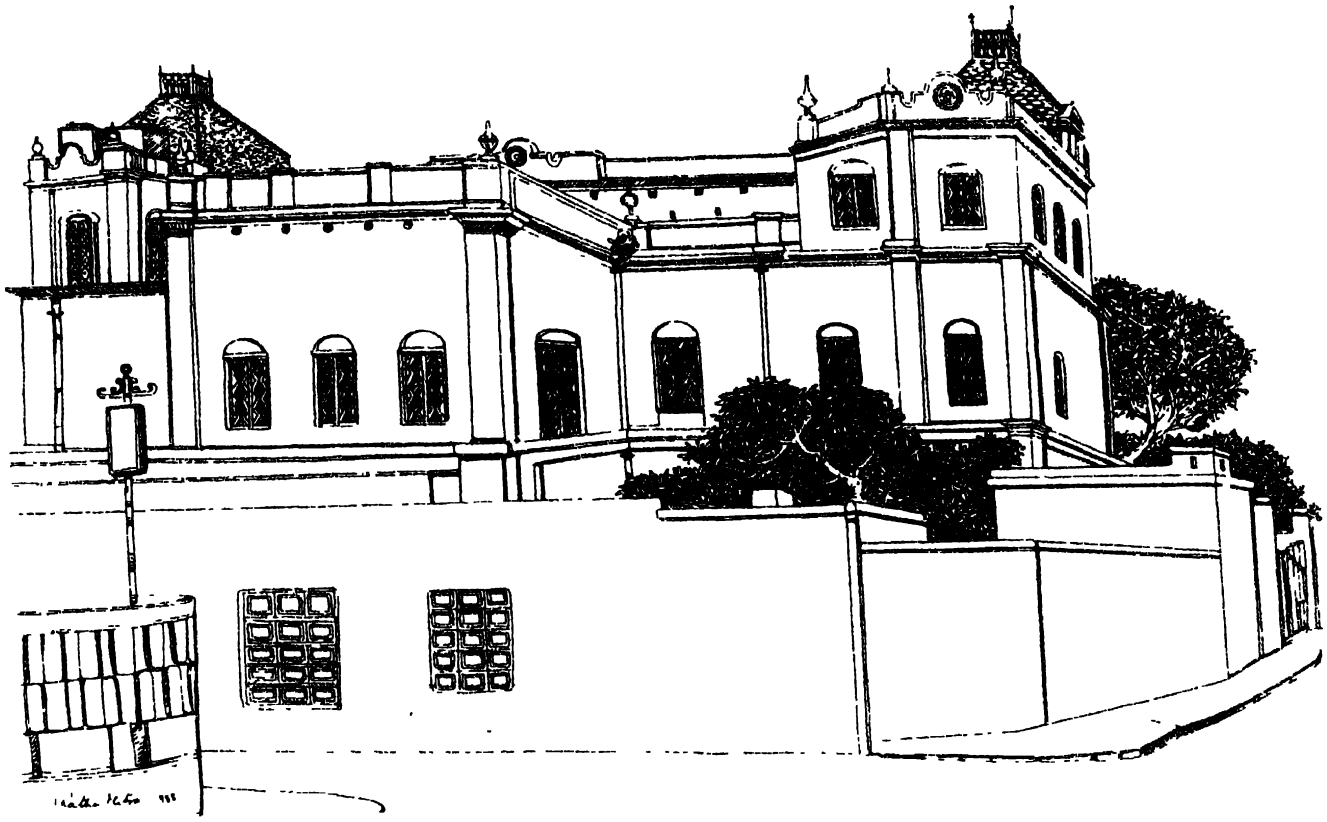
Animals abound. Possibly the most famous is the tom cat which escorts *khoka* to his *sasurbari*, a definite cousin of *Puss in Boots*. Running a close second are the horse and the elephant who dance at another wedding by the light of the moon. But there is a whole domestic menagerie of parrots and pigeons and performing dogs and monkeys. A frog goes awooing and so does a bat. A foxfather builds a wall and brings another rhyme to an abrupt end. Cows run away, but they never aspire to the moon.

Two hundred and fifty odd years ago, a city called Calcutta had just about come into existence. Bengal was a land of forests and marshes, scattered with villages. A land where rulers came and went and where the Marathas filibustered despite the efforts of governors like Murshid Kuli Khan and his increasingly powerless successors. In addition, Murshidabad, the main centre of power, was fast declining and the British were establishing a foothold. But all those events barely touched the greater part of the country and, even where they did, failed to affect the women or the songs they made while they rocked their children to sleep. In a world of political chaos, the songs are peaceful. A world of fish and flowers and food, uncomplicated and unquestioning, moving to a rhythm as soothing as the bobbing strings of shells on a carrying chair, lulling a child to sleep...

Anjana Basu



TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI (1898-1957)



A renowned orator, freedom fighter and social worker, Tulsi Chandra Goswami passed his Senior Cambridge examination from St Xavier's College, Calcutta, in 1917. Two years later he did his graduation from Oxford University and in another two years became a barrister. By then he had mastered Greek, Latin and German. His father, Kishorilal, was the first Indian member of the Bengal governor's executive council.

On his return to India, Tulsi Chandra practised law for some time till he joined the freedom struggle at Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das' call. In 1923, he joined the Swarajya Party and became the editor of its mouthpiece, *Forward*. The same year he was elected to the Legislative Assembly and was the party chief whip as well as the deputy leader of the Opposition.

A ruling party member had once referred to him as "that gentleman with an Oxonian tongue who on occasions in the past proved to be a terror to the treasury benches." After Deshbandhu's death, he began to work with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. In 1932, he organised a huge gathering, presided over by Tagore, in Calcutta, to oppose the communal awards.

In 1937, Tulsi Chandra was elected to the Bengal Legislative Assembly and was the deputy leader of the Congress. Six years later, he joined the Nizamuddin ministry as the finance minister. He had vehemently opposed Partition; eventually when it took place he resigned from the Congress and joined Satyaranjan Bakshi's Synthesis group. He quit politics after being defeated in the 1952 parliamentary elections.

As a social worker he took active interest in removing many social evils and worked for land and agricultural reforms as well as the spread of Western education. He also advocated women's liberation.

The house sketched above shows his residence at 1, Rainey Park, off Ballygunge Circular Road, which is now being demolished.



Rahoul Bose, Calcutta 19, asks about the Spanish Armada

The Spanish Armada was the great Spanish fleet which set out to attack England in 1588 Philip II of Spain wanted to recover England for Catholicism and win the crown and succession for his daughter He was also angered by the successful raids that English sailors were making against Spanish ships and American settlements Philip decided to transport with a large fleet a Spanish and Portuguese army to Flanders, where they would join forces with the Spanish troops stationed there under the Duke of Parma

The expedition was delayed because Francis Drake attacked the Spanish fleet assembling at Cadiz in 1587 and then just before the Spaniards were due to sail their admiral died His place was taken by the Marquis of Medina Sidonia who had no previous sea experience A fleet of 132 ships including 20 powerful galleons set sail Meanwhile Queen Elizabeth I who had an excellent spy system had known of the expedition for some time and her fleet of 34 warships and many hired ships was ready at Plymouth commanded by the Lord Admiral Lord Howard of Effingham, with many famous seamen such as Drake Hawkins, and Frobisher After being delayed by a storm in the Bay of Biscay and forced to refit the ' Invincible Armada arrived off the Cornish coast ner the Lizard on July 19 1588

Lord Howard sailed out of Plymouth Sound to meet the enemy ships but instead of engaging them at close quarters and boarding them as was the usual practice he attacked at a distance with broadsides of cannon-shot His sturdy ships not laden with troops were more manoeuvrable than the tall heavily laden Spanish vessels Lord Howard followed the enemy fleet up the English Channel keeping up a running fight intermittently for a week, until eventually the Spanish achored off Calais He then released eight fireships old hulks filled with pitch and set alight so that they would drift with the wind and tide into the middle of the enemy anchorage They caused damage and great confusion, and forced the Spaniards to take to sea again The English fleet then engaged them in furious battle off the Flemish coast (the Battle of Gravelines) The Spanish were decisively defeated with heavy loss of men, and had to retreat without waiting for the Duke of Parma to embark his army. The winds prevented a direct journey back to Spain, and the Spanish admiral decided to withdraw round the north of Scotland

The English fleet, through lack of ammunition, had to give up the chase, but only about half the Spanish ships escaped home, at least 19 being destroyed by shipwreck on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland during the long and dangerous passage This victory saved England from invasion and the danger of Spanish domination it also established English command of the sea over Spain and enabled adventurous English seamen to harry Spanish possessions in the New World and do immense damage to Spanish trade

Pradeep Kedia writes from Siliguri

At the Mahbert High School auditorium Leo Club of Siliguri Greater (Dist 3220) organised an inter school quiz contest in which 8 teams competed Don Bosco Siliguri took an early lead and maintained this position till the very end finally bagging the winner s trophy Gemet s Academy a recently established school in Siliguri was the runners-up while Margaret High School was declared third

Postscript: The picture used in the quiz column on November 27 depicts the American War of Independence,not the Civil War The error is regretted

CBS

11th Question: **I am the son of a half-Irish, half-English mother and Irish father and was born in West Germany. My teachers considered me a shy and unathletic boy. I always did well in studies, specially in mathematics. Later I proved them wrong by showing my skills in rugby, basketball and baseball. Yet, I got name, fame and money in another sport. Who am I? (Shailesh Kumar Singh, c/o Mr Bimal Kant Singh, Bhagalpur Road, At + P.O. + Dist: Godda 814 133, Bihar.)**
Ans· John Patrick McEnroe Jr.



The Armada's huge ships (right) are attacked by light English craft. A Spanish galleon is captured (lower left)

QUESTIONS

1. What is Upper Calcutta now called? (Anjanava (Gadai) Dutta, Calcutta 13)
2. What is the common term for Down's Syndrome? (Sanjay Sarkar Manish, Howrah 6)
3. Who first deciphered the Brahmani script? (Pratik Ghosh, Durgapur 4)
4. What is ology? (Nirveek Bhattacharjee, Kharagpur 2)
5. What is the term for one who studies correct pronunciation? (Lalchhan Srivastav Singh, Silchar 3)
6. According to the Ramayana, who was the first woman created by Brahma? (Manoj Kr. Singh, Patna 3)
7. Who said : Indians there are two classes writing novels. One is good, making a sort of musical comedy without music and ignoring real life altogether, the other is going right deep down into life not caring a damn'?

ANSWERS

for the Duke of Parma to embark his army. The winds prevented a direct journey back to Spain, and the Spanish admiral decided to withdraw round the north of Scotland

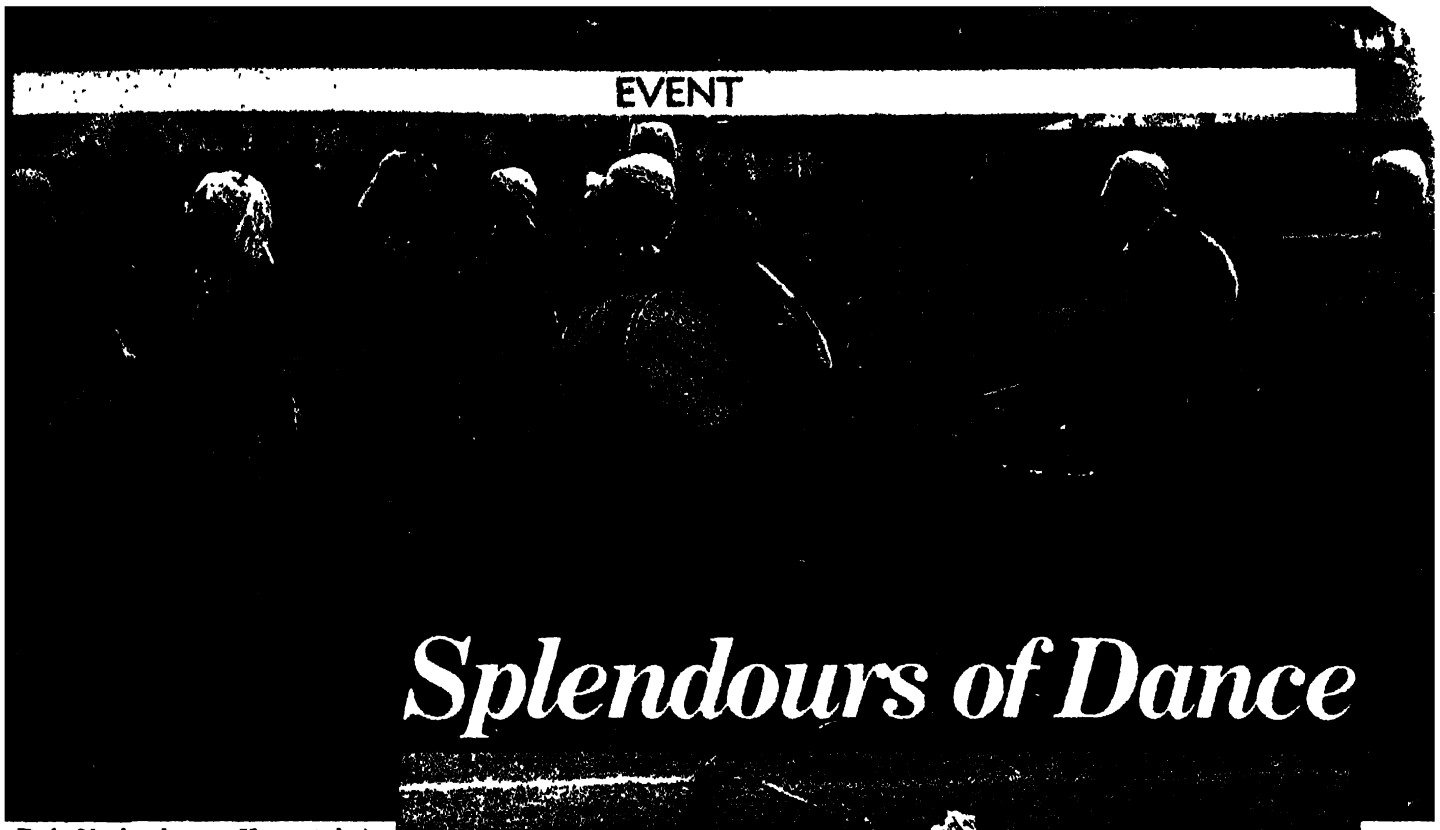
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Splendours of Dance

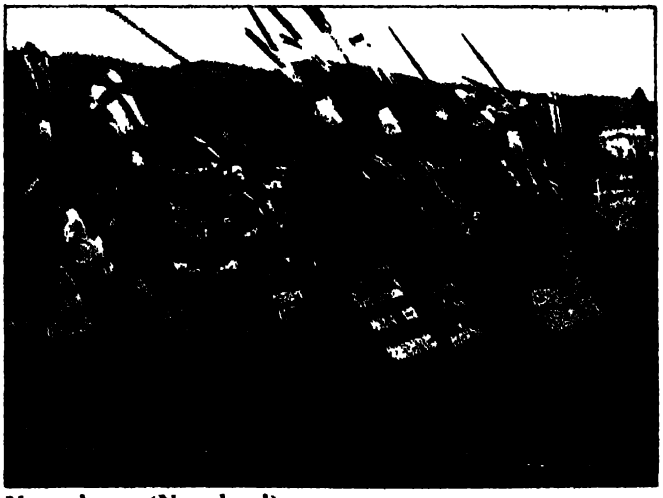


Dola Natha dance (Karnataka)

Kushal Gangopadhyay photographed the National Tribal Dance Festival in Shillong last month, as part of the Autumn Festival '88



Bhil Gavri dance (Rajasthan)



Naga dance (Nagaland)

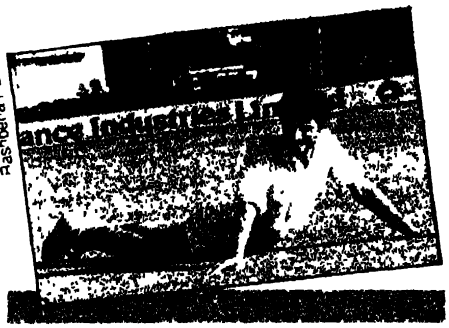


Wangala dance (Meghalaya)

SULTAN OF THE SWING



Nikhil Bhattacharya



Rashbehari Das

Richard Hadlee is Test cricket's most prolific wicket-taker. But, as **Ashok Kamath** explains, the New Zealand megastar's place in history is assured not merely by his bag of wickets or clutch of useful runs he scored but by his contribution to his country's cricket

Dennis Lillee is something of a Professor Emeritus of fast bowling today. And when he nominates Richard Hadlee as the fast bowler he modelled for my trainee, like he did when the New Zealander was on the threshold of his Test cricket No. 431 at Bangalore last fortnight, there can be no further argument about who the best new ball bowler in the

For Hadlee, the great Australian pronouncement must have been the ultimate emplotment. Like many contemporary international quick bowlers – and thousands others who did not quite make the grade – Dennis Lillee always was Hadlee's idol. "To have watched Dennis Lillee bowl," Hadlee's on record as saying, "and to play against him has been one of the greatest memories of my cricketing career. Dennis has played a great part in my development. I have a lot of video films of Dennis and have spent countless hours watching him bowl."

Lillee presented Hadlee with a bottle of champagne during their recent Bangalore meeting. When the bottle was eventually uncorked, after Arun Lal became Hadlee's most celebrated victim, the bubbly must have have been mordinately heady for the New Zealander. A decade and a half of the game at its highest level climaxed for the unofficial Sultan of Swing bowling when he, at long last, became the sole owner of the world record for the most number of Test wickets in history.





Nikhil Bharacharya

Displaying the ball that got him his 374th Test wicket

The last 11 months have been quite a frustrating wait for wicket No. 374 which put him ahead of Ian Botham as Test cricket's most prolific wicket taker. When he equalled Botham's tally during the Melbourne Test last December with the wicket of Tony Dodemaide, he looked good enough to shoot ahead that day itself. But Craig McDermott and Mike Whitney batted out the last few overs.

Ideally, he ought to have in the next Test New Zealand were involved in at Lancaster Park in his hometown Christchurch but he went wicketless. India's position ruled him out for the rest of that series and the record was stuck in the 373 groove. And from the Indian standpoint, it just as well was. India would not have had Hadlee over had he broke away from Botham at the MCG or Lancaster Park. He had missed New Zealand's World Cup campaign here last year citing "difficult" conditions of travel, boarding and lodging in the subcontinent but Messrs McDermott and Whitney, among others, ensured the "difficulties" would be surmounted. If there were any residual hard feelings among the Indian public about Hadlee giving the World Cup a skip, they must have evaporated last tonight when Arun Lal's historic nick went to Chris Kuggeleijn at third slip. The wait for that moment had been inordinately long for Hadlee. Yet, arrive it did. "It is a historic moment not only for me and my country but for the entire world of cricket," Hadlee told pressmen at the end of the day. His reaction on field too: he had merely pumped a clenched right fist heavenward and quickly unclenched it to wave to the Bangalore crowd. May not have made for sizzling journalistic copy but it was reflective of the man and his singleminded pursuit of cricketing excellence.

Hadlee with the motivation card ▶ he carries in his kit

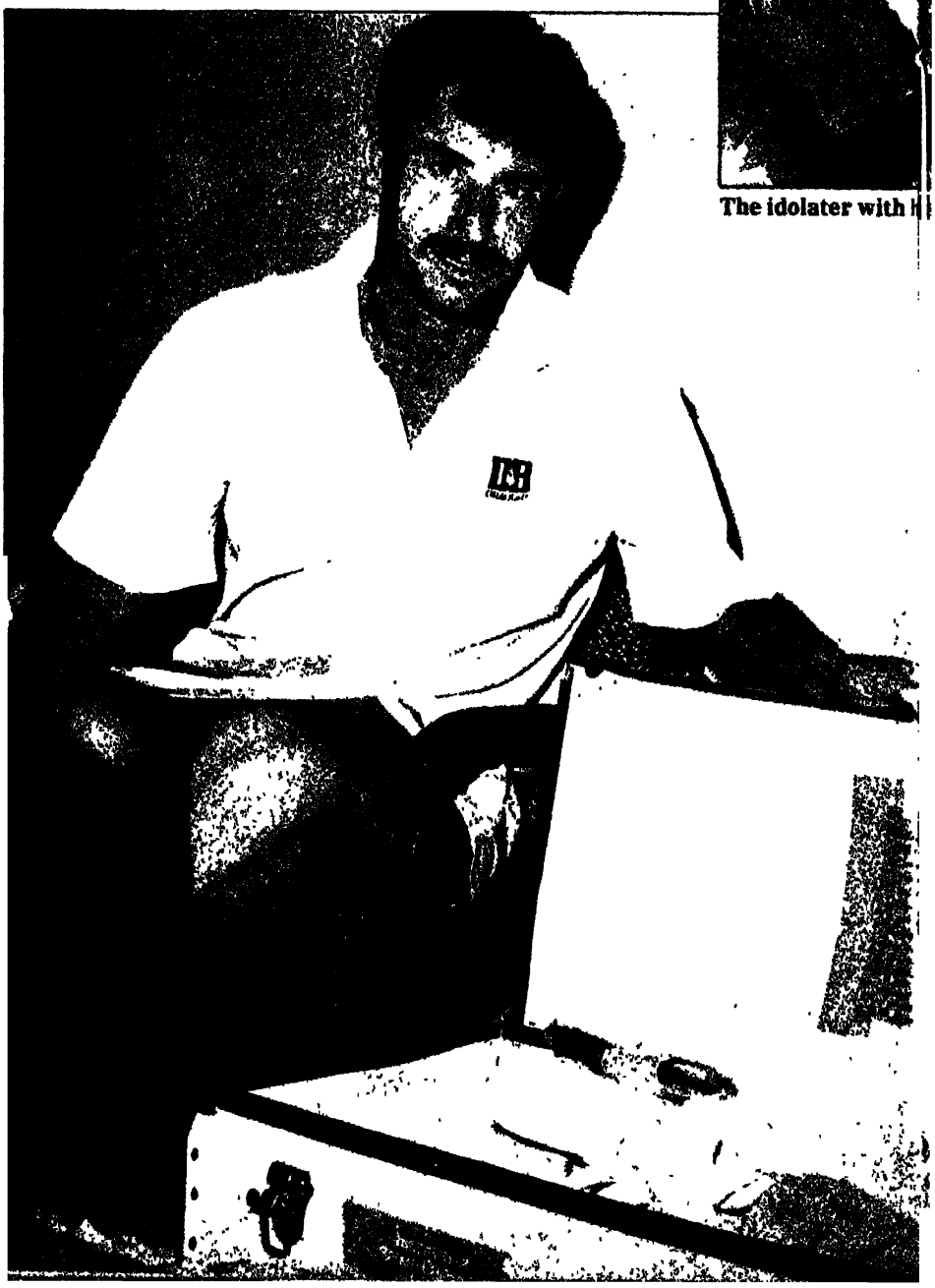
Rashbehan Das

In Hadlee's cricketing kit bag is an inelgantly handwritten "motivation card" which can pass off as something like a badly decoded Rajneesh lecture. "Your mind is your brain, it is better than a computer . attitude is frame of mind, simulation -put yourself in situation when you . believe- -confidence breeds success, self esteem- know your own worth, ability, value goals aims targets." All this (and more) may sound like mumbo-jumbo but it has, in fact, been something of a private mantra to Hadlee. "It has worked wonders for me. The card lists some of my best performances and every time I see them my thirst for wickets and runs increases," he told The Telegraph recently.

The motivational card is only of five



The idolater with h





Nikhil Bhattacharya

idol: Hadlee (right) with Lillee

years standing and the offshoot of a dry patch his career struck thereabouts. But between his making his Test debut (against Pakistan in Wellington) in 1972-73 and now, the evolution of Richard John Hadlee into one of the finest in his trade has coincided with the emergence of New Zealand as a cricketing nation which can hold its own internationally. One season before his Test debut he had played his maiden first class match (turning out for Canterbury in the Plunket Shield, New Zealand's equivalent of the Ranji Trophy). But apart from the well known fact that his father was Walter Hadlee, an ex-New Zealand captain, and he had a brother (Dayle) who had already broken into Test cricket, Richard lay little claim to being headline material.

Physically, Hadlee may not strike anyone as someone who can produce a snorter or two to incapacitate a batsman. He obviously puts all of his six feet frame behind each of those 374 balls that took him to the world record in a span of 15 years of Test cricket. But for someone more wiry than muscular he perforce had to be a great thinker among fast bowlers. This is something he clearly was not when he began out. Like all youngmen pitchforked into the razzle-dazzle of Test cricket Richard was one of those tearaway fast bowlers all muscle but very little of anything else. He sprayed the ball all over the place, got the occasional wicket and was generally had to prove himself each time out. In fact, even in 1976 when New Zealand played India in Madras one remembers he was not particularly accurate. Fast, yes, he was but then the Chepauk wicket for that Test happened to be the quickest of the series and he had many an Indian batsman ducking for cover in the face of naked hostility. Hadlee got three for 37 and two for 52 on that lively wicket but the aspect of his bowling one remembers most was the way he had wicketkeeper Ken Wadsworth working overtime like a baseline tennis player to collect the wayward ones.

By his own admission, his joining Nottinghamshire as a professional in the 1978-79 season was one of the turning points in his evolution as a frontline exponent of swing, seam and cut. In the decade that followed, Hadlee and South African Clive Rice pulled Nottinghamshire to the top like never before. More importantly, Hadlee realised like never before that new ball bowling could mean a lot more than merely thundering in with brute force the red cherry over a 22 yard strip. "Even as far back as 1978," Hadlee would say, "I recall saying that in the first six weeks of County cricket I learnt more than I had done in the previous six years with Canterbury, New Zealand and Tasmania (as a professional in the Australian Sheffield Shield).

"The thing about professionalism is that you develop the virtue of consistency. It becomes a job. If you perform day in and day out you become more efficient and you get better organised. Okay, when I arrived at Notts in 1978 I had a bit of a reputation but till then I was still using a long run up. The change to the short run-up came in 1980. I had to go back to the basics." Hadlee recalled during an interview with Dean McLachlan earlier this year.

Sunil Gavaskar too believes that County cricket made all the difference to Hadlee's development as a bowler of world class. "The experience of having played County cricket added a lot more cards to his bowling," wrote Gavaskar of Hadlee in his *Idols*. "He now just does not come in and



Utpal Sonar

RICHARD HADLEE'S STATISTICS

(As on 15 November 1988)

			BOWLING								BATTING							
Season	**Opp**	**Tests**	**Balls**	**Mdns**	**Runs**	**Wkts**	**Avg**	**5 w/I**	**10 W/M**	**Best**	**Inn.**	**N.O.**	**Runs**	**H.S.**	**Avg**	**100s**	**50s**	**Ct.**
1972 72	Pak	1	200	-	112	2	56 00	-		2-84	1	–	46	46	46 00	–	–	2
1973	Eng	1	270	8	143	1	143 00	-		1-79	2	1	4	4*	4 00	–	–	–
1973-74	Aus	3	535	9	255	7	36 42	-		4-33	6	–	68	20	11 33	–	–	2
1973-74	Aus	2	404	7	225	10	22 50			4-71	3	–	37	23	12 33	–	-	1
1975-76	Ind	2	387	4	197	12	16 41	1	1	7-23	2	–	45	33	22 50	–	–	–
1976 77	Pak	3	602	2	447	10	44 70	1		5-121	6	2	214	87	53 50	–	1	2
1976-77	Ind	3	782	18	437	13	33 61			4-95	6	–	60	21	10 00	–	–	1
1976-77	Aus	2	576	7	354	6	59 00			3 155	4	-	143	81	35 75	–	1	2
1977-78	Eng	3	971	26	371	15	24 73	1	1	6-26	6	1	80	39	16 00	-	–	–
1978	Eng	3	727	31	270	13	20 76	1		5-84	6	-	32	11	5 33	–	–	3
1978-79	Pak	3	942	13	414	18	23 00	2		5-62	5	1	115	53*	28 75	-	1	1
1979-80	WI	3	969	50	361	19	19 00	2	1	6-68	4		178	103	44 50	1	1	1
1980-81	Aus	3	885	35	364	19	19 15	2		6-57	6	2	98	51*	24 50	-	1	1
1980-81	Ind	3	717	37	288	10	28 80	1		5-47	4	–	29	20	7 25	-	-	2
1981-82	Aus	3	551	25	226	14	16 14	2		6-100	5	1	92	40	23 00	–		2
1982-83	SL	2	466	27	141	10	14 10			4-33	3	1	59	30	29 50	–		1
1983	Eng	4	1392	65	559	21	26 61	2		6-53	8	2	301	92*	50 16	–	3	1
1983-84	Eng	3	659	33	232	12	19 33	1		5-28	4	–	144	99	36 00	-	1	3
1983-84	SL	3	707	47	230	23	10 00	2	1	5-29	4	-	75	29	18 75	-	-	3
1984-85	Pak	3	713	29	306	16	19 12	1		6-51	4	–	131	89	32.75	-	1	-
1984-85	WI	4	858	31	409	15	27 26	-		4-53	7	1	137	39*	22 83	–	-	1
1985-86	Aus	3	1017	42	401	33	12 15	5	2	9-52	4	–	111	54	27 75	-	1	2
1985-86	Aus	3	947	35	387	16	24 18	1	–	7-116	3	1	105	72*	52 50	-	1	2
1986	Eng	3	923	42	390	19	20 52	2	1	6-80	3	–	93	68	31 00	-	1	-
1986-87	WI	3	679	20	354	17	20 82	2		6-50	4	2	74	35*	37 00	–	-	2
1986-87	SL	1	233	10	102	4	25 52	-		4-102	1	1	151	151*		1	-	1
1987-88	Aus	3	936	44	353	18	19 61	3	1	5-67	6	1	111	36	22 20	-	-	-
1987-88	Eng	1	108	3	50	0	-	–		-	1		37	37	37 00	–	-	-
1988-89	Ind	1	180	10	65	5	13 00	1		5 65	1	1	1*	1*	–	-	–	
Total		**75**	**19315**	**710**	**8443**	**378**	**22 23**	**33**	**8**	**9-52**	**119**	**18**	**2771**	**151***	**27 43**	**2**	**13**	**36**
COUNTRYWISE																		
Pakistan		10	2457	44	1279	46	27 80	4	–	6-51	16	3	506	89	38 92	–	3	5
England		18	5050	208	2015	81	24 87	7	2	6-26	30	4	891	99	26 57	-	5	7
Australia		22	5851	204	2565	123	20 85	13	3	9-52	37	5	765	81	23 90	–	4	12
India		9	2046	69	987	40	24 67	3	1	7-23	13	1	135	33	11 25	–	–	3
West Indies		10	2506	101	1124	51	22 03	4	1	6-50	15	3	389	103	32 41	1	1	4
Sri Lanka		6	1405	84	473	37	12 78	2	1	5-29	8	2	285	151*	47 50	1	–	5
Total		**75**	**19315**	**710**	**8443**	**378**	**22 23**	**33**	**8**	**9-52**	**119**	**18**	**2771**	**151***	**27 43**	**2**	**13**	**36**

Compiled by R.K. Srivastava

* Denotes not out

bowl as quickly as possible but keeps himself in reserve and only rarely do you come across him bowling a genuinely quick delivery. He concentrates more on using the new ball well, swinging it both ways, testing the batsmen outside the off stump and also coming in with a surprise bouncer. These are the varieties to his bowling after he had played County cricket."

The Hadlees are to New Zealand cricket as the Chappells were to Australia or the Mohammeds were to Pakistan or the Graces were to England. Walter Hadlee led New Zealand with charm and grace. He was a versatile right handed, bespectacled batsman whose first class career spanned 1933 to 1952. He played 11 Tests and sired five sons, the most illustrious of them, of course, being Richard Dayle, older than Richard by three years, was a right-arm fast medium bowler who many people believe would have played far more than his 26 Tests had it not been for a back problem. Indians will remember Dayle best for his performance (four for 30 and three for 31) in the Hyderabad Test of the 1968-69 which all but brought victory to the New Zealanders. Barry Hadlee, yet another of Walter's sons, played first class cricket for Canterbury and represented New Zealand in the Prudential World Cup in England in 1979. The senior Hadlee in later years took over the administration of cricket in New Zealand and served as chairman of the national board with distinction. And if you count in Karen, Richard's wife who turned out for New Zealand in women's Tests, the Hadlee family's contribution to cricket in that country must be something unparalleled anywhere in the world.

With modesty typical of a true champion Richard Hadlee, upon reaching the 374th Test wicket landmark, declared "Sunil Gavaskar is the highest run-getter. Now I am the highest wicket-taker. When such records are set, the entire cricketing fraternity gets inspired." The "inspiration" that flows in the wake of Hadlee's record will undoubtedly be highest in his home country. Like skipper John Wright observed, "back home in New Zealand these days, every young bowler wants to bowl quick like Richard does, swing the ball like Richard does and generally appeal for decisions against batsman in the dramatic fashion Richard does."

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Song of a Tribal Girl

That second year it did not rain
Touts came promising work and food
So we went -
Hollow-eyed, petrified,
Bus-loads of dumb creatures,
off to town
But some wept
and under every milestone we left
our memories

Heaving sand, I never felt when
this spring came and left
Alone *simul* flamed,
and it all came back
Things I'd rather forget
Those dances gay, the drums throbbing
all day
To our heartbeats

How the *akhara* throbbed to our pounding
feet, the *handi* and the heat
coursed fire in our veins
Flutes wailed, chanted love-songs,
and flew up to the moon's feet
over the faces of stars, to meet
their own echoings

Firelight on his flushed face,
how he wove drumming through the
dancers
My Lwa — rock-chest heaving,
his mad pulsing muscles, swelling
as he crouched and leapt,
rhythm thunders at his fingertips

When boiled nettles grew scarce,
our dancing ended. It was Death's
beginning
I left to build some rich man's house
Lwa went to the coal pits,
his quiet eyes spelling
the tender things we had left unsaid
the ending, of our dreamings

Spring gone, now the rains are come
Did the *simul* in my father's courtyard
bloom, I wonder?
With the morrow comes the *thikadars'*
abuse,
their sly, sly glances
Tonight let ghost dances wander,
My dream-drums thunder,
a thunder roll in the seven hills
Soma Banerjee

Death Allure

You turned back like a cat
suspicious of the meat I threw at
You, my girl, my fate, my death

I stood doubting myself on the threshold of
life,
not doubting you, doubting the food I take
I thought you were carnivorous
You also take green things, green words,
green hearts, that I didn't know
I have left my heart in the market place

Where, in the crowd, the missing children
peep through each other's secrets
the photograph of which hangs on my
memory



I have never cared to find you there
I have never tried to make a
slaughter-house
out of that, nor will I afforest that place
with the casuarinas of my late youth
but we will look at each other from a mute
distance
like the sky and earth, tree and tree, you
and me
Rabindra K. Swain

[illegible]

Daily he sits on a rock
facing the valley below
He's a pensioner of
uncertain date - He
has given polish to
skulls in the valley below. They
have grown beards and are strangers
now. With each pinch of
-nuff he loves to blot the
of the past, to inhale the
acrid memories. Now his
palm has given polish to
the skull of his walking stick
It seeks no pension on par
of its years. They sit all mixed
to each other like a ball
and socket joint while he
gazes on his lost kingdom
below. He has no watch. Why,
should he know the time of day
His sun is still to set. The
silence on the hill is
opium for his soul
C. Raju

Balloon

My little darling has a small balloon
in her tender hands
a spectrum of shades
She weeps bitterly
at its explosion
How can she bear
the blast of a BOMB?
I do not want
to aggrieve my child
so, I do not like
the explosion of a bomb

Yes, she cherishes
a love for blossom
from a royal rose
to an unknown tiny twig of grocery

Let anybody tuck a bud
in her locks
and destroy
the piling arms and arsenals

My child loves the
balloon
but not its explosion

Kumar Hassan
(Translated from the Oriya by the poet)

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Agnee:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249128), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Jaya (Lake Town, 573936)

Directed by J Om Prakash and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty Chunkey Panday, Amrita Singh, Mandakini and Anupam Kher

• **Dharamyudh:** Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) Krishna (I C Dutta Street 250437), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680), Ujala (Russa Road, 478666), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464440), Malancha (Regent Park), Ragini (Behaghata Main Road, 463264)

Sunil Dutt, Shatrughan Sinha, Kimi Katkar and Pran are the chief attractions in this Sudarshan Nag film whose music is by Rajesh Roshan



Mandakini and Hemant Birje in *Maar Dhaad*

Elisabeth Shue and Keith Coogan in *Adventures in Babysitting*



• **Ganga Tere Desh Mein:** Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), & Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 552200) 4 shows

Directed by Vijay Reddi and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Dharmendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Jaya Prada, Dimple Kapadia, Raj Babbar and Kader Khan

• **Inteqaam** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849) 4 shows

Directed by Raj Kumar Kohli and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Sunny Deol, Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri Kimi Katkar, Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Prem Chopra

• **Janam Janam** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664) Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 336230), Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road 891090), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552932) 4 shows

Directed by Vijay Sadanah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal the cast includes Rishi Kapoor debutante Vrenita Amrish Puri, Gulshan Grover and Aruna Irani

• **Maar Dhaad (A):** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147) 4 shows

Hemant Birje, Mandakini, Sadashiv Amrapurkar Puneet Issar, Huma Khan Navin Nischal Rakesh Bedi and Satish Shah comprise the cast of this Yash Chauhan film whose music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Mar Mitenge:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266) Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street, 552270), 4 shows

Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Bhanupriya and Madhavi play the lead in this Kawal Sharma film The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

• **Tezaab:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917) Moonlight (I C Dutta Street, 254956), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808) 4 shows, Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522),- 3 shows

A film by N Chandra starring Anil Kapoor, Chunkey Panday, Madhuri Dixit, Kiran Kumar and Suresh Oberoi The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

Bengali Films

• **Aagamon:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045) Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474367), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 271282) 3 shows

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy Soumitra Chatterjee, Papia Adhikari, Utpal Dutt, Sumitra Mukherjee and Shakuntala Barua The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Anjali:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553113), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi



A scene from the musical play, *Smike*

Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686) – 1, 4, 7

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Ranjit Mullick, Moon Moon Sen, George Baker, Kali Banerjee and Madhabi Mukherjee The music is by Goutam Basu

• **Chhoto Bou:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—3, 5 45, 8 30

Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Bhabesh Kundu, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this Anjan Choudhury film whose music is by Sapan Chakraborty.

• **Shudhu Tomari:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080) – 3 shows

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Samit Bhanja, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Prabir Mitra The music is by Ajoy Das

Foreign Films

• **Adventures in Babysitting:** New Empire (Humayun Place; 291051)—4 shows.

• **Cave Girl (A):** Jamuna (Marquis Street; 243715)—4 shows.

• **The Fly (A):** Lighthouse (Humayun Place; 291299)—4 shows.

• **The Girl on a Motorcycle (A):** Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—4 shows.

Special Events

7-9 December: 6 pm

St James' School, Calcutta, will stage *Smike*—a musical play adapted from Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby*. Directed by Phyllis Bose, the cast includes Cedric Spanos, Cyrus Madan, Vivek Mansukhani, Margaret Fernandes, Shonah and Piyali Ghosh with students of the school.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

8-11 December : 6.30 pm

A four-day festival of ballet to commemorate Uday Shankar's 88th birth anniversary and the 10th anniversary of Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe features Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe's *Milap* and *Horikhela* on the 8th and *Milap* and *Ajker Ekalabya* on the 10th, Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Akademi's *Kaibul Lamjao* on the 9th, and Kathak Kendra, Delhi with Birju Maharaj and Saswati Sen on the concluding evening

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937).

10 December: 7 pm

Goodtime Theatre presents Georges Feydeau's *Hotel Paradiso* Directed by Dean Mistry, the cast includes Sumitra Bhagat, Ratna Chaudhri, Indira Puri, Arya Gupta, Tilak Mehera, Tino Mansata and Rajesh Panthurwelil

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2) AI-103 at 0035

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830; Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6) AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4). RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4). SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1): JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325, Dep (2). JU-493 at 0025

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1120 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1540, Arr. (2) SQ-416 at 1020 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1410, Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1250, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6) IC-248 at 1425, Arr (7) IC-248 at 2055

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7). IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7). IC-444 at 1920, Dep. (7) IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-223 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-223 at 1800, Dep. (7). IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily): BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-693 at 1615, Arr. (2, 4 6). IC-224 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-224 at 2000, Arr (7): IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5): BG-698 at 1305, Dep. (1, 4, 7): IC-225 at 1305, Arr. (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7). IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730; Arr (1, 2, 5). GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr. (4, 7). GQ-101 at 1310.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000; Arr (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7) IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily). IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily). IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 1725.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1) IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 1110; Arr. (daily). IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily) IC-271 at 1720; Arr (daily): IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3): IC-277 at 0630, Arr. (1, 2): IC-278 at 2215, Arr (4, 6): IC-278 at 1915, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1535, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 2120

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1) IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800; Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7): IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep. (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1610, Arr. (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr. (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta; Dep. (daily): IC-213 at 1130; Arr. (daily). IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 0540; Arr (daily): IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7): IC-219 at 0625; Arr. (7): IC-220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-239 at 1100; Arr. (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-227 at 0835; Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-255 at 0815; Arr (2, 4, 7). IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily). IC-222 at 14 05.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4). IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-243 at 0610, Dep (daily): IC-241 at 1440, Arr (daily) IC-244 at 1030, Arr (daily) IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-701 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-701 at 1115; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-702 at 1200, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-702 at 1440.

Calcutta-Aizawl-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-705/704 at 0930; Arr. (daily): PF-706/703 at 1635.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600, Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729 at 1500, Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-729A at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5) PF-730 at 1740, Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-730A at 0835

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily). PF-709 at 0700, Arr. (daily): PF-710 at 1800

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-727 at 1220, Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1850.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (Guwahati; 1, 3, 5, 7): PF-735 at 0900; Arr (Guwahati; 1, 3, 5, 7): PF-736 at 1540

Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (Guwahati; 2, 4, 6) PF-735 at 0900; Arr. (Guwahati; 2, 4, 6) PF-736 at 1550.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-55	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs, up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-55	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thurs & Sat Arri —Tues & Thurs	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tues Arri —Sat	7-30	972

SEALDAH

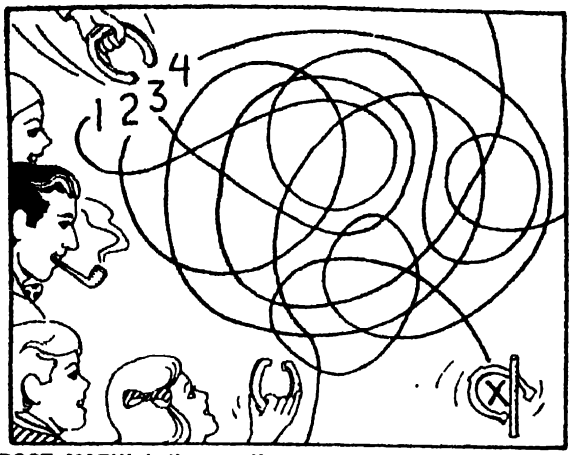
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Varanasi Express** via SBG Loop	14-30	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
3	21-00	**Madras Mail**	6-10	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-40	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	14-15	59
134	21-30	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-15	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-30	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
51	22-30	**Bangalore Express** Dep —Thurs Arri —Sun	13-45	52
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-10	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-45	**Sambalpur Express**	6-45	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-00	16
7	22 45	**Puri Express**	7-00	8
9	19-30	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-00	10
21	6-45	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-30	22
979	20-00	**Tirupati Express**	5-30	980
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-45	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep —Except Saturday Arri —Except Sunday	11-30	318
902	22-30	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
—	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	939
940	22-30	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22 15	—
952	22-30	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep —Tues, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed & Fri	13-45	951
976	22-30	**Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City-Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Monday only	13-45	975

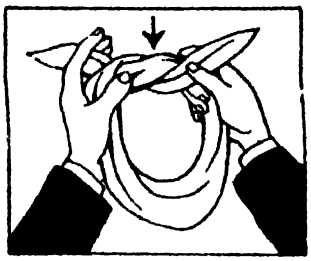
ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203536-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 280370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



POST MARK! Let's see if you can throw a ringer in the horseshoe game above. Which of four tosses is on target?

• **HIND SIGHT!** Read this sentence backwards for a definition of an overly critical person: tI od ot evah t nseod eh ,tI ot gnihton s'ereht syas eH

He says there's nothing to it. He doesn't have to do it.



KNOTTING TO IT

Take out your handkerchief, tie a knot in it loosely, yank on the ends, and alakazam, the knot disappears. Here's how the trick's done:

After forming knot, position left thumb as shown above. Extend left forefinger to spot indicated by arrow. Grasp cloth here with these two fingers.

Now, holding flap at right with right thumb and forefinger, yank both hands apart. Original knot will be undone and disappear.

Practise a bit before performing for an audience. It's an easy trick to master.

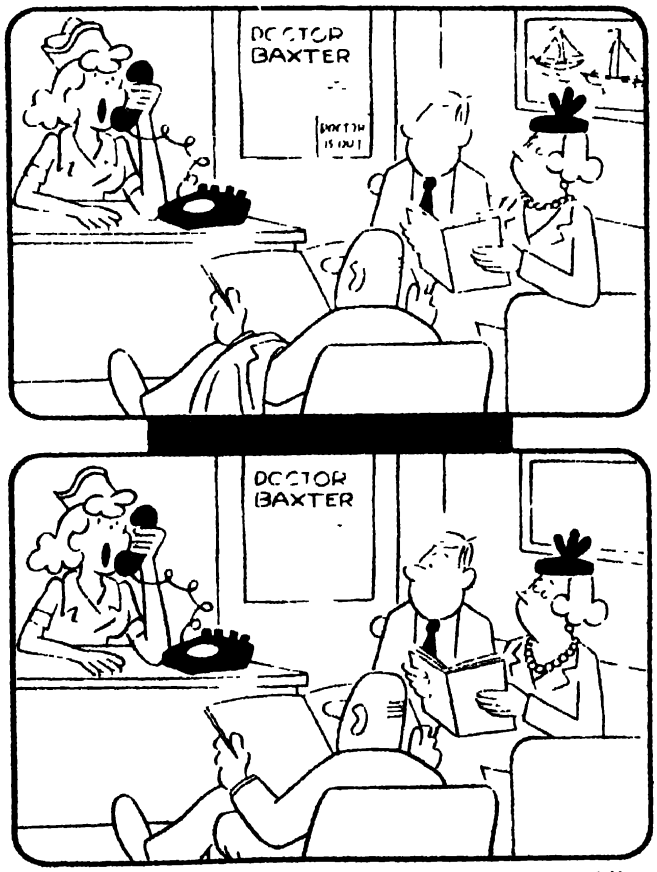
• **WILD EYED!** Letters on a chart in the office of an eye doctor are shown below. Said a patient who was also a wild-life enthusiast: "Doc, if I rearrange these letters to form a single word, I can spell out the name of a certain wild animal." Just what animal did the patient have in mind?

Answer in 1 minute.

Rearranged the letters we spel ants hope



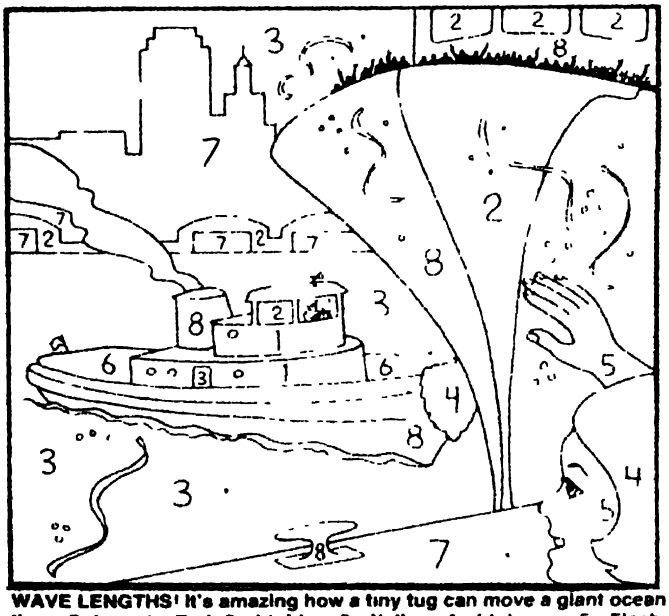
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Coat is missing. 3. Sign is missing. 4. Picture is missing. 5. Beads are different. 6. Elbow is concealed.

FUNSPOT



WAVE LENGTHS! It's amazing how a tiny tug can move a giant ocean liner. Colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Green. 7—Dk brown. 8—Dk blue.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

FEDERATE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible anagram: Deer fate

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The close of the week ushers in gains and gaiety Anything to do with a distant place, import-export or correspondence will be lucky and memorable. The first four days are for loans, funds, so if you have to fill forms or make arrangements please do so Your luck also holds, thanks to the moon sextile Uranus placing, so go ahead with any ventures that you have in mind Health may cause concern

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Partnerships, contacts and ties can be expected mid-week as moon conjuncts Venus The focus is also on shifts, transfers or a possible job change with increased responsibility You will be handing trusts and funds Romance is in the air for the fancyfree and eligible For some marriage or at least an official engagement is destined

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Two trends are in simultaneous operation The home and property trend of the last week will continue and partnerships, and trips, legal disputes and unusual, bizarre experiences are foretold Romance is indicated. Expect visits, secret meetings and rendezvous Take the initiative and rely on your intention in all important matters Romance is also on the cards

CANCER

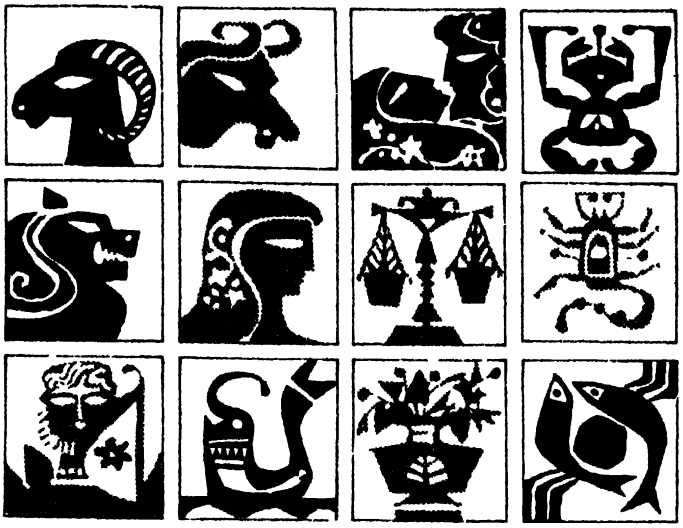
June 21—July 20

News, messages, documents, deeds, loans and funds are highlighted this week The end of the week will find you immersed in your work completely. Fun and entertainment are also foretold. A difficult state of mind will be resolved now This is the time to travel too Do not accept people at face value The last three days will bring entertaining and socialising

LEO

July 21—August 21

The moon-Mercury conjunction helps you to move fast, clinch deals and catch up on information, news and views Children, in particular will give satisfaction The other noteworthy features are scholastic achievements, a budding romance, creative pursuits, hobbies and entertainment The next week will be better



VIRGO

August 22--Sept 22

The week moves in two directions Personal posers and a burst of activity are foretold Around midweek, exceptionally important news that could have a long lasting impact will reach you December could, however, bring stress and strain to family members, specially elders So do not neglect them Children and pets may demand attention

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

Take care of finances now Curb that urge to overspend Home, your shop or office may need at least a coat of paint or a complete refurbishing and overhauling. The next 17 days are very important for conferences, meets, publishing, ceremony, publicity and assignments However, do not take chances with your health.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Venus is still in your sign and it gives you the charm to slay the opposition, move ahead and initiate a campaign or a major move. The going should be comparatively trouble-free Tuesday to Thursday is the time to move in for an opening at least You could emerge a winner Lady luck will smile on all that you do

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

The new moon on the 9th will make you work at a furious pace, be it your business or job You may be fishing for additional money and a possible investment If so, expect good returns from December to February Mercury in your sign till the 14th lends a sense of urgency to all that your do Be wary in all your dealings

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

This is the time to make your move and try out something different. However, take care to curb the tendency to be extravagant Family disputes could bog you down Friends will stand by you Home and property matters will have their say not only this week, but also the next You would do well to remember this

AQUARIUS

Jan 20—Feb 18

Loving care, sincere friendships and a cutting edge in business and profession are yours You will also be investing, buying, selling and dealing with a new found shrewdness and confidence It is best to make a break for it from Monday itself and carry on at a hectic pace till at least the 8th Success is bound to be yours.

PISCES

Feb 19—March 20

Time to settle scores and keep your mind on the track. The Moon-Pluto conjunction will help you to be purposeful, definite and not vague and fickle. Artists, writers, entrepreneurs and traders will get more mileage now. Learn to take quick decisions regarding travel and a new assignment.

BIRTHDAYS

December 4

Moon sextile sub-Mercury: Astrologers, teachers, those in communication, transport, travel and agency and commission work will make a grand show. Actors and directors will also make it big. The coming year will be a year of opportunities at many levels.

December 5

Moon sextiles Saturn and Uranus: Quick returns, sudden good fortune, useful contacts and gains are foretold. The luxuries of life will be yours. However, do not get taken in by superficial glamour.

December 6

Moon conjunction Pluto: Those in import-export, leasing, financing, travel, leisure, hotelliering, entertainment, property and real estate will do splendidly. Romantic attachments are also likely. Expenses will definitely be there but you will have a good time.

December 7

Mars square Neptune. This square implies that you must be practical and level-headed if you want to progress and move ahead. Artists, seers and teachers must plan a fine of action and not leave everything to chance. Children, intuition and travel will make you happy.

December 8

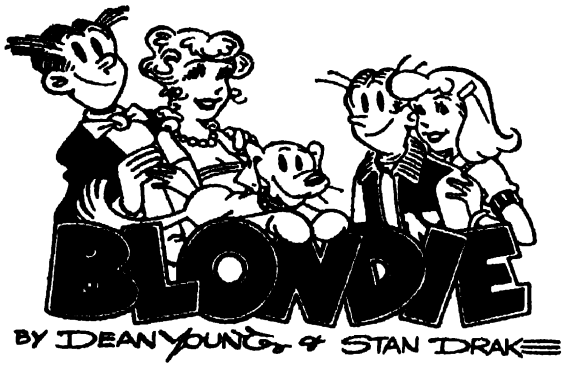
Moon trine Mars: Surgeons, engineers, policemen, tourists, lovers and sports will find this time lucky. It also means good money [illegible] be launched if [illegible] it. Your efforts [illegible] will bear fruit. An affair, marriage or addition [illegible] is likely.

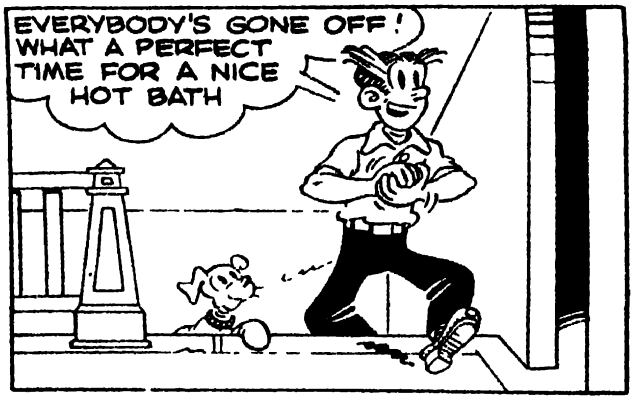
December 9

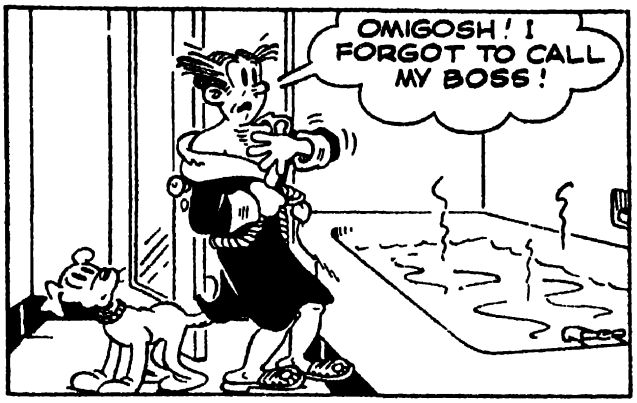
[illegible] Sagittarius, Uranus [illegible] is sure to [illegible] is too soon [illegible] considerable, now that Saturn, Western astrology only, has moved out of your sign. Promotion, perks and power are highlighted.

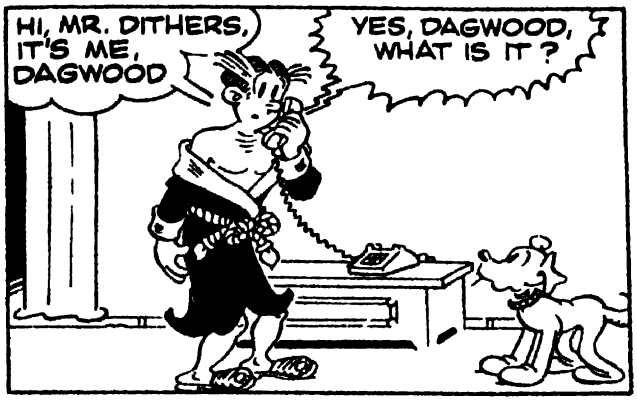
December 10

Moon conjunction Saturn-Uranus: This signals a few ups and downs. But it is up to you to be firm of purpose, work steadily towards your goals, eschew short-cuts, apply [illegible] and consolidate your position. Heartbreak, it could be an unloved person, but not [illegible] precautions are taken. The trick is to know what you want and then set about getting it.

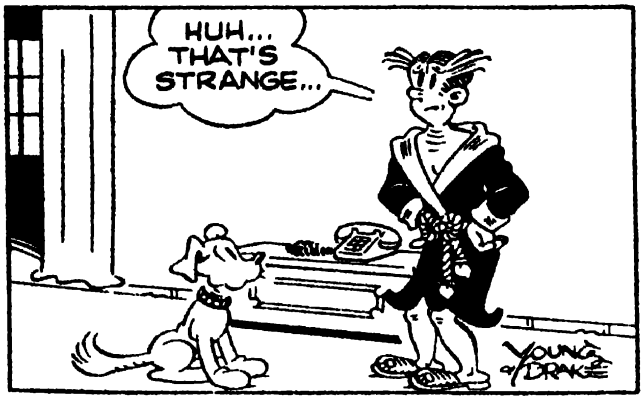














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NOBODY SEEMS TO BE RUNNING CONTESTS ANYMORE! HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO WIN STUFF?
HEY! HERE'S ONE!
HEY, ARCH! WOOFO DOG FOOD IS RUNNING A JINGLE CONTEST! FIRST PRIZE IS $10,000!
WOW! LET'S GO FOR IT!
ARF!
HEY! THAT'S GOOD! I CAN USE THAT!
FOR WOOFO DOG FOOD YOUR DOG WILL ARF-- WHAT RHYMES WITH ARF?
CARF? ZARF? BARF?
HOT DOG, STOP PLAYING WITH THAT SCARF!
SCARF! THAT'S IT! TO SCARF IS TO EAT VORACIOUSLY!
A FEW WEEKS LATER!
ARCH? THIS IS JUG! WE WON FOURTH PRIZE IN THE JINGLE CONTEST!
WOW! WHAT'S THAT?
A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF WOOFO DOG FOOD!
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT IS FAIR SINCE HOT DOG DID WRITE MOST OF IT!
WOOF
WOOF
WOOFO
WOOFO
HOT DOG
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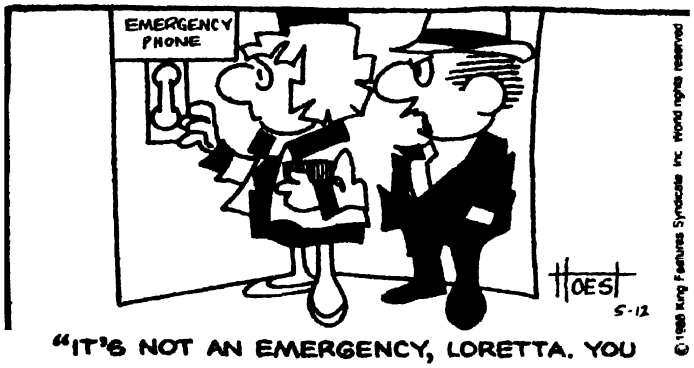
"THE CAR IS MAKING A VERY-EXPENSIVE-SOUNDING NOISE!"



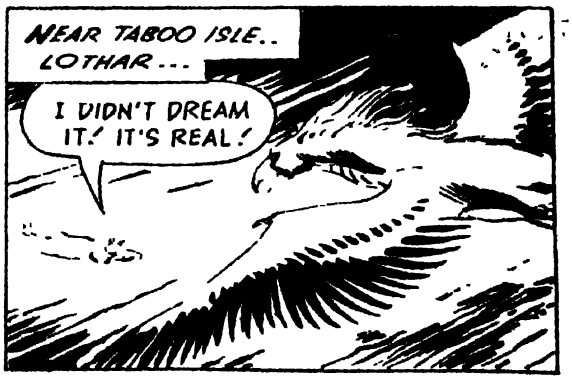
"YOU KNOW THAT MOVIE EVERYONE TOLD US NOT TO MISS?.....WE MISSED IT."

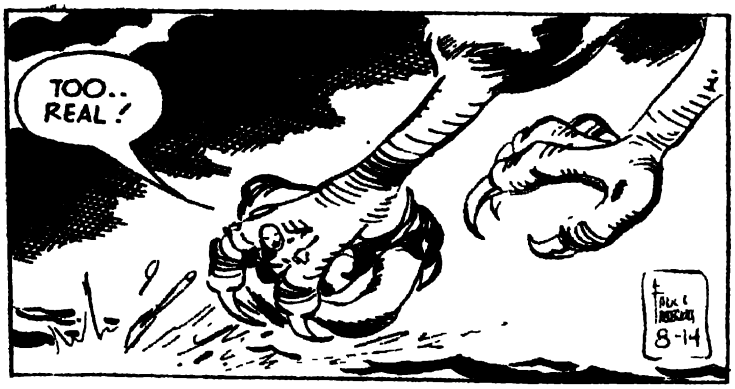


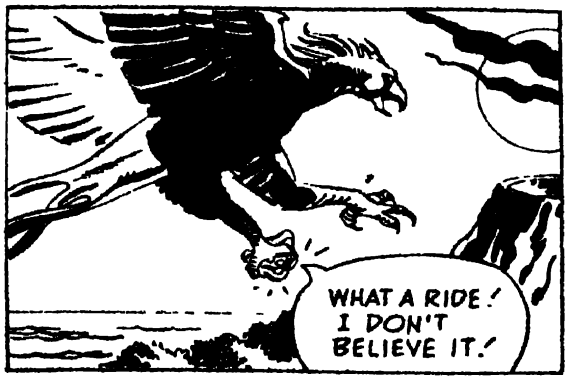
"SHE ALWAYS DISAGREES WITH ME! SO DOES HER FOOD, FOR THAT MATTER."



"IT'S NOT AN EMERGENCY, LORETTA. YOU CAN PHONE YOUR MOTHER ABOUT THE SALE WHEN WE GET HOME."

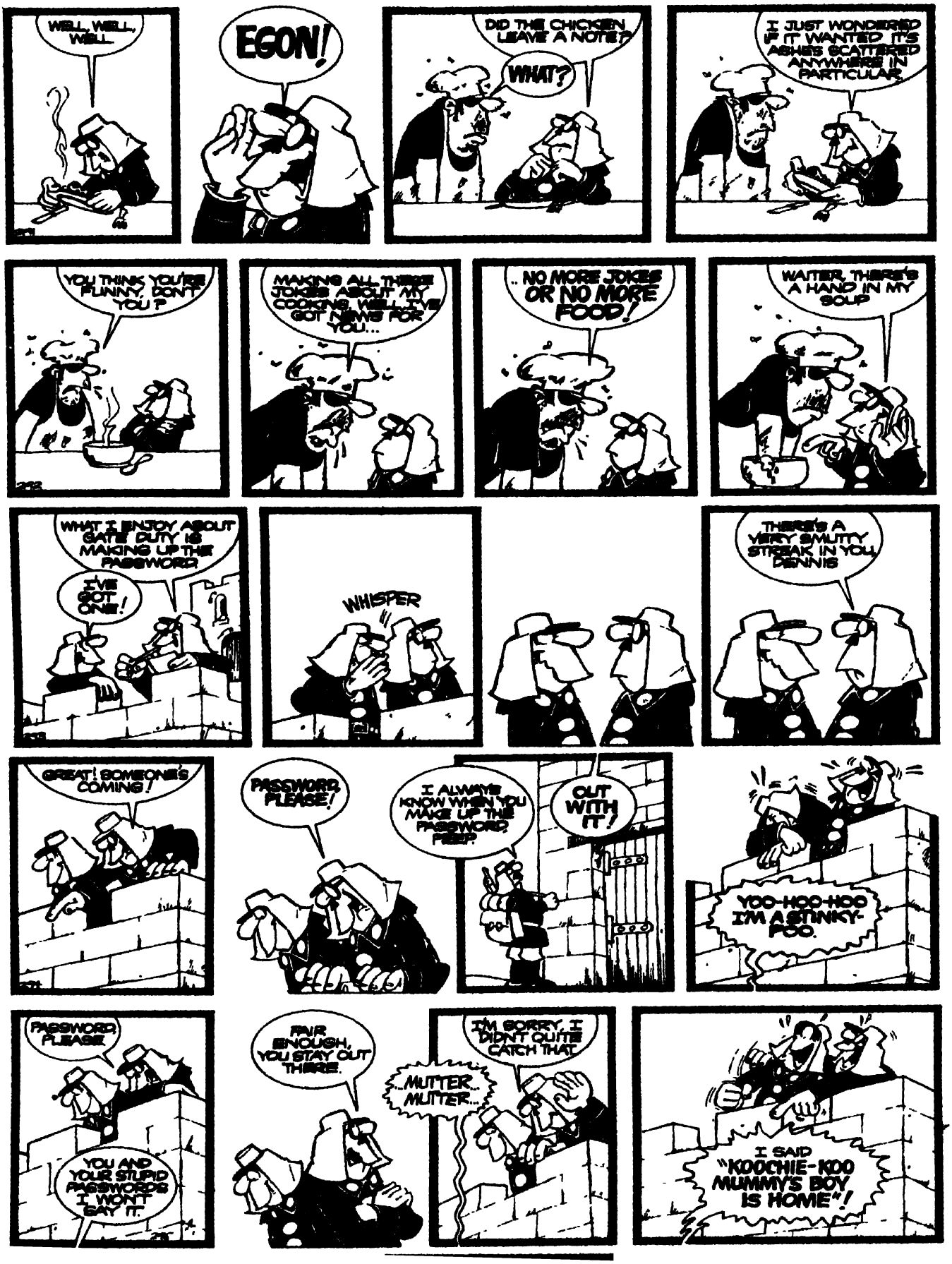


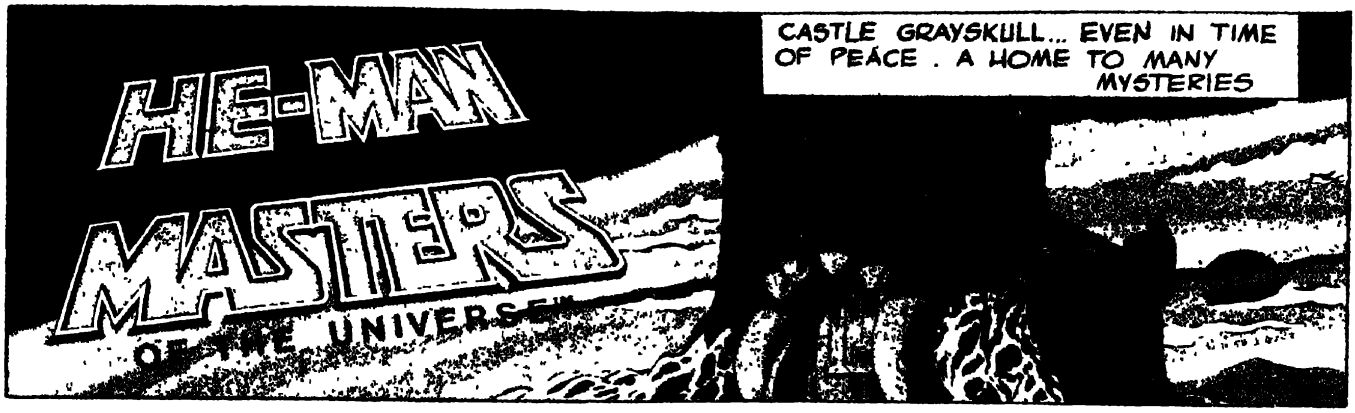




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WELL, WELL, WELL...
EGON!
DID THE CHICKEN LEAVE A NOTE?
WHAT?
I JUST WONDERED IF IT WANTED IT'S ASHES SCATTERED ANYWHERE IN PARTICULAR.
YOU THINK YOU'RE FUNNY, DON'T YOU?
MAKING ALL THESE JOKES ABOUT MY COOKING, WELL I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...
.. NO MORE JOKES OR NO MORE FOOD!
WAITER, THERE'S A HAND IN MY SOUP
WHAT I ENJOY ABOUT GATE DUTY IS MAKING UP THE PASSWORD.
I'VE GOT ONE!
WHISPER
THERE'S A VERY SMUTTY STREAK IN YOU, DENNIS
GREAT! SOMEONE'S COMING!
PASSWORD, PLEASE!
I ALWAYS KNOW WHEN YOU MAKE UP THE PASSWORD. PEEP.
OUT WITH IT!
YOO-HOO-HOO I'M A STINKY-POO.
PASSWORD, PLEASE.
YOU AND YOUR STUPID PASSWORDS. I WON'T SAY IT.
FAIR ENOUGH, YOU STAY OUT THERE.
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT.
MUTTER... MUTTER...
I SAID "KOOCHIE-KOO MUMMY'S BOY IS HOME"!

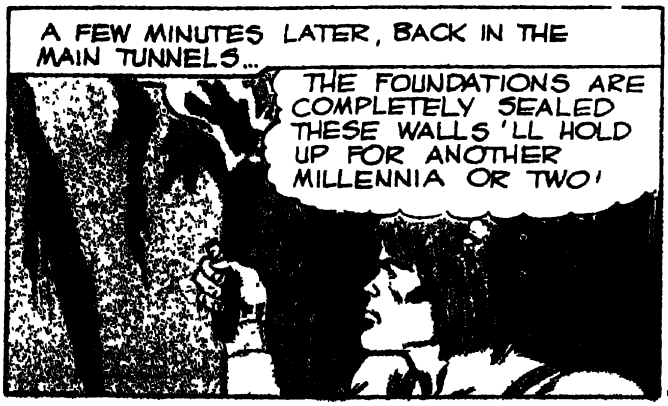




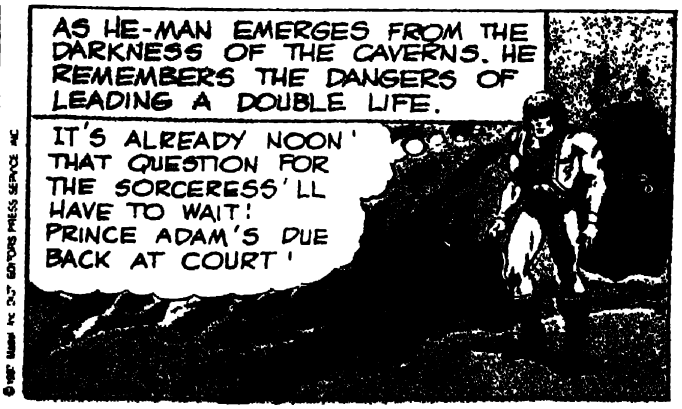








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What your mother couldn't tell you about making your marriage work.



Remember the day before your wedding? Your mother and you talked into the small hours of the morning She told you the meaning of marriage, those little compromises you would have to make, how to fit into his life and how to please him However, like most women, your mother shied away from one sensitive topic — the right contraceptive method to use

The contraceptive confusion

There is a bewildering choice of contraceptives today And making the right choice is not easy Some methods involve the tension of counting days (you could go wrong so easily), while others carry the risk of side or after effects Or worse, the embarrassment of a clinical examination Some depend upon the temperature for effectiveness Surely there is a contraceptive method that's absolutely safe without the mess, the accompanying side effects or one that involves a lot of preparation? What you need is a safe, simple, sure method that is right for both of you

The safe, sure condom

The condom is one of the safest, simplest and surest of contraceptives It does not involve a visit to the doctor or a clinical examination Nor does it mean surgery, pain or discomfort to your body Now thinner and finer than ever before, the condom protects without interfering with the pleasure

Kohinoor confidence

Ask for Kohinoor by name at your nearest chemist One of India's largest selling condoms, Kohinoor gives you the confidence of knowing you are absolutely safe It is lubricated and made from the finest latex to give you a near natural feeling Each condom is electronically tested for total safety That's the Kohinoor confidence Is it any wonder that millions of couples all over India are choosing Kohinoor as the safest, most practical method of contraception?

Kohinoor is from the people who understand your need for privacy, protection and pleasure, for a contraceptive that is absolutely safe And your wish to make your marriage the best thing that ever happened to both of you

KOHINOOR

Plan your family with Kohinoor confidence.

A Product

MAA COMMUNICATIONS LROF 388

POST MORTEM

Encourage BMXers

It was disheartening to note that BMXers are suffering at the hands of the police ('Wheels Within Wheels', October 30). BMX stunt cycling is a new sport in our country and the government should encourage it by providing adequate facilities and opportunities.

We cannot escape from the fact that our country of 700 million people cannot produce a single sportsman who could bring back a medal from Seoul. Our policy makers are more interested in spending money on elitist games like cricket than in developing a sports culture among our people. How many schools in India have a playground? The percentage is as low as 40 per cent.

Javed Nishat,
Calcutta

With Dignity

With reference to Sunil Kumar Kundu's letter (November 13) about bank employees, may I say to all those who have been irked by my seemingly callous remarks that I regard all professions with respect and dignity.

When I first wrote the essay I never dreamt that it would win a prize or be subsequently published. The references were an amateurish effort to add a slight bit of spice to an otherwise 'insomnia remedy' essay. There was no offence meant.

Ranjini Mohan,
Calcutta

Hellish Roads

Lead to...

20) is hell called Calcutta. If the Calcutta Municipal Corporation cannot maintain even the six per cent of road area in the city, why does it claim that there should be more road area?

Associations like the AAEI should file a case asking for an injunction on the payment of road taxes. Expenses towards repair of vehicles is many times more in Calcutta than in other cities. Life is precarious on the roads. Lighting is also very poor. The persons in charge of maintenance should be asked where the funds are going.

S. Agarwalla,
Calcutta

Jagannath Express

In the Colour Magazine of November 13, the departure time of Jagannath (Puri) Express was printed as 1930 hours instead of 1900. Due to your printing mistake, we were put to inconvenience.

D. C. Dhupia,
Partner, D.C. Dhupia & Co., Calcutta

The time was correctly printed as per the latest time table (w.e.f. November 1, 1988), supplied to us by the chief public relations officer, South Eastern Railway, vide his letter no. PR/PI/164 dated November 16, 1988.—Editor.

M.L. Kamth



Morarji Desai

Full Support

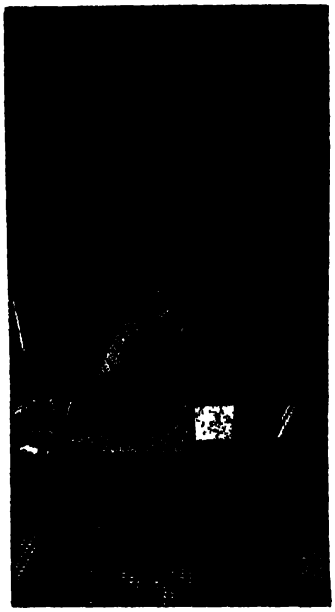
Morarji Desai ('Spartan Veteran', November 6) is a person who has been fully [illegible] to the Nishan-e-Pakistan. The Congress(I) partymen have made representations to the former Prime Minister not to accept the award, but had it been conferred on Rajiv Gandhi their reaction may have been different.

Sanjay Banka
'Manish',
Salkia (Howrah)

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The Telegraph

11 DECEMBER 1988



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Cover Rajesh Kumar

COVER STORY

The Prime Minister's prime minister



Rajesh Kumar

If controlling access to power is power itself, Sheila Dikshit is arguably the most powerful minister in the capital today. Since June this year when she was appointed minister of state in charge of the Prime Minister's office, almost everybody must get past the portly lady if they want so much as a glimpse of Rajiv Gandhi.

Only once before has there been such a post--Mrs Nandini Satpathy did a similar kind of job for Indira Gandhi for a brief period but thereafter, the Prime Minister depended on factotums who had little official status though they may have wielded considerable clout. Mrs Gandhi made do with her trusted secretary, Mr P K Dhawan, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi for a while depended on Mr M L Fotedar to handle his appointments and sift information.

But Sheila Dikshit is in a qualitatively different category. First, she is a minister with all the status due to that position. Second, she is also the minister for parliamentary affairs in charge of the Lok Sabha and therefore is in intimate touch with the most important political institution in the country. And then she comes from a liberal English-speaking elitist background which so endears people to Mr Rajiv Gandhi and yet she has been at the heart of Congress politics long enough to serve as a political adviser to a Prime Minister with a relatively short political career.

MANINI CHATTERJEE interviews Mrs **Sheila Dikshit**, minister of state in charge of the Prime Minister's office and arguably the most powerful minister in Mr Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinet

What exactly does she do in course of her new role as manageress of the Prime Minister's affairs? Several queries on that score elicit vague replies. "This job requires anything and everything," she says or again, "whatever the Prime Minister would like me to handle, I handle. It could be just anything." She admits that there is nothing fixed in this job, "nothing defined as such."And yet it is this very undefined nature of the job that gives it a unique importance. Except Central ministers who can still meet the Prime Minister through his secretary, Mr V.George, every other politician or "common man" has to go via Sheila Dikshit. Though her job is confined to looking after Mr Gandhi's business in his capacity as Prime Minister and not as Congress president, she makes sure that the Prime Minister gets the maximum political mileage out of his meetings. Thus, television viewers round the country got shots of Mr Gandhi consoling the Bidar riot victims (note; Karnataka is an Opposition-ruled state) and on the same grounds, commiserating with the family of a Harijan woman who was raped and killed in a Haryana village. Both these groups went to meet Mr Gandhi at his morning darshan and more likely than not, it was Sheila Dikshit's brainchild to get them there and the Doordarshan cameras to record the event.

When the Telugu Desam MLAs came here to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister, it was Mrs Dikshit they first contacted (she fudged up that one though, leading to the lathi charge and all the adverse publicity that caused). The Bharatiya Kisan Union leaders, camping at the Boat Club, was also initially her charge. Though she does not personally talk to every aggrieved person, she talks to the concerned ministries and officials and prepares a background paper on which the Prime Minister can take the final decision. It's a new post, it's an untried job but already Mrs Dikshit appears to have carved out a niche for herself that is being enlarged everyday.

She first came into the limelight in Parliament and for scribes sitting in the press gallery she always appeared a rotund, little sparrow, scurrying from seat to seat, never sitting still, moving from MP to MP, whispering, smiling, gesticulating and going about with an air of hurried efficiency. It was a difficult time for the Congress(I), the Prime Minister in particular, in an increasingly hostile Parliament but obviously Mr Gandhi was pleased at the way his new minister handled the job.

Though she came into Parliament and joined mainstream politics as late as in 1984, Mrs Dikshit is no greenhorn in politics. For long, veterans in the Congress have regarded her as a fairly formidable entity. In Uttar Pradesh, the country's political heartland, Uma Shankar Dikshit and Kamlapati Tripathi were the two Brahmin giants who controlled much of the state's real politik. And both depended greatly on their respective "bahujis"—Sheila Dikshit and Chandra Tripathi Both handled the financial and other dealings of their fathers-in-law and ironically both the bahujis made their independent political bid in the 1984 general elections Chandra Tripathi fought and won the Chandoli seat in Varanasi district and Sheila Dikshit won from Kannauj in central Uttar Pradesh. But since then Mrs Dikshit has clearly overshadowed the other bahu who is seldom heard even in the Lok Sabha.



Close to power: Sheila Dikshit(right) with (from left to right) Vice President S.D. Sharma, President R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

Sheila Dikshit's convent educated background, the marked air of efficiency and total loyalty to the Gandhis must have first caught the Prime Minister's eye but then, as she freely admits in the interview, it was more on compassionate grounds that she got to do so much more. Even as she was making a mark in Parliament and outside, she was struck by personal tragedy. Her IAS husband, Vinod Dikshit, was suddenly struck down by a heart attack while travelling from Lucknow to Delhi and his body was found hours later in the toilet of the train. Shattered by the loss, Mrs Dikshit decided to forget herself in her work and requested Mr Gandhi to give her more to do. And that he did—first giving her the important post of chairperson of the Nehru centenary and 40 years of Independence celebrations committee and thereafter the powerful, if the consuming post, of minister in charge of the Prime Minister's office.

Sheila Dikshit rarely gives interviews but this is one of the few days that she has taken time off to "do some spring cleaning of the house." The spacious double storey bungalow at number 1, Circular Road, at the edge of the capital's diplomatic enclave is beautifully maintained and every corner has a personal touch to it. The lawns are dotted with sculptured clay horses and elephants and even the rooms housing her staff are done in *chatais* and paintings giving it an air far removed from bureaucratic stuffiness. The house itself is an interior decorator's delight, done up in the current mode of ethnic chic-high quality cane furniture, Worli paintings, wooden masks, the works

As any envious working woman knows there is no job quite as demanding as that of a full-time housewife and it is perhaps Sheila Dikshit's years of being just that—looking after the home, her two children and the demands of a politically active father-in-law that has given her the efficiency and enterprise to manage something a little more exalted. The personal touch comes into play all the time—an aged golden spaniel walking in and out of the rooms and the entire staff gathered in front of the television to watch *Mahabharata*. The security personnel and the host of men waiting for a word with her are also agog in front of the television as Sheila Dikshit unravels a few things about her life.. .

You are not from a political family yourself?

No, I was not born into a political family, I married into one: in which really my father-in-law was in politics. My husband was in the Indian Administrative Service. Apart from my father-in-law, there is no one else in politics.

As for myself, I was born in Punjab because my mother was a Punjabi but I was brought up and educated in Delhi. I studied at the Convent of Jesus and Mary and then Miranda House where I did my Masters in 1959 in history. My father was in the Army and I am one of three sisters, the oldest of the three.

My father was a Delhiite. He was from one of the few families who belong to Delhi I came from a fairly liberal family because even in those days my father married a Hindu girl from Punjab....

When did you get married?

I got married in 1962. I did not get involved in politics then, not till very much later Actually, I started getting involved and feeling a sense of commitment during the first Congress split in 1969. And after that because I lived with my father-in-law, I was drawn into it—both as an assistant to my father-in-law because I looked after his household and all his work and also I was personally quite interested.

But your husband must have been transferred frequently

My husband was in Uttar Pradesh—he was in the UP cadre and every time he got transferred I went with him and I also had young children and so I did not really come out in the field because I had this commitment both to my parents-in-law and to my children. I came into active politics only in 1984, I mean personally active politics But I had interacted with politicians all through. People used to come to see my father-in-law all the time..

Was yours an arranged marriage?

No, my husband and I were studying together at Delhi University.

There were no objections?

Oh, there were—not from my father-in-law but from my mother-in-law. My husband was her only child and she was a little upset and disappointed but I must say that she came round very soon.

What was your father-in-law doing when you got married?

When I got married he was looking after the *National Herald* and subsequently he became works and housing minister, health minister, home minister and then surface transport minister, minister without portfolio. And then he went to Bangalore as governor and then when the Janata government came in, he resigned—more on principle than anything else. He thought he would not be able to pull along, do what the state government may require of him and so he resigned soon after Mrs Gandhi lost. He remained with Mrs Gandhi in the 1977-78 split and then he was by himself. He then went to West Bengal as governor at Mrs Gandhi's behest in 1984. Soon after, Mrs Gandhi died and he stayed on in West Bengal till 1986 and since then he is here

He stays here with you?

Oh yes. I am the only one he has. I mean he is the only one I have and I am the only one he has. I have nobody else and he has no other children. My parents have also died, both of them.

Did you know Mrs Gandhi well?

I knew her but I can't say I knew her intimately. I was though, a very avid Indira Gandhi admirer and watcher.

Did she ever ask you to join politics?

No, she did not.

You were also involved with the Garment Exports Association at one stage?

Yes, I was. During the Janata regime there was a little bit of problem for all of us—some psychological, some physical, some mental. My husband was posted in an out of the way place in Gorakhpur and the children had to be educated (they were in school) and when I came here I found that looking after two homes was economically almost an impossibility and so I got this job at the association and worked for about four years. I was the chief executive of the association. That was my first job. Otherwise, I managed the home and did a lot of social work I was also very involved with handicrafts and handloom (promotion).



But not party work?

Yes, party work also. After 1969 I was mostly involved with party work in the sense of being a worker.

In 1984, what made you take the plunge?

Well, I thought, my husband actually thought, that I must join politics.

He himself was not interested?

Oh he was but as long as he remained a civil servant he kept out of it but eventually he would have joined politics. But he died. And my father-in-law was quite keen. He did not want me to go about it blatantly, nor was he going to go about it blatantly but there was this feeling all the time in the family that all the work that he had done must somehow be carried on. And I seemed the obvious choice because my husband was in service and the children were too young. So I just asked that I want to stand for the elections and I was told I could.

You asked Rajiv Gandhi?

No, Dikshitji, my father-in-law, mentioned it to the Prime Minister but I asked Narayan Dutt Tiwari and Vishwanath Pratap Singh who was then there. But obviously my fate was discussed really by the Prime Minister and so that was that.

Had you known the Prime Minister from before?

Well yes, I didn't know him very much but I knew him.

Your constituency is Kannauj—did you choose it or did the party give it to you?

The party asked me if I would like to fight from Kannauj and I said alright. Unnao—the place I would really like to have been elected from—was held by Ziaur Rehman. And so I was given Kannauj.

Had you been to Kannauj earlier?

Never. I had never set foot there.

How did you manage?

I just took the plunge. Politics is like that—either you take it or you don't take it.

Did Mrs Gandhi's assassination prompt

you to take the plunge?

At that point of time, we knew that it would have some sort of effect, that it was the right time to hold elections, but we went to it really to get a mandate from the people for the present Prime Minister. We all thought that he should not continue for too long without the mandate of the people. It's only when we went to the field that it really hit us that—oh God, Indira Gandhi is so much in everybody's mind

But was your personal decision to fight have something to do with her death?

As for my personal decision, as I said, opportunities to fight an election did not come very often and so I just took the plunge. There were a lot of people who said you are going to an area you have never known, but I said never mind.

You never thought of first fighting an Assembly election?

No, never.

Why?

I don't know It just never entered my mind. I always thought that if one has to get into politics, it would be through Parliament I also preferred the Lok Sabha because there is much more excitement in it and I thought you need much more to deserve the Rajya Sabha.

And soon after the elections you became minister.

I became minister in 1986, minister for parliamentary affairs, and in the last reshuffle whenever it was, I got the additional charge (minister of state in the Prime Minister's office)

Isn't it too much to handle both?

I don't know. .parliamentary affairs is somewhat connected and it's not so difficult you know. When you take parliamentary affairs as office work, the charge is very light. There is no file pushing over there. The work is really managing Parliament and that requires a lot of action,much more than it requires files.

What about this new job?

Oh well, this job requires anything and everything. Whatever the Prime Minister would like me to handle, I handle. It could be just anything. I mean there are no set norms. I keep very long hours I wake up at about 6.30 and the telephoning work starts at 7-7.30 and my day carries on till late at night.

Where do you operate from?

I operate from my home, from my office in Parliament House and my office in South Block depending on what I am doing.

Do you attend the Prime Minister's morning darshan everyday?

No, I don't go there everyday. But I do go there sometimes to see that it's going well because we have evolved some systems over there which we were trying out. I don't have to do anything and yet I should be doing everything. And so I choose what I can because it is humanly not possible to do everything.

What takes up the major portion of your work?

I meet a lot of people obviously and I also try to prepare a ground for the Prime Minister to take decisions on I prepare a note, sometimes I talk to him, sometimes he does not have the time and so I leave a message. So it's really a very fluid kind of job It's everything and nothing There is nothing defined as such

Can you give some examples of the kind of work you do?

Well, the Prime Minister directs me to do something, go and discuss this with somebody, talk this out with somebody, prepare this with somebody and so it goes on all the time.

Do you interact with the Prime Minister's secretariat?



Yes, yes, yes, whenever I have to Well, you know it is not a formal ministry as such, like other ministries are We cater to the Prime Minister's requirements in his prime ministerial duties. So because of that we cover just about everything There is nothing fixed as in other ministries because the Prime Minister's jobs are not fixed.

Do you handle things like his tour programmes?

Well, we do that because I do try.. you see I am a person from a political background and so I try and put a political input into his programmes and so that kind of thing goes on but these are an internal kind of arrangement

Has there been this kind of post before?

Not recently but Mrs Nandini Satpathy held a similar kind of post in Mrs Gandhi's first years as Prime Minister.

Over the issue of banning the Rushdie book, Syed Shahabuddin said he first met you. Do you handle the Opposition often?

People know I am here and very often people come to me. I sacrifice a lot of my touring just to be able to meet people. I feel it is part of my responsibility and job (to be available to people) Lot of people find it easy to approach me. Because I am also parliamentary affairs minister, Members of Parliament have a right to come to me anytime. That's why Shahabuddin came to me.

How accessible are you?

For somebody who works from early in the morning till late at night—trying to see files, talking to people—I think I am pretty accessible From 8 to 9 in the morning I just see people, but there is no end to people throughout the day. And almost all without appointment.

How do you enjoy this new job?

Well, I enjoy my job very much because I think it's a kind of dedication and service one is doing. I do not feel important or that I am the one who is doing it all but there is a certain satisfaction in serving the country and the Prime Minister. I think it is a great honour to be able to do both But to me work is a great enjoyment because I lost my husband last year and it was a very deep personal loss to me, as I suppose it would be to any wife, and so I put my entire life into this. And so when I serve, believe me, it is not for any kind of personal gain, it is not my person that I want to be important or anything It's just a matter of being able to serve, to be able to do something, to be able to get out of myself.

I didn't want to become introverted and start pitying myself because I had a very nice and a very happy married life, very satisfying and my husband and I were really sort of made for each other emotionally and in other ways. And so when he died so suddenly as he did, just 49 years, at the peak of his career (it must have been a heart attack, I wasn't there, I was in New York), something just sort of. and I decided that well this has happened but I had better get on . I suppose people take to different ways of forgetting their feelings I took to this.

Did the Prime Minister know that you wanted to handle more work?

I told him He was very nice, he came to see me...I must say he is about the nicest person I have come across He is a wonderful human being He is so considerate Just a wonderful, beautiful human being. So he asked me and I said sir, I just want to get a little more involved and that was when he gave me the Nehru 100 and Freedom 40 (She was made chairperson of the Nehru centenary celebrations and 40 years of Independence committee).

And I like the work I am doing because for me it is a wonderful way of working because I don't feel personally I mean it's not Sheila who is doing it all. I suppose

people in my position might take to religion, something beyond oneself, I have taken to this. And I must say my father-in-law has been encouraging me, the children have been very understanding.

How many children do you have?

I have two children—a girl and a boy. The boy is 24 and the girl 21. My son is at the Institute of Rural Management at Anand and is finishing this year and my daughter is doing her Masters in social work. She stays here. They have been very understanding They don't mind my late hours. When they were young I stayed at home and that's the reason I didn't go out to work . but children understand when they know the mother is doing something not for purely selfish reasons. The kind of work that one does makes a lot of difference. I feel sometimes very guilty that I do not give them all the time that I ought to give and I feel specially guilty that I cannot give the time I would like to my father-in-law but they have all been very very understanding. And I really do enjoy my work. There is a lot of variety in the kind of work and therefore there isn't the kind of tiredness which comes out of boredom. And I feel very committed to what I am doing—to the party, to the Prime Minister, the commitment is very very deep.

Did you find it difficult adjusting to mainstream politics—you know all the pettiness, the rivalry, the politicking?

I think there is pettiness if you yourself are involved in it. If you are not, it doesn't matter.

And have you faced any problems being a woman politican?

I think I have received very courteous behaviour. I don't feel any resentment towards me (on account of being a woman). I suppose women have to work twice as hard to prove themselves.

How do you manage to keep such a lovely home? Do you have a retinue of servants?

I do have quite a few servants, I must admit. But I have been a committed housewife all my life. I have always kept a neat home. And one of my hobbies was interiors. I did a lot of interiors for the UP government and various others. For the fun of it, not for payment —I just enjoy it.

As for politics, what is your political ideology?

My political ideology is the party's political ideology. Whatever I think, gets into the party—some gets adopted, some doesn't get adopted. I personally feel that we are the only party in this country which is organised throughout the length and breadth of the country. We are the only party which can keep the unity and integrity of the country together. That's a fact of life.

But now that the party seems to be passing through a really bad phase....

This is the kind of churning the party has always had and this is part of the strength of this party. If it did not have this kind of churning, these kind of debates, these kind of, what appear to an outsider, acrimonious debates, it would be a dead party.

Are you really confident that the Congress(I) is going to win?

Oh yes, absolutely confident. Even these opinion polls have never made us lose.

How often do you manage to visit your constituency?

I go there every 15 or 20 days, spend a couple of days, a day, sometimes half a day. I take an overnight train to Kanpur and then drive down to Kannauj. It's about 87 km from Kanpur.

As an outsider, do you find it difficult to be accepted by your constituents?

They have accepted me. A lot depends on how you approach people—sometimes you approach strangers and they can become your own... "■

THE 2nd VINEET GUPTA MEMORIAL PRIZE

FOR SHORT STORIES AND POETRY

Entries are invited for both short stories and poetry, to reach The Telegraph, *6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Calcutta 700 001, by January 31, 1989.*

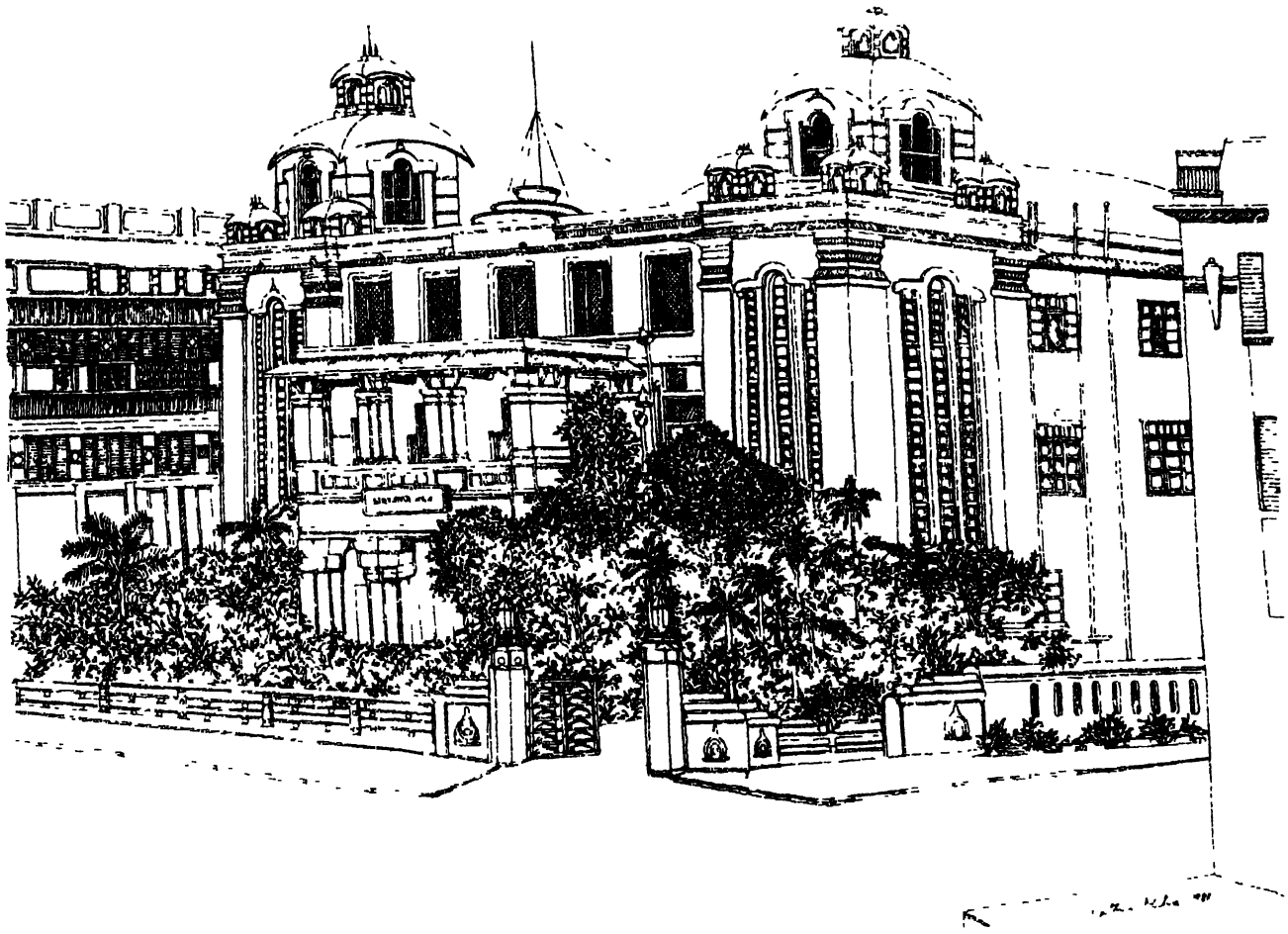
The judges will be Khushwant Singh (short stories) and Jayanta Mahapatra (poetry).

Any number of entries may be sent. The entries must be in English, not published anywhere before and the author's original work. A signed statement must accompany each entry. Entries must be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper and each entry must have the full name and address of the entrant. Short stories must not exceed 2,000 words, each poem must be on a separate sheet. Please superscribe the envelope, "Short Story" or "Poetry". Carbon copies or photocopies will be rejected. No entries will be returned and the decision of the judges will be final.

Prize winning entries will be published in the Colour Magazine. Three prizes of Rs 2,000, Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,000 respectively will be given in each category on July 14, Vineet's birth anniversary.



MAHAJATI SADAN



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as party president, planned a permanent Congress Bhawan in Calcutta. On April 17, 1937, the 'Subhas Congress Fund' was instituted to raise money for the proposed building.

Rabindra Nath Tagore laid the foundation stone of Mahajati Sadan (and also named the building), located at 166, Chittaranjan Avenue (Chitpur Spur), on August 19, 1939. A huge pandal, crowded to suffocation, was erected for the function, admission was restricted to card holders only. A massive gathering outside was able to hear the poet's address and Subhas Bose's welcome speech through loudspeakers.

The building (sketched above) is in the centre of the city, to the north of Harrison Road (Mahatma Gandhi Road). The Calcutta Corporation leased out the plot of land measuring about two bighas for 99 years at a nominal annual rent of Re 1. The building has an imposing facade and possesses all the requirements of a provincial party headquarter, including a spacious meeting hall and library. The lecture hall in the centre can accommodate 2,500 people and has modern acoustic arrangements. There is also a stage where cultural programmes are held. Besides rooms for office and committee meetings, Mahajati Sadan also provides living accommodation for staff and volunteers as well as distinguished visitors. A gymnasium for promoting physical culture formed a part of the building's plan.

When the foundation stone was laid, a sum of Rs 32,000 (including Rs 10,000 donated by P.R. Das of Patna) was raised. It was then estimated that the building would cost Rs 3 lakhs. The Associated Cement Company supplied cement free of cost.

The building is now maintained by the state public works department through the Mahajati Sadan Achhi Parishad. However, a faction of the Chhatra Parishad continues to have an office there.

SILENCES

By BASUDEB BHATTACHARYA

She has collected silences as far back as she can remember She keeps them in tiny glass test tubes, well-corked. "Silences are elusive things, if you do not take good care of them, they just melt out," she says. One needs just the right temperature to keep them alive. There they stand, all her silences, neatly arranged, well-labelled in the shelf. She has traded her whole life in collecting them.

When did her romance with silence begin? It is difficult to remember. But it was probably on that very hot June afternoon. She must have been three-years-old then. It was very hot Even the stray dog *that barked incessantly outside, had submerged in silence for once. Her mother* slept beside her. She could almost hear the sweat beads bursting on her forehead. The low buzz of the ceiling fan filled the room. In the bathroom, the taps too were silent. It was so restful. That was the first time she had bottled it up in a tiny jar. But she had lost it soon afterwards. That makes her sad. She did not know at that age that once you lose a silence, you can never recapture it.



Her parents quarrelled with each other all the time. There was, oh, so much noise. Their house was on a busy highway. Outside, the rushing vehicles stormed past their house, shaking it to its foundations. Inside, her parents screamed and yelled at each other, her father, finally, banging the door as he went out, while her mother breaking into hysterical sobs. Noise, noise—there was too much noise. It shook the very core of her being. She hated them! She remembers she used to run away to the attic, trying to shut her mind to all that noise. As she grew up, her mother accused her of being quiet, indifferent, unsympathetic. She wished her mother could see herself as she saw her—her eyes wild and watery, her mouth gaping wide, and out of that cavern poured forth a torrential venom of sound! She looked ridiculously ugly. How could she have sympathy for her? But, no, her mother would not understand. She only wished that she would not make so much noise!

Then one day the noise was suddenly stilled Her father died in a road accident. She vividly remembers the scene. There were people all around that day They literally poured forth from every nook and corner. And above the hubhub and sobs, rose her mother's loud monotonous wailing. She was about 11-years-old at that time. In the middle of the room lay the white sheet covered dead body of her father. Somehow, she was surprised by the absence of his sonorous growl in answer to her mother's cries, and the inevitable banging of the door. That door would probably never bang again! In spite of the loud sobs and cries, she felt a strange silence inside herself. Her limbs were cold with the chill of silence—the silence of death, the silence of peace. She could not cry, and, could she? She did not feel any grief, only an overwhelming sense of quiet. She still has that specimen in a specially labelled bottle.

After her father's death, she was put in a co-educational boarding school while her mother took up a job. Strangely enough, at that time they had more money than when her father was alive. Her vacations in the boarding school were an ordeal for her, ordeal because she had

to come to her mother. Her mother held noisy, late night parties while she struggled to be alone. Then, as she grew up a little more, she opted to stay back in the hostel during the holidays. It used to be so quiet, no more boisterous boys romping the grounds, or silly girls breaking into unnecessary giggles. There was an all pervading, golden, shimmering silence. She used to drink it in, fill her lungs with its silvery fumes. It even used to still the very flow of blood in her veins. She filled bottles and bottles of that very tangible silence and has kept them with her ever since.

Some years later quietly she fell in love and got married. Her memories of the short courtship is that of quiet walks by the river-side. The honey-moon, of course, is much more vivid. They went to a not-much-frequented, non-descript hill resort. In fact the dak-bungalow was so badly equipped that to fight the cold that they had to cling to each other to keep themselves warm The nearest village was two-and-a-half km away and there was not a soul around except the old chowkidar. But it was silent Both of them were enveloped in a silence of their own—the silence of love, of belonging. The moon poured down a fountain of silence on the hills as they held hands under the tall pine trees. He had wanted to start some conversation, but she forbade him What need was there to listen to each other's voice when they could listen to each other's soul? No talk is more valuable than the voice of silence and tranquility. Besides, she was too busy collecting samples, storing the silent moments away He never guessed, but that did not matter It was her hobby and it had nothing to do with him.

But she was wrong in overestimating him. She thought, in the beginning, that he understood her need for silence. But gradually, with the passage of time, he became more and more demanding He asked her to explain, what he called, her coldness, her aloofness, her indifference, her apathy, her disinterestedness. How can one explain what must be experienced? Once she thought that she would show him her test-tubes. But she was sure that he would not understand. He would probably say, "Collecting silences? You must be mad!" Mad? But who can say where insanity ends and sanity begins? Who is more mad—her mother, who shrieked and yelled and laughed loud through the long nights of widowhood, or she, who merely collects specimens of silences in small test-tubes and keeps them on that shelf? Which is more real—that room full of sobs and wails where her father lay dead, or the silent hills with the moonlight lying on it like a thick blanket?

Her husband has just walked in. She can see that he is angry. As angry her boorish father used to be But he is not boorish. He caught the door in time to stop it from banging. Just as she was about to sigh with relief, it happened! It happened with such force that it took her some time to realise its full impact He picked up the newspaper from the table, looked at her and yelled, silently! Their eyes held for a moment. The red-hot hatred flowed out of his eyes, struck her in the face, then struck the test-tubes on the shelf The little glass-jars fell to the floor and crashed into splinters.

She can see the silence flowing out of the broken jars, flooding the room, drowning her and him. All the silences of love and hate, life and death, her collections of a life-time, her blood-stream It has become one cold void of death, ominous, paralysing venom of emptiness How can she check its flow? It is creeping, creeping slowly, inexorably, while she stands helpless and watches Soon, very soon, it will fill her marriage, her love-life with him. This huge stream of all her silences will drown her, choke her, kill her .. ■

BARTER BANK

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Satyajit Ranganathan has filed this report from Kanpur:

"Say Torquemada, and a vision of people writing on burning States comes to mind. But it can be fun too if Torquemada is the quiz organised by IIT Kanpur during its inter-collegiate cultural festival—CULFEST '88 and the grand in-quiz-itor is Mudar Patherya, the well-known sports journalist.

"A whopping 49 teams wrote the preliminaries out of which eight went up to the finals To get there you had to know that Nusli Wadia is Jinnah's nephew, that the Asian Paints kid is called Gattu and PIG is a "pretty Indian Girl "

"The final was enthralling for participants and audience alike. With the usual questions were an audio, a slide visual, an exclusively sports video, a western music one and one on showbiz with clips from *Evita, Casablanca.* and the like

"The IIT Kanpur team won, with Kiron Mal College in second place "

"Why do camels have humps?" asks Chandan Bagchi, Calcutta 59.

CBS

***11th Question:* What is a "dot" ball in cricket? (Michael Yang, 3, Waterloo Street Calcutta. 700069).**
***Ans:* A ball bowled that does not produce any run. Only a dot is recorded on the scoresheet for such a ball, hence the word.**

No, it is not to store water as many people think. It does help the camel to spend long periods in the desert, though, because the hump is where the camel stores fat.

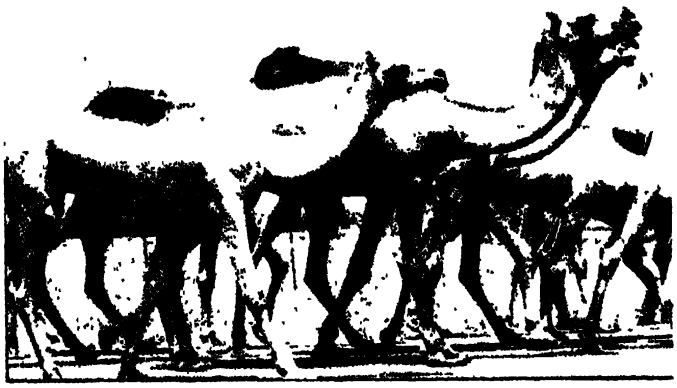
Most other animals, including man, carry fatty layers fairly evenly distributed under the skin. This is fine in a cold or temperate climate, but under conditions of high temperatures such animals become dangerously hot

In any case, the camel does not need to be so cool. Its "normal" temperature can be anything between 34° and 41° centigrade. So while man, striving to maintain a body temperature of around 37°C may lose in sweat as much as a litre of water in a single hour, the camel, making a much smaller adjustment, will sweat far less.

And the camel's blood cells are specially adapted for the conditions it has to face. When the camel driver is short of water, his blood becomes dense and thick. His heart can hardly pump it round, let alone circulate it to the skin so that heat can dissipate. The camel's red blood cells are thicker-walled and oval-shaped and, far from letting precious water go, they draw it from other body fluids by osmosis.

During the day the camel's hair lies flat against its skin, but in the cold desert night it rises up to make a thick layer of luxury insulation

When at last they reach an oasis, the camel may have travelled for two weeks without a drink It gulps down as much as 112 litres of water, plumping out all its tissues and firming up its hump



Dilip Banerjee

A herd of Rajasthan camels

QUESTIONS

1. Which British Prime Minister, commander in chief, field marshall, and son of a poor Irish peer gained a reputation for military prowess because of his defensive tactics and offensive strikes? (Swagat Bose, Baripada 1)
2. What is Sagar Samrat? (Gurvinder Singh Dhillon, Calcutta 23)
3. Who said, "Government is the science of punishment"? (Vinod Menon and Nimai Nath, Calcutta 23)
4. Which weightlifter is nicknamed "Pocket Hercules"? (Mohan Kumar Agarwal, Bargarh 28)
5. Why is Liang Street of Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, known as "Snake Alley"? (Ranjit Jain, Calcutta 20)
6. What test is used to determine the comparative activity of bacteria in milk? (Partha Ghosh, Durgapur 4)
7. After tiring of university life, he joined a regiment of dragoons under the unlikely name of Silas Tomkyn Comberback. However, a few weeks of discipline led to his rejecting the military life. Name this poet? (Shameek Ray, Calcutta 54)
8. What was odd about the throne of Emperor Merelik II of Abyssinia? (Arindam Das, Calcutta 19)
9. In Canada, they were called the "Three Wise Men." They came from Quebec in 1965 to join Lester Pearson's federal Liberal government. Each moved into important positions in the party—one became Prime Minister! What were their names? (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)
10. Who are "Grabbers" in South Korea?

ANSWERS

1. Arthur Wellesly, Duke of Wellington.
2. It is India's first self-propelled drilling ship stationed at Bombay High off the Arabian Sea. With the help of this ship oil has been struck off Bombay.
3. Kautilya (or Chanakya).
4. Naim Suleymanoglu (Turkey), who won the featherweight gold in the Seoul Olympics.
5. Because not only does one find there a row of shops selling snake soup but they also sell for a hundred dollars a glass of a special concoction prepared from blood taken from venomous snakes! The Taiwanese believe this is an aphrodisiac and makes men more virile.
6. The Methylene blue reduction test.
7. Samuel Taylor Coleridge.
8. It was an electric chair. When the first electric chair was used in New York, the emperor of Abyssinia, wanting to modernise his country, had 3 electric chairs imported, but on their arrival found that they could not be used as electricity had not yet arrived at Abyssinia. In order that his investment did not go waste, he converted one into his throne.
9. Pierre Trudeau, Gerard Pelletier and Jean Marchand. Pierre Trudeau became Prime Minister.
10. Anti-riot police who grab students.

POETRY □ Selected by Jayanta Mahapatra

Apparition

The moon is sad. Seraphins in tears
Dream amidst serene flowers of mist,
Their fingers, strings of dying violins,
Drawing out faint moans, gliding to the blue petals.

In the blessed hour of your first kiss
I was a martyr to my reverie,
Deep-drunk with the scent of sadness,
No sorrow, no anger for me.
The heart was left to gather its own dreams.

I moved then, eyes fixed on the ancient pavement.
And you came to me smiling, the sun touched your hair
An apparition on the street, an apparition of night
A fairy in a bonnet of light flitting across my past sleep
(Sound sleep of a pampered child)
While white bouquets of perfumed stars
Slipped like snowfall from her loose clasp.

Stephane Mallarme
(Translated from the French by Arya Chakravarti)

Divorce, Poetic Style

When I loved and masked
a smile, hint of deaths in pale blue eyes
and a woman's body
that could be lovers lane or boulevard stop
depending on the mood and the moment,
my life was a bad poem
that ended in meanings:
affection, cruelty and indifference
coming in turn in a built-in bureau
of coziness and comfort and boredom...
As Rimbaud said and I fill in the gap,
like a white Scorpion in his dreamy desert
desiring rain in summer and clouds in reverse,
I find my happiness and my poem
by divorcing senses and a sensible wife.

Abhijit Dutta

Kinds of Men

The first is a drought:
An arid and parched land,
Not seeking, unsought
By a kindly cloud's hand;
His joy is bought

The second a drop
Of dew in a dark town.
A mist by a shop;
There born, there to fall down—
A stricken thought.

The third is a cloud-burst.
A cloud that is borne far
Away; has a death-thirst
And wanders alone far
In search of drought.

Tabish Khair
(Transcreated from the Iruvittuka*)*

Death Hound

Death followed you
like a faithful dog
and I stood in-between.
And thus we walked for two long years,
You and I and death.
At times he skipped between us,
but I had learnt the game,
keeping him at heel for two long years
But you tired of the game,
You stumbled, reeled and fell,
I fell too.
And you rose and went away
You did not hear me calling you
You did not turn to see me die,
on the cold floor of the world

Perin C. Mehta



SEEING RED

The West Bengal government is getting increasingly tyrannical with the press as it finds its holier-than-thou image being sullied. But, then, that is the way with every government, it seems, even in a democracy, says Tarun Ganguly



Ashok Das



Sandeep Shankar

Jyoti Basu and (inset) Biman Bose: Only the Left is right?

A free press is synonymous with democracy as one cannot survive without the other But, then, most politicians who swear by democracy, often try to snub the press whenever reports are not to their liking. Perhaps, that proves the old Sanskrit adage, "Tell the truth, but not the unpalatable one "

The Indian press has come a long way since the days of the freedom movement when a large section of the press participated vigorously in the movement against the British. In fact, in those days a large number of bright Congressmen often worked in *swadeshi* newspapers in between stints to the jail In free India newspapers are increasingly becoming more vigilant, which in turn is resulting in a confrontation between the ruling party and the press

Take, for instance, the recent case of *Uttar Banga Sambad*, a small newspaper published from Siliguri,which has showed the courage of conviction in exposing the nexus between the administration and the mandarins of the CPI(M) in north Bengal The paper published a series of exposes about the Himalayan Milk Producers Union Limited (HIMUL) and that resulted in a confrontation between the local party bosses, who were involved in the HIMUL scandal, and the newspaper For 24 days, the newspaper was not allowed to distribute its editions and when the employees themselves escorted the newspaper van to the city, they were attacked by CITU faithfuls with lethal weapons Dibakar Mondal, a compositor of *Uttar Banga Sambad*, was killed and seven others seriously injured The incident worked as shock therapy for the usually cynical newsmen of West Bengal, who came together for the first time in ages, to protest against the wanton killing

An indifferent and callous government, which tried to dismiss the incident initially as a trade union dispute, ultimately had to condemn it and take administrative steps to guarantee unobstructed distribution of the paper. The incident once again proved that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, at least, for the press.

The incident at *Uttar Banga Sambad* should not be dismissed as a stray one. If one cares to look at the developments in this state during the past 11 years or so of CPI(M) rule, one would detect a careful attempt by the ruling party to divide the press into two distinct categories: those who support the CPI(M) and those who do not. The information minister, Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, has made it a point to pack the media advisory committee, set up by the government, with those journalists whom he considers "yesmen". But even then there are newspapers and journalists in this state who have consistently refused to toe the party or government line when it comes to exposing the truth.

In this connection, one can mention the "wildcat strike" that had crippled the Ananda Bazar Group of papers in 1984 for 51 days. A handful of CITU men had organised the strike on flimsy grounds and the strike fell through when the majority mustered the courage to storm back into the office. But, then, the ruling party here often stoops to the level of crippling small newspapers by stopping government advertisements. Here in West Bengal, quite often the CPI(M) mouthpiece, *Ganashakti*, gets more government advertisement than well-established newspapers. Asked to explain the criteria for advertisement distribution, Mr Bhattacharjee told the state Assembly some time ago that not only circulation but quality of a publication is taken into account for disbursement of advertisements. Such a reply, one presumes, requires no comment.

The Marxist intolerance with newspapers which dare to criticise them is, however, nothing new. Way back in the late sixties, Mr Jyoti Basu, the then deputy chief minister and home minister of the second United Front government, had threatened newsmen that he would ask partymen to "take care" of newsmen if they did not mend their ways. Recently, after the Bengal Lamp scandal, in which the chief minister, Mr Basu, himself was charged with nepotism, the CPI(M) secretary, Mr Saroj Mukherjee, commented, "We are taking note of what *Anandabazar Patrika* is writing, we will take the necessary action in time." This is no doubt, a not-so-veiled threat.

Mr Biman Bose, considered a heavyweight in CPI(M) circles, used foul epithets to abuse the editor of *Anandabazar Patrika* following an editorial in the paper which had raised questions about the manner in which the CPI(M) proposed to finance the Bakreswar thermal plant. In the process, Mr Bose only exposed the weakness of their cause and gave credibility to the allegation that CPI(M) sheltered fascists who were masquerading as Marxists.

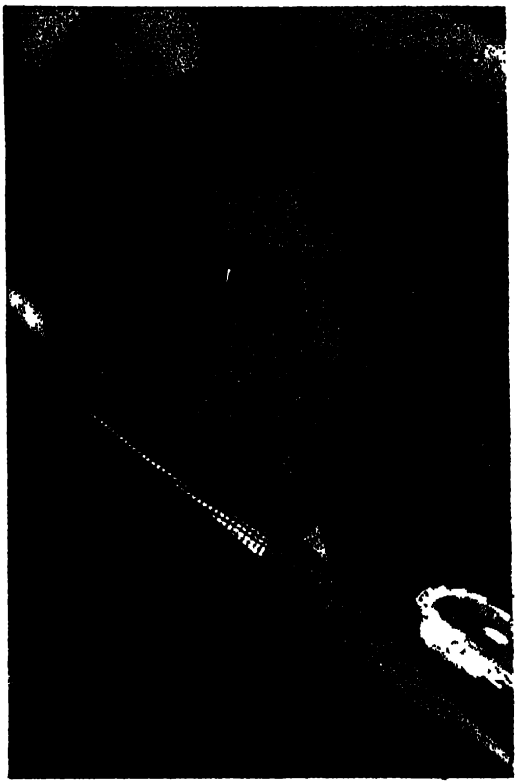
What is, however, strange is that the CPI(M) which raises alarm at any trespass on the freedom of the press elsewhere, wants to keep the press on leash in its own backyard. It was the first political party to condemn the Defamation Bill when it was placed before Parliament or, for that matter, it criticised the late M.G. Ramachandran of Tamil Nadu and Jagannath Mishra of Bihar when, as chief ministers, they proposed draconian laws against the press in their states. On the other hand, without going for legislative measures, the CPI(M) wants to have a press in chains in its own state. Now that the press is bold enough to take on the high and mighty in the state, the party is hell bent on gagging it. The incident at *Uttar Banga Sambad* gives an indication of things to come.

But, then, if the CPI(M) has been busy trying to control the press in a monolithic manner, earlier even during the Congress regime there were attempts in fits and starts to bring the press to book. Way back in the fifties, the Calcutta police beat up journalists which led to much resentment generally. Dr B.C. Roy, the legendary chief minister, had to order a judicial inquiry into the incident. During the food movement of 1966, there was an attempt by the state government to cut the advertisement quota of recalcitrant newspapers. But ultimately good sense prevailed, and the state government retraced its steps. Those in power now should remember the role of the press during the three-month rule of the democratic coalition government led by Dr P.C. Ghosh in 1971. The press took the initiative to help Left Front leaders as Amar Chakravorty to the hospital after one of those "police actions".

The worst was, however, seen during the Emergency. The press corner at Writers' Buildings was 'locked out'. Each and every copy written by reporters had to pass the censors, and most newspapers fell short of copy since some of the officers would deliberately delay or cut lengthy portions. This correspondent had the privilege of seeing not even a single copy of his being passed by the censors during the period. The then information minister, Mr Subrata Mukherjee, who designated himself as the chief censor, used to visit the Ananda Bazar offices every evening to check the copies himself. In addition, the then chief minister, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray, himself had taken the initiative to stop government advertisements to the group. But those were extraordinary times, and those who had been instrumental in undermining the press during the Emergency later admitted their mistake.

But lately in West Bengal there has been a systematic attempt to gag the press. A couple of years ago, a reporter of *The Telegraph*, was detained by Ram Chatterjee, minister for civil defence, in Chandannagore when the reporter had gone there to investigate into the minister's involvement in a riot. Only last year, Mr Jatin Chakraborty, former minister for PWD, who hit the limelight following the exposure of the Bengal Lamp scandal, said journalists were "worse than prostitutes" and got away with it. Recently, when *The Telegraph* scooped the Gorkha Hill Council Bill, the state government spared no pains to stop its publication. Of course, the attempt was futile since *The Telegraph* did not hesitate to publish a verbatim copy of the Bill along with the relevant cabinet memo. In this, one detects the double standards practised by the CPI(M), since the same political party congratulated *The Hindu* for publishing the documents on the Bofors deal. The underlying idea, perhaps, is, "Publish anything against our political enemies, but nothing against us."

In fact, after more than 11 years in power, the CPI(M) has also started behaving like any run-of-the-mill bourgeois democratic party. The leadership is somewhat under pressure for the various expo-

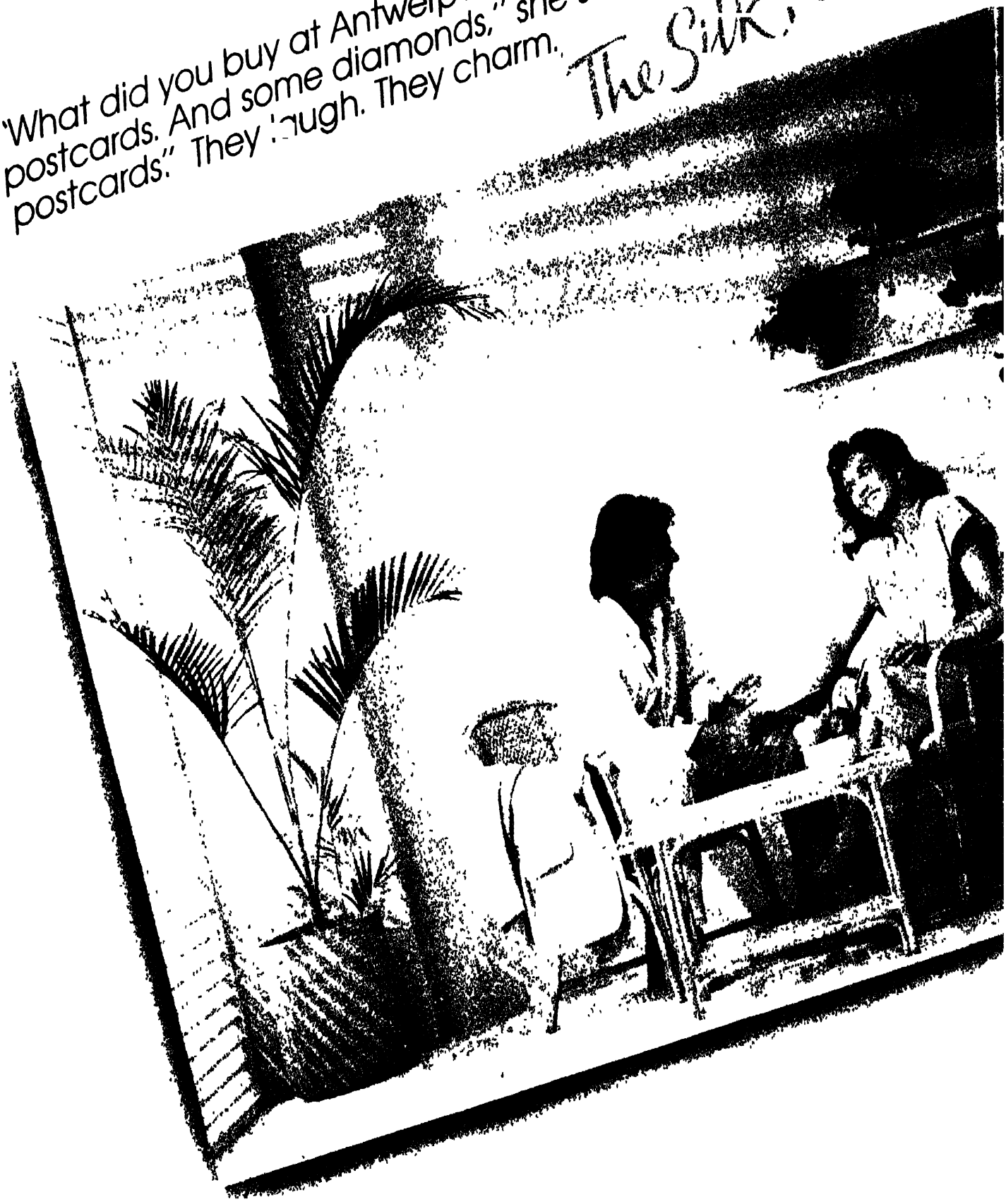


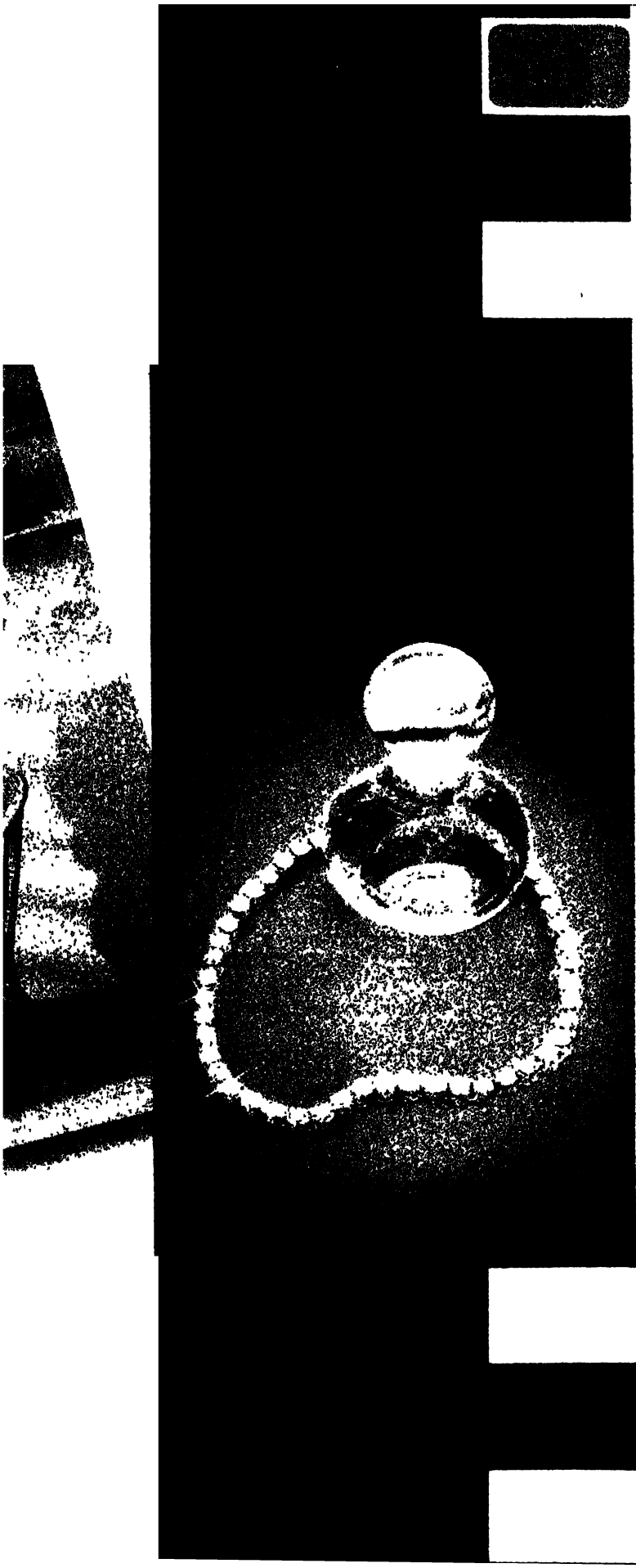
Siddhartha Shankar Ray: Emergency moves

sures in the press and it is in no position to clarify its position. Otherwise, why should the chief minister hesitate to clarify his position vis-a-vis the Bengal Lamp scandal or in the matter of compensation payment to the foreign shareholders of Calcutta Tramways Company? Rather, in a huff, he has said that he never reads newspapers though his wife is on record in an interview with the Bengali daily, *Jugantar*, that Mr Basu becomes "glum" whenever the press carries any criticism against him.

The politician in this country was a sacred cow for a long time, but since 1977 the taboo has been broken. The press is now free and courageous enough to say what it believes. Those who believe in democracy should not grudge the press its freedom. Without a free press democracy, let it be said categorically, becomes autocracy ■

"What did you buy at Antwerp?" he asked. "Picture postcards. And some diamonds," she said. "Here's to the postcards." They laugh. They charm.





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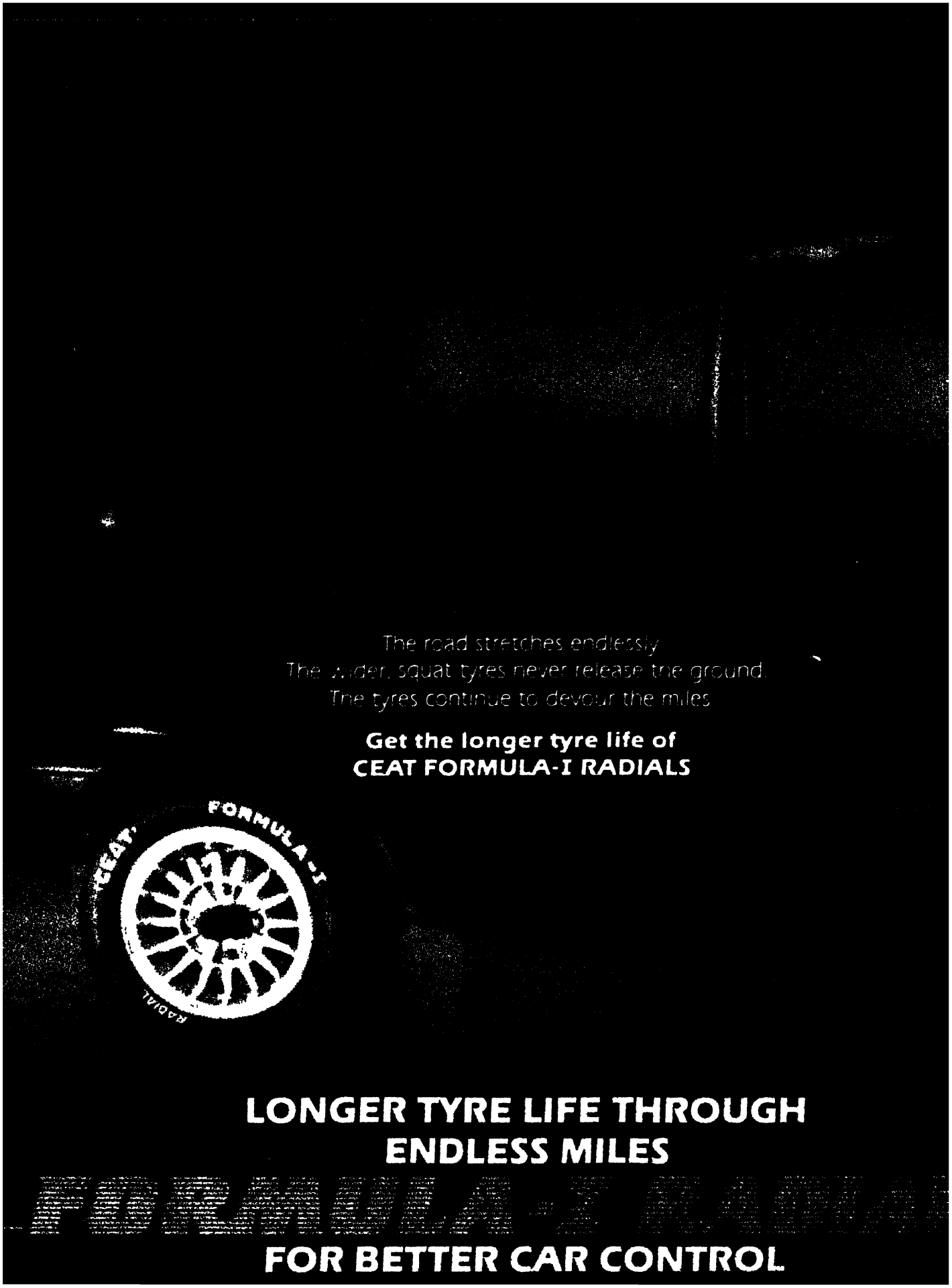
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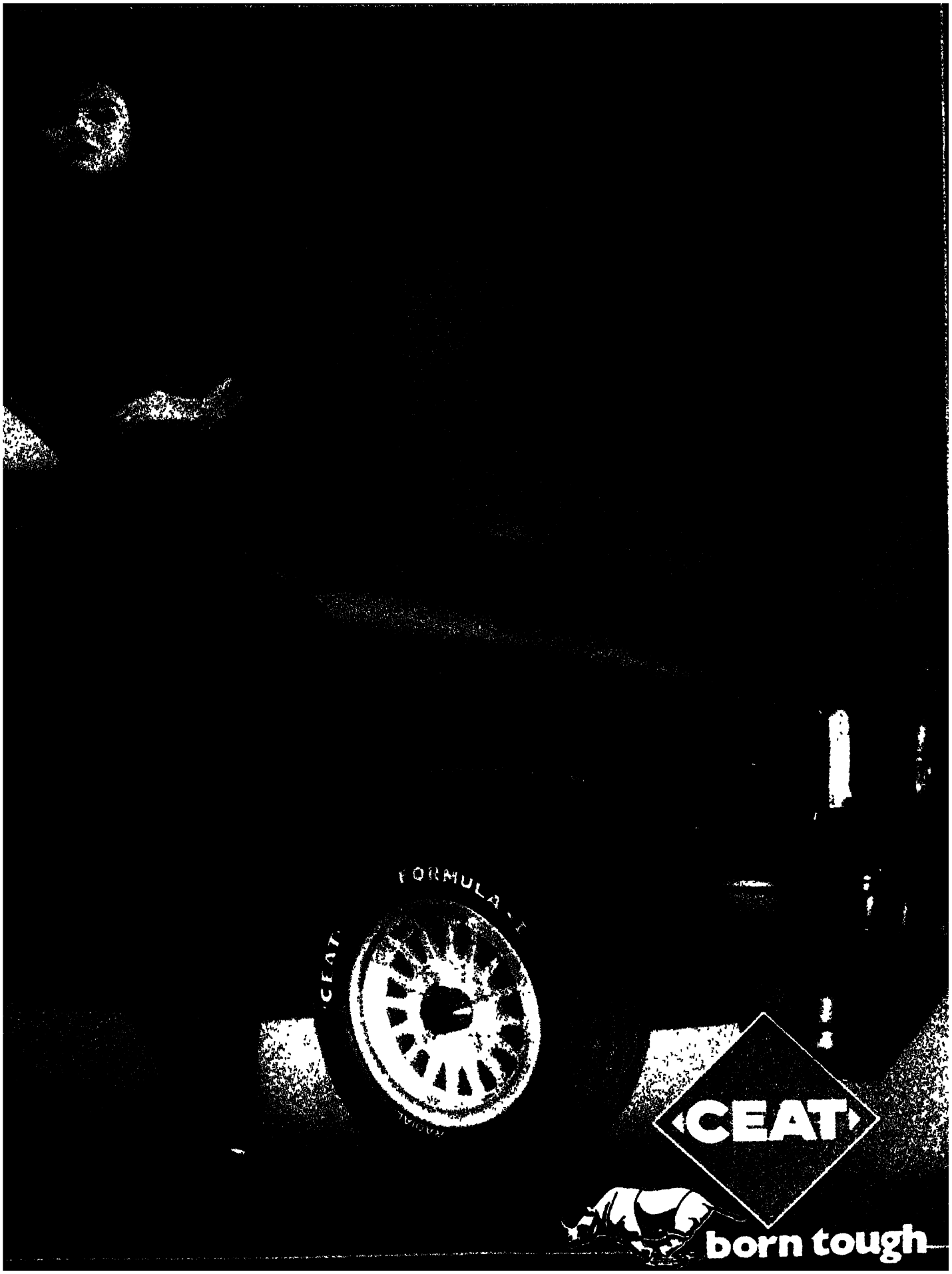
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All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press.

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• **Agnee:** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272473), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133)—4 shows

Directed by J Om Prakash and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Chunkey Panday, Amrita Singh, Mandakini and Anupam Kher

• **Dharamyudh:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujala (Russa Road, 478666), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440), Malancha (Regent Park), Ragini (Behaghata Main Road)

Sunil Dutt, Shatrughan Sinha, Kimi Katkar and Pran are the chief attractions in this Sudarshan Nag film whose music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Janam Janam:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664), Ganesh (Upper Chitpur Road, 337523), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932)– 4 shows

Directed by Vijay Sadanah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the cast includes Rishi Kapoor, debutante Vinita, Amrish Puri, Gulshan Grover and Aruna Irani

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak** Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828) 4 shows

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Tezaab:** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Moonlight (T C Dutta Street, 254956), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 178308) 4 shows

A film by N Chandra, starring Anil Kapoor, Chunkey Panday, Madhuri Dixit, Kiran Kumar and Suresh Oberoi The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal



Moon Moon Sen and Ranjit Mullick in *Anjali*



Anil Kapoor in *Tezaab*

Bengali Films

• **Aagomon:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553015), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 271282) 3 shows

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Soumitra Chatterjee, Papia Adhikari, Utpal Dutt, Sumitra Mukherjee and Shakuntala Barua The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Anjali:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686) 1, 4, 7

A film by Anjan Choudhury, starring Ranjit Mullick, Moon Moon Sen, George Baker, Kali Banerjee and Madhabi Mukherjee The music is by Goutam Basu

• **Prateek:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740) -- 3, 5 45, 8 30.

Raakhee, Soumitra Chatterjee, Utpal Dutt, Sumitra Mukherjee, Tapas Paul, Papia Adhikari, Rupa Ganguly and Churanjeet are the main attractions in this Provat Roy film The music is by Bappi Lahiri



A group performance by students of Odissi Research Centre

Special Events

11 December onwards: 10.30 am-6 pm

Kekoo Gandhy of Gallery Chemould, Bombay, presents an exhibition of paintings by Vivan Sundaram till December 21

At Chemould Gallery (Queens Mansion, 12F Park Street, 298641)

11 December: 6 pm

Utkal Shiksha Sansad's 11th annual festival features a cultural function which includes Odissi dances presented by Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, and choreographed by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra

At Vidya Mandir (Moira Street, 446420)

11 December: 7 pm

Goodtime Theatre presents Georges Feydeau's *Hotel Paradiso* (Directed by Dean Mistry, the cast includes Sumita Bhagat, Ratna Chaudhri, Indira Puri, Arya Gupta, Tilak Mehera, Tino Mansata and Rajesh Panthrweld

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street)

12-14 December: 6.30 pm

Ananuka Kala Sangam presents the play, *Catch Me If You Can*, directed by Feroz Bhagat and produced by Burjor Patel Productions (Bombay) The cast includes Keith Stevenson, Shernaz Patel, Farid Currim and Bomi Kapadia

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086).

16 December onwards: 6.30 pm

Kala Sangam's three-day-long 15th annual music conference features Ajoy Chakraborty (vocal) and Shivkumar Sharma (santoor) on 16th, Rajshekhar Mansur (vocal) and Ali Akbar Khan (sarod) on 17th, and Bhimsen Joshi (vocal) on 18th

At G D Birla Sabhagar (Queens Park, Calcutta 19)

A scene from the play, *Catch Me If You Can*



TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) AI-103 at 0035

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5) AI-306 at 1830, Dep (5) AI-306 at 1930

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6), AI-315 at 1820; Dep (6) AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (7) AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4) RJ-194 at 0500, Dep (4) RJ-195 at 0630

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr (4) SU-537 at 1555, Dep (4) SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955, Dep (1) JU-492 at 1055

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325, Dep. (2) JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1120 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1540, Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1020 and Arr (4) SQ-414 at 0920

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7). IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep. (2, 4, 7) IC-231 at 1050, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1, 5) RA-214 at 1410, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1250, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6) IC-248 at 1425, Arr (7) IC-248 at 2055.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7) IC-444 at 1920, Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6). IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5). IC-223 at 1800, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily) BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6). BG-693 at 1615, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-224 at 2000, Arr (7). IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) GQ-102 at 0730, Arr (1, 2, 5) GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr. (4, 7) GQ-101 at 1310

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000, Arr (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7). IC-443 at 1640

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr. (daily) IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-265 at 1730; Arr (daily) IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5), IC-296 at 2200.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1), IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 1110, Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1400

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily) IC-271 at 1720, Arr. (daily). IC-272 at 2240

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2) IC-277 at 1445, Dep. (3) IC-277 at 0630, Arr (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1535, Arr. (3, 5 6) IC-281 at 2120

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1) IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800 Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7). IC-269 at 1445, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC 270 at 2105

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 4) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6). IC-203 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta; Dep. (daily) IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily) IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (7) IC 219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4) IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-239 at 1100, Arr (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-240 at 1310

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-227 at 0835, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-228 at 0805

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-255 at 0815, Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 14 05

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4) IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6,

7): IC-243 at 0610, Dep (daily). IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (daily)· IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily): PF-701 at 0845, Arr (daily)· PF-702 at 1215.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily). PF-729/729A at 0550, Arr (daily) PF-730/730A at 0825

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-727 at 1230; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-728 at 1755.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6), PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7). PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

Calcutta-Aizwal-Silchar: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-705 at 0830 and Dep (1, 3, 5)· PF-705 at 1130, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-706 at 1325 and Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-706 at 1625.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (daily): PF-730 at 1735

Guwahati-Silchar: Dep. (Guwahati; daily): PF-703 at 0800; Arr (Guwahati; daily): PF-704 at 1000.

Guwahati-Jorhat Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (Guwahati; daily) PF-735 at 1020; Arr (Guwahati; daily). PF-736 at 1530.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-15	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-55	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep —Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-55	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep — Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-30	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	5-45	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thurs & Sat Arri —Tues & Thurs	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tues Arri —Sat	7-30	972

SEALDAH

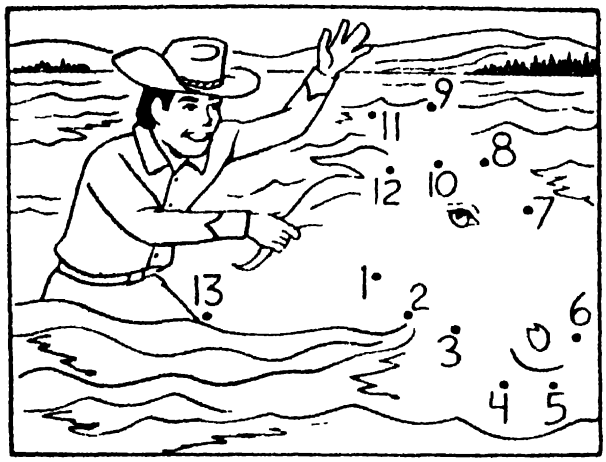
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Varanasi Express** via SBG Loop	14-30	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Departure Time		Arrival Time	Arrival Dn
3	21-00	**Madras Mail**	6-10	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-40	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	14-15	59
134	21-30	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-15	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-30	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
51	22-30	**Bangalore Express** Dep —Thurs Arri —Sun	13-45	52
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-10	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-45	**Sambalpur Express**	6-45	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-00	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	7-00	8
9	19-30	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-00	10
21	6-45	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-30	22
979	20-00	**Tirupati Express**	5-30	980
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-45	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep —Except Saturday Arri —Except Sunday	11-30	318
902	22-30	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
—	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	939
940	22-30	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	—
952	22-30	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep —Tues, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed & Fri	13-45	951
976	22-30	**Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City-Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Monday only	13-45	975

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203535-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 9 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



SWIM TEAM! One partner of a swim team is missing above To complete picture, draw connecting lines 1 to 2, 3, etc

• **SWAT TEAM!** Find an insect in each sentence 1 Jeff leases cars 2 Lou sells soap 3 Ed was prompt 4 Ivan took off 5 Elmo threw a fit

1 Find 2 Louse 3 Wasp 4 Ant 5 Moth

	1	2	3	4	5
1					S
2					T
3					E
4					E
5	S	T	E	E	P

WORD SQUARE PUZZLER

Five five-letter words corresponding to the definitions below complete this word square poser (diagram above) How quickly can you fill in missing words?

Definitions

1. **Memory bane of history class (pl.).**
2. **077's job description**
3. **All keyed up**
4. **To occur as a result**
5. **Word for an over-blown price (already in place)**

Remember, a word square consists of words that read alike both across and down

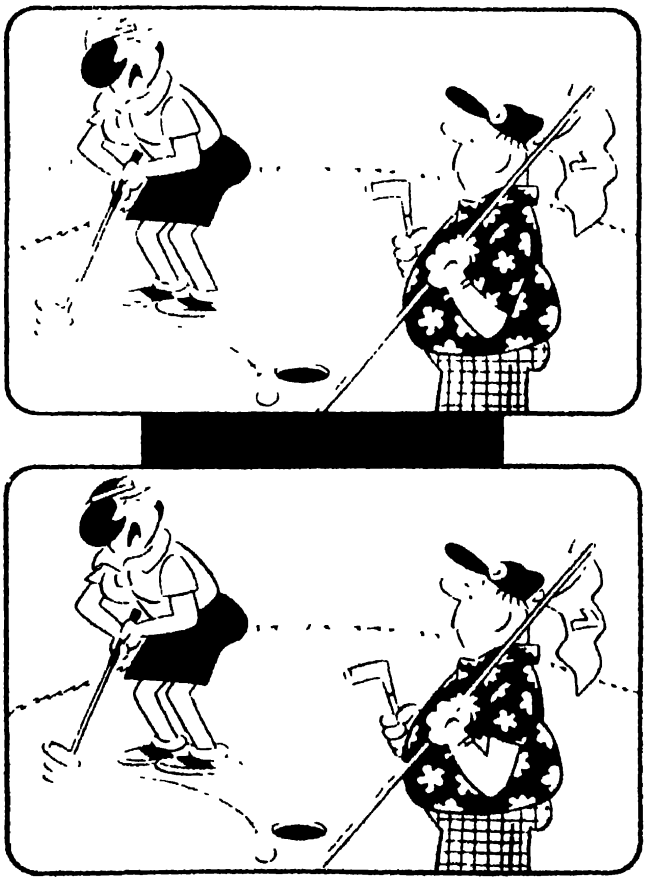
1 Cokes 2 Agent 3 Tense 4 Ensue 5 Steep

• **BORDER WAR!** Arrange a dozen coins, four to a side in the form of a square, as shown below. Now challenge friends to change the position of four of these coins so that each of the square's four sides contains a total of five coins rather than four. Just how can this be done? No fair peeking.

Place coin 2 atop coin 1 5 atop 4 8 on 7 11 on 10

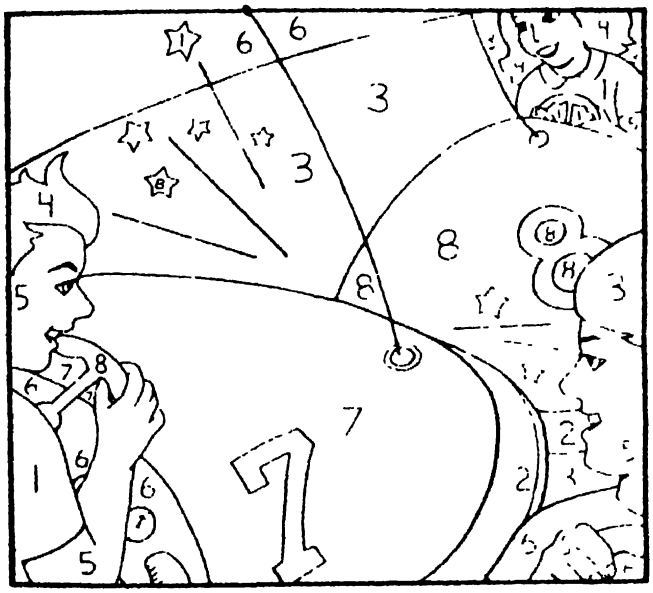


HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Sign is missing 2 Cap is different 3 Club is shorter 4 Arm is lowered 5 Flag is different 6 Sleeve is shorter



CRASH COURSE! Dodge'em cars are fun to ride Add these colors neatly to the scene above 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Orange 8—Dk purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

OUTSIDER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

ARIES

March 21—April 20

Travel, tourism, import, export, publicity, joint ventures and collaborations are foretold. This is the right time to start or expand any ventures or your business Family members and friends will stand by all that you undertake Buying, selling, entertainment, socialising and refurbishing are now highlighted. There are chances of developing close relations with a member of the opposite sex

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

There will be an augmentation of income, loans, funds, legacies, trusts, endowments, gifts, taxes and joint finances The moon trine Jupiter formation this week will help you to marshal your resources and organise your schedule to be of maximum advantage to you Health problems may, however, cause worry so it is advisable to go for checkups

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Partnerships, trips and legal affairs will take up much of your time this week This will be a period of either success or failure. Uranus conjuncts Mercury helping you in all matters pertaining to legacies, gifts, taxes and joint finances. A journey with a long stopover is in the offing. There may be a temporary phase of depression but do not worry, you will get over it soon

CANCER

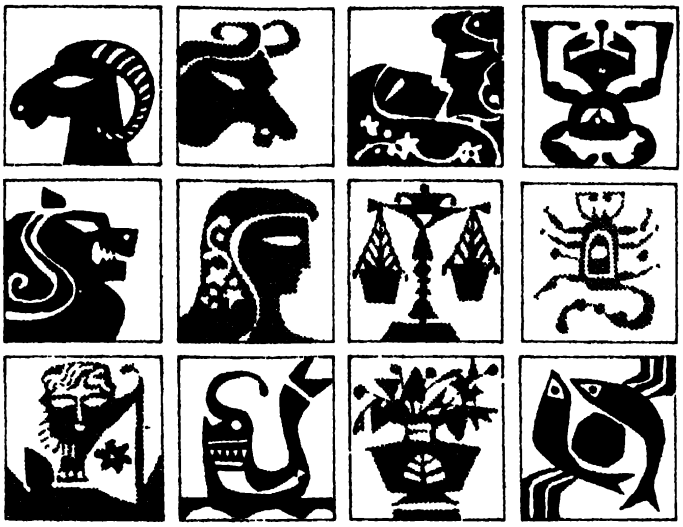
June 21—July 20

Be careful of your health and do not indulge in excesses of any kind The week promises to be a hectic one and there is a strong possibility of either changing your job or shifting to another city The unemployed will also find jobs Do not imitate others and try and carve out a niche for yourself

LEO

July 21—August 21

This is the time to love and be loved. But at the same time, hard work cannot be ruled out as Mercury conjuncts Saturn. There will be a change at your work place by early next year. Try to remain cool at work and do not get into unnecessary tiffs with colleagues Health may be suspect so do not take any chances



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

Success at work is definitely assured but that should not be at the cost of domestic peace and happiness The next two months highlight all matters pertaining to children, grandchildren, legacies, monetary disputes and legal hassles Romance and joy, however, are also highlighted There are chances of an engagement or marriage for some of you

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

This week is very important as far as conferences, meetings, ceremonies, assignments and publicity are concerned. You will receive important news around the weekend. The home, property and domestic trends are very sharply in focus. You may have to travel at short notice so do not keep any work pending for too long.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Moon trines Pluto and success and fame are assured. Money is likely to come in from unexpected sources. Communication and correspondence will reach new heights now Good food, comraderie and gifts will be highlighted this week Travel to distant lands is foretold in the near future

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

The new moon in your sign will help you to get long pending work done You will take the right decisions and move ahead in style Despite your busy schedule you will be in the good books of almost everyone By the weekend all misunderstandings will be sorted out

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Do not take people and incidents at face value and try and probe deeper This is the time to travel You are likely to feel depressed this week but accept it as passing phase which will eventually sort itself out Expenses are likely to mount but they will be for a worthy cause

AQUARIUS

Jan 20—Feb 18

The sun sextile moon placing will help you to be creative Friends will lend all possible support to you. Even though you like to do things yourself, this is not the time to do so At meetings and functions you will meet important people and you will gain fame and popularity

PISCES

Feb 19—March 20

The moon Neptune formation will inspire your creativity and give you new insights into human behaviour Creative pursuits and hobbies are highlighted. Be practical in your approach There is a strong chance of a promotion coming your way. The next month foretells group activity and romantic entanglements

BIRTHDAYS

December 11

Moon sextile Pluto: This placing will help traders, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs and chemists. Money matters will be highlighted as will all matters pertaining to domestic affairs. Sudden gains and a possible entaglement are also on the cards.

December 12

Moon trine Jupiter: A job switch or change in residence or office is possible. A favourbale Mercury factor will help you to travel, communicate effectively and forge ahead. Overseas connections cannot be ruled out. Changes on the personal front likely.

December 13

Moon sextile Mars: A new direction to your activities is foretold. Those interested in psychology, electronics, sales, aviation, pharmaceuticals, gardening, farming and beauty salons will make it big now. It will do you good to publicise your good points to people who matter.

December 14

Moon sextile Mercury-Uranus: Lovers, entrepreneurs, artists and students will succeed in all that they do. Many of you will take chances now. Deals pertaining to property and land disputes will be settled in your favour. A home away from home and romance are also indicated.

December 15

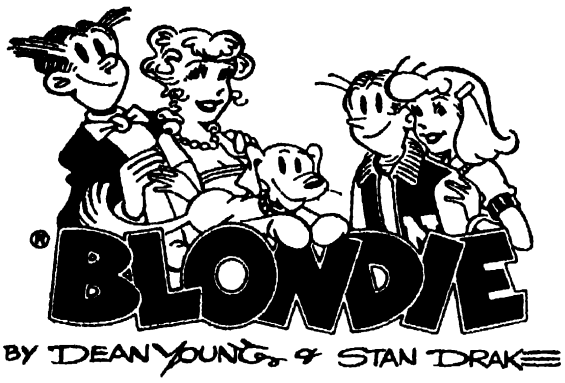
Moon trine Pluto: The Pluto impact will make you secretive and calculating. Bakers, lawyers, doctors, astrologers, editors and manufacturers will make it big now. Property affairs are favoured. Travel is on the cards. Romance is in the air.

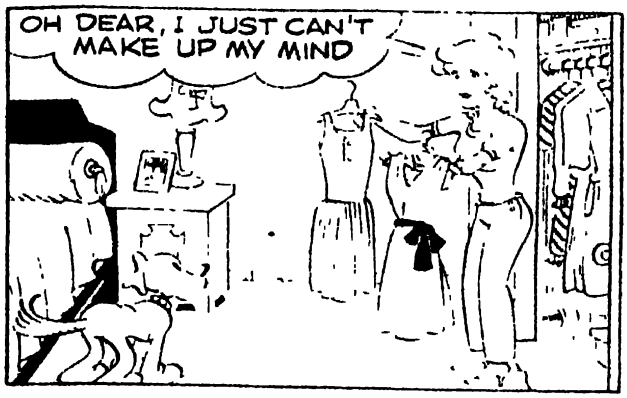
December 16

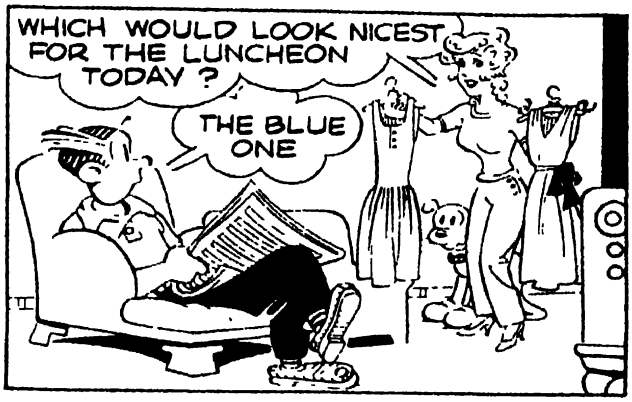
Moon trine Venus: The Venus touch will help artists, beauticians, models and fashion designers to win both name and fame. This will also prove to be a lucky time for exporters, sailors, poets, painters, pathologists and nurses. This promises to be a year that will provide tremendous satisfaction.

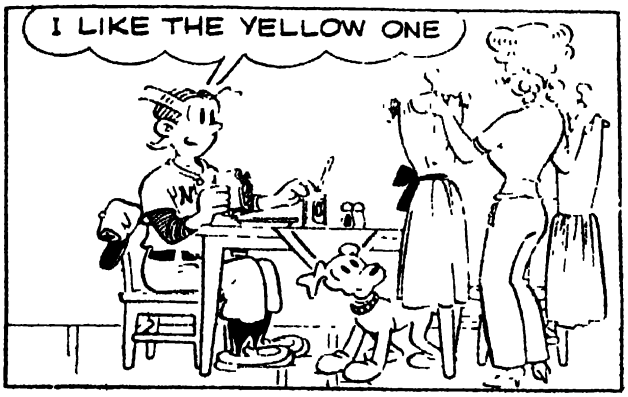
December 17

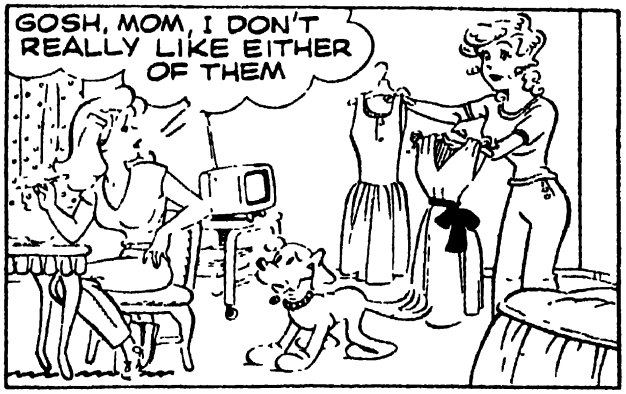
Moon conjunction Mars: This will be a year of creativity. Good fortune and marriage are also likely. Children will bring much joy. Success is assured in all business ventures.


BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

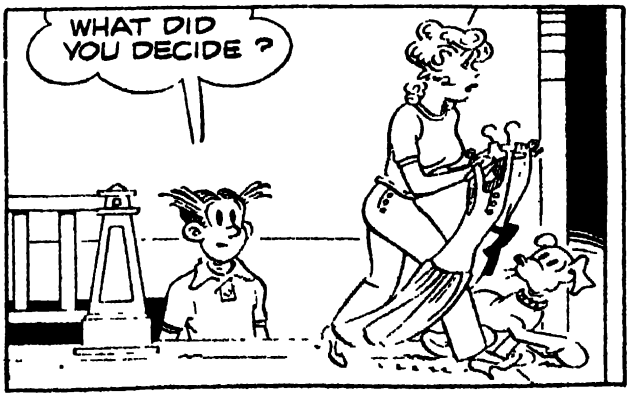

OH DEAR, I JUST CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND

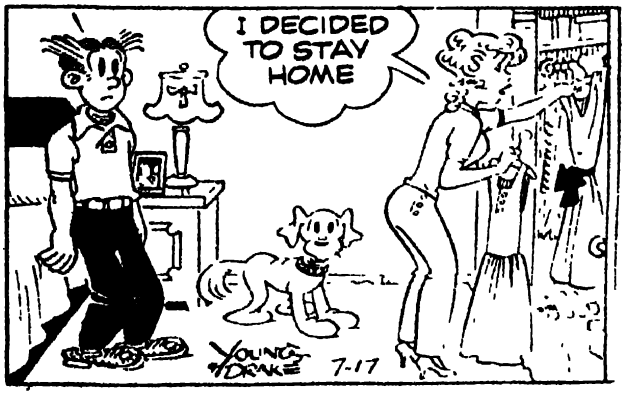

WHICH WOULD LOOK NICEST FOR THE LUNCHEON TODAY ?
THE BLUE ONE


I LIKE THE YELLOW ONE


GOSH, MOM, I DON'T REALLY LIKE EITHER OF THEM


GREEN WOULD BE A BETTER COLOR FOR YOU
I THINK BASIC BLACK WOULD BE THE WAY TO GO

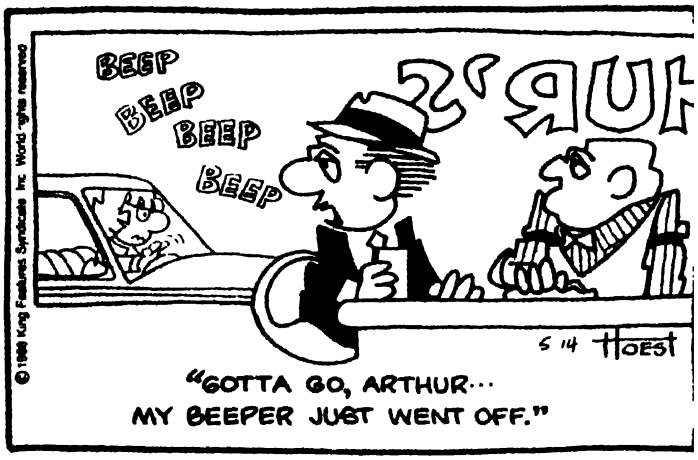

WHAT DID YOU DECIDE ?


I DECIDED TO STAY HOME
YOUNG & DRAKE 7-17


WHAT'S WRONG, ARCH?
A SONG KEEPS RUNNING THROUGH MY HEAD!
I BET IT'S ROCK MUSIC!
IT'S EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, BUT I JUST GOTTA TRY OUT THIS NEW SONG I WROTE!
THAT'S THE BATHROOM DOOR! GOOD! THAT MEANS POP IS UP!
SLAM!!
NOW I CAN PLAY!
STRUM
6-5
ARCHIE!
HUH?
GEE... SORRY, POP! DID I SCARE YOU?
YEAH... SORT OF!



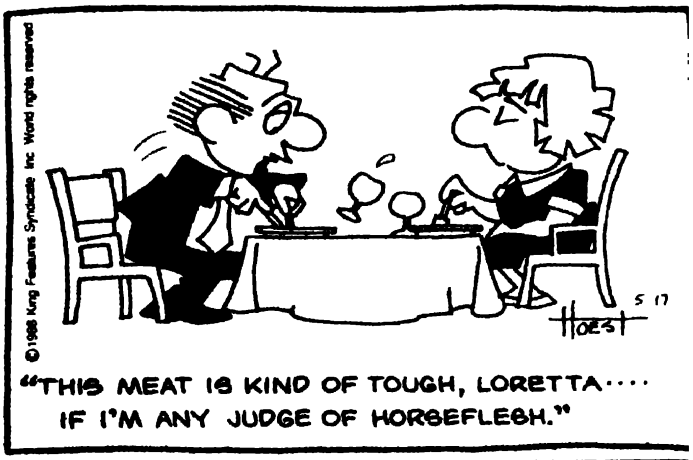
"I TOLD YOU YOU NEEDED GLASSES. YOU'VE JUST KILLED THREE CHOCOLATE CHIPS."



"GOTTA GO, ARTHUR··· MY BEEPER JUST WENT OFF."

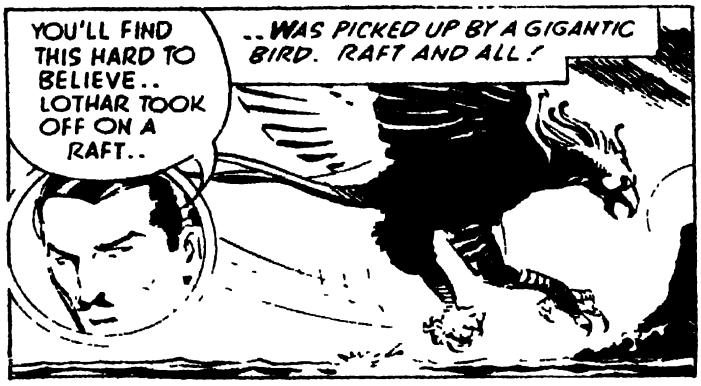


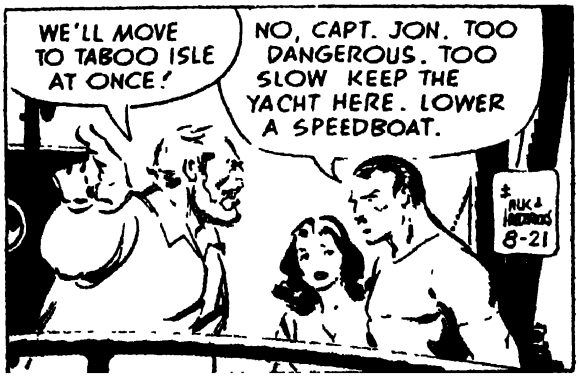
"I'M NOT TALKING MINIMAL COOKING SKILLS, HERE. I'M TALKING POTENTIALLY LETHAL ACTS!"



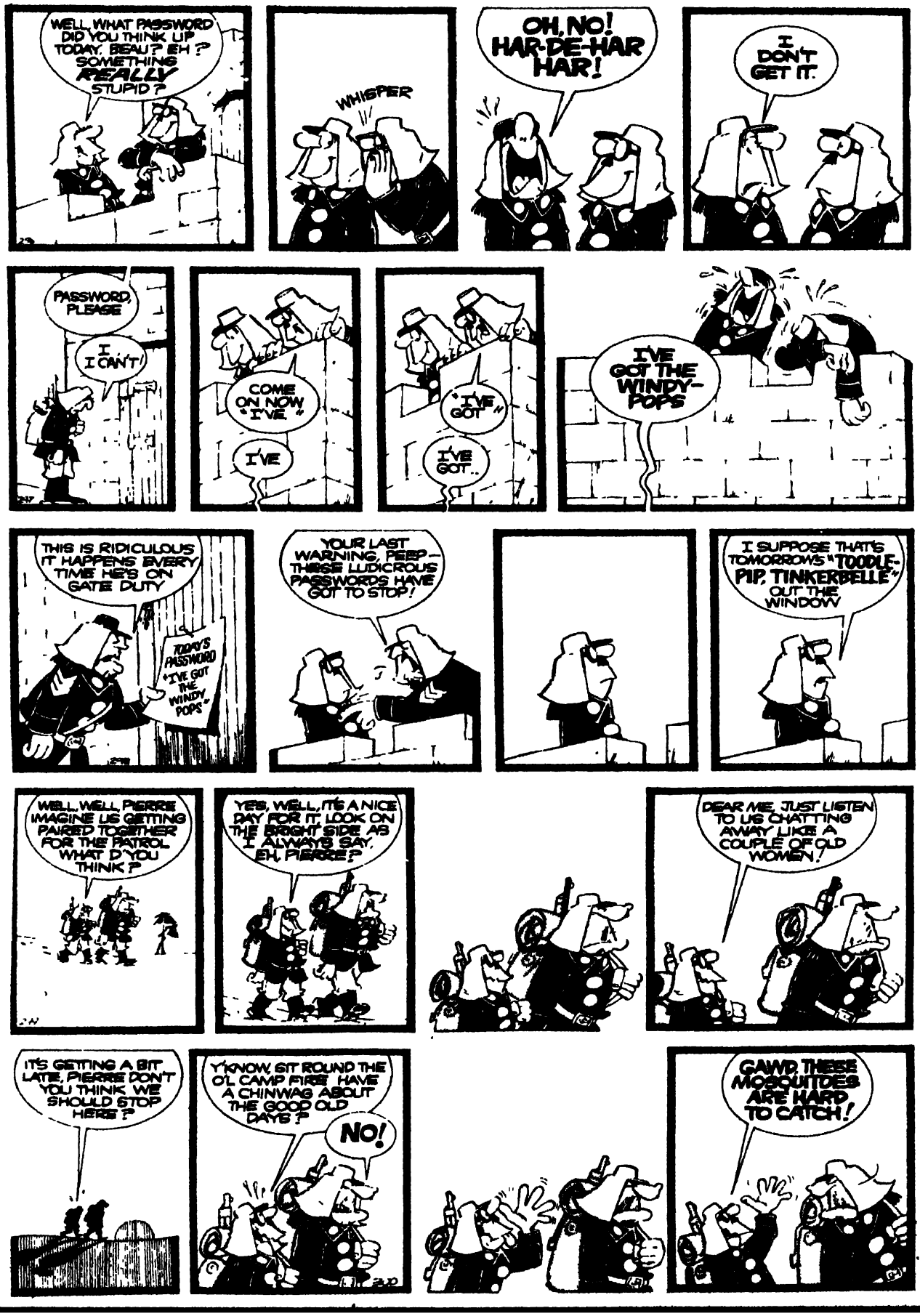
"THIS MEAT IS KIND OF TOUGH, LORETTA···· IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF HORSEFLESH."





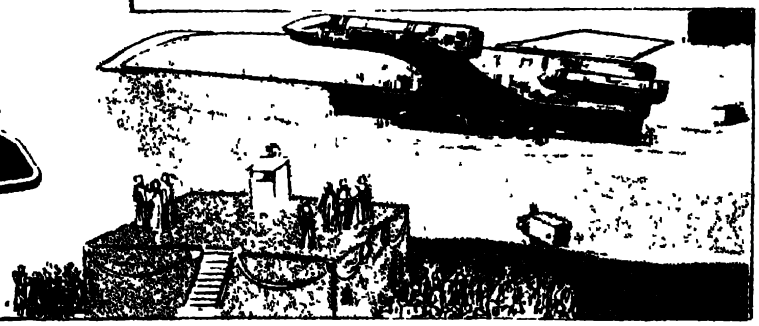





WELL WHAT PASSWORD DID YOU THINK UP TODAY, BEAU? EH? SOMETHING REALLY STUPID?
WHISPER
OH, NO! HAR-DE-HAR HAR!
I DON'T GET IT.
PASSWORD, PLEASE
I I CAN'T!
COME ON NOW "I'VE."
I'VE
"I'VE GOT"
I'VE GOT..
I'VE GOT THE WINDY-POPS
THIS IS RIDICULOUS IT HAPPENS EVERY TIME HE'S ON GATE DUTY
TODAY'S PASSWORD "I'VE GOT THE WINDY POPS"
YOUR LAST WARNING, PEEP— THESE LUDICROUS PASSWORDS HAVE GOT TO STOP!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S TOMORROWS "TOODLE-PIP, TINKERBELLE" OUT THE WINDOW
WELL, WELL PIERRE IMAGINE US GETTING PAIRED TOGETHER FOR THE PATROL WHAT D'YOU THINK?
YES, WELL, IT'S A NICE DAY FOR IT LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE AS I ALWAYS SAY, EH, PIERRE?
DEAR ME, JUST LISTEN TO US CHATTING AWAY LIKE A COUPLE OF OLD WOMEN!
IT'S GETTING A BIT LATE, PIERRE DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD STOP HERE?
Y'KNOW, SIT ROUND THE O'L CAMP FIRE HAVE A CHINWAG ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS?
NO!
GAWD, THESE MOSQUITOES ARE HARD TO CATCH!

HE-MAN™ AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™

EXCITEMENT REIGNS AS KING RANDOR PREPARES TO CHRISTEN THE FIRST OF ETERNIA'S NEW-ANTI-GRAV SPACE FLEET!



EVEN DIGNITARIES ARE CHECKED AS TEELA KEEPS TIGHT REIN ON SECURITY FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES

YOUR SECURITY STAFF IS TO BE COMMENDED, CAPTAIN. OUR FIRST ANTI-GRAV SHIP HAS BEEN VERY WELL PROTECTED.

BUT NOT EVERYONE IS IN A FESTIVE MOOD!

ARE YOU FOOLS BLIND?! GUARD! GET THEM OUT OF MY WAY!

MAKE WAY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER!

THAT SPELL IS WORKING WONDERFULLY! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO GROUCHY!

WHY MUST I BE SUBJECTED TO THIS HUMILIATION?

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, YOUR GRACE!

NONE NOTICE THE GUARD, ROBERT MANIPULATE A MAGICAL AMULET!

ALL RIGHT, DUKE TIBERON! NOW.





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MOMENTS LATER...

OUR PEACEFUL KINGDOM HAS BECOME AN ARMED CAMP BECAUSE OF SKELETOR! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!



When **Vinod Khanna** gave up the saffron and returned to films, he climbed right back to the top, or almost, without showing much strain. But returning to his wife, Geetanjali, seemed to be another thing because she told him exactly where he got off. Now he's planning to have "a quiet December marriage" with Amrita Singh. The macho star, it's said, fell for her hook, line and timber. Photograph by HIRAK SEN

We uphold every woman's right to exclusive taste.



Borosil Bake & Serve glass dishes.
To raise your life above the ordinary. To make it a celebration.

You can choose from a number of different shapes and sizes.
The pie dish.
The casserole set.
The mixing bowls.
The cake dish.
And many, many more still taking shape.
So your dinner table can look just that little bit more interesting.

It's a woman's right.

BOROSIL
BAKE & SERVE
IT'S A WAY OF LIFE

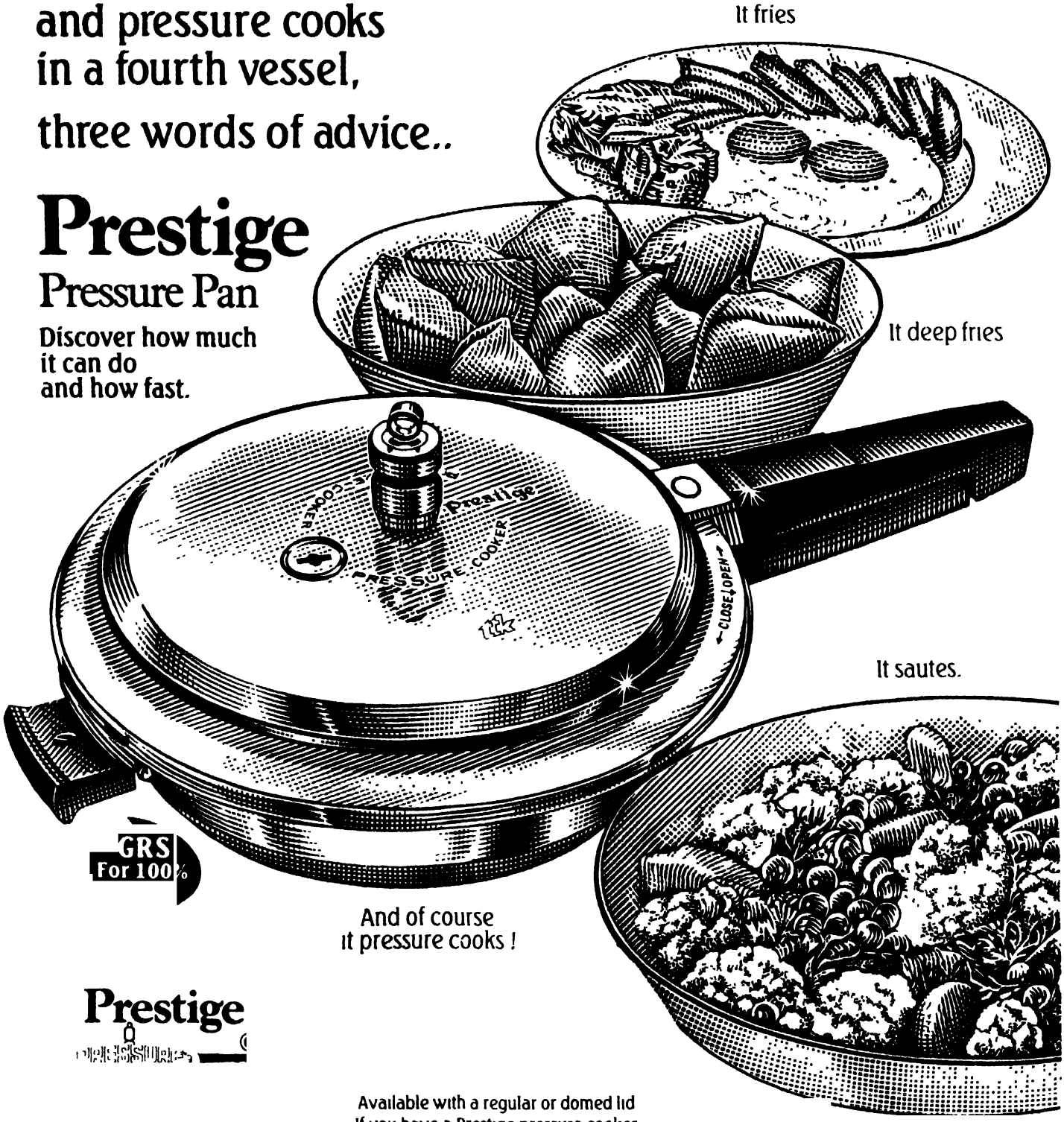
To every housewife who fries in one pan, deep fries in another, sautes in a third and pressure cooks in a fourth vessel,

three words of advice..

Prestige

Pressure Pan

Discover how much it can do and how fast.



And of course it pressure cooks !

Prestige

A Product

Available with a regular or domed lid
If you have a Prestige pressure cooker, you can buy the pressure pan without a lid

MAA COMMUNICATIONS PP 287 A

POST MORTEM

Wrong Priorities

Rani Sircar's article, 'Learning to be Strong' (November 6) reminds one of the traditional reluctance acquired by Indians through the years since Independence to allow the continuance of Westernised or Anglicised customs handed down to us by the Raj.

In the larger perspective, this insistent attitude of 'Be Indian in India' is commendable from the point of view of preserving our rich cultural heritage, but it is unfortunate that the undermining of the English language should figure so high on the priority list of some of the state governments.

Considering the fact that we live in troubled times, one wonders about the expediency of policies such as changing the name of West Bengal to Banga and replacing English with Bengali or Hindi at the primary level of education.

Kalpajit De,
Calcutta

Letters Spirit

N.D. Roy Chowdhury's appreciation of Jatin Chakraborty's "fighting spirit" (November 13) is self contradictory. How can an action which "cannot be supported" be associated with "fighting spirit"? Doing something unusual is not necessarily praiseworthy.

Barin Biswas,
Bhadreswar (Hooghly)

Slumpolis

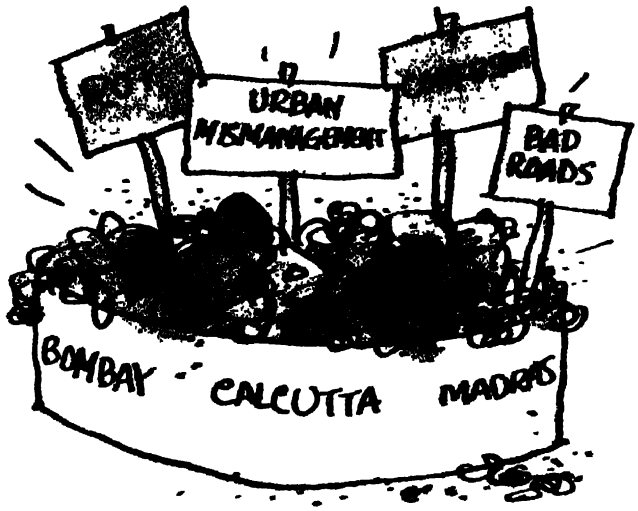
Calcutta, with half of its 10 million people living off the streets, has become perhaps the world's biggest 'slumpolis'. The Bombay workers squashed into swift moving suburban trains take as much time to reach office as farmers in bullock carts take to get to the marketplace. People in Madras sleep beside public water taps to beat the others in getting their daily bucketful. And in New Delhi, the sun may not shine over the ancient solar clock of Jantar Mantar — a huge 12-storey building being erected nearby will block it out.

In 'All Roads Lead to ' (November 20) you have depicted the deplorable condition of Calcutta roads. But it is not only Calcutta, but all Indian cities that have become a cesspool of squalor, rot, confusion and urban mismanagement. This is primarily due to the incorrigible apathy of the authorities, repeated complaints yielding no results.

Manoj Jain,
Bandel (Hooghly)

■ There is one point which has been missed by everyone. The Government of India has recognised *kurtas* with *dhotis* as a national dress while a great majority including the Prime Minister prefers a *pyjama* to a *dhoti*. All the clubs allow national dress. It will be wise for the government because that would only undermine our democratic framework. What is needed is public awareness. Why not boycott such clubs? Why don't our politicians, who lose no opportunity to blow every issue out of proportion, march with a barefoot procession to these clubs?

B. Ganesh,
Jamshedpur



Recognising the *Pyjama*

The article on 'Club Culture' (November 13) was timely and thought-provoking. Ours is a rich culture which advocates complete reverence to a guest even if he turns out to be an enemy. Unfortunately, this tradition is being damaged with recurring incidents of celebrities being turned out by some clubs in our own country.

No one suggests a legislation against such clubs because that would only undermine our democratic framework. What is needed is public awareness. Why not boycott such clubs? Why don't our politicians, who lose no opportunity to blow every issue out of proportion, march with a barefoot procession to these clubs?

B. Ganesh,
Jamshedpur

■ There is one point which has been missed by everyone. The Government of India has recognised *kurtas* with *dhotis* as a national dress while a great majority including the Prime Minister prefers a *pyjama* to a *dhoti*. All the clubs allow national dress. It will be wise for the government to declare the *kurta-pyjama* also as a national dress, and the clubs will accept this automatically. This will also be convenient for Muslims who do not usually wear a *dhoti*.

We see many ministers, leaders and public men wearing *kurta-pyjamas* and it is high time that it is declared a national dress. At most, it could be added that the *pyjama* should not be more than 18" circumference at the foot.

Dr G.K. Saraf,
Calcutta

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The Telegraph
18 DECEMBER 1988


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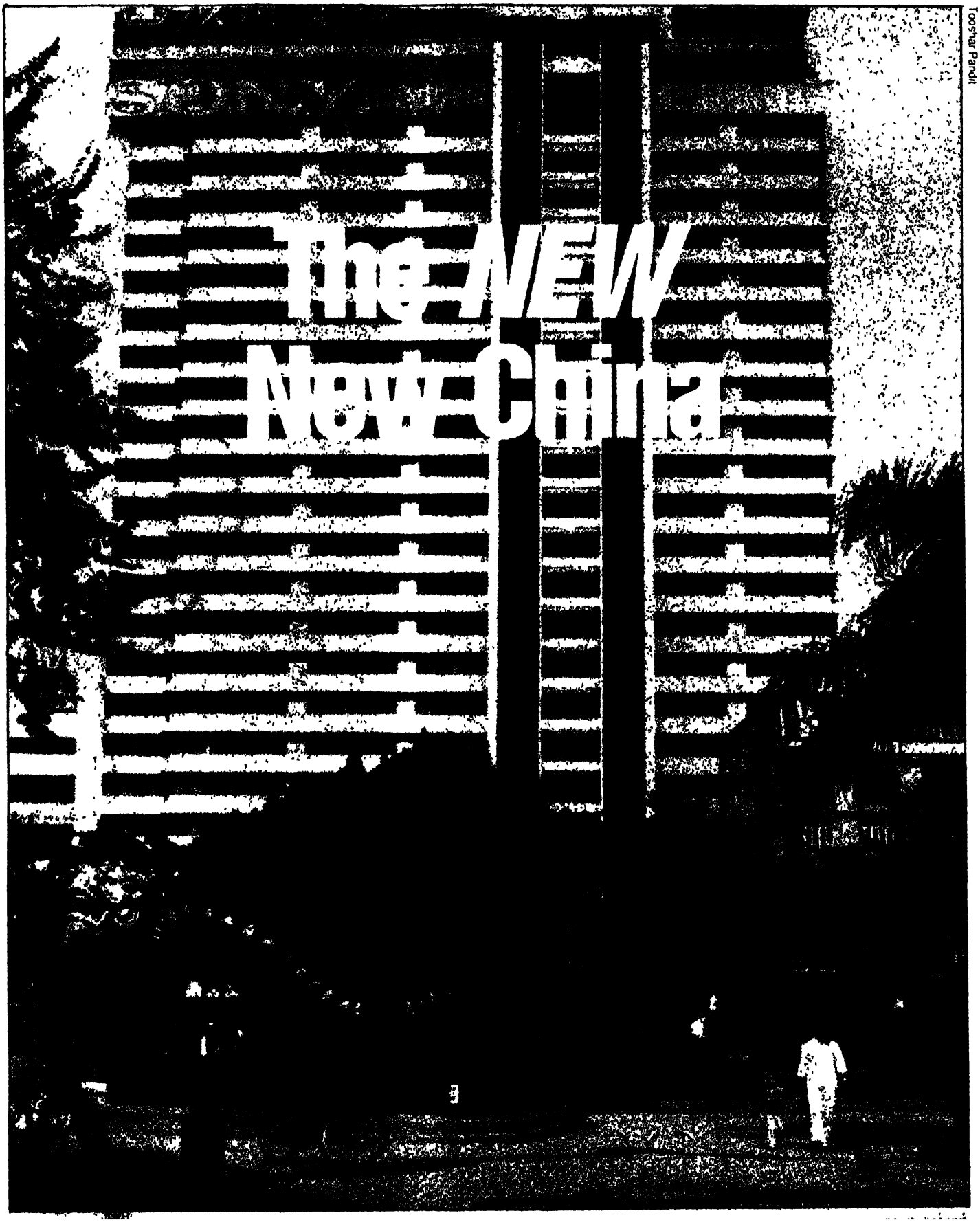
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Tooshar Pandit

By NIKHIL CHAKRAVARTTY

Twenty-four years ago, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote that he had "received an extraordinarily cordial welcome everywhere is China." In a letter to chief ministers on November 14, 1954, he wrote that his talks with Mao and Zhou-en Lai were "frank and friendly" and added: "We entirely agreed that we should respect each other's viewpoints, and without interference cooperate in dealing with our problems More especially we should cooperate in the maintenance of peace in Asia and the world at large "

That was the high-water mark of Indo-China amity. Earlier the same year, in June 1954, when Zhou-en Lai came to Delhi, in the preamble to the agreement on Tibet the five principles of peaceful coexistence were for the first time formulated—a sort of challenge to the very concept of the cold war then raging in full blast.

Within five years, the understanding between the two countries was breached and tensions grew with the mutual exchange of polemics both publicly and through diplomatic channels, side by side with occasional clashes along the 2,000 miles of the Himalayan frontier, culminating in a full-scale military conflict in 1962

Since then, relations have naturally been embittered and this was the period when the Sino-Pak entente emerged, leading finally to Islamabad acting as the go-between for the US and China in 1971-72. This was also the period which saw the disintegration of Pakistan and the strengthening of the Indo-Soviet relationship, formalised in the Indo-Soviet treaty of 1971.

The seventies saw a sea-change in both the countries. India had dramatic changes with the break-up of the Congress, a phase of radical populism by the Emergency and then the ousting of the Congress from power followed by the Janata interlude which ended by the turn of the decade. China too, on its part, passed through convulsions. The Great Leap Forward of the sixties led to the Cultural Revolution and the ascendency of the Gang of Four and its overthrow, leading on to the campaign for Four Modernisations under Deng Xiaoping.

In the sphere of Sino-Indian relationship, the ice was sought to be broken by India taking the initiative by sending its ambassador in 1976 after a break of 16 years, and three years later, the then foreign minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited China But the exercise ended in a fiasco when the Chinese chose to mount a military offensive against Vietnam at that very juncture with Deng Xiaoping's famous "teaching the lesson," exercise

The campaign for Four Modernisations was meant not only to repair the serious damage inflicted by the Cultural Revolution but also to raise productivity for the country to go forward to meet the oncoming challenge of the technological revolution Inevitably, its foreign policy postures have need also to change The flaming revolutionary rhetoric which at one time promised to set Afro-Asia afire—our Nax-



In friendlier days: Jawaharlal Nehru with Zhou-en Lai

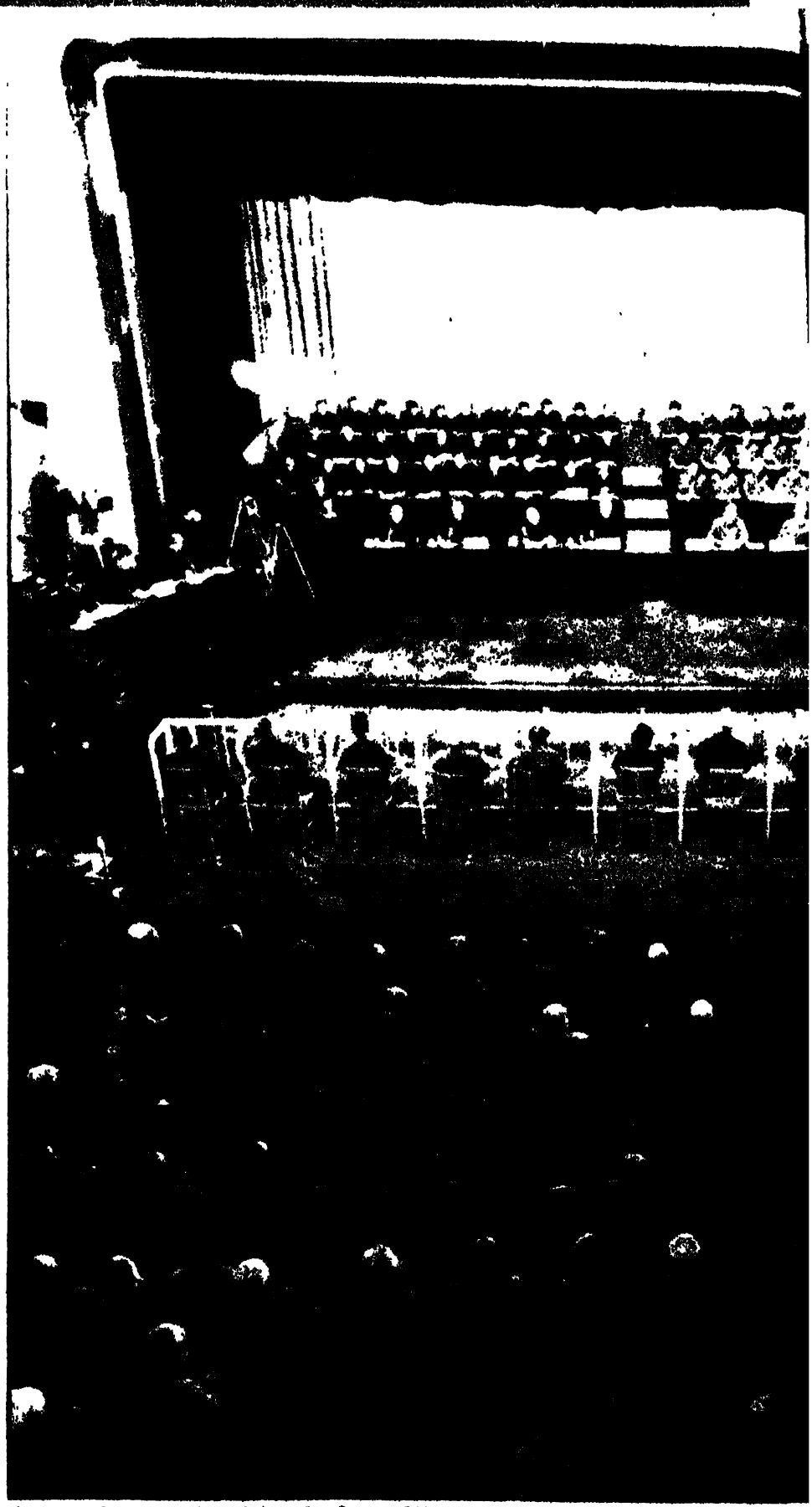
albari was a byproduct of that fantasy—was unceremoniously abandoned with the overthrow of the Gang of Four.

The hi-fi commune egalitarianism was given up and in its place has come the privatisation of a considerable section of the rural economy The industrial scene has undergone unbelievable change, with China, the bastion of Mao's Great Wall socialism, embarking on a massive open-door policy, inviting foreign investments and setting up special economic zones.

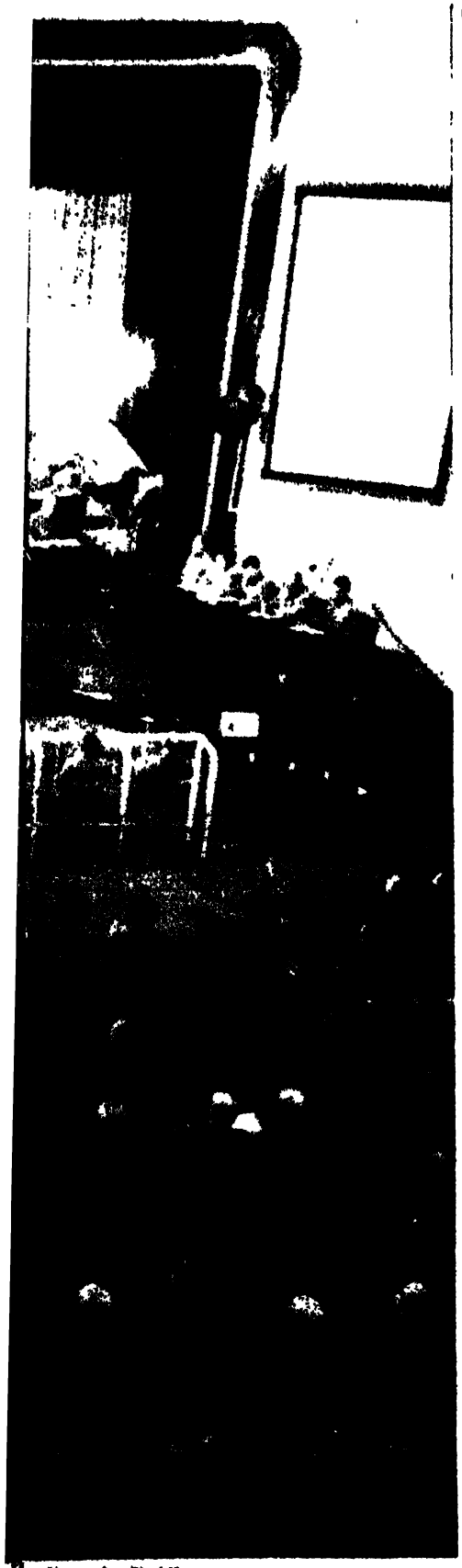
As the Four Modernisations gained momentum at home, China's foreign policy perspectives showed a significant change. In fact, it can be definitely stated that China today has a world view which is very different from the Mao mythology of the sixties. It is not a case of China abandoning socialism, rather, it is the case of China adjusting to the new temper in the world today—discerned in many parts of the world, articulated most outspokenly by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's New Thinking—that the direction of international affairs today is towards dialogue and discussion, not conflict and confrontation

It is not a case of China abandoning socialism, rather it is the case of China adjusting to the new temper in the world today—discerned in many parts of the world, articulated most outspokenly by the Soviet President's New Thinking—that the direction of international affairs today is towards dialogue and discussion, not conflict and confrontation

My three visits to China, roughly coinciding with three watersheds—1956, at the height of the post-revolutionary glory, in 1978 at the threshold of the Four Modernisations and this November at the end of the first decade of the modernisation drive—have enabled me to discern the distinct change



A general view of the trial of the Gang of Four and Lin Bio-counter-revolutionary



clique in Beijing

in the temper of the Chinese people and government in the present phase. Gone are the days of the US-engineered ostracism of China from the United Nations. Instead, has come China's active participation in all international forums even to the extent of entering multilateral financial agencies like the World Bank and IMF

Gone too is the American wishful thinking of using China against the Soviet Union. Instead, Beijing has reopened its communication with Moscow, with the prospect of an early resolution of the long-standing border dispute and the resumption of a multi-faceted relationship from collaboration in technology to forging understanding on regional issues. The coming Deng-Gorbachev summit in Beijing this summer promises to advance the prospect of a richer Sino-Soviet understanding than what prevailed in the early fifties, because this time it will be based on a mutually acknowledged status of equality and in the pursuit of a strategy of peace and well-being for the entire Asian continent.

China is engaged in forging understanding and cooperation with Japan, overcoming historical memories of animosity and aggression. Towards Southeast Asia, Beijing has already established a working relationship with the Asean countries, and once the Kampuchea issue is resolved—the prospects of which have definitely brightened—there is little doubt of its ushering in an era of good neighbourliness with all the Indochina states Let it not be forgotten that People's Republic of China's first major diplomatic exercise was conducted in 1954 with Zhou-en Lai's active participation in the Geneva conference on Indochina.

Viewed in this context, there is perceptible possibility of bringing back understanding between India and China Apart from present-day China's world view abandoning the strategy of confrontation, what struck me during my recent visit is the genuine urge in all sections, both official



The changing face of China: America's most famous rodent, Mickey Mouse, visits the Great Wall

and non-official, that the amity of the early fifties must be restored—and this time at a higher plane of understanding by guarding against the mistakes of the intervening period that led to embittered animosity. Secondly, the emphasis is laid over over again that both India and China are developing countries facing problems of development, and therefore in a position to exchange lessons of our respective experiences

Incidentally, the Chinese perspective today is that in another 15 years, roughly by the turn of the century, China hopes to reach the level of a middle-level developed country—which by and large fits in with our perspective too Thirdly, I heard it reiterated over and overagain that the cementing of understanding between our two countries will have significant impact on the entire region, in our relations with the countries of the region as also among themselves

No doubt the border dispute is a thorny question—as it is in many parts of the world. This will require painstaking and protracted negotiations However, given the framework of closer understanding between the two countries, and the commitment to solve issues by dialogue and not confrontation, there is nothing to suggest that the border question is intractable. Instead of depending on the historical claims—as was done in the angry days of 1960-62—one has to take the exisiting realities on the ground as the starting point and follow the principle of mutual adjustments. There is nothing wrong in taking this position since the existing realities on the ground have already prevailed for more than 25 years now. Secondly, most of the areas under dispute are without any human habitation—the vast uninhabited tracts in the mountain vastness of the high Himalayas.

No doubt the border dispute is a thorny question—as it is in many parts of the world. This will require painstaking and protracted negotiations. However, given the framework of closer understanding between the two countries, and the commitment to solve issues by dialogue and not confrontation, there is nothing to suggest that the border question is intractable

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing—long overdue—is meant to reinforce the old ties with a richer understanding of each other's problems and pursuits And this itself should open the way for gainful negotiations ahead for settling the outstanding border dispute. In other words, this visit indeed can be a major turning point in India's foreign policy, because it promises to promote national interests.

It is in this spirit that this voyage has to be undertaken and considered as such by all others, both by Rajiv Gandhi's supporters and opponents, friends and critics alike. ■

THE 2nd VINEET GUPTA MEMORIAL PRIZE

FOR SHORT STORIES AND POETRY

Entries are invited for both short stories and poetry, to reach The Telegraph, *6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Calcutta 700 001, by January 31, 1989.*

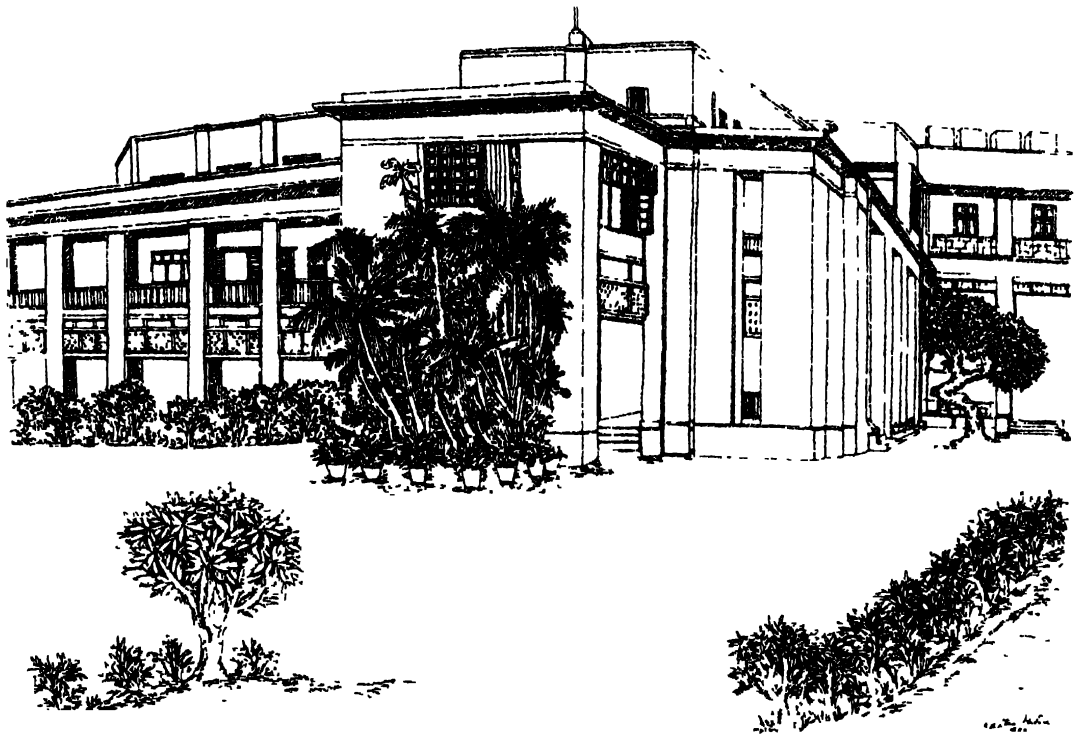
The judges will be Khushwant Singh (short stories) and Jayanta Mahapatra (poetry).

Any number of entries may be sent. The entries must be in English, not published anywhere before and the author's original work. A signed statement must accompany each entry. Entries must be typewritten in double space, on one side of the paper and each entry must have the full name and address of the entrant. Short stories must not exceed 2,000 words; each poem must be on a separate sheet. Please superscribe the envelope, "Short Story" or "Poetry". Carbon copies or photocopies will be rejected. No entries will be returned and the decision of the judges will be final.

Prize winning entries will be published in the Colour Magazine. Three prizes of Rs 2,000, Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,000 respectively will be given in each category on July 14, Vineet's birth anniversary.



LADY BRABOURNE COLLEGE (Estd 1939)



Lady Brabourne College, named after the wife of a former governor of the Bengal province, was established in July 1939 by the state education department exclusively for purdah-observing Muslim women. Initially the college functioned from a rented house in Park Circus. Later, the government acquired 18½ bighas of land for the college and hostel premises. The foundation stone was laid by the then Bengal governor, Sir J Woodhead, on August 26, 1939. The college moved to its own campus (sketched above) at P-1/2 Suhrawardy Avenue, north of Park Circus Maidan, in 1941.

During World War II, the armed forces requisitioned the college and hostel buildings, and thus in 1942 the college had to be shifted to David Hare Training College's premises on Ballygunge Circular Road. When most of the city's educational institutions were closed because of fear of bombing, the college started correspondence courses which proved highly successful chiefly due to the efforts of its first permanent principal, Miss F.E. Grose. The college returned to its own premises in June 1946. However, the communal riots of August 1946 forced the college to suspend activities for three months. After Independence in 1947, the college was declared non-sectarian and was made open to girls of all communities and religions.

In July 1939, the first year intermediate arts classes began with 35 Muslim girls and nine Muslim and non-Muslim teachers besides the principal However, due to an inadequate number of Muslim students, the college was opened to non-Muslims the next year, but their numbers were restricted to 40 per cent of the total roll strength The second year intermediate arts started in July 1940, the third year BA (pass and honours) in 1941 and the fourth year BA in 1942

The first and second year intermediate science classes commenced in July 1941 and 1942, respectively, BSc pass classes with geography honours began in July 1958 and mathematics and botany honours in 1960-61 Since then the three-year degree course in arts and science (both pass and honours) started, chemistry honours was introduced in July 1961 and physics two years later

The college is affiliated to Calcutta University and now provides classes for the Higher Secondary (plus two) and BA and BSc honours courses

Just an Ordinary Man

With ordinary ambitions and wanting to lead an ordinary life. Partha Mukherjee profiles that person for all seasons, the clerk

Just a casual glance at the multitude that rushes along the pavements at Dalhousie, Esplanade, Chowringhee and even Park Street every morning is unmistakeable. Alternately, they curse, nudge and even greet each other. Some clutch well-worn umbrellas under their arms, a tiffin box held aloft while others reach out to add that little extra lime to the tips of their tongues to counter the bitterness of the *paan* they chew incessantly. They are clerks—the unsung heroes (villains say some) of countless business and commercial establishments—rushing to their offices (very often because they are late).

He could be diminutive or pot bellied, amiable or more often, irritable, a victim of circumstances that have led him on a relentless battle to support his family. Perhaps, he too had visions, of a better future and opportunities, but all that remains are shattered dreams and a temperament that is sentimental and maybe pessimistic.

Most clerks would rather be known by their profession and not their individuality. What led them to take on this career? Says one whom I accost outside the GPO, "It was destiny. After my father died, I was the only person who could look after my family of six. I was then 16. The bank where my father worked, offered me a job as a clerk on compassionate grounds. Since then, I have been a cog in the wheel of the inward bill section." More often than not, they pay for their boss' errors, which are passed off as "clerical mistakes," the immediate outcome being the issuing of suspension orders.

A clerk's job appears thankless. Bosses vent their fury on them for a job badly done and as one member of the hapless species remarked at the farewell hosted for him, "I am grateful for the look of disquiet on my boss' face whenever I went to him for rectifying my mistakes and I am equally thankful to my colleagues for the many intrigues plotted and hatched by them." He added, 'My wife, too, will no longer vent her spleen on me for my inability to look after the family as she desires, for now she knows that henceforth it will yield no results."

When did this system of clerkship that is almost akin to slavery arise? It can be surmised that it began at a time when trade and commerce flourished and taxes and revenues had to be extracted. With time, their sphere of activity evolved to its present form and today, remarks Dipak Rudra, secretary of the West Bengal food and civil supplies ministry, "They have a strong foothold both economically and politically due to their large numbers." A historian, Williamson, wrote in 1810. "The Cranny or clerk may be either a native Armenian, a native Portugese or a Bengalee."

There has been a clear mention of the clerical community even in a 14th century account of Ibn Batuta. In the 16th century Abul Fazl noted in the *Ayeen-e-Akbari* that in addition to accounting jobs, clerks would also serve water to the passengers and crew on seafaring vessels. However, it was very difficult for Bengalis to enter the community. With time, *phirangees* (children born to Portugese and Indian parents) gained access to the coveted post of clerks, fluent as they were in English. Called "half castes" according to the Hobson-Jobson, and even secretary bird after the birds that sprout a tuft of hair on their heads, the *phirangees* paved the way for the Bengali *babu* who entered the clerks' community to earn a livelihood and carve a niche for himself. The British themselves were not averse to employing Bengalis as clerks for Father Long wrote in 1788, "It was better to provide those natives with some clerical job. Their writing was legible and their knowledge of English so poor that it contributed to maintaining secrecy for many confidential schemes of the government."

Till the middle of the 19th century, clerks were called "writers." It was in 1833 that the designation was officially converted to clerks. The Writers' Buildings, an unmistakeable landmark of Calcutta, became a haven for the then clerical community. Most of the seating arrangement was on the floor, with eight clerks housed in each room. There were two categories—one that earned Rs 4 to Rs 10 per month and the other that earned Rs 8 to Rs 20 per month. The *phirangees* got upto Rs 100 every month but then money never used to be the motivating factor. A commonly held view then was that it was more prestigious to be a clerk than a landlord.

Noted litterateur Shankar confirmed this. "The Bengali, particularly the middle class Bengali and clerks are inseparable. Now, I realise that the character Sukumar Ray portrayed in his *Head Officer Barobaboo* was not fictitious. I too have spent a major part of my life as a clerk and still claim to be one of them. Unfortunately, they are gradually losing their importance."

It should not be inferred that the lot of clerks was a happy one. Yet, they con-



soled themselves with the belief that even top notch officers of the time like Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Dinabandhu Mitra, Mathew Arnold, Samuel pepys and Charles Lamb were nothing but "glorified clerks"

What continues to draw young men and women to this strangulating yet somewhat cocooned existence? Usually, it is the family tradition to do so or because there is no other job available. Once they are confirmed in their jobs, a feeling of having "arrived" sets in Marriage is the next step and with it they fit into the archetypal middle class pattern For many, only three things remain of supreme importance--having *manser jhol bhat* (meat curry and rice) on Sunday followed by a late night movie with their wives, and buying a television set through the hire purchase scheme

"It is a common idea among us that salaried jobs provide us with more security and money than do elusive professions like farming or our own family business," said one young man from the villages all set to make a career as a clerk Among middle class families, it is customary for the head of the family to secure employment for his son before retiring. Employers, too, encourage this because they get new entrants at lower salaries who have the backing of a guarantor Consequently, the whole outlook of the middle class has become "desk oriented"

This should in no way, be taken to mean that the importance of the clerk is on the wane Modernisation of management techniques apart, clerks still continue to be the mainstay of the secretariat and field offices As Rudra points out, "The last four decades since Independence have not seen any radical change in the functioning of the government Despite cosmetic changes the bulk of the government work still continues to be done in the same clerical manner as it has always been done One cannot wish away the clerical cadres."

On the other hand, Jayanta Bhattacharya, a senior office assistant in a multinational said, "The picture of clerks browsing through massive ledgers will soon become a thing of the past. They are definitely going to be displacedbut no one knows where they are going to be placed"

Indispensable or not, there exists a tangible demarcation between clerks and their superiors, who more often than not, are unaware or unmoved by the former's problems Said one pentagenarian about to call it a day, "We get the smiles of our bosses once in our lifetimes when they admit that we are indispensable to the department during a farewell speech" Said another, "My boss does not even know how many years I have had to slog under him like the proverbial hackney carriage pony"

Clerks on their part, are not averse to doing their best to strangle you in the red tapism that seems to remain their prerogative alone Public organisations—universities, railways and nationalised banks—remain under the sway of the human monolith that is the clerk An oft repeated line at most offices in response to harried enquiries is, "Procedural formalities have not been followed," or "Your file is being scrutinised and you will be informed about the outcome in due course."

One could well ask, what then do the thousands that form the clerical community really do? Most clerks rarely get to their place of work on time If entry to government offices was closed even 10 minutes after the scheduled time of arrival every morning, more than half the employees would have to be locked out

In fact, among the new breed of clerks, debate and delay have been raised to the level of an art. A favourite pastime is a daily, exhaustive hour-long discussion on the performance of the two teams in the football match played the day before followed by one on the latest sensation of the Bombay film world. This generation, without exaggeration seems to know more about politics thant the chief minister of the state, or cricket than Nevil Cardus and films than Fellini or Goddard.

Sadly enough, they seem to undermine the image of the super efficient clerk that senior officers in companies recall According to one old timer, clerks in days gone by were the very epitome of effiency If any one could keep the government machinery in shape, it was them. One senior administrative officer remarked, "I cannot imagine any supercomputer is better than those old clerks' brains. They could memorise a whole file and retrieve any information at any time, and as far as calculation is concerned, they were magically prompt in providing answers"

One cannot pinpoint any one lifestyle as being typically that of a clerk's Most of them try and keep up with their neighbours rather than develop their own individual lifestyles In this, the hire purchase schemes have wreaked their brand of havoc Brojesh *babu*, a clerk in a multinational company revealed that half his salary every month goes towards paying the instalments of the sewing machine, colour television and stereophone system that his wife, daughter and son respectively have bought Now to meet regular recurring expenses he has to borrow money. "When I fell ill last month, I did not even have money to buy medicines," lamented a disillusioned Brojesh *babu*.

Call them "file pushers" or the mainstay of business houses, the fact remains that they are indispensable to the administration. And, all said and done, it is for their superiors at work to motivate them into becoming more effective and efficient ■

BARTER

• **Coin:** I offer a British India coin of 1942 for anything of corresponding value. Write of Aliasgar Bookwala, 5, Lenin Sarani, second floor, Calcutta 13.

• **Tape recorder:** I offer a Bush tape recorder (model MTP 8000) in good condition for a two-in-one or camera with flash. Write to Deb Narayan Sarkhel, 11/1A, Halder Lane, Calcutta 12.

• **Books** and **Study material:** I offer two books on Cadbury's Bournvta general knowledge and several workbooks of the ICSE course on a number of subjects for anything of corresponding value. Contact Arif Iqbal, P-4, C.I.T Road, Scheme L-7, third floor, Calcutta 12.

• **Moped** and **scooter:** I offer a new moped and a Priya scooter for anything of corresponding value. Contact Soumya Kanta Baksi, A-38, Amarabati Colony, Durgapur 713214.

• **Novels:** I offer two novels by Harold Robbins, *Adventurers* and *Descent from Xanadu* for any two novels by Sydney Sheldon, Nick Carter or Nancy Frida. Contact Sugata Bhattacharjee, Ramnagar-1, Agartala 799002, Tripura.

• **Camera, records** and **magazines:** I offer a Hot Shot 110S camera with case, six LPs and six imported magazines for a 35 mm camera. Write to Emkay Majumdar, 137, Aurobindo Basu Nagar, Calcutta 61.

• **Books:** I offer two books on differential and integral calculus by N. Piskunov for a Bullworker. Write to Raj Deep Ghosh, Road no. 10, Qr no. D-10/2, PO Chhotodighari, dt Burdwan, Pin-713326

• **Stamps:** I offer 475 stamps (both India and foreign) for a Walkman or anything else of corresponding value Write to Ram Kishore Jajoo, c/o New Mill, PO Fort Gloster, Dist Howrah

• **Study material:** I offer a set of papers of Agarwal classes for the IIT-JEE 1988, and some books for the IIT entrance examination for anything of corresponding value. Contact Mayank Bathwal, 5/1-2-F, Cornfield Road, Calcutta 19.



QUIZ CONTEST

Ruby Ganguly, Calcutta 19, asks about the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria.

During a state visit to the city of Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovinia (now Yugoslavia), an Austrian protectorate, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the once all-powerful Austro-Hungarian empire of the Hapsburgs, was marked for assassination by a small but determined Serbian nationalist group headed by 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip Besides Princip, Nedjelko Cabrinovic and Trifko Gragez among others obtained arms and grenades from Colonel Apis (Dragutin Dimitrijevic) who had engineered the assassinations of King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia 11 years earlier

The conspirators stationed themselves along the much publicised route the Archduke and his Morganatic wife, Countess Sophie, would take through Sarajevo, travelling in a slow-moving open touring car, on the morning of June 28, 1914 Cabrinovic, a dull-witted fellow, calmly asked a policeman which car was the archduke's. When it was pointed out to him, Cabrinovic casually pulled the pin from a grenade and hurled it at the car It bounced off a bumper,rolled beneath the car behind it and exploded, injuring several officials. The archduke and his party continued on to the town hall, oblivious to the attack

Moments after he had tossed the grenade, Cabrinovic, with the police in pursuit, raced to the nearby river Miljacka, and leapt into the water. At the same moment he tried to swallow a cyanide capsule but it only burned his mouth He was dragged screaming from the river.

Gavrilo Princip was more fortunate in carrying out the murderous plot. The archduke refused to be intimidated by Cabrinovic's attack and insisted on continuing his tour of the town. Ferdinand and Sophie undoubtedly felt immune; both wore amulet charms to ward off danger. The royal couple left the town hall in the same touring car, which suddenly took a wrong turn, halting, as if by plan, directly in front of where Princip was standing in the crowd. Princip lost no time, approached the car and fired his Browning revolver twice. Countess Sophie was struck by the first bullet, which drove through the car door and into her side The second shot struck Ferdinand in the back.

"For God's sake, what has happened to you ?" cried Sophie to her sagging husband, almost unaware of the fact that she had been hit.

Ferdinand saw the blood seeping from his wife's side and, as he crumpled into her lap, moaned, "Sophie, don't die Live for my children."

By the time the speeding car roared into the courtyard of the governor's residence, Ferdinand and Sophie were dead Princip had been seized immediately by officers after firing the fatal shots. Beaten by guards, his face running blood, the young assassin was rushed to the local jail and thrown into a cell next to Cabrinovic. He shortly informed on his fellow conspirators, 25 in all, who were rounded up and, because of their youth, given long prison sentences. Only Danila Ilic, a teacher, was hanged. Princip languished in jail, dying of tuberculosis in 1918.

The motions of monolithic dynasties toward World War I were speeded up by this assassination, two shots that ended the old European world forever Only weeks after Princip killed Ferdinand and his wife the world was at war.

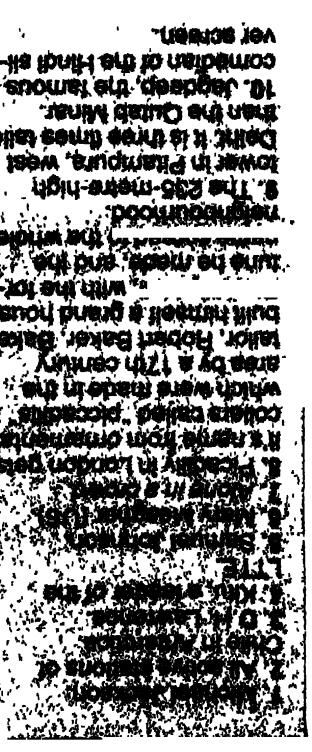
CBS

***11th Question:* With reference to marathon running, what is the "negative split"? (Sanjay Lee, 15, Gomes Lane, Calcutta 700 014)**
***Ans:* When the second half of the marathon is run faster than the first.**

QUESTIONS

1. Whose autobiography is *Moonwalking*? (Subhasis Bose, Durgapur 4)
2. What is common to Captain Arturo Part, General Bernado O'Higgins and President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla if they are not people? (Manoj Kr Singh, BIT, Sindri)
3. Which celebrated author eloped with the married sister of World War I ace pilot Baron Van Richtofen? (Sanjay Benka "Manish," Saikia 6)
4. How is Sathasivam (a) Kumar better (b) as? (Ranjan Sur, Patna)
5. Who said, "In a man's letters his soul lies naked."? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)
6. Which swimmer is called "Madam Butterfly"? (Debapish Basu, Durgapur 4)
7. The last television interview given by Indira Gandhi was to a team from Wales. What was the channel called? (Thakur, Calcutta 12)
8. How did Picadilly get its name? (Supratim Chowdhury, Calcutta 12)
9. Which is the tallest concrete television tower in India with a revolving restaurant at the top? (Jayanta Kr Sharma, Jorhat 13)
10. What is the screen name of Syed Ishtyaque Ahmed Jafri? (Sailesh Kumar Singh, BIT, Sindri)

ANSWERS



Kartick Ch Somai, secretary, Naybandhu Club, Ghatal (Midnapur) writes

"The second annual quiz contest of Naybandhu Club, Ghatal, was conducted at the local information office. Sixteen teams (32 participants) took part in three rounds The finalists were given a gruelling six-round session covering history, geography, science, literature, games, sports, general knowledge and current affairs by quiz masters Sujan Kumar De and Panchanan Ghorai. The audience participation was heartwarming with the chief-guest, the local S.D.O., Sanjiv Chopra (I A S.), himself participating in the open round."

Debashis Mukherjee reports

"An audio-visual quiz was organised by the 'Four Friends' quiz club in the Ballygunge Institute Five out of 15 teams qualified for the finals. There was an added attraction of two video rounds in the finals. Lake Youth Club (A) with some excellent answers emerged victorious followed by the 'Bofors School of Ethics.' It was a disappointing final for 'Four Friends(A),' who had secured first spot in the preliminaries. The two quiz masters, Sugata Roy and K.K. Mehta, conducted the quiz well with some interesting audio questions and stunning visuals."

BEYOND THE PINNACLE

What does someone who has achieved his life's ambitions before he is 40 look forward to? Dipendra N. Chatterjee tries to find an answer

There is a time and tide in the affairs of men. There is a time for the beginning and a time for the end. Yet, the new utilitarian values sweeping in new eras of change, both in lifestyles and thought processes, are changing all that. The competition for survival has pushed down both success and the incidence of heart attacks to younger age groups, all of who are in a rush to get "there" and get there fast, before anybody else.

As 22-year old Venita Coelho who hails from Calcutta and works as a freelance production assistant with three reputed directors in Bombay, while pursuing a course in Mass Communications, says, "I want to learn twice as much as other people in half the time." The message is clear, "we want it, and we want it quick." With this kind of an impetus, some, who have the sustaining fibre, reach the top, while others overleap their ambitions and end up on a psychiatrist's couch babbling about id.



H K Raja Shekar

Bunty Peerbhoy: Determined to succeed

Survival, both physical and egotistical, necessitate and accelerate the life process, yet strangely, super achievers do not set themselves long term goals against which to measure achievements. Says Christopher D' Rozario, who at 29, is among the country's highest paid copywriters. "I have been too busy chasing what I have to complete by the weekend. I do every job as well as I can, with no major personal targets."

The long term goal perspective clearly is on the wane today. What rules the roost is the "do-your homework-today" attitude. The distant future is a vague, nebulous horizon, today is in sharp focus, while yesterday and tomorrow give the depth of field in a life that individuals are increasingly seeing in different foci.

Dreaming has become an almost impractical luxury. "At an XLRI campus interview," says Bijou Kurien, the 30 year old livewire presently heading the fledgling Titan Watch Company (of the Tata house) in the eastern region, "I did face the typical question, 'where do you see yourself with us, five years from now?' But I did not project any ambitious dreams, because I didn't have any. What calibre I had, and that, working in harmony with the tangible scope offered the particular company in question could decide where I would be."



H K Raja Shekar

P.G. Belliappa: Power is the challenge

The egotistical self has become both a means and an end for establishing an identity that the individual keeps losing in the myriad complexities of sociological mazes. The emphasis is increasingly on practicability. It is not so important to learn as to be able to apply it. Therefore, pursuing a course, just for its own sake, has become very rare. The intelligent man, one who can apply ideas to work, is daily distancing himself from the intellectual who is interested in ideas for their own sake and the philosopher who studies

Prakash Padukone: 'All along it has been a struggle'



patterns in ideas "Reality" is a contemporary obession, and "dreaming" is considered antithetical to it.

For a few people like Prakash Padukone (badminton) and Goutam Ghosh (film director), activities are avenues for self expression, and eminently likeable for their own sake The subsequent power and glory become simply incidental Says Goutam, 'Film making is my passion, and that is what has pulled me here The decision to come into this was very personal I did not see film making as a means to promote myself to glamour and fame all that was incidental I was basically doing what I liked doing Well, actually, I don't deny that I did hope that my occupation would provide me with the very basic necessities of life, but on the whole, the motivation was never commercial, the goal never solely money "

The motivation is more usually a fear-psychosis of failure "When I started off, I just wanted to survive I had no idea that I would one day make so much money," says 32-year-old Ashoke Fernandes, owner of the Bangalore-based Fotoflash chain of colour processing labs which have a daily turnover of about Rs 65,000 The same fear is echoed by Bunty Peerbhoy, the 39-year-old director of M A A communications, the South Indian advertising agency that is now going great guns A second generation advertising man, Bunty wanted to be a lawyer but was forced into advertising at 23, with a paternal fiat to take over the Bangalore branch of M A A

"The Bangalore branch was in absolute



Jay Kunder In search of an intangible 'Omega point'

shambles, huge outstanding, lost accounts, and all that It was like walking on a tight rope 20,000 feet above the ground If I mucked it here, I knew there was no way I could get a job in another advertising agency I was my father's son and everybody else would refuse me a job for fear that they would lose their accounts to me This determination helped me turn the Bangalore branch around "

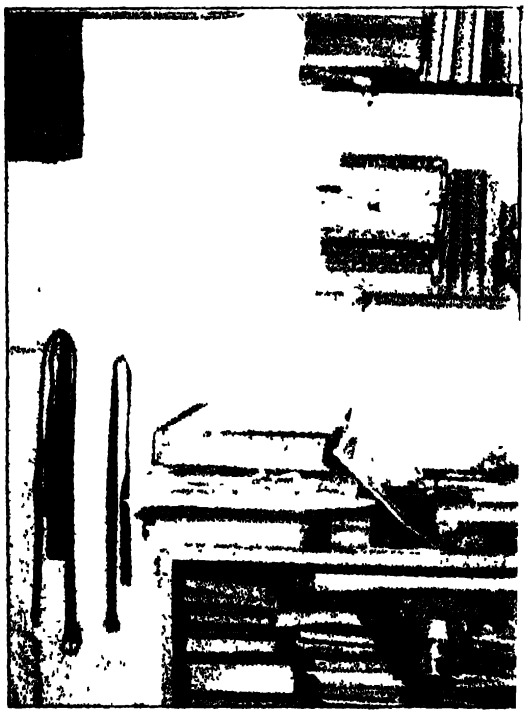


Bijou Kurien: Fears of 'burning out'

For some others like Kurien of Titan, motivation comes from the egotistical self. He has no tangible goals, but he is out to prove himself, not to others, but to *himself* He competes with a personal ghost: "I must prove myself worthy of the image I have of myself," he says

With each spurred on by a different set of motivations combined with the true grit of perseverence, intelligence and calibre, these young super-achievers have made it to the top early in life. But, because they have not set themselves landmarks, they are not quite sure that they have "reached "

"Achievement cannot be quantified," says Kurien, while Jay Kunder is in search of an intangible "Omega point." Jay (31) is managing director of the Megabyte groups



Goutam Ghosh: Doing what he likes

of companies which boast an annual turnover of Rs 25 crores She describes the "Omega point" as a time when everyone around in the work sphere thinks in harmony with her "I would like to get up, tuned to work--where decisions work for me, everything goes smoothly and is in harmony The Omega point is a time when I feel genuinely good and not because of what people, critics and the balance sheet, tell me "

Goutam Ghose calls it the "mental saturation point " The-sky-is-the-limit convoluted cliche is more an equivocation at this stage than anything else, for it offers but an illusory oasis at a distance which the mind cannot travel, because it has already reached a point it cannot go beyond.

"I would put it another way," says Kunen. "After that point when I've proved what I wanted to prove, it will be more of living from day to day. The idea then will be more to keep up and keep abreast of matters in my field than leading."

At 31, Jay Kunder feels there is still a long way to go, yet she would like to close the hi-tech chapter to 40 and turn to farming. "First and foremost, I would like to retire and enjoy myself after 40. At the moment life is so packed with so much to do every moment, that some years from today I would like to just go and set up a farm. My forefathers were in agriculture- -I will go back to that." Jay's transition from bits and bytes to beetroots is a symptomatic search for human roots that most super-achievers share.



Rashbehar Das

After the peak comes the need for "buffers," as Jay calls them, to reality, and the world made and governed by facts and figures and economic laws. Beyond the peak lies freedom of self, the real freedom to be one's intrinsic self, after a process that has by mistake only been thought of as the goal.

"After 40 I would like to take time off for formal education, serious academics," says Christopher D' Rozario. For him it will be "studying for its own sake." Goutam Ghosh would like to be part of the reality he has portrayed through illusions. "I want to turn to fulltime social work after the mental saturation point," he says, while Bunty Peerbhoy just wants out from it all "somewhere where I'll carry my pipe, lots of tobacco and lots of books to read. There will be no telephones and no newspapers."



H K Raja Shekar

Ashoke Fernandez: Making more money than he imagined

Retirement looms large on their 30-year-old horizons, a retirement induced by the very process that was to have been the means of a better life. "It has not been easy," says Prakash Padukone, at 33. "All along it was a big struggle. In a year or so I have decided to stop playing international tournaments. My game has meant compromises on the time I have had to spend with my family. This is why I don't want to play for too long."

Christopher D. Rozario: Doing the best he can



And how has this process affected the individual himself?

"The enormous amount of compromise, time, attention and thought leaves me like a dried out sponge at the end of day," says Bunty Peerbhoy. At 30, Kunen is already afraid of 'burning out' by the time he is 40.

So, in about a decade when the haze lifts from the future we may well be seeing our retired young super achievers lotus-eating in mental kingdoms, for, by the time they have acquired the means to a better life, they are too tired to live it. These are the hollow Men of the Future.

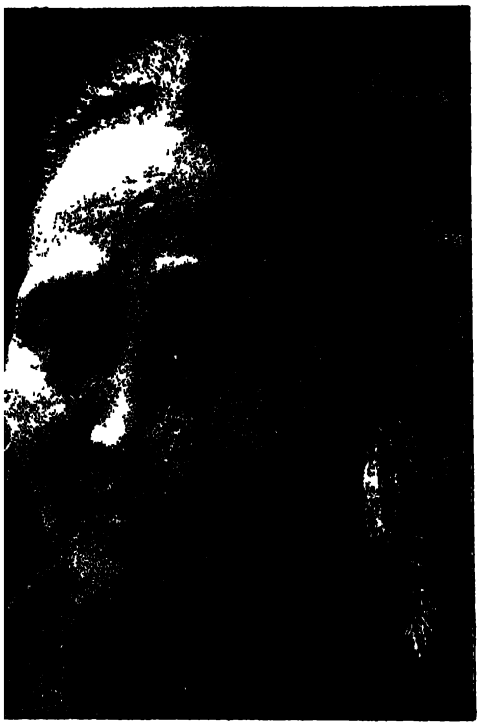
Right? Wrong!

The two limitless desires of humans are the desire for money and power. In days of old, the moment an emperor had satiated his earthly position, he aspired godhead. Our super achievers are highly capable and competent people who have, to a degree, been motivated by the desire to "prove" themselves. Beyond that, they have adopted the common motto: 'Work today, tomorrow will take care of itself.'

The future too will present opportunities, and they will find avenues and means to do their best. As P G. Bellappa, the 36-year-old chairman of the Bangalore Turf Club, says, "The power has been given to me to change things, and that has been the challenge." Power will always be the challenge, and also its own reward.

(With reports from Saritha Rai in Bangalore and Lekha Dhar in Bombay).

RING-A-RING-A



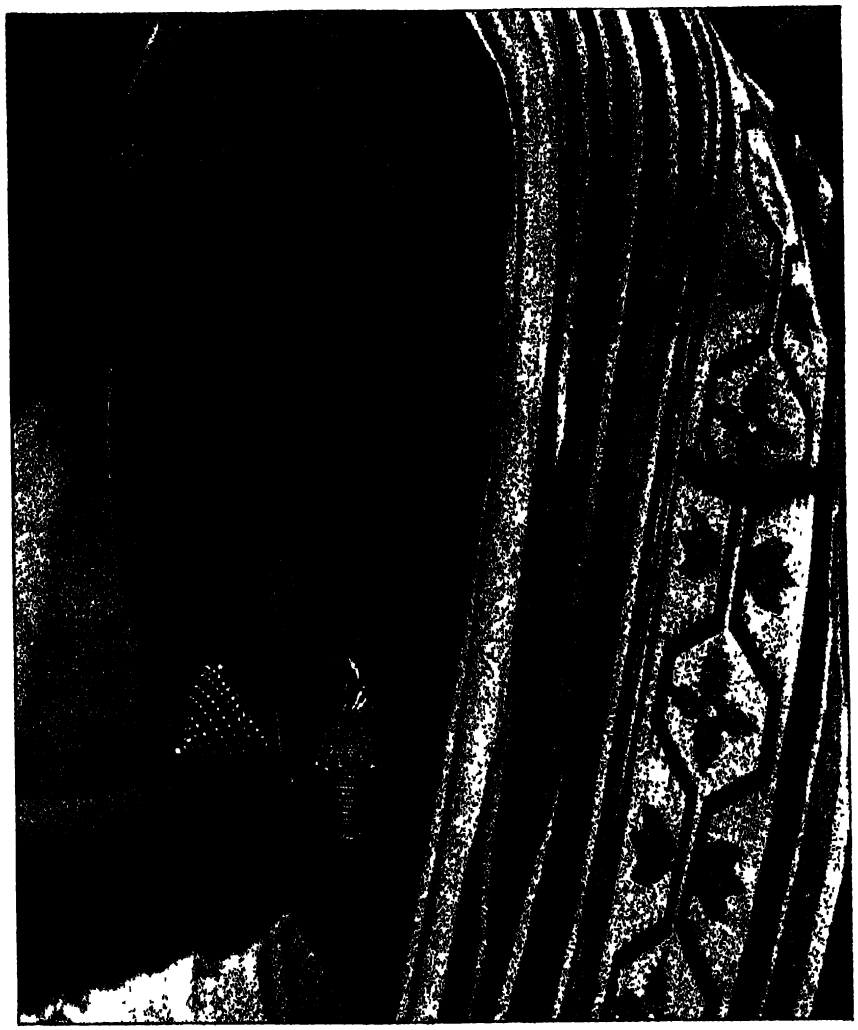
There are noserings and noserings.
Deepak Bhattacharya
trains his lens' eye on some of them





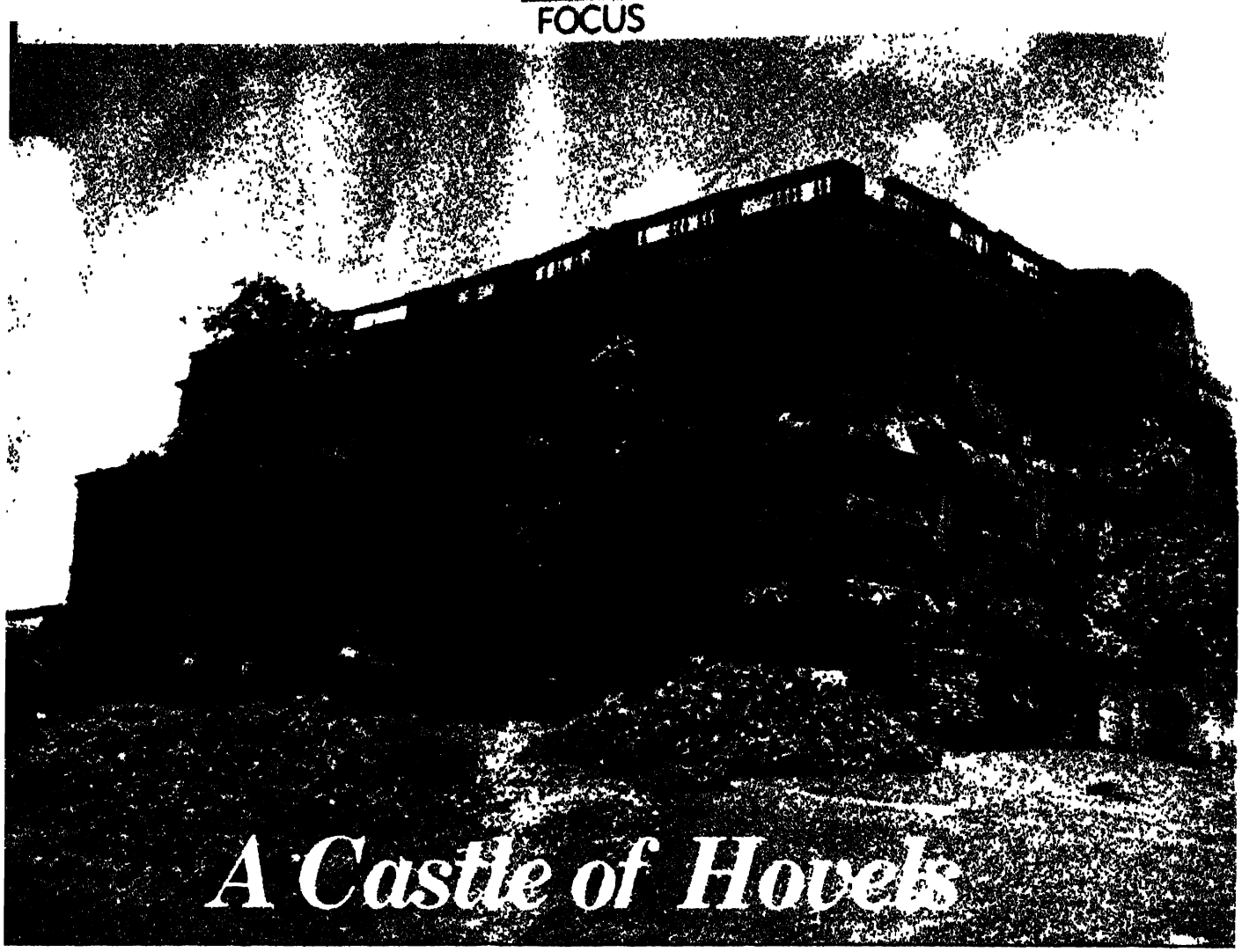
-NOSES











A Castle of Hovels

Manderlay, the mysterious manor house in Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* and Clive House have so much in common. Both withstood centuries of use and abuse, saw human emotions at the finest and worst, and yet emerged timeless and seemingly indestructable. But while Manderlay faded into memories and flames, Clive House remains, a mute onlooker to the ever-changing and tumultous past and haven for the 100-odd people who call it their home

The only surviving monument that bears testimony to the European influence in Bengal, Clive House is Dutch in design unlike the other commonly found neo-classical styles. According to Nisith Ranjan Ray, director of the Institute of Historical Studies, "the building was probably a godown but given the shape of a fortress to keep out intruders. Later it passed into the hands of Ali Wardi Khan, then nawab of Bengal who kept an eye on the British troops from this vantage point."

However, after the decisive battle of Plassey in 1757, the building and its adjoining fields, 126 bighas 6 chataks in all, passed into the hands of the British. Also called Dum Dum house, the building soon became a favourite of governor-general Robert Clive who used it as a frequent country-side retreat. Later he built another storey to the existing structure and personally planned the flower beds and adjoining lawns.

Clive House, as even a casual visitor will observe, is built on a hillock, a location that was taken full advantage of by dacoits and marauders in later years. Sixty-nine steps lead up to the main building, as records in Fort William state and several locals insist that the whole area was a swamp thickly infested with jungles that eventually threw up the mound on which Clive House stands today. In fact, Bishop Haber, the second Bishop of Calcutta who stayed here in 1824, went a step further when he wrote, "Local tradition says that the mound was thrown up by a spirit in a single night and to this day the grounds and house have the reputation of being haunted." Unlike Robert Clive, Warren Hastings, the subsequent governor-general did not display the same preference for Clive House and the house changed hands several times, being used at different times by the Bengal Artillary and the RAF as a mess, a printing press, an air technical training school and even as stables.

"This was the country house of Lord Clive 1757-60 and 1763-67" reads the plaque that is almost hidden among the

Rina Mondol in her one-room 'house'



...rani
...ive House, once
...ve's favourite
...resort and
...now a hut
captures the derelict, crumbling facade that it is today



cobwebs that hang from what once must have been the largest of the four entrances to the building. Clive House today resembles a mausoleum -damp and depressing, gaping holes in the peeled plaster, yawning gaps in the crumbling ceiling, rickety stairs that threaten to collapse and creaking, empty window panes. And yet people live and thrive in this dilapidated remnant of history.

Kundan Santra, 23, packs a lot of vitality and zest in his wiry frame. He laughs as he remembers the day when the alcove adjoining the hall room came crashing down or the time when part of the rampart fell out. "But this place is protected, it is *shubh*," he adds. "No one has ever died in any of the mishaps here." Kundan simply reflects the attitude of the 20 families that live here—unconcerned, oblivious of the fact that their "home" might come crashing down any moment. They decorate their rooms with potted plants, *diyas*, images of God and not forgetting blow ups of film actress Dimple Kapadia.

Kalpana, 20 and dusky, has lived in Clive House "for several years." She stays in a makeshift tin-roofed one room shack just outside the main house. Why? "Because the ceiling of the room we were staying in caved in last year. One night, when we were all asleep, there was a terrible explosion. Just as I moved off the bed, the beam supporting the ceiling came crashing down. Our umbrella was broken," she says with a casual shrug of her shoulders and an acquiescence that seems incomprehensible.

Why do Kundan and Kalpana continue to live in the conditions they do? It would be understandable if money was scarce and they had nowhere to go. But the innumerable television antennas and scooters that are visible, belie this argument. Rina Mondol, whose husband Tultul owns the neighbourhood tea shop easily has one of the better furnished houses. She has partitioned off the main courtyard with a bamboo screen and a large four poster bed occupies pride of place. The room is lined by cement shelves, flower vases and believe it or not, a sleeping German Spitz. She says, "Living here is not easy, water leaks through the roof, the bathroom is far away and only a few days ago the electricity meter exploded. But where can we go? We can't possible live under a tree!"

Bipin Bose, 40, a builder by profession, stays in one room with his ailing mother. Part of the entrance to his house is closed "because the roof caved in." Why doesn't he shift? "I can't. My work is here. Relatives stay close by. The only alternative is to shift to Barasat and that is not well connected," he points out as his mother combs her hair and stares myopically at a book.

Not all the residents are so helpless. Satyen Majumdar a resident for the last 35 years claims that "we are willing to vacate the building if we are given alternative accomodation. The sooner the building is pulled down, the better for us. We only want to be resettled somewhere." Yet, Majumdar owns a lorry and his son works in the Post and Telegraph department. Surely, he is in a position to seek an alternative residence independently? Or perhaps the bait of free accommodation is too strong to resist.

Every conceivable nook and cranny has been used. Cycles lie in a dry spot and close to a window lies a broken *charpoy* on which four men sit idly shuffling cards and pulling at their *bidis*. What once was Clive's ballroom is today used by Anup Bose, an enterprising youth, to produce and dry *agarbattis*. Haripada Bose, formerly of Jessore, moved into the house in 1950, "One night the roof of the room collapsed. So we built this asbestos-topped shanty. For at least two months every year we lie awake waiting for the next room to collapse." Apparently, the BBC has done a film on Clive House but the authorities remain indifferent.

Perhaps, one of the reasons for this apathetic attitude of the powers-that-be is that the ownership of the grounds is disputed. According to Shib Kumar Das, a retired publicity agent who lives here, the building and the adjoining grounds were auctioned after Partition and sold to Kali Prasad Roy of Sovabazar. Roy, in turn, took it as mortgage from Motilal Sil who had purchased it around 1860. After the second world war, S K. Das, an advocate of the high court occupied the building and claimed ownership. Roy, meanwhile, sold off the property to Umen Dutta. Now a tussle is on between Dutta and Das. Das, who managed to win 48 bighas after a prolonged legal battle, sold off most of it to the owners of the Shin Han Chit Fund but retained Clive House.

Shib Kumar, ageing and indignant, adds, "S K. Das says we are forcibly occupying his property and we say, 'Yes, we are. After all, we have lived here since Partition'." But, not all residents are at logger heads with the rightful owners. Shibdas Bhattacharya, one of the wealthier inhabitants came to a compromise with Das and bought some land in the compound where he tried to build his house. Disclosed a resident, "We are mainly Chhatra Parishad supporters. The local CPI(M) committee secretary, Paltu Dasgupta, is harassing us and refusing to let us build our houses. Where is the need to go to the government? We are willing to come to a mutual understanding but the CPI(M) is just not interested."

The gaping hole in the floor of the alcove



And so life goes on in Clive House. Curious faces peer out of the broken ramparts that overlook the city skyline as far as the Howrah Bridge. And somewhere in the recesses, someone hangs up a flowered lace curtain on a gaping hole in the wall in a curious attempt at gentility. But, the most poignant and slightly ironical symbol of the past is the chalk message scribbled on a door hanging on its hinges, "This house was the Lord Clive." ■



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Agnee.** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272173) 4 shows

Directed by J Om Prakash and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal the film stars Mithun Chakrabarty, Chunkey Pandey, Amrita Singh, Mandakini and Anupam Kher.

• **Dharamyudh:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551510), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujala (Russa Road, 478666) 4 shows.

Satabdi Roy in *Sudhu Tomari*





Rishi Kapoor and Vinita in *Janam Janam*

Sunil Dutt, Shatrughan Sinha, Kimi Katkar and Pran are the chief attractions in this Sudarshan Nag film whose music is by Rajesh Roshan.

• **Mar Mitenge:** Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 247966) 4 shows.

Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Bhanupriya and Madhavi play the lead in this Kawal Sharma film. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828) 4 shows.

Juhi Chawla and debutante Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film. The music is by Anand Milind.

• **Soorma Bhopali.** Opera (Lenin Sarani, 281849), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 249828), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 391090), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440), Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road, 355059).

The film stars Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, Dharmendra, Danny, Kader Khan, Madhu Malhotra, Javed, debutante Monka and Jagdeep.

• **Tezaab.** Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road, 478808) 4 shows, Moonlight (I C Dutta Street, 251956) 3 shows.

A film by N Chandra, starring Anil Kapoor, Chunkey Pandey, Madhuri Dixit, Kiran Kumar and Suresh Oberoi. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

Bengali Films

• **Aagomon:** Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045) 2.30, 5.30, 8.15, Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567) 2.30, 5.30, 8.30, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282) 2, 5.45.

A film by Tarun Majumdar, starring Sandhya Roy, Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Soumitra Chatterjee, Papia Adhikari, Utpal Dutt, Sumitra Mukherjee and Shakuntala Barua. The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee.

• **Anjali:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 533113), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 174686) 1, 4, 7.

Ranjit Mullick, Moon Sen, Gorge Baker, Kali Banerjee and Madhabi Mukherjee are the chief attractions in this Anjan Choudhury film. The music is by Goutam Basu.

• **Prateek.** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S I Mukherjee Rod, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352741) 3, 5.45, 8.30.

A film by Provat Roy, starring Raakhee, Soumitra Chatterjee, Utpal Dutt, Sumitra Mukherjee, Tapas Paul, Papia Adhikari, Rupa Ganguly and Chiranjeet. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Shudhu Tomari:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080) 2.30, 5.30, 8.15.

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Samit Bhanja, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this film, directed by Prabir Mitra. The music is by Ajoy Das.



Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia

Special Events

18-21 December: 10.30 am to 6 pm (except Sunday)

Kekoo Gandhy of Gallery Chemould, Bombay, presents an exhibition of drawings and paintings by Vivan Sundaram

At Chemould Gallery (Queens Manston, 12F Park Street, 298641)

18 December onwards

A month-long all-India annual exhibition, organised by Academy of Fine Arts, in the West, Central, North, New South, South and New galleries

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302)

19 December: 6 pm

As part of Swami Vivekananda's 125th birth anniversary celebrations, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture presents a flute recital by Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia with Anindo Chatterjee on the tabla

At Vivekananda Hall (Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park).

19 December: 6.30 pm

Probahi Performing Arts presents Tagore's 'Bhrashtalagner Gaan' by Ashish Bhattacharjee, Jayasree Das Gupta, Shyamasree Das Gupta, Enakshi Chatterjee and others Narration Pradip Ghosh and Swantana Choudhury

At Kala Mandir (B) (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086)

22 December: 6.30 pm

Souptik presents *Amar Bharatvarsha* (a dance and song ensemble) and Tagore's dance drama, *Chandalika* Music Tarit Bhattacharya Lights Swarup Mukherjee Choreography Dhiman Sankar Mukherjee

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street, Calcutta 71)

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2) AI-103 at 0035

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5)· AI-306 at 1830; Dep (5). AI-306 at 1930

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6)· AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (7)· AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0500; Dep (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep (4)· SU-538 at 1855

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955; Dep. (1) JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325, Dep. (2)· JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1120 and Dep (7) SQ-413 at 1540; Arr (2). SQ-416 at 1020 and Arr (4). SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240, Dep. (2, 4, 7). IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1,· 5) RA-214 at 1410, Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6) IC-247 at 1510, Arr. (1, 5) RA-213 at 1250, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6) IC-248 at 1425, Arr (7) IC-248 at 2055

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7)· IC-443 at 1640, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr (7). IC-444 at 1920; Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-692 at 1145, Dep (1, 2, 4, 5, 6); BG-694 at 1715, Dep. (2, 4, 6). IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-223 at 1800, Dep (7) IC-443 at 1720; Arr. (daily). BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6). BG-693 at 1615, Arr (2, 4, 6)· IC-224 at 1540, Arr (1, 3, 5)· IC-224 at 2000, Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5); BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7) IC-225 at 1305, Arr. (2, 5)· BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7). IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): GQ-102 at 0730, Arr. (1, 2, 5)· GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily) IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep. (7): IC-444 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr (7): IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily). IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945. Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily): IC-265 at 1730; Arr. (daily). IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5) IC-295 at 1400, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 2200.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1) IC-287 at 0545, Arr (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily). IC-410 at 1110, Arr. (daily) IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily) IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2240

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-542 at 0620; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-541 at 1240

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2) IC 277 at 1445, Dep (3)· IC-277 at 0630, Arr. (1, 2) IC-278 at 2215, Arr (7) IC-278 at 2130

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 1535, Arr (3, 5 6)· IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar. Dep (1) IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-269 at 1800; Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2020

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-269 at 1445, Arr. (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 4) IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3 5, 6) IC-203 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 5) IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4) IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-250 at 2045

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta; Dep (daily) IC 213 at 1130, Arr (daily)· IC-213 at 1705

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily)· IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily). IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7) IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC 220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep (1, 4) IC-239 at 0825, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-239 at 1100; Arr. (1, 4) IC-240 at 1040, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-240 at 1310

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-227 at 0835, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7). IC-228 at 0805

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-255 at 0530, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6)· IC-255 at 0815, Arr (2, 4, 7). IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-256 at 1245

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 14 05

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (2, 4)· IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6,

***Chandalika*, presented by Souptik**



7): IC-243 at 0610, Dep. (daily): IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (daily). IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Navyadoot

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep (daily). PF-701 at 0845, Arr. (daily). PF-702 at 1215.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): PF-729/729A at 0550; Arr. (daily). PF-730/730A at 0825

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-727 at 1230; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-728 at 1755.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6), PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0855

Calcutta-Aizwal-Silchar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-705 at 0830 and Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-705 at 1130; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-706 at 1325 and Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-706 at 1625

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (daily): PF-730 at 1735.

Guwahati-Silchar: Dep. (Guwahati; daily): PF-703 at 0800; Arr. (Guwahati; daily): PF-704 at 1000.

Guwahati-Jorhat Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (Guwahati; daily) PF-735 at 1020; Arr. (Guwahatu; daily): PF-736 at 1530.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
1	19-00	**Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
5	19-20	**Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
3	20-00	**Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
81	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep —Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep —Sat up to Amritsar Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	17-55	82
103	9-15	**Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep —Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep --Sun up to Amritsar Arri —Mon, & Fri	17-55	104
101	16-00	**Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep —Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00	**Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp** Tri-Wkly Dep —Tues, Fri & Sat Arri —Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15	**Purbanchal Express** Dep —Mon & Thurs Arri —Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05	**Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45	**Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	8
49	13-05	**Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45	**Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21 10	**Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00	**Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05	**Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00	**Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35	**Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10	**Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15	**Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15	**Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00	**Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00	**North Bihar Express** Dep —Wednesday Arri —Fnday	4-15	106
171	22-30	**Jamalpur Express** Dep —Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri —Mon, Thurs & Sat	6-00	172
15	9-55	**Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25	**Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep —Thurs & Sat. Arri —Tues & Thurs	7-30	960
971	15-25	**Indore Express** Dep —Tues Arri —Sat	7-30	972
107	15-25	**Shaktipunj Express** Dep & Arri —Mon & Fri	7-30	108

SEALDAH

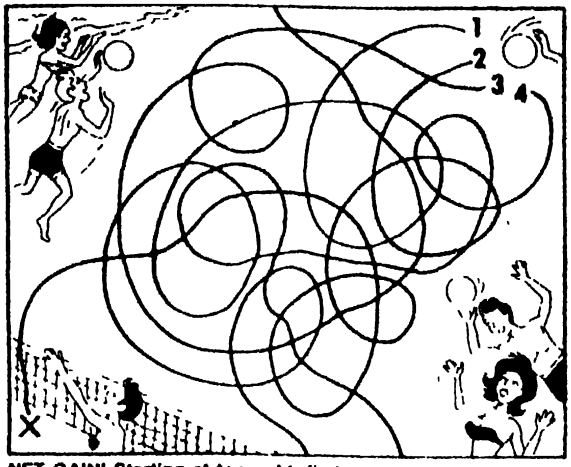
51	11-20	**Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45	**Varanasi Express** via SBG Loop	14-30	34
303	18-25	**Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express**	10-25	304
43	19-00	**Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10	**Gaur Express**	6-15	54

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Up	Time		Arrival Time	Dn
3	21-00	**Madras Mail**	6-10	4
2	20-30	**Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-40	**Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	14-15	59
134	21-30	**Ahmedabad Express**	4-15	133
30	12-30	**Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-30	**Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
51	22-30	**Bangalore Express** Dep —Thurs Arri —Sun	13-45	52
13	17-30	**Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-10	**Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-45	**Sambalpur Express**	6-45	6
15	21-15	**Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-00	16
7	22-45	**Puri Express**	7-00	8
9	19-30	**Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-00	10
21	6-45	**Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-30	22
979	20-00	**Tirupati Express**	5-30	980
45	11-30	**East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-45	46
317	16-45	**Purulia Express** Dep —Except Saturday Arri —Except Sunday	11-30	318
902	22-30	**Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10	**Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
—	14-10	**Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	939
940	22-30	**Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	—
952	22-30	**Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep —Tues, Fri, & Sun Arri —Tues, Wed & Fri	13-45	951
976	22-30	**Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05	**Bangalore City-Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Monday only	13-45	975

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dial 203545-54 for in-coming trains; 203536-44 for all other information. For information about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and gazetted holidays).



NET GAIN! Starting at top right, find a path that will take the volleyball over the net to score a point below

• **SUM AGE!** Reckon the age of a baby-sitter who is four times as old, as well as 12 years older, than the child being watched How old? Quickly

The babysitter is sixteen years old



PUT MEN TO WORK

Challenge Add MEN to each grouping of letters below to form a six or seven-letter word Examples No 1—Moment, No 5—Immense, and so on How quickly can you puzzle them out?

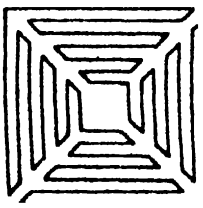
1. MOT	**9. PAYT**
2 CET	**10 AITY**
3 LAT	**11 ELET**
4. FOT	**12 REGI**
5. IMSE	**13 PIGT**
6. TORT	**14. PITO**
7. COMT	**15. FERT**
8. METO	**16 THOL**

Remember, the word MEN is to appear intact somewhere among letters of each longer word

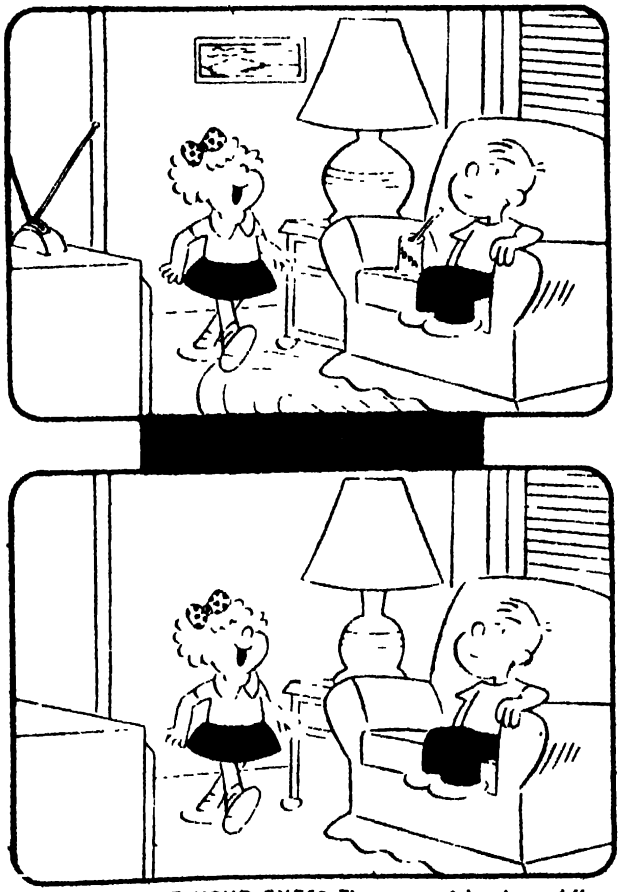
1 Moment 2 Cement 3 Lament 4 Foment 5 Immense 6 Torment 7 Comment 8 Metronome 9 Payment 10 Anxiety 11 Element 12 Regiment 13 Pigment 14 Pimento 15 Ferment 16 Method

• **ONE LINER!** How do you perceive the illusory design below? Do you feel you are peering through a walled tunnel? Or gazing down upon a pyramid? Or do you see the design in some other unusual way?

This figure (inside the outer box) is drawn in one continuous line. Just for fun, see if you can draw one like it.



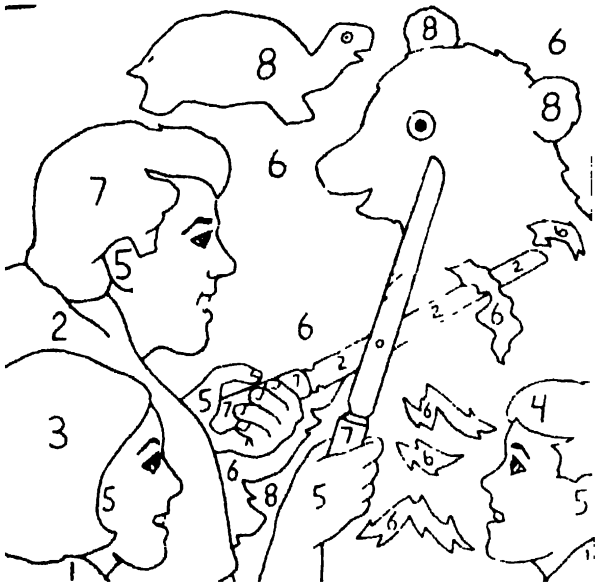
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Antenna is missing 2 Picture is missing 3 Rug is missing 4 Lamp base is different 5 End table is different 6 Can is missing

FUNSPOT



TRIM LOOK! Is that a bear or a turtle we see? No, it's a bush or a tree Add these colors 1—Red. 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

OPERATOR

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

ARIES

March 21—April 20

The sun in your 10th sector will spur you on and highlight adventures, a new venture, daring and enterprise Sun trines moon and gives you the chance to see a new project through Romance and communication are indicated in the next few days Matters pertaining to buying, selling, refurbishing, renovation and property will keep you busy

TAURUS

April 21 - May 20

Sun trines Neptune and a fun-filled week lies ahead Journeys to distant lands, ceremonies and a complete overhauling of schedules and policies are foretold Your ambitions will be honed to a fine edge Learn to fuse work with pleasure At the same time do not neglect home affairs or property disputes This is a week for gains and success

GEMINI

May 21--June 20

The week ushers in joy and gains Moon conjuncts Jupiter and it is possible that you will be seized by an inexplicable restlessness A journey is in the offing Hobbies and creative pursuits will take up much of your time as will matters pertaining to finances, funds, joint bank accounts, buying and selling

CANCER

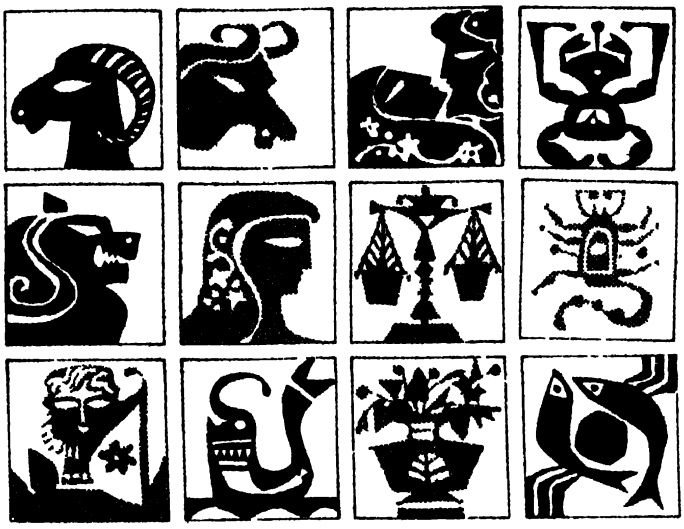
June 21 —July 20

Some opposition to plans is likely but you will get away relatively unscathed Expenses will mount after a few days so it is advisable that you start keeping something aside for the days ahead A job hop or expansion at your present job is indicated Do not, however, push things and let matters take their own course

LEO

July 21— August 21

The moon's quarter focuses on financial matters If you are willing to put in hard work, success and recognition will both be yours Later in the week, journeys, home affairs and land disputes may take up much of your time Entertainment and socialising are also foretold Marriage is on the cards for the fancyfree and at least an official engagement will come through for those in love



VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

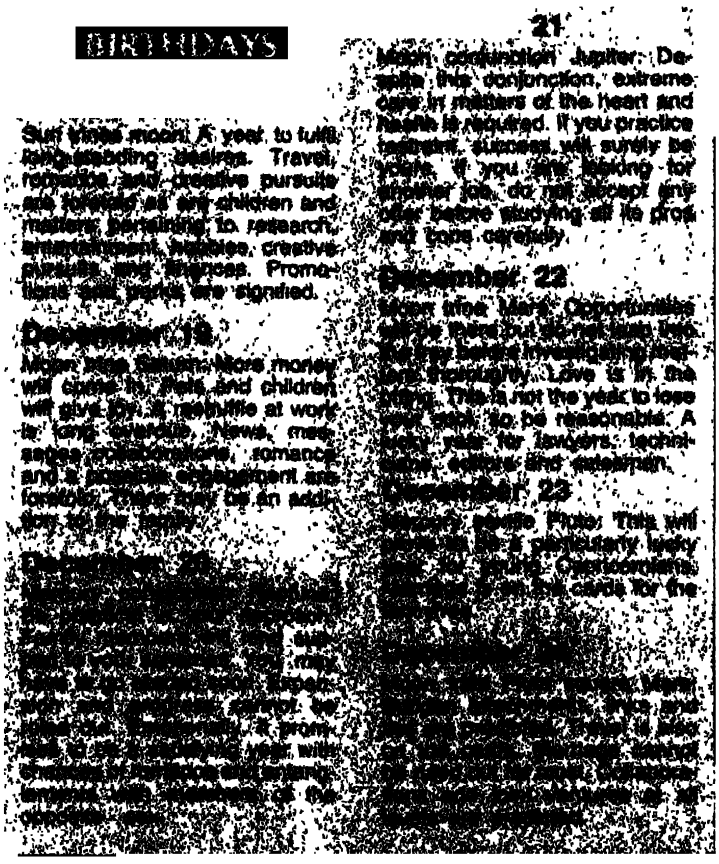
Success will be your second name now A passionate relationship with a member of the opposite sex is now foretold and marriage is on the cards for the fancyfree and eligible Hard work, however, cannot be ruled out and you will be hard pressed to complete all pending assignments by the weekend

LIBRA

Sept 23— Oct 22

Work and home affairs will both demand attention Loans, funds, buying, selling and investments are now highlighted You will receive important news this week and calls, messages, interviews, appointments and information are highlighted You may receive an outstation posting soon A trip is on the cards

BIRTHDAYS



SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Children will be the source of great delight Hobbies, creative pursuits and journeys are highlighted Mercury trines Pluto and this signifies that contracts and assignments will soon come your way This is the time to put your best foot forward and make the most of opportunities Romance is in the air

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

The moon trine Uranus formation focuses on matters pertaining to home and property affairs, alteration, buying, selling, instalating of machinery and gadgets, investments, refurbishing and entertaining You will meet interesting if somewhat mysterious people towards the weekend Do not get taken in by people and learn to look below appearances

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 19

Give the next 21 days your best effort and success is guaranteed Romance money and satisfaction will be yours However, learn not to be arrogant and see other people's point of view as well Expenses will mount but they will be for a worthy cause This is the time to go in for a new enterprise or venture

AQUARIUS

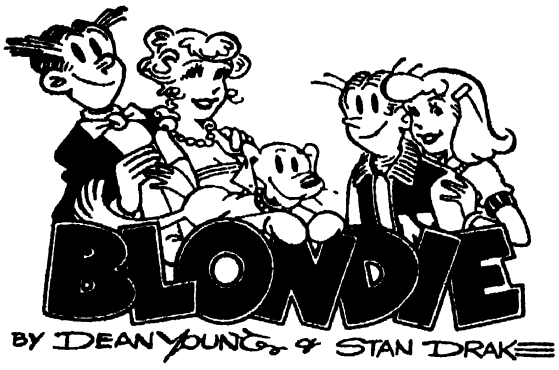
Jan 20 Feb 18

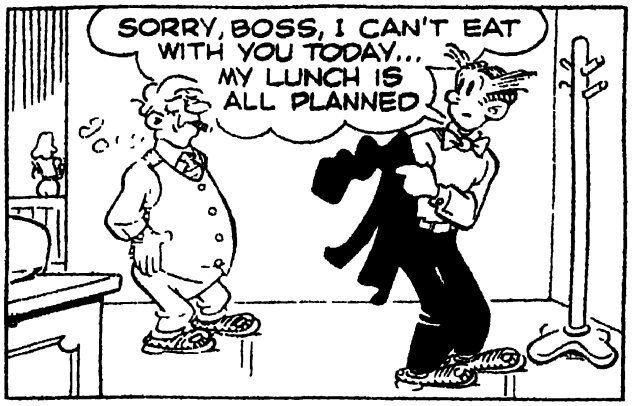
Expenses will show an unprecedented upward trend but there is no need to worry as money will come in You may be thinking of a major shift or move The time is right to undertake renovations and refurbishing at your place of work and at home There is a chance that you will change your job or shift your residence

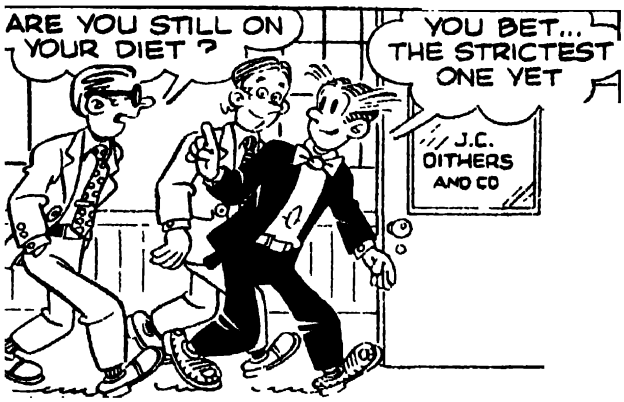
PISCES

Feb 19 - March 20

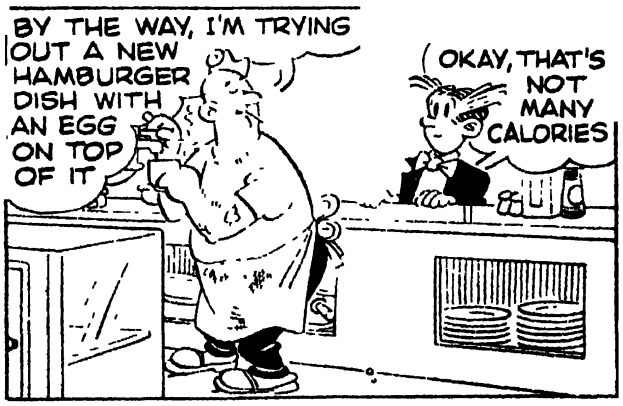
The good spell in your horoscope that starts now will continue for the next two-and-a-half years. However, health will cause concern so it is vital that you take adequate precautions from now itself Personal issues will take up much of your time this week Issues relating to close relatives may worry you but this disturbing trend will only last till the weekend

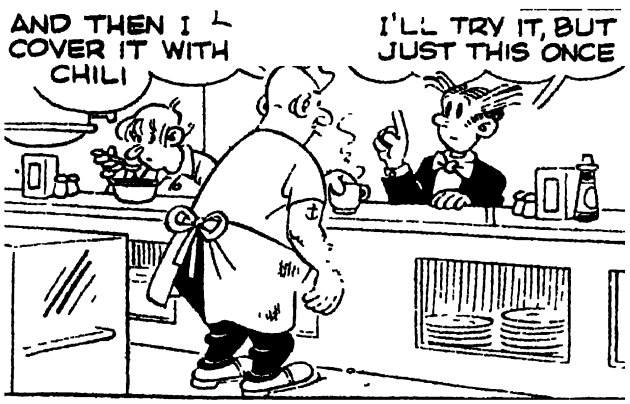

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE

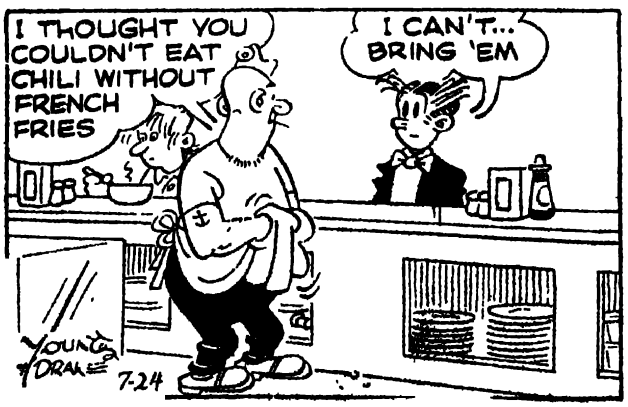

SORRY, BOSS, I CAN'T EAT WITH YOU TODAY... MY LUNCH IS ALL PLANNED

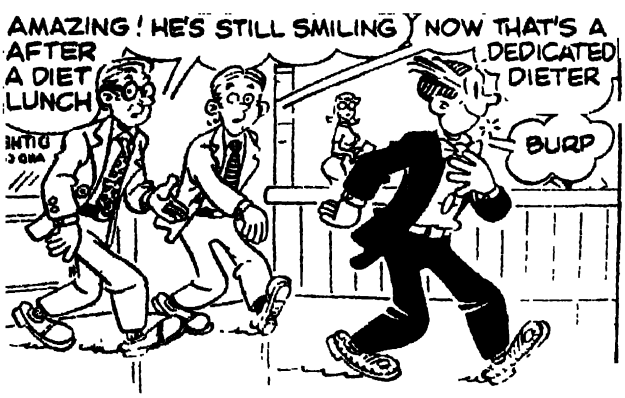

ARE YOU STILL ON YOUR DIET ?
YOU BET... THE STRICTEST ONE YET
J.C. DITHERS AND CO


I WANT A HAMBURGER PATTY AND A SMALL SCOOP OF COTTAGE CHEESE


BY THE WAY, I'M TRYING OUT A NEW HAMBURGER DISH WITH AN EGG ON TOP OF IT
OKAY, THAT'S NOT MANY CALORIES


AND THEN I COVER IT WITH CHILI
I'LL TRY IT, BUT JUST THIS ONCE


I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T EAT CHILI WITHOUT FRENCH FRIES
I CAN'T... BRING 'EM
YOUNG & DRAKE
7-24


AMAZING ! HE'S STILL SMILING AFTER A DIET LUNCH
NOW THAT'S A DEDICATED DIETER
BURP

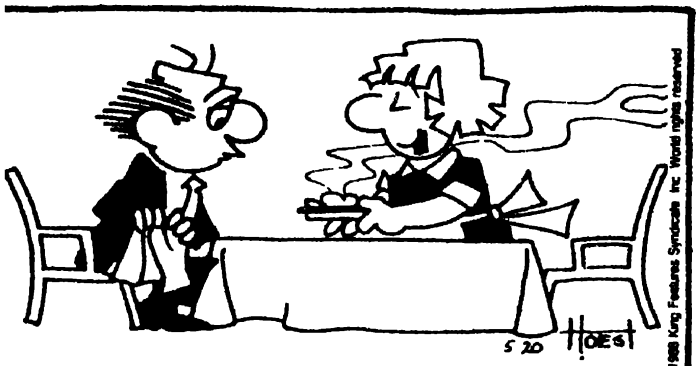

YAKITY-YAKITY-YAK GABBITY-GAB, ETC. ETC..!
AND TO THINK, WE WERE SO HAPPY WHEN SHE SAID HER FIRST WORDS!
DADDY, THE PHONE WENT DEAD!
YOU PROBABLY TALKED IT TO DEATH, DEAR!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY! YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
6-12
I THINK THAT ELECTRIC COMPANY CREW CUT THE WIRE!
VERY WELL! I'LL SPEAK TO THEM!
YES, MR. LODGE! I'M VERY SORRY! WE SHOULD HAVE IT RESTORED IN FIVE HOURS!
FIVE HOURS WITHOUT A PHONE? EEEK!
DADDY, SAY SOMETHING TO THEM!
VERY WELL! EACH OF YOU TAKE ONE OF MY CARDS...
...AND IF YOU EVER NEED A FAVOR, CALL ME! I OWE YOU ONE!
?
!



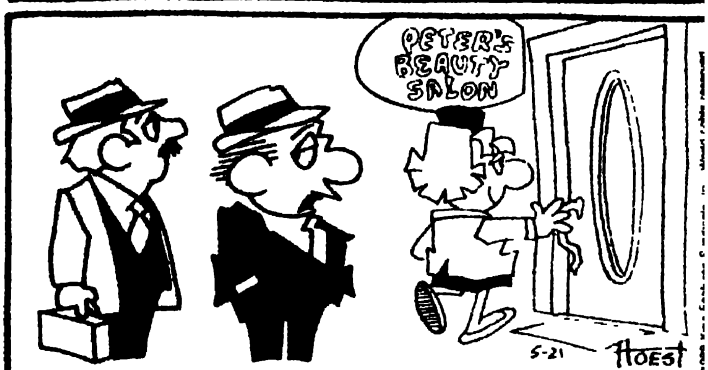
"SOMEONE HAS PUT A POODLE ON YOUR HEAD!"



"THE DO-IT-YOURSELF PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THE ROOF-REPAIR KIT."

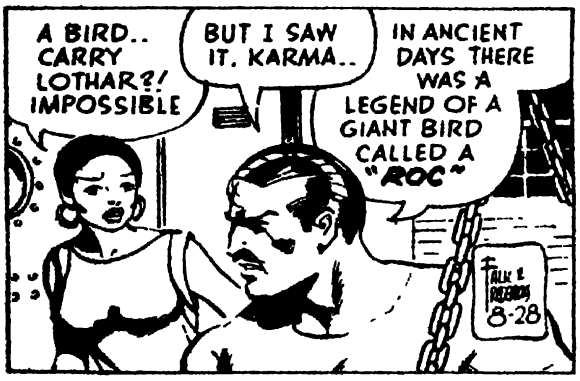


'IT'S NOT JUST A LEFTOVER. IT'S A LEGACY HANDED DOWN BY MY MOTHER."



"IT COSTS HER TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS... IF THERE AREN'T ANY COMPLICATIONS."

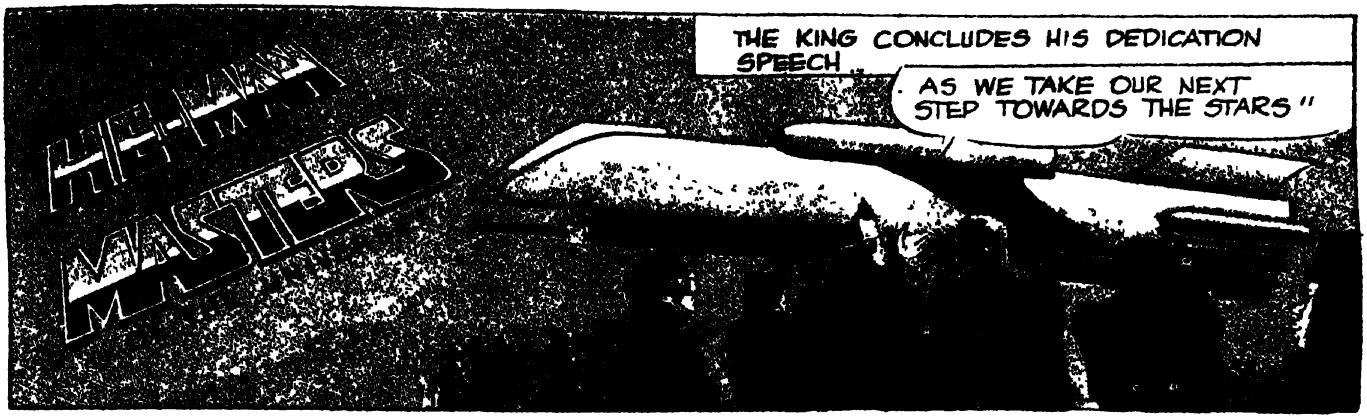









GRUSS LES, PIERRE!
DO YOU WANT TO BE MORE?
IF YOU JUST THOUGHT FOR A SECOND BEFORE YOU SPOKE, YOU'D SAVE YOURSELF A LOT OF SORE NOSES.
D'YOU THINK WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED, PIERRE?
Y'KNOW, BY THE TUAREGS?
IF THEY ARE, AND I CATCH THEM, I'LL TEAR THEIR HEADS OFF
THEN I'LL TIE WHAT'S LEFT IN KNOTS AND BOUNCE THEM BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM
YEAH! ME TOO!
HOP!
Y'KNOW THE LAST TIME DENNIS AND I WERE ON PATROL WE HAD A GAME OF HOPSCOTCH
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WANT A GAME?
I SUPPOSE THAT WAS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO ASKING GENGHIS KHAN TO PRESS FLOWERS WITH YOU
WELL, NEARLY HOME, EH, PIERRE?
I MUST SAY IT WAS GREAT LOTS OF LAUGHS. . SOME MAN-TO-MAN BANTER ...CHEWING THE FAT... AND AS FOR WEDNESDAY— TERRIFIC
YOU REMEMBER! THAT DAY YOU SPOKE AS WELL.
THERE'S NO SIGN OF YOUR MATE RETURNING FROM PATROL, PIERRE. I FEAR HE'S LOST.
DENNIS? LOST? NOT HIM! HE KNOWS THAT DESERT LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND!
WHAT IS IT AGAIN? LEFT FOR EAST AND RIGHT FOR WEST OR....

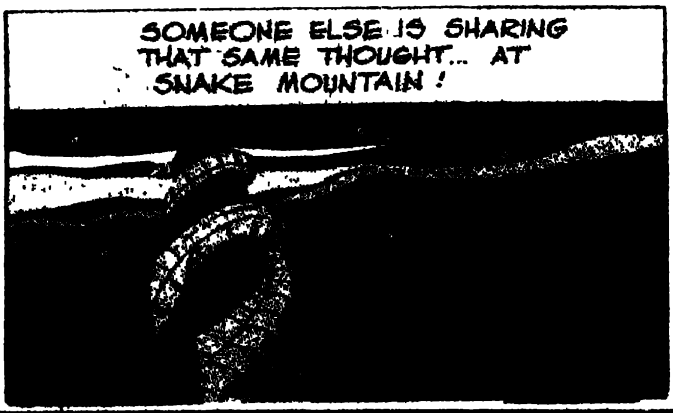

HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE
THE KING CONCLUDES HIS DEDICATION SPEECH
". AS WE TAKE OUR NEXT STEP TOWARDS THE STARS"


I'LL FOLLOW THE KING'S TRUE WISHES -- AND SEE TO IT PERSONALLY THAT SKELETOR IS DESTROYED


POOR DUKE TIBERON HE CAN NEVER KNOW WHY SNAKE MOUNTAIN MUST NOT FALL!


ANOTHER JOB DONE AND I'VE GOT GREAT NEWS FOR MIRANDA
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH! MAGIC AND SCIENCE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME WHEN I'M DONE WITH 'EM!


NO PROBLEMS AND NO HE-MAN EITHER! I WONDER WHERE HE IS?

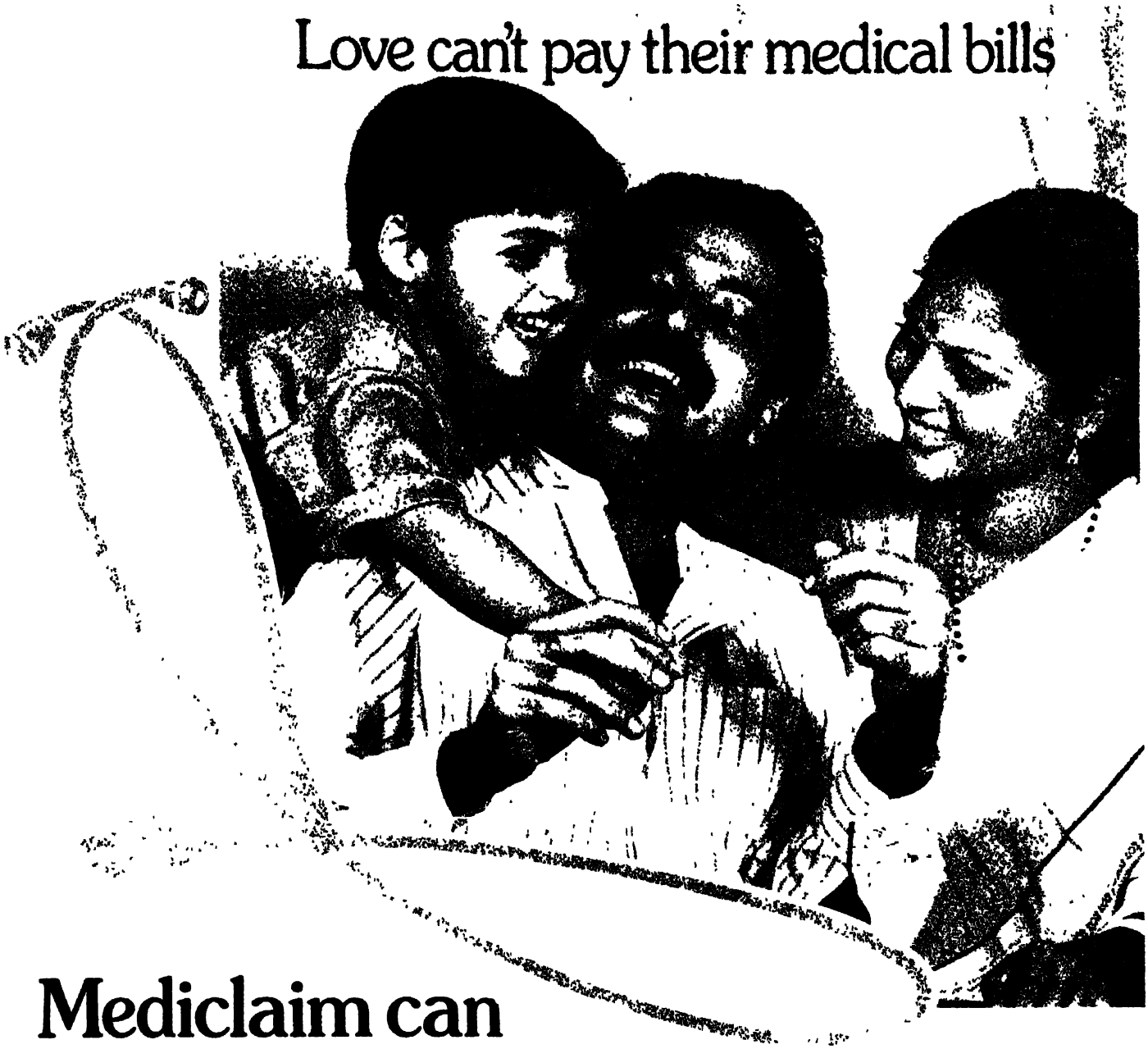

SOMEONE ELSE IS SHARING THAT SAME THOUGHT... AT SNAKE MOUNTAIN!


WHERE EVER YOU'RE HIDING HE-MAN, THE HAND OF DOOM IS CLOSING UPON YOU!
G FORTON
C WEBER



So what if the USA chose to stick to its decision of refusing PLO chairman **Yasser Arafat** entry to the UN headquarters in New York? The UN General Assembly voted 154-2 to shift the venue to Geneva instead to belt it out on the Palestine issue. So that's the way the cookie crumbles, as the Yanks would say. Photograph by MOURAD ABDEL RAOUF (AP)

Love can't pay their medical bills



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CONTOUR ADS NIA

The desolate ramparts of Jhansi remember the valiance of its young queen and a tragic grandeur in a moment of history.



बुन्देलों हरबोलों के मुंह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी, वह तो झांसीवाली रानी थी।

'I shall not surrender my Jhansi'. And she did not. In her ceaseless battle with the British, the young queen Lakshmibai fought to the finish, but refused to submit. In her tragic end was her glory.

Uttar Pradesh evokes the memories of some of the most glorious moments in India's first war of independence.

Bithoor, a mute testimony to the valour of Peshwa Nana Saheb and Tatya Tope, remembering their triumphs and tragedies. Lucknow, where the Residency was sieged for forty-five days by the soldiers of the war of independence. Kanpur, a scene of battle and blood, fire and fury, where the British might fell to dust.

Many a time Uttar Pradesh has emerged from the mist of history and shone with a scintillating brilliance. Its cities and monuments are a witness. Agra, the city of Mughal splendour. Fatehpur Sikri, Emperor Akbar's deserted capital. Mahoba, the fabled land of the legendary warriors, Alha and Udal

Accessibility : Lucknow, Agra, Varanasi and Kanpur have direct air connections with the major cities of India. All the places in Uttar Pradesh are linked with a network of rail and road. Inter-state buses and luxury coaches ply between important cities of Uttar Pradesh and other states

Accommodation : All the destinations offer wide-ranging accommodation facilities—from luxury hotels to youth hostels, dharamshalas and pilgrim sheds. In addition, UP Tourism provides 129 well-appointed stay-points at various tourist centres.



An enduring memory of a glorious hour in history. the ramparts of the Jhansi Fort.

Uttar Pradesh.
The spirit lives on.

U.P. Tourism

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Lucknow 226 001.

POST MORTEM

Un-Indian and Un-British

With reference to your article 'Club Culture' (November 13), there is a story about Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar who once went to a dinner and in his usual dhoti-kurta and was refused admission by the doorman. After a while, he returned, dressed in full Western attire and was welcomed by the same doorman.

When the dinner began, Vidyasagar offered a piece of food to his headdress and begged it to eat. The other guests who were British were perplexed by this action, but later recognised the import of Vidyasagar's action and had the grace to apologise for the doorman's behaviour.

This story shows that these "British" clubs are not only un-Indian, but un-British as well.

Gourab Banerjee,
Calcutta

■ It was great going through 'Club-Culture' till I caught up with that all important query posed by Vir Sanghvi: "Just one question. If the Willingdon had turned out a poor man who couldn't afford shoes rather than a celebrity painter millionaire who likes going barefoot, would there have been the same kind of uproar?" I stopped to think.

If the answer to that question is 'Yes', then all the media ventilation to clubs and barefeet makes sense. If the answer is 'No', then we can be sure that in India, all men are equal except painter millionaires and those as elevated in their professions and financial status.

Jaydeep Mandal,
Patna

The Person, Too

It would be nice if you could print the picture of the person concerned when writing about and sketching a house in Heritage.

S.N. Maitra,
Burdwan

A Slip

The cover story on Richard Hadlee (December 4) was interesting, but contained two errors. It is mentioned that in the Madras Test of 1976-77, Hadlee was hit by wicketkeeper Ken Wadsworth work deserves like a baseline tennis player. Poor Wadsworth was chosen for the tour but a few weeks before it started he tragically died.

■ The cover photograph of Richard Hadlee was delightful. This is why the Colour Magazine is different from the rest.

Khagshub Ghosh,
Calcutta

Unkind Language

Many readers have shown concern about the treatment given to animals. Curiously, often our language is not kind to them! To go to the dogs, black sheep, dog-headed, pig-headed, these expressions are some examples used to



Richard Hadlee

convey a negative feeling. I request our scholars to improve upon the language keeping this in view.

S.C. Vaid,
Calcutta

The photograph of Richard Hadlee posing with a champagne bottle and the coveted ball in the December 4 issue was by Utpal Sorkar and not as stated. The error is regretted.—Editor.

You're right.—Editor.

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25 DECEMBER 1988



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Benazir Bhutto's was the story of triumph in 1988. SANKARSHAN THAKUR profiles the daughter of the East

When brother Shahnawaz died in 1985, poisoned in his Cannes apartment, Benazir Bhutto was on the brink. She was ready to give it all up. "After Shah was killed," she recalled later, "it somehow all seemed irrelevant. I asked myself: Why am I going round in circles? Why am I leading a life that is physically exhausting, financially exhausting, emotionally barren?" She could have gone on to live the comfortable life of a celebrity socialite in exile Decadent London feasts on eminent emigres — ousted royalty from Romania and Yugoslavia, even Ethiopia and Kampuchea, the Somozas and sundry fleeing dictators from Central America, the Solzhenitsyns and the Joseph Brodskys of the East Bloc

In several respects, Benazir Bhutto fit that slot ideally Here was a charismatic feudal princess from the Orient who had learnt her table manners from an English governess and picked up degrees from Radcliffe and Oxford, where she shone socially and became president of the union. She got her clothes from Saks on New York's Fifth Avenue, loved Swiss chocolate and Benedick's bittermint. She had a famous father and a famous name and a smiling tyrant back in Pakistan who had hounded the family out. Rich and glamorous by birth, Western by education and ennobled by persecution at the hands of Gen. Zia's military regime, Benazir Bhutto was just the kind of personality London society would have lapped up.

She chose, instead, to battle against the odds at home. And with a lot of grit and a stroke of fortune from the skies, she won. Few had doubts that Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would emerge victorious in a free poll, but fewer believed that Gen. Zia-ul Haq seriously intended to hold elections. Everyone who knew the wily general seems to believe that had he not been killed in the August 17 plane crash, he would have found some pretext to scrap the polls and ordered a referendum on his continuance. Benazir's popularity would perhaps have increased and Gen. Zia would have become a more hated man, but he would have stayed on in power and her date with destiny would not have materialised as soon as it has.

Exactly four months after the fateful crash of Gen. Zia's C-130 Air Force carrier near Bahawalpur, Benazir Bhutto's PPP had emerged victorious: with 93 seats, the single largest party in Pakistan's first democratically-elected National Assembly in 11 years. A fortnight and several attempts at sabotage later, she was Prime Minister, the second woman on the subcontinent, after Indira Gandhi, to succeed her father democratically and the first woman leader of the Islamic world. Yes, there was Chand Bibi of Ahmednagar and Razia Sultan of the Delhi Sultanat before her, but then, neither was popularly elected.

Benazir took Islamabad with ballots she had won during a decade-long, multi-pronged struggle. She was fighting failing health, the tragedy of losing her father, then her brother, the disadvantages of being a woman and, most of all, the machinations of the Zia *junta*, which always kept its screws turned on the Bhutto family.

Now, in her moment of triumph, she says the single sustaining force in her life has been the memory of her father, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. "My father always used to say realities change. Hitler thought he would rule the world for 1,000 years, the German armies were once knocking at the gates of Stalingrad, even when Dhaka was about to fall (to Indian forces in the Bangaldesh war) he kept saying realities change. He was always hopeful and I have learnt from that. Realities do change." Who would have



'The charismatic feudal princess from the Orient'

Cover photograph by Avaek Sarkar; facing page by Kamar Wahid Naqvi/*Chauthi Duniya*

thought even six months ago that Gen. Zia-ul Haq would be nowhere and Pakistan would turn full circle to return to the Bhuttos so soon? Who would have thought that before 1988 lapsed, Benazir would be Prime Minister and her father, convicted of murder, vilified and hanged by the dictatorship, would make a comeback as Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto?

There was indeed a time not so long ago when nobody thought Benazir Bhutto could make a politician in Pakistan. She had returned from Radcliffe and Oxford, a frail, bob-haired, jean-wearing girl who loved Joan Baez and prized her freedom. She would not have been acceptable on the public platform in Islamic Pakistan. Her father was preparing her for a career in diplomacy.

made the chief of army staff by Bhutto superceding several others, intervened and the future diplomat became the instant politician.

She was to look back later, during her years in exile in London, and remark that she had always been a political person. "We Bhuttos were a very political family. My father was in Ayub Khan's Cabinet and as children we used to watch people like Hubert Humphrey and Georges Pompidou walk into the house from our bedroom windows on the first floor.... We were conditioned to a political life."

But familiarity with politics did not make things any easier. It was tough enough trying to survive as a Bhutto in Zia's Pakistan; Benazir had the additional disadvantage of being a woman. Becoming Prime Minister has meant a sustained uphill struggle, it has meant sacrifices at every step, compromises on crucial issues.

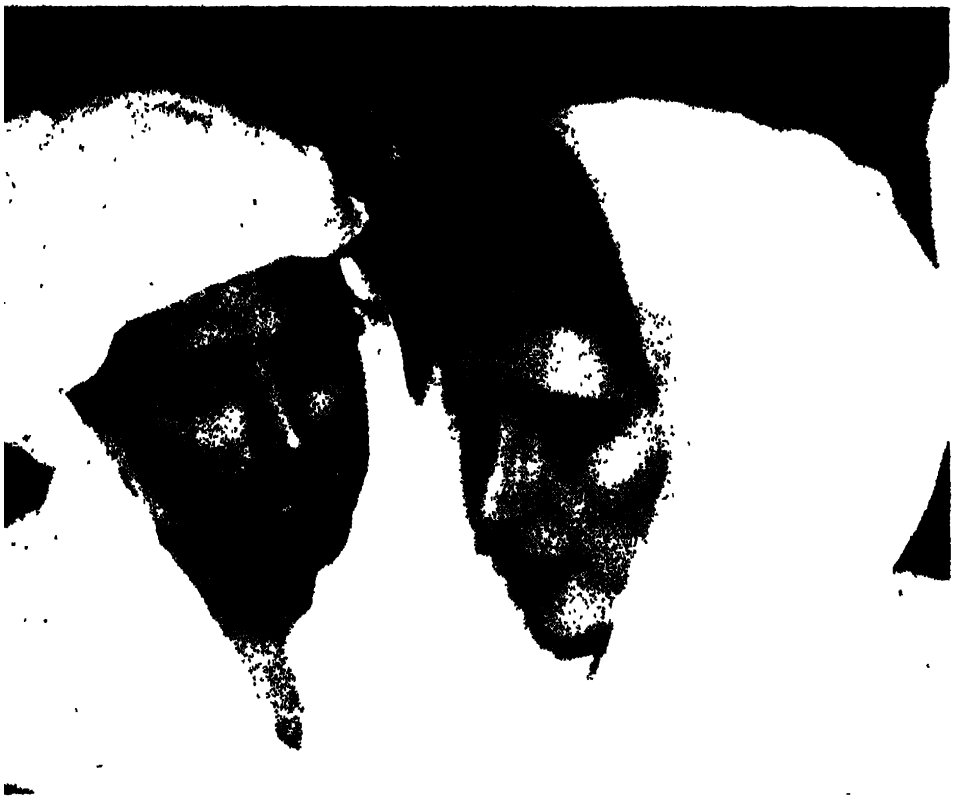
Six years out of the nine after her father's execution, Benazir Bhutto spent either under house arrest or in jail where she was allowed no access to the outside world—not even newspapers—and where temperatures often went up to 120°. She emerged from incarceration in late 1984, emotionally and physically scarred. Her father had been executed after a farcical trial; her mother, also under house arrest, was suffering from lung cancer; she herself had severe gynaecological problems and had gone deaf in one ear. Barely six months later, Shahnawaz Bhutto was poisoned and there were problems with his Afghan wife Rehana, whose role in Shahnawaz's death remains a mystery. But Benazir was able to sweep all the trauma aside and continued lobbying for support in Europe and America. Her days in exile were spent not crying over the past, but preparing for the future. Aunt Hariri's flat behind Harrods in London became the virtual headquarters of the PPP. It was from here that she planned her comeback.

Benazir's return to Pakistan on April 10, 1986 left nobody in doubt that she was the only popular leader Pakistan had, that she was the one people were pinning their hopes on. She arrived in Lahore to an unprecedented reception. According to those who were present, even policemen supposed to be escorting her, were seen joining the cheering thousands. Wherever Benazir Bhutto went thereafter—to Karachi or Hyderabad or Sukkur or Multan or Peshwar—she saw popular support exploding. People were taking to the streets, casting caution to the winds to shout slogans like "Bhutto *jeevay jeevay*, Zia *jaavey jaavey*" (Long live Bhutto, go back Zia). She had proved her point.

But Benazir Bhutto was not rushing into anything. One of the things she had become wise to during her years in prison and exile was the virtue of patience. She was against trying too much too soon. In fact, she had declared on the eve of departure from London that toppling the Zia government by force was not her aim: that would have meant walking straight into Zia's trap So she returned, but did not try to force the pace of events. She let the pressure build up.

At the same time, she equipped herself with all that she needed to become successful as a woman politician in Pakistan. Jeans and shirts were thrown out of the wardrobe and in came the traditional *salwar* suits and *dupattas*; the bobbed hair was gone and so was, at least publicly, the fascination with Western music. In several interviews she gave in London, she made it a point to stress her Islamic upbringing and her commitment to the faith. She told one of the interviewers that she never danced while at Radcliffe or at Oxford because Muslim women were not supposed to. Then came the arranged marriage last year to Sindhi landlord-businessman, Asif Ali Zardari. She had done what all good girls are expected to—she submitted to her mother's choice and married someone she hardly knew. And then, like all good wives, she gave her husband a son—Bilawal, born in September this year.

The astute tactician has been all through as visible in Benazir Bhutto as the tena-



Marrying Asif Ali Zardari: her mother's choice



Belonging to 'a very political family'

cious fighter. She used even her pregnancy with guile. The impression she gave was that she was expecting her baby to arrive sometime in November-December 1988. Gen. Zia bit the bait and announced elections on November 16. Bilawal came two months before that.

Pakistan's youngest and first woman Prime Minister, by her own admission, owes a lot to her father. She gets her name and charisma from him as well as her slogans and constituency. She draws her strength and inspiration from him Also, some would say, her political legitimacy. What is equally evident from her record in the past few years is that she has learnt from her father's mistakes, though Benazir Bhutto would not admit he made any Though she has often matched her father's arrogance and aloofness, she has by general consensus, tempered herself better and is known to be a more patient leader. She has known when to stand firm and when to bend and how much. She had, for example, no qualms about breaking up the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) of which the PPP was the main constituent. Most MRD leaders, contemporaries of her father, had problems reconciling to Benazir's new status and through their avuncular influence would prevail over the girl they knew as Pinky. They wanted all the purchase from the Bhutto name without giving Benazir the prominence and power she deserved. They wanted the lion's share of the tickets, but Benazir did not need them, so she went ahead alone. There were other occasions where, knowing she did not have the room to manoeuvre, Benazir compromised. With the Army, for instance. Soon after she came back to Pakistan she began building her bridges with the armed forces which have played such a determining role in the country's politics Revenge, she clarified time and again, would not be her policy. She was extending her hand to the Army which she had often blamed for murdering her father. But, then, she was only being a realist. To even hope to come to power in today's Pakistan, much less continue in office without the cooperation of the Army, is foolhardy. Benazir had to make a deal with the Army before she ascended to power: the generals would get whatever they wanted, at least financially

The election of Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, a Zia protege and a Muslim Leaguer to the core, as President of Pakistan and the retention of Sahebzada Yakub Khan (he is a member of the Opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance), as the foreign minister are also part of a compromise with what is known in Pakistan as the "establishment" and the powers that stand behind it. All this is part of the cost that has to be paid for another experiment at democracy.

Benazir Bhutto is only exhibiting her sensitivity to the realities of Pakistan when she talks of the "shifting centre of gravity" in politics. She cannot afford to dictate terms to the Army today as her father could after the humiliation of the generals in the Bangladesh war. The realities have changed.

The compulsions Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has to work under—mainly the heavy drain that the Army is on the exchequer—will tie her hands down on the home or economic front, which is where she has to prove her real worth as well. For the poor benighted millions of Pakistan, the arrival of Benazir Bhutto means the return of Zulfiqar Ali, the popular translation of which is the promise of freedom and *roti, kapda aur makaan* (food, clothing and housing). Will she be able to strike the balance that not even her father could? Will she be able to deliver the goods while keeping the Army supplied with goodies? "Pakistan *ki taqdeer*, Benazir" (Pakistan's destiny, Benazir) was the victory chant of the PPP, but what that slogan really says is that Benazir has to now build Pakistan's *taqdeer*. The test has just begun. ■



'A lot of grit and a stroke of fortune from the skies'

The Hand of the Order and the Arm of the Law

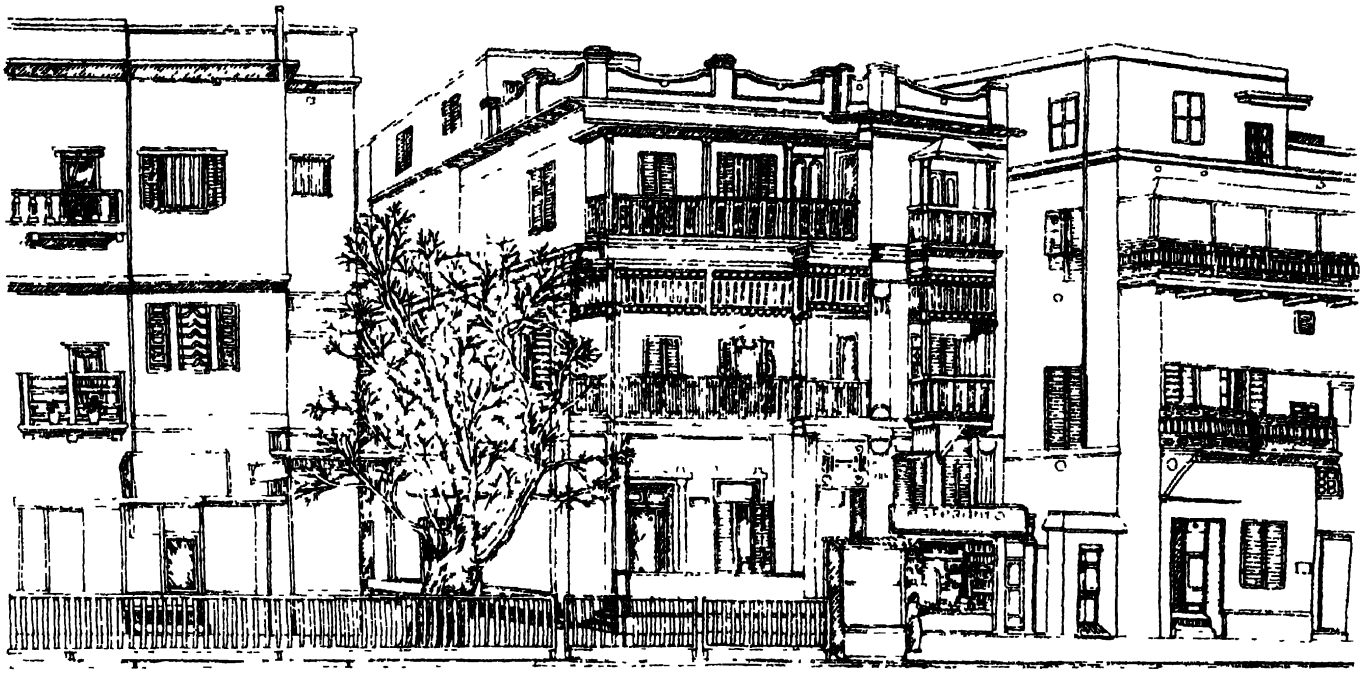


Pope John Paul II at Archbishop House, Calcutta on February 5, 1986

Photograph by ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY



JIBANANANDA DAS (1899-1954)



Born in a devout Brahmo family in Barisal (now in Bangladesh), Jibanananda Das was one of the poets who, during the late 1920s, tried to free themselves from Tagore's overwhelming influence. In fact, he spent most of his life in a Tagore-dominated period of Bengali literature.

Jibanananda grew in a scholarly and creative atmosphere, his father, Satyananda Das, being a learned school teacher while his mother, Kusum Kumari, was a poet. He did his MA in English from Calcutta University and taught English literature in various colleges in Calcutta, Bagerhat, Barisal, Kharagpur and Howrah. In 1947, just before Partition, he left Barisal for good and came to stay with his brother, Ashokananda, in south Calcutta In the meantime, he married Labanyaprabha Gupta

Jibanananda had to pass through several upheavals in his career. His unstable career and mental suffering can best be experienced in his autobiographical novel, *Jalpaihati*, written in 1948 and later serialised in the monthly, *Shuladitya*. When he joined Howrah Girls' College, he earned much respect from his colleagues and students; by then his slim collection, *Banalata Sen*, had made him a renowned poet. Besides *Banalata Sen*, some of his better-known poetical works are *Jhara Palak*, *Dhusar Pandulipi*, *Mahaprithivi*, *Sat-ti Tarar Timir*, *Sreshtha Kavita*, *Rupasi Bangla* and *Bela Abela Kalbela*.

Jibanananda was also a gifted writer of fiction. His four novels, *Suchetana*, *Malyaban*, *Suturtha* and *Jalpaihati*—all posthumously published —bear testimony to his power to depict "a crushing world in which varieties of men and women unfold themselves in sharp outlines to reflect the future of our society " He met his end in a tram accident in 1954.

The poet spent a portion of his life in the the house sketched above, situated at 183, Lansdowne (now Sarat Bose) Road in south Calcutta

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Rani Sircar traces the origins of the unseen messengers of heaven

"Now in this same district there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch through the night over their flock, when suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord, and the splendour of the Lord shone around them. They were terror-stricken, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid; I have good news for you: there is great joy coming to the whole people. Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you—the Messiah, the Lord. And this is your sign. You will find a baby wrapped in his swaddling clothes, in a manger.' All at once there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host, singing the praises of God: "Glory to God in highest heaven, and onearth his peace for men on whom his favour rests."

Christmas celebrates the birth of the Light of the World, Jesus, this central Light being encompassed by the splendour of angels. The birth itself was announced to the shepherds by an angel and the joyousness of the occasion emphasised by 'a great company of the heavenly host ' An angel had earlier foretold to Zacharia the birth of his son John, who was to prepare the way for Jesus; the angel Gabriel had announced to Mary that she had been chosen to bear a son who would be the Messiah; and Joseph, Mary's bethrothed husband, was visited by an angel three times to tell him that Mary's pregnancy was part of God's plan, to tell him to flee to Egypt with Mary and the baby Jesus, since King Herod intended to slay the infant, and lastly to tell him it was safe to return "to the land of Israel for the men who threatened the child's life are dead."

With so many angels in the Christmas story, it is no wonder that they are a feature of the Christmas setting even today: in the stable scene (the crib) which is so often the focus of church and domestic Christmas decorations, on Christmas trees and on Christmas cards where they appear sometimes singly and sometimes "in a great company ."Angels, archangels, ministering angels, guardian angels, fallen angels.

So who or what are angels? Are they male or female? What do they look like? What are they supposed to do?

Angel is derived from the Greek word *angelos* which is the equivalent of the Hebrew word *mal'akh*. Both *angelos* and *mal'akh* and therefore angel, mean messenger. Interestingly, while a belief in demons or relevant spirits is common to all religions, angels only figure in monotheistic religions—Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Islam—which regard the cosmos as tripartite: celestial, terrestrial and subterrestrial. In monistic religions such as Hinduism in which the cosmos is viewed as totally sacred and part of a single divine principle, and in dualistic religions such as Gnosticism which regard matter as evil and the realm of the spirit as good, there are no angels as such



Demons may seem totally irrelevant in a discussion about angels, till we remember that some angels are believed to be fallen from a position of nearness to God For, as a result of a rift in the celestial sphere of the cosmos before the creation of the world, those angels who are separated from the creator, attempt to pervert and distort His message in order to confuse man's understanding of time and space, cause and effect, and his destiny as a supraterrestrial being And demon or *Daemon* from originally meaning a spiritual being that influenced a person's character, came to mean one of these lesser or fallen spirits of the supernatural realm who exert pressure on men to perform actions not conducive to their well being. Such a fallen or malevolent angel is Lucifer who became the Devil of Judaism, Satan of the early church and Iblis of Islam It must be noted that spiritual beings viewed as benevolent or malevolent may in course of time experience a reversal of position For instance, Satan, the prosecutor of men in the Old Testament of Job, became the chief antagonist of Christ in Christianity and of man in Islam.

The most important function of angels in Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Islam, is to praise God and do His will In Zoroastrianism, angels are called the *amesha spentas* or bounteous immortals, functional aspects of Ahura Mazda, the Wise Lord. They are arranged in a hierarchy of seven. Spenta Mainyu (the Holy Spirit), Vohu Manah (good Mind), Asha (truth), Armaiti (right mindedness), Khasathra Vairya (kindgom), Haurvatat (wholeness) and Ameretat (immortality).

Islam developed a hierarchy of angels after the concepts of Judaism and Christianity. The *hamalat al'arsh*, the four throne bearers of Allah symbolised after the imagery in the book of Revelations in the New Testament, by a man, a bull, an eagle and a lion in Islamic legend; The *karubiyun* or cherubim who sing the praises of Allah; the four archangels—Jibril or Gabriel the revealer, Mikal or Michael the provider, Izra'il the angel of death, and Israfil the angel of the Last Judgement—and lesser angels such as the guardian angels or *hafazah*.

In both Judaism and Christianity, angel denotes a spiritual being one of the unseen citizens of heaven who are continually awaiting and doing the bidding of the Most High. They are pure spirit; neither male nor female (though referred to for convenience as "he") they are messengers and a means of revelation of God to man. In the most ancient books of the Bible the "Angel of God" is God Himself in self-manifestation. Sometimes the angel has no form and is only a voice, as when the Angel of God spoke to Jacob in a dream Occasionally, the angel is in the form of a man like the one that foretold Abraham about the birth of his son, or when Lot was warned to leave Sodom, or when the angel wrestled with Jacob. In the later books of the Bible, angels were depicted as messengers and executors of the Lord's commands For example an angel went before the children of Israel to guard and guide them into the Promised Land, and an angel was sent to punish King David for having taken a census of his people.

In the Old Testament angels were also called sons of God, sons of the Mighty, saints, holy ones and watchers That they are warriors is implicit in such phrases as "Lord of hosts" and "the heavenly host " The Old Testament mentions Seraphim and Cherubim as well Seraphim, 6-winged angels, belong to the highest of the nine orders of angels and continually sing the praises of God.Cherubim are also winged beings with human faces and are associated with the throne and chariot of God In the Old Testament book of Genesis Cherubim are the guardians of the approach to the tree of life In the book of Ezekiel they have a human body with a head presenting the faces of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle, four hands and four wings; the whole body of the Cherubim and the wheels of the chariot being furnished with innumerable eyes.

The archangels, Michael, guardian of Israel, Gabriel, ruler of Paradise and Raphael, guardian of human spirits also appear in the Old Testament. More angelic names appear in the non-canonical books of the Bible: Uriel, leader of the heavenly hosts and guardian of *sheol* the underworld, Raguel, avenger of God against the world of lights, Sariel,avenger of the spirits "who sin in the spirit' and Remiel, also called Jeremiel, guardian of the souls in *sheol* And the Dead Sea Scrolls mention sects which included the angels of light, darkness, destruction and holiness with the higher angels.

The archangels Gabriel and Michael appear again in the New Testament. Jesus, ministered to by angels after his temptation mentions guardian angels and an angel strengthened him in the Garden of Gethsamanae before his crucifixion. An angel spoke to the women at the sepulchre on the first Easter morning while another spoke to the disciples at the Ascension. Later, angels appeard to Peter, John, Philip, Cornelius and Paul And we learn from Paul of Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Powers and Virtues or Mights. The Angels of the Seven Churches in the book of Revelations are, however, either the chief overseers or the personifications of those churches.

The De Hierarchia Celesti, a fifth century treatise, systematises the evidence offered by Judaism and Christianity and concludes that there are three hierarchies of angels each consisting of three orders· seraphim, cherubim, thrones; dominions, mights, powers; and principalities, archangels, angels. Angels' wings are symbolic of their heavenly origin, their invisible and spiritual nature and the speed with which they hasten to do God's will. Although the importance of angels lies chiefly in what they do rather than in what they are, popular piety influenced by pictorial and symbolic representations of angels has imbued them with essential identities and credits them with semidivine or even divine status.

In the 16th century when Copernicus with his discoveries radically altered the view of universe, so that succeeding generations no longer believed the earth to be the centre of the cosmos, but, accepted instead that it was only a small planet in a small solar system which was in turn a very small part of a galaxy in an apparently infinite universe, angels and demons and a tripartite cosmos seemed anachronistic.

However, the Freudian "myth" of the tripartite human personality—the super-ego or the restrictive regulations that enable man to live as a social being, the ego or the conscious aspects of man, and the id or libido, a "seething, boiling, cauldron of desire that seeks to erupt from beneath the threshold of consciousness"—have given a new dimension to the study of angels and demons and these have taken on fresh and deeper meanings.

However, despite psychology and psyhoanalytical studies and the fact that no one can today reasonably believe that the universe is tripartite, angels as motifs in art and as characters in stories have certainly been an enriching element of human experience. And who on Christmas morning will not feel uplifted? For "Hark! the herold angels sing/Glory to the newborn King."■

BARTER BANK

• **Study material:** I offer the complete set of books on costing for anything of corresponding value or a camera with flash. Contact Asis Ghosh, 60, Banerjee Lane, Ranaghat 741201, West Bengal

• **Cassettes:** I offer Michael Jackson's *Bad* and Bruce Springsteen's *Born in the USA* for Michael Jackson's *Thriller* and *Man Machine* and any cassette of Cliff Richard Write to Riju, 5/1M, Panditia Road, Calcutta 29.

• **Tape recorder:** I offer an HMV tape recorder for a Walkman with headphones or a guitar in good condition. Contact Hirak Banerjee, 19/1A, Keyatala Road, Calcutta 29.

• **Walkman** and **cassettes** I offer a Sanyo Walkman (model MGP 30) in good condition and cassettes of disco music for a calculator or personal computer or anything of corresponding value Write to K. Ahamed Labbai, c/o Ahamed Hassam and Co, 96, Rabindra Sarani, Calcutta 73.

• **Study material:** I offer the IIT and medical entrance chemistry guide by Sarin and Sarin, a text book on physics by Alok Chakraborty, a book on objective chemistry by Singh, Rathore and Yadav, mathematics for IIT entrance and other competitive examinations by Jaggi and Mathew and objective numerical questions on physics by A.M. Agarwal for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sasanka Ghorui, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, (B.C K.V.) Raman Hall, B/2-80, PO Mahanpur, Nadia.

• **Video game:** I offer a new double screen video game, *Pinball*, for any other video game or a camera or 260/280 flash gun. Write to PK. Maitra, 13/71, Parnasree, Behala, Calcutta 60.

• **Tape recorder** and **cassettes:** I offer a Philips AMI 55 tape recorder in good condition and 60 cassettes of Hindi and Bengali film songs for a portable television Contact Debasish Kumar Dey, At.and PO Baharagore, dist Singhbhum, Pin 832101.

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QUIZ GENIE O'BRIEN

S Ghosh reports on the city's last open quiz.

The curtain came down on Aquo's open quizzing for 1988 with the holding of Calcutta's oldest open quiz—the Eddie Hyde Memorial Shield Fully aware of their limitations in finances and resources, the organisers, Christ the King Parish Club, limited the number of entries to 22 with the result that we had two qualifying rounds. It's been ages since that has happened and a pleasant change from what one veteran quizzard calls 'a cast of thousands' quiz Everyone who couldn't get in tried to sit with one of the fortunate few teams to be invited with the result that many teams had a new look.

"DI 'A' and Octette ran away with the preliminary rounds but it was really close competition for the minor placings and a seat in the finals. The final turned out to be initially a fight between Octette and DI 'A,' but Vulnerables caught up and in the special visual round on London theatre personalities raked in 5 points and the trophy. Octette beat DI 'A' for second place by answering the last question of the day Vulnerables did very well with a three-man team—Sumantak Das, Saurav Sen and Natarajan

CBS

11th Question: **During the post-Partition riots in Karachi, a certain class of Hindus was given special protection and was distinguished by green and white armbands similar to those of the Muslim National Guard. Who were they? (Ranjan Das, AH-165, Sector II, Salt Lake City, Calcutta 700 091)**

Ans: **The sweepers who were essential for the city's sanitation services.**

"The quiz masters, Caro Basil and Prashun Dutt were a study in contrast where presentation and content were concerned, a difference that struck a good balance."

A.J Thomas, Rourkela, makes some interesting comments

"Please refer to Question 3 in the Quiz of 4 9 88 (How did the musical group ABBA get its name?) I would like to add some more interesting facts to it

"Actually there are two theories regarding how the name originated One is that it is taken from the initials of the four members of the group (as Amit and Partho of Chaibasa have stated) But the second and a more probable theory, according to Ken Bruce, a well known disc jockey with the BBC World Service, is that the name actually comes from a fish-canning factory in Sweden of the same name, where they worked before they turned to music. " A fishy story?

S.A Ahmed, Calcutta asks, "What is charades?"

This party game originated in France It is usually an acting game, the actors choosing a word of two or more syllables and then acting it, first each syllable separately and then the whole word. The audience must guess the word A charade can also be a riddle in the form of a short verse This was popular in the 18th century, an excellent example being the charade on "Courtship" made up by Mr Elton in Jane Austen's novel, *Emma*

My first displays the wealth and pomp of kings,
Lords of the earth! their luxury and ease
Another view of man, my second brings,
Behold him there, the monarch of the seas!
But, ah! united, what reverse we have!
Man's boasted power and freedom, all are flown;
Lord of the earth and sea, he bends a slave,
And woman, lovely woman, reigns alone.

The word chosen must, obviously, be one in which each syllable has a separate meaning. In an acted or dumb charade the word transport, for instance, might be divided into "trance" (represented by a spiritualist's seance), and "port" (an after-dinner scene) or "transport" (a scene of soldiers aboard a ship). When the charade is acted, the word represented must be spoken once during the scene, though this can be done as unobtrusively as possible The scenes are always impromptu, only the outlines being pre-arranged, the action spontaneous, and the costumes and properties improvised The fun depends upon witty improvisations by the actors, who may represent any type of character, including animals A good description of how the game was played in his day is given in *Vanity Fair* by Thackeray

Happy Christmas!

QUESTIONS

1. D.M.K. is an abbreviation for *Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* What does this mean? (Manoj Kr. Singh, BIT, Sindri)

2. Name three countries following the principality form of government. (Sanjeev Kr Sinha, Darbhanga 1)

3. Whose pen name was "Alpha of the Plough"? (Chiranjiv Datta, Calcutta 29)

4. To whom did Hrishikesh Mukherjee dedicate his film *Ananda?* (Mohan Kumar Agarwal, Bargarh 28)

5. What is common to Ruma Guhathakurta, Madhubala, Yogita Bali and Leena Chandravarkar? (Debasish Basu, Durgapur 4)

6. What is "Asian white"? (Ashok Kr Srivastava, BIT, Sindri)

7. What is common to Agni, Trishul, Akash, Prithvi and Nag? (Arunava Dutt, Howrah 1)

8. You'll be in trouble in France unless you know what this means: *attendez le feu vert.* (Anjanava Dutta, Calcutta 31)

9. Who's described as the world's first billion-dollar baby? (Sushil Kr Poddar, Calcutta 29)

10. In 1738, what present did King George II give Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister? (Amit Kr Roy, Chaibasa 1)

ANSWERS

1. Dravidian Progressive Federation.
2. Andorra, Liechtenstein and Monaco.
3. A.G. Gardiner.
4. Raj Kapoor.
5. They were all married at one time or the other to Kishore Kumar.
6. 95 per cent pure horn.
7. They are all indigenously developed missiles, made in India by DRDL.
8. Wait for the green light.
9. Three-year-old Athena, daughter of Christina Onassis, is sole heiress to her mother's fortune estimated at about $7 billion.
Christina, daughter of the late Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, died at the age of 37 last month. She was one of the world's wealthiest women.
10. 10, Downing Street. Walpole, although corrupt in many ways, never accepted gifts or money from George II and declined the house as a personal gift, but accepted it only as official residence for the holder of the premiership.

'Just a Good, Good Time'

Is how Calcuttans regard Christmas even though widespread emigration and rising prices have taken their toll, reports Christopher Singh

Photographs: Rashbehari Das

If there is any one festival that unites the world it is Christmas. Even the Soviets are not immune to the X'mas 'virus' - after all, their Father Frost is a thin disguise of Santa Claus.

Indians in general, and Calcuttans in particular, have a special corner for the "Bara Din," and seem to join in the celebrations in greater numbers every passing year. As Mr Percy Jones, materials manager, Berger Paints, observes, "Just go down Park Street on Christmas Eve, between 11 pm and 1 am. Hardly five per cent of the crowds there are Christians. People are then really enjoying themselves. They simply get into the spirit of the occasion."

Part of this spirit is the special togetherness between family members who gather at the parental home for a joyful reunion. Mr Jones says it is part of the "boarding school culture," when all the children would be sure of seeing one other at Christmas after a year away from home. "These values still exist and are as valid today as they were 30 years back," he says, "adding only the external trappings change."

To Fr Desbruslais, teacher at St Xavier's School, Calcutta, "Christmas simply means that God had deigned to take a human form to show His love for us and that we on our parts have to repay that love." Come Christmas and Fr Desbruslais repays that love by selling low price greeting cards to church-goers every Sunday in the weeks before X'mas. And there is the midnight mass choir singing that he must organise every year. This year, however, he has "given way to younger blood," and will only lend his voice to the choir. But the emigration of Anglo-Indians and the coming up of St Mary's Church at nearby Ripon Street has taken its toll on the attendance at the St Xavier midnight mass. It is a far cry from a couple of decades ago, when the mass used to be held under a big pandal in the hostel grounds with attendance going up to 2,000 and the choir was 40 strong.



Fr Desbruslais

Midnight mass is an institution for Mrs Ida Pinto, who does her nine to five stint at IFC. "I've never missed a single one at St Mary's and I still enjoy it," she gushes. However, one thing which she really misses are the street bands that used to play Christmas carols. With the entire neighbourhood joining in. "The dwindling strength of the Anglo Indian community is perhaps why one does not see these bands anymore," says Ida wistfully.

The pillar of her household Mrs Pinto has her hands full when December draws near. Buying cards, thinking of novel gift ideas for the family, and the all important spring cleaning of the house takes up most of her time, an activity which she finds "very exciting." However there's one regular wet blanket in such matters - prices. Even cakes have had to be graded down in quality what with the leaping costs. "There are no currants and no



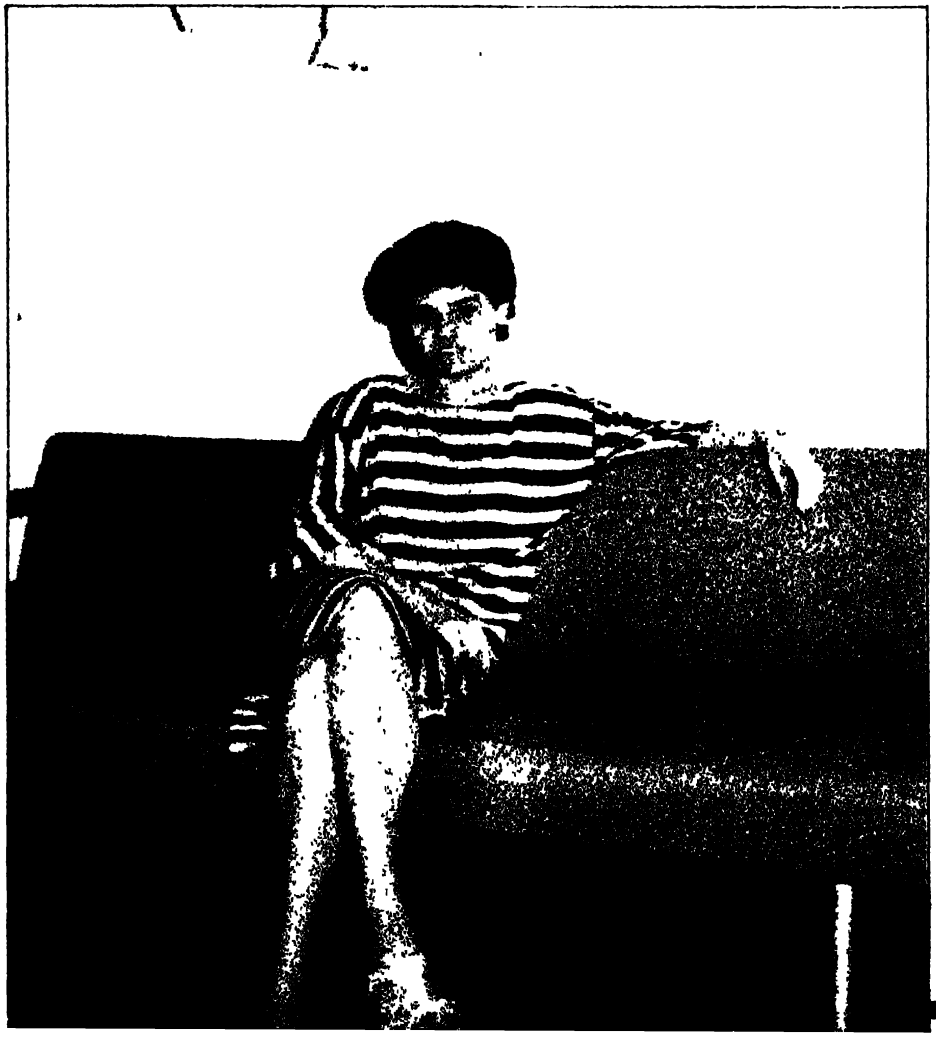
Pang Hung Min



Leslie Claudius



Percy Jones



almonds except for the affluent. People are even using cashewnuts instead of almonds!" says Ida who regards the Christmas cake as a sacrosanct part of the festivities.

Petite Anna D'Cruz, who resides in Park Circus and works for a travel agency, is bitter about the effects of inflation. "The pomp and ceremony are fast going out. It's become so much quieter Even the streets are not decorated the way they used to before," she states wryly. Not one to mince words, Anna says her community is "a poor one and I find the standard of living steadily going down People don't splash money during Christmas any more and those who do are certainly not Christians! People have forgotten the spiritual aspect—that it is *Christ's* birthday."

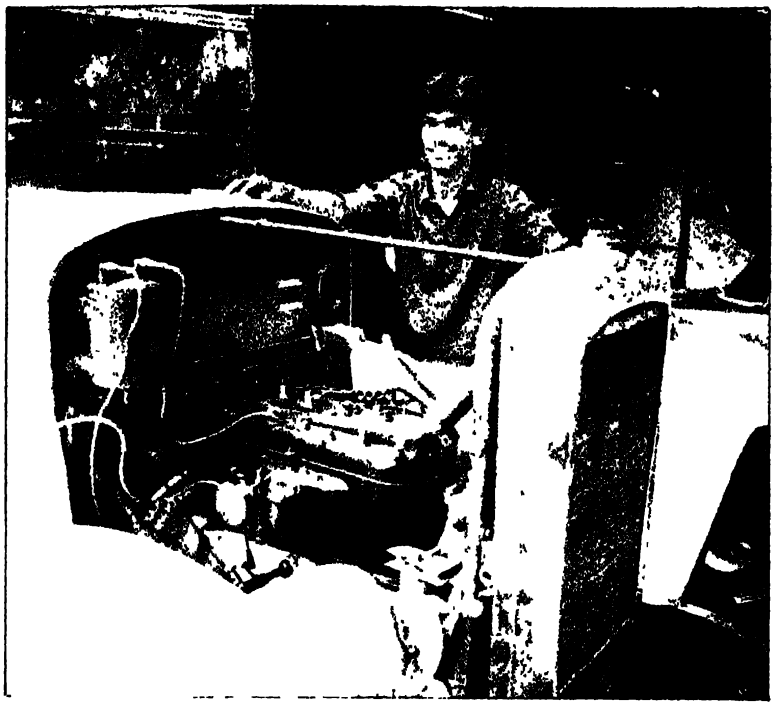
Keeping a stiff upper lip is the credo of the Christian community and both Anna and sister Romaine take time out for choir practice at Christ the King Church, and organising a variety entertainment programme, the proceeds of which go into buying gifts for the poor

At home, the D'Cruzes ring in the Christmas with the traditional Christmas crib, the tree and of course, the mouth-watering goodies, such as 'Kulkuls,' rose cookies, cake, wine, chicken (turkey in a good year) and last, but not the least, salted meat The family goes for midnight Mass, after which they all come home and exchange gifts The entire day then passes off in a bout of visits by friends who drop in, followed by the grand "family reunion lunch "

For yuppie Anthony Thomas, sales executive at Godrej and Boyce, Christmas still reminds him of 'cakes ' "That wonderful smell of baking at home and the entire house being filled with the smell of cakes!" Nowadays he treats Christmas like a "holiday—a time to stretch out and relax."

But the thought of expenses at Christmas sobers him and he feels that "it is more a festival for the kids to enjoy " The family affair that Christmas has always been for the Thomases has come to an end with the family splitting into their own little units He regrets the fact that his daughter might never know what Christmas means in a big family

What makes Calcutta special for Leslie Claudius, the veteran hockey dynamo and current president of the Calcutta Rangers Club, is that "everyone participates in every occasion. And on a big scale. Whatever be the local religion every *para* lights up during Christmas, there is the locality crib, the X'mas star and of course, carols on the loudspeakers." One misses this spirit in the West, particularly in England and Australia, where it is more a



Syed Afzaluddin Hussain



Ida Pinto

family affair with shops closing early and the streets all bare.

The Anglo-Indian community may be diminishing, but Uncle Les (as he is fondly known) is amazed at how his club's New Year's Eve dance brings in Anglo-Indians from all over. Incidentally, the dance is looked upon as part of the Christmas celebrations, the culmination to the week-long festivities, parties and a gastronomic splurge. But before that comes the club's Christmas tree celebrations on December 18 at the club tent on the Maidan grounds. For Christmas is also carnival time for children, with hurley-burley, pony rides and so on at the club. This is perhaps the only time of the year when members of the Anglo-Indian community gather together, meeting people and making friends.

Syed Afzaluddin Hussain, a plus two student and a whiz at repairing cars, finds Christmas very similar to Id. "The food, the new clothes, the revelry are all the same. Both time to exchange greetings, time to meet friends," he says. A Muslim by religion, he enjoys Christmas, the carol-singing, the dances and even attends the midnight mass. But most of all, he enjoys the special Christmas "grub" at his friends' houses. This is Hussain's way of saying we're not much different really, his way of sharing in the happines of his friends.



Anthony Thomas

Pang Hung Min, who manages a boat-building business and is Buddhist by religion finds that "the atmosphere becomes very relaxed during Christmas. There is no tension in the air as the year winds up. It is just a good good time for all" he says. But he himself laments, "Most people forget it is Christ's birthday. For the layman, it is just another rumbustious festival."

Pang remembers the time when the decorations and lighting were much more attractive than now. "Only in the last five years itself, the standards have come tumbling down. Nowadays decorations and lighting are at a minimum. The kids are the ones who really feel the brunt of it." But he hastily adds, "All this shouldn't make a difference. After all, it is the Christmas spirit that is most important." Amen to that and Merry Christmas to all.

THE BOY-CHILD

A special Christmas story by Rachael MacBean

Little Bijoy trudged wearily through the paddy fields. His coat was ragged and covered with dirt and grime. The tatters clung to his shivering body as the rain fell steadily on him. His bare feet felt numb and cold. All he had to protect him from the rain was a small plastic bag which he had pulled over his head. The house Bijoy lived in with his parents had collapsed during the recent cyclone, killing both his parents. Bijoy was now an orphan.

Night was falling and the homeless little boy went his sad, lonely way. The night brought with it fears. Bijoy had never experienced before cold, hunger and most of all a terrible loneliness.

'Oh I wish I could find shelter, at least for one night. I wish someone kind would give me a glass of hot milk to drink.' sighed Bijoy. 'or else I shall surely die. I cannot go on any further.'

But coming to the edge of the paddy field, hope suddenly dawned in the shape of a little town nestling on the slopes of the hills beyond. Lights twinkled in the windows, and the sound of music could be heard. *"Hark the Herald Angels sing, Glory to the new born King."* Christmas Eve? Yes, tonight was Christmas Eve, the festival of peace and goodwill, the festival of the Holy Child. Joy sprang up in little Bijoy's heart. Here, at last, he was sure he would find someone to care for him. He began to run towards the town. He was sure that his troubles had come to an end.

Very soon he stood at the entrance of a fine, tall mansion. There were bright lights shining through the windows, and a beautiful silver star hung over the massive teak front door. Surely, he thought, such people who lived in such a fine mansion would have lots of money to spare and would be only too pleased to help a poor, hungry orphan like me.

Bijoy stepped fearlessly upto the front door. He had to stand on his toes to reach the doorbell. He pressed the doorbell and somewhere inside the house he could hear its musical chimes ring. He stood at the door for what seemed a long, long time. At least the great door opened with a click, and a tall man dressed in the finest clothes, looked down at him. Beyond the door, Bijoy could see a large hall decorated with paper streamers and balloons, where a group of ladies and gentlemen, all dressed in the finest clothes, stood around a table with glasses in their hands as they began to raise a toast together. The table was stacked with goodies to eat, and the aroma of food made Bijoy's mouth water. Bijoy had been staring so hard at the table stacked with goodies, that he got a rude shock when the man caught him by the shoulder and gave him a hard shake.

"Did you ring the doorbell?" the man asked, black brows meeting in a frown.

"Y-yes," stammered Bijoy. "I am very hungry, and I wanted to ask you..."

"Tonight is Christmas Eve," snapped the Man, giving Bijoy another shake and push, him away so that he almost fell down the steps. "and the house is full of guests. I haven't time to bother with waifs. Go away." So saying, the man slammed the door shut.

'Oh!' cried Bijoy. 'I never thought anyone would turn me away on Christmas Eve. But perhaps they are busy. I shouldn't have disturbed them. I can always try another house.'

So he walked down the road but he did not stop at the next big mansion. Instead he headed towards a beautiful cottage. Here too, lights shone brightly from the windows. One cottage had a large bay window, and through the glass panes of the window, Bijoy could see a big Christmas tree glittering with a million starlights. The room was festooned with colourful streamers and balloons and there were so many children dancing around the tree. Sounds of music and laughter could be heard. He was sure these folks would be more friendly. Very hopeful, he stepped up to the main door.

There was no doorbell here, but a big, shiny brass knocker. In the centre of the door hung a green holly wreath, with 'Merry Xmas' written inside it. Bijoy knocked gently. But there was so much noise inside he had to knock again and again, each time louder than before.

At last the door swung open, and who should it be, but Santa Claus himself!

'Santa, please...'

But he got no further, because the voice that spoke was not one but six loud and merry, all at once, with rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes.

'Who are you? Go away, this is no time to come a-begging.' scolded Santa Claus. A fat boy with pink cheeks and a pale little girl, both dressed in red and blue woollen suits, ran upto Santa Claus.

"Have you come to our party?" asked the little girl. But the fat boy pushed her aside and tugging at Santa's arm cried "Santa, come on, we want our chocolates." then he noticed Bijoy, and looking at him rudely, asked Santa 'Who is he?'



"Just another stray come a'begging replied Santa Claus slamming the door in Bjoy's face

Terribly hurt and disappointed Bjoy dragged his weary feet to the next cottage Once more he knocked and knocked till at last the door swung open This time a young man wearing a funny green paper hat on his head peeked out

'Excuse me Bjoy said 'but I wonder if you could '

The young man stood there tapping his feet to the music, and looked down at Bjoy For a moment hope sprang up in Bjoy's heart Perhaps this nice young man would help him Then suddenly the music rose to a high pitch and the man gave a little leap

'Sorry son but you'll have to come back in the morning so saying the young man still keeping time to the music swung around on his heel and closed the door shut behind him

'I'll try the next cottage thought Bjoy not to be put out But the people there were making so much noise that they didn't hear him at all Bjoy knocked and knocked

This was too much for poor Bjoy He trudged down his dirt, cheeks He made his way wearily to the next cottage, pressed his nose against the glass panes of the window A group of men and women sat around a table and an elderly man dressed in a black robe, was reading aloud from a big book

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my Children, ye have done it unto Me," he read

The man then closed the book, raised it with both hands to his forehead, and then placed it carefully before him on the table

Let us pray " he said, and everyone bowed their heads at once "Oh Heavenly Father, teach us to be kind and loving help us to spread peace and goodwill among all mankind Help us to love and care for the homeless, the sick, the old Give us your blessing on this Eve of Christmas This we ask in Jesus' Name Amen "

At last thought Bjoy, I've come to the right place for me to ask for help He knocked on the door and waited patiently The door opened and man in the black robe stood before him

Please good Sir I "

'At this time of night' If it's help you want, you must come and see me in my office after Christmas tonight is Christmas Eve and I set aside this day each year to be with my family Now, run along like a good little boy, and don't ever come asking for charity here!" and once more, Bjoy was left standing out in the cold—alone, afraid, and very, very confused.

Still he did not give up hope. He went from house to house, through the entire town, begging for help, but no one had the time to even listen to what he had to say At last, heartbroken and in deep despair he trudged out into the night leaving the bright lights of the little town behind him

Bjoy was so cold and weak from hunger, he could barely drag his feet to move another step He thought he would surely die At that moment a car sped around a bend in the road towards the town, and in its bright headlights, Bjoy discovered he was just outside a tiny hovel at the edge of the forest The hovel was so dark and dismal, that he wouldn't have seen it if it wasn't for the passing light of the car A thin, torn curtain hung in a single window and through it Bjoy could see a faint streak of light gleaming through Bjoy stood still and wondered what he should do Should he knock here '

But what would be the use ' Surely, if the people who lived in all those big mansions and all those beautiful cottages who had enough money for gay parties couldn't afford to help a poor boy how could the folks in a hovel like this help him' No It was no use, decided Bjoy Better to go and die in the forest

Then he thought again After all, he had knocked at so many doors, there was no harm in trying just once more So with a trembling hand, Bjoy tapped softly on the tin door of the hovel

A moment later the door opened with a creak, and an old woman with hair as white as snow, peered out

"Oh dear' Oh, dear me' You poor, poor

• *Continued on Pg 19*



CALLING ALL WIZ KIDS



Help Unicef promote greeting cards and get a gift

The festive season is here again and with it the time to send greeting cards to friends and relatives. Add to it a special thought for the needy children of the world. Unicef has a super range of cards for Christmas and New Year—in rainbow colours and attractive designs. And for you Unicef and the Grand Wiz have worked out a special treat loaded with glorious gifts, each more enticing than the other.

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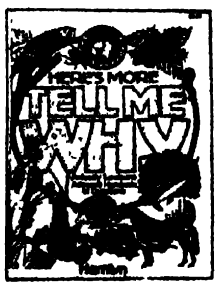
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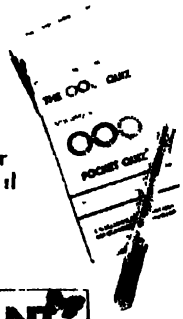


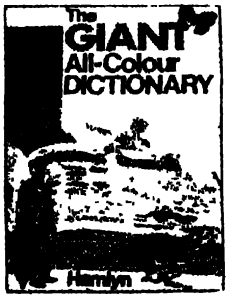
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• *Continued from Pg 17*

child!'" she cried, "You look so cold and sick come in, at once Come, don't be afraid Let me take a look at you so saying, she pulled him quickly inside the hovel and shut the creaky door Let's get those wet things off, my dear " she said briskly

Bijoy could hardly believe that at last someone had welcomed him in He was so surprised that he could not say a word He looked around and noticed that, except for an oil stove with a small cooking pot on it, the hovel was as bare as could be, without even a bed or a chair In one corner lay a tattered rug, and the light he had seen through the window came from the tiny, flickering flame of a lone *diwa* in the other corner On the wall above it hung a crucifix Bijoy wanted to tell the old woman how grateful he was that she had given him shelter for the night, but somehow all he could do was stare at the small cooking pot on the stove

Why, you are hivering, you poor thing " cried the old woman and taking off the old shawl she was wearing, she wrapped Bijoy snugly with it She tottered to the stove, speaking cheerily as she stirred the pot

'All I have here is a little soup but it will warm you up Don't fear " "

She poured the steaming soup into a cup and gave it to Bijoy to drink

Then all of a sudden, something very strange began to happen. The old woman stood very still Was it a dream, or were her eyes deceiving her? The flickering flame of the *diwa* had given place to a warm and lovely glow that seemed to be getting brighter and brighter every moment, filling every corner of the hovel with a heavenly radiance

At that very moment in the town, all the lights went off with a bang, and every single mansion and house was plunged into total darkness The rich man in his mansion looked out of his window and said to his wife ' It must be a power cut This is a shocking thing to happen Don't they know it's Christmas Eve?"

"This is intolerable, especially with guests in the house You must make a complaint to the Electric Supply immediately " suggested his wife

The rich man looked out of his window once again, and this time he noticed a bright flame of light at the edge of the forest The flames appeared to grow brighter and brighter "Look !" he exclaimed to his wife, "There's a fire at the edge of the forest isn't that where the widow Mariam lives? Why, her hovel must be on fire Quick! Let us warn the others If the fire spreads the whole town will be destroyed "

The news spread swiftly from house to house and very soon the people, wrapping themselves in heavy coats and shawls, rushed out to see what was the matter They all ran towards the widow Mariam's hovel, but when they came close, they stopped abruptly The hovel was glowing bright as the brightest star The [illegible] blinded them, and they were [illegible] nothing was burning!

[illegible],..!" declared the rich ma[illegible]



"I cannot understand where the light is coming from -but I must say its most unusual " said Santa Claus

It's kind of weird, it is " decided the young man in a funny paper hat

The day of judgement has come let us pray " cried the man in black robes

"Why don't we take a look perhaps widow Mariam is in trouble and needs our help " a pale faced little girl dressed in red and blue suggested But no one took notice of her so she slipped away from the crowd, crept up to the window and peered inside the hovel

'All I can see he said 'is widow Mariam caring for a little boy " she told the people

At this the rich man grew bold and stepping up to the window he too peered inside the hovel One by one the others did the same All they saw was Widow Mariam caring for the one little boy who had called that night in each of their homes

The man in the black robe stepped forward and knocked at the tin door to ask widow Mariam for an explanation

"We saw a bright light and we thought your hut was on fire and we were afraid the fire would spread we came to help put it out '

That was very kind of you ' said widow Mariam, with a radiant smile on her face

"But can you tell us where the brilliant light comes from? the man in the black robe asked her

'I really do not know replied widow Mariam

"But there has to be some reason for this strange light ' insisted the man in the black robe Widow Mariam shook her head and smiled

"I cannot understand it myself, but the little Boy-Child seems to have made such a difference to my humble dwelling why, the moment he stepped inside the room seemed to be much brighter And another thing I cannot understand how that big pot of stew came to be on my stove' We've both eaten our fill, but there's lots more

Why don't you all come in and have it with me It's all I can offer you '

"No no thank you the man in the black robe said quickly, suddenly feeling rather ashamed of himself yet not quite knowing why He turned to go and the others followed him

"Wait! you may not believe me widow Mariam said, " perhaps I was dreaming but I'm sure I heard a Voice speak to me while I was stirring the soup Yes, I remember The Voice said Whatever you do to the least of these My Children, you have done it unto Me

That night the whole town remained in darkness The only light that shone brightly at the edge of the forest was the glow from Widow Mariam' hovel ■

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• **Agnee.** Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 272474) 4 shows

Directed by J Om Prakash and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty Chunkey Panday Amrita Singh, Mandakini and Anupam Kher

• **Dharamyudh.** Roxy (Chowringhee Place 284138) & Sree (Bidhan Sarani, 551515) 4 shows

Sunil Dutt Shatrughan Sinha Kunu Katkar and Pran are the chief attractions in this Sudarshan Nag film whose music is by Rajesh Roshan

• **Janam Janam:** Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664) 4 shows

Directed by Vijay Sadanah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the cast includes Rishi Kapoor debutante Vinita Amrish Puri, Gulshan Grover and Aruna Irani

• **Jawani Ki Lahren** New Cinema (Lenin Sarani, 270147) 4 shows

Sunil Khosla and Natasha Parvez are the lead pair The film is directed by Sunil Khosla and the music is by Raam Laxman

• **New Delhi:** Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 891090), Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757), Malancha (Regent Park)

Jeetendra is the chief attraction in this film directed by Joshi The music is by Shyam

• **Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak:** Mini Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 2498,28) 4 shows

Juhi Chawla and debutant Aamir Khan are the lead pair in this Mansoor Khan film The music is by Anand Milind

• **Soorma Bhopali** Opera (Lenin Sarani 281849) Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 2498,28), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464440) Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 552942) 4 shows

Directed by Jagdeep and with music by Dilip Sen and Sameer Sen, the film stars Amitabh Bachchan Dharmendra Rekha Danny Javed Kader Khan Aruna Irani and Madhu Malhotra

• **Tezaab:** Orient (Bentinck Street 281917) 4 shows Basusree (S P Mukherjee Road 478808) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 251956) 3 shows

A film by N Chandra starring Anil Kapoor Chankey Panday Madhuri Dixit, Kiran Kumar and Suresh Oberoi The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal



Raakhee in *Prateek*



Hey Long, Peter Coyote and Bette Midler in *Outrageous Fortune*

Bengali Films

• **Aagomon** Radha (Bidhan Sarani 553045)- 2.30 5.30, 8.15, Purna (S P Mukherjee Road 474567) 2.30, 5.30 8.30, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 241282) 2, 5 7.45

A film by Tarun Majumdar starring Sandhya Roy Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Soumitra Chatterjee Papia Adhikari, Utpal Dutt, Sumitra Mukherjee and Shakuntala Barua The music is by Hemanta Mukherjee

• **Anjali:** Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani, 556411), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 358561), Bharati (S P Mukherjee Road, 474686)- 1, 4, 7

Ranjit Mullick Moon Moon Sen,

George Baker, Kali Banerjee and Madhabi Mukherjee are the chief attractions in this Anjan Choudhury film. The music is by Goutam Basu

• **Prateek:** Minar (Bidhan Sarani, 552753), Bijoli (S P Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740)—3, 5.45, 8.30.

A film by Prabhat Roy, starring Raakhee, Soumitra Chatterjee, Utpal Dutt, Sumitra Mukherjee, Tapas Paul, Papia Adhikari, Rupa Ganguly and Chiranjeet. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• **Shudhu Tomari:** Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080) 2.30, 5.30, 8.15.

Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Samit Bhanja, Debika Mukherjee and Prasenjit comprise the cast of this film, directed by Prabir Mitra. The music is by Ajoy Das.

Foreign Films

• **Devil in the Flesh (A):** Jammu (Marquis Street, 243715) 4 shows.

• **Dirty Dancing (A):** Globe (Lindsay Street, 296666) 12, 3, 5.45, 8.30.

Directed by Emile Ardolino, the film stars Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze.

• **Outrageous Fortune (A):** New Empire (Humayun Place, 291051)—12, 3, 6, 8.30.

The film stars Shelley Long, Peter Coyote and Bette Midler.

Special Events

25 December onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

The 53rd annual all India fine arts exhibition, organised by Academy of Fine Arts, in the West, Central, North, New South, South and New galleries, till January 18.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302).

26 December: 6.30 pm

Nrityangan will present a dance drama based on Tagore's *Samanya Kshati*, with Alokananda Roy and Shanti Bose in the lead. Also, an Odissi dance recital by Sulakshana Bose.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 449937).

28 December: 6 pm

As part of Swami Vivekananda's 125th birth anniversary celebrations, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture presents a violin recital by Lalgudi G Jayaraman, accompanied by G J R Krishnan (violin) and S Shekhar (mridangam).

At Vivekananda Hall (Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park).



Lalgudi G. Jayaraman

28 December: 7 pm

Dancers' Guild presents *Tomari Matir Kanya*, based on Tagore's *Chandalika*, with songs by Indira Shilpi Gosthi and dances by Manjusri Chaki-Sircar, Ranjabati Sircar, Jhuma Basak, Subarna Chatterjee, Pradipta Niyogi, Sanhita Basu, Mousumi Sen, Sriparna Mitra, Nabanita Bose, Sanghamitra Majumdar, Haimanti Dasgupta, Krishna Majumdar, Jonaki Ghosh, Manisha Mukherjee, Kamalika Kar and others. Direction: Dr Manjusri Chaki-Sircar.

At Vidya Mandir (Moira Street, 446420).

29 December: 6.30 pm

Chorus will stage Saratchandra's *Baikunther Will*. Playwright/direction: Baul Thakur.

At Mukta Angan Rangalaya (123 S P. Mukherjee Road, 465277).

30 December: 6 pm

Dancers' Guild presents Dr Manjusri Chaki-Sircar and her group in *Raag O Rupantar*. Music direction: Srikumar Bannerjee.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani, 449086).

TRAVEL

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): AI-103 at 0035.

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): AI-306 at 1830. Dep. (5): AI-306 at 1930.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): AI-315 at 1820; Dep. (6): AI-315 at 1920.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1). AI-132A (connects AI-132 from London and Rome and AI-152 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 1905; Arr. (6): AI-455A (connects AI-108 from London and AI-128 from Paris and Frankfurt) at 2335.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (7): AI-115A (connects AI-115 for London and New York) at 0145.

Amman-Calcutta-Amman: Arr. (4): RJ-194 at 0500; Dep. (4): RJ-195 at 0630.

Moscow-Calcutta-Moscow (via Bombay): Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1555; Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1855.

Belgrade-Calcutta-Beijing: Arr. (1): JU-492 at 0955, Dep. (1). JU-492 at 1055.

Beijing-Calcutta-Belgrade: Arr. (1): JU-493 at 2325; Dep. (2): JU-493 at 0025.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2). SQ-416 at 1120 and Dep. (7): SQ-413 at 1540; Arr (2): SQ-416 at 1020 and Arr. (4) SQ-414 at 0920.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (2, 4, 7). IC-232 at 1640, Arr (1, 3, 6). TG-313 at 1240; Dep (2, 4, 7): IC-231 at 1050, Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1410, Dep (2, 4, 7). IC-247 at 1740, Dep. (3, 6): IC-247 at 1510; Arr. (1, 5) RA-213 at 1250, Arr (2, 3, 4, 6) IC-248 at 1425 Arr (7): IC-248 at 2055.

Delhi-Calcutta-Dhaka: Arr (7): IC-443 at 1640; Dep. (7): IC-443 at 1720.

Dhaka-Calcutta-Delhi: Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920; Dep (7) IC-444 at 2000.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (daily). BG-692 at 1145, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6): BG-694 at 1715, Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-223 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5): IC-223 at 1800, Dep. (7) IC-443 at 1720; Arr (daily): BG-691 at 1045, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6) BG-693 at 1615, Arr. (2, 4, 6) IC-224 at 1540, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-224 at 2000, Arr. (7): IC-444 at 1920.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5). BG-698 at 1305, Dep (1, 4, 7). IC-225 at 1305, Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 1220, Arr (1, 4, 7) IC-226 at 1555.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6). GQ-102 at 0730; Arr (1, 2, 5): GQ-101 at 1140 and Arr (4, 7): GQ-101 at 1310.

Domestic

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-263 at 0615 and IC-402 at 1710, Dep (7). IC-444 at 2000, Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1115 and IC-264 at 2210, Arr. (7): IC-443 at 1640.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0845 and IC-273 at 1945, Arr (daily). IC-175 at 0755 and IC-274 at 1855.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily): IC-265 at 1730, Arr. (daily) IC-266 at 2225.

Calcutta-Patna-Lucknow-Ahmedabad-Bombay: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-295 at 1400; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-296 at 2200.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 1110; Arr (daily): IC-409 at 1400.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily). IC-271 at 1720; Arr. (d IC-272 at 2240.

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: (2, 4, 6, 7). IC-542 at 0620, (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-541 at 1240.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep 2): IC-277 at 1445, Dep IC-277 at 0630; Arr. (1, 2): IC-2 at 2215, Arr (7) IC-278 at 213.

Calcutta-Varanasi-Gorakhpur-Calcutta: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-281 at 1535; Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-281 at 2120.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1): IC-269 at 1630, Dep (2, 4, 6): IC-269 at 1800, Arr (1) IC-270 at 1945, Arr. (2, 4, 6) IC-270 at 2020.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-269 at 1445; Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-270 at 2105.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily): IC-229 at 1320, Dep (1, 4): IC-203 at 0625, Dep (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-203 at 0900, Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-249 at 1810, Arr (daily). IC-230 at 1610, Arr (1, 4): IC-204 at 1235, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6): IC-204 at 1505, Arr (1, 3, 5): IC-250 at 2045.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Guwahati-Calcutta; Dep. (daily). IC-213 at 1130, Arr (daily): IC-213 at 1705.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily): IC-201 at 0540, Arr (daily). IC-202 at 1040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (7): IC-219 at 0625, Arr (7) IC-220 at 1105.

Guwahati-Dimapur-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 4): IC-239 at 0825, Dep. (2, 3, 5, 6) IC-239 at 1100; Arr. (1, 4): IC-240 at 1040, Arr (2, 3, 5, 6). IC-240 at 1310.

Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6, 7) IC-227 at 0835; Arr (1, 3, 5, 6, 7): IC-228 at 0805.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7). IC-255 at 0530, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-255 at 0815, Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-256 at 1000, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-256 at 1245.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily): IC-221 at 1145, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 14 05.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (2, 4): IC-243 at 0830, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6,

7): IC-243 at 0610, Dep. (daily): IC-241 at 1440; Arr. (daily): IC-244 at 1030, Arr. (daily): IC-242 at 1640.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-237 at 0650; Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-238 at 1105.

Navyuddat

Calcutta-Shillong: Dep. (daily): PF-701 at 0845; Arr. (daily): PF-702 at 1215.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): PF-729/729A at 0550; Arr (daily): PF-730/730A at 0825.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-727 at 1230; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-728 at 1755.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6), PF-718 at 0800.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1100.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

Calcutta-Aizwal-Silchar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-705 at 0830 and Dep. (1, 3, 5). PF-705 at 1130; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-706 at 1325 and Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-706 at 1625.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (daily): PF-730 at 1735.

Guwahati-Silchar: Dep. (Guwahati; daily): PF-703 at 0800; Arr. (Guwahati; daily): PF-704 at 1000.

Guwahati-Jorhat Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (Guwahati; daily) PF-735 at 1020; Arr. (Guwahati; daily). PF-736 at 1530.

EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

Departure Time		Arrival Time	Dn
	19-00 **Delhi Kalka Mail**	8-30	2
	19-20 **Amritsar Mail**	8-05	6
	20-00 **Bombay Mail** via Allahabad	12-55	4
1	9-15 **Air-Cond. Express** Tri-Wkly via Gaya Dep—Tues & Wed up to New Delhi Dep.—Sat up to Amritsar Arri—Tues, Wed & Sat	17-55	82
103	9-15 **Air-Cond. Express** Bi-Wkly via Patna Dep—Thurs. up to New Delhi Dep—Sun up to Amritsar Arri—Mon, & Fri.	17-55	104
101	16-00 **Rajdhani Express** 5 days a week Dep—Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sun Arri—Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat & Sun	10-55	102
173	23-00 **Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Exp.** Tri-Wkly Dep—Tues, Fri & Sat Arri.—Tues, Wed & Sat	10-40	174
947	13-15 **Purbanchal Express** Dep—Mon & Thurs Arri—Thurs & Mon	4-15	948
9	20-05 **Doon Express** via Grand Chord	7-10	10
7	9-45 **Toofan Express** via Main Line	18-15	8
49	13-05 **Amritsar Express**	15-45	50
11	20-45 **Delhi Express** via Main Line	6-05	12
39	21-10 **Delhi Janata Express** via Main Line	5-20	40
19	22-00 **Gorakhpur Express**	11-45	20
21	16-05 **Mithila Express**	6-45	22
57	6-00 **Kanchenjunga Express**	20-50	58
59	17-35 **Kamrup Express**	6-30	60
307	6-10 **Black Diamond Express**	21-25	308
309	17-15 **Coalfield Express**	10-30	310
305	18-15 **Asansol Express**	8-45	306
31	21-00 **Danapur Express**	6-35	32
105	23-00 **North Bihar Express** Dep—Wednesday Arri—Friday	4-15	106
171	22-30 **Jamalpur Express** Dep—Tues, Thurs & Sat Arri.—Mon, Thurs & Sat.	6-00	172
15	9-55 **Santiniketan Express**	15-45	16
959	15-25 **Gwalior Bi-weekly Superfast Express** Dep—Thurs & Sat Arri—Tues & Thurs	7-30	960
971	15-25 **Indore Express** Dep—Tues Arri.—Sat	7-30	972
107	15-25 **Shaktipunj Express** Dep & Arri—Mon & Fri	7-30	108

SEALDAH

51	11-20 **Jammu Tawi Express**	16-10	52
33	20-45 **Varanasi Express** via SBG Loop	14-30	34
303	18-25 **Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express**	10-25	304
43	19-00 **Darjeeling Mail**	8-45	44
53	20-10 **Gaur Express**	6-15	54

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

HOWRAH

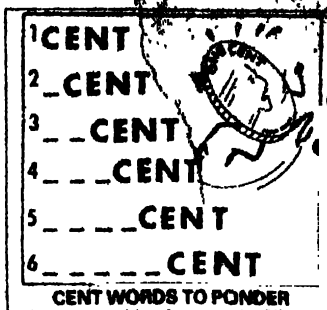
Departure Up	Time	Arrival Time	Dn
3	21-00 **Madras Mail**	6-10	4
2	20-30 **Bombay Mail** via Nagpur	7-10	1
60	13-40 **Gitanjali (Bombay) Express**	14-15	59
134	21-30 **Ahmedabad Express**	4-15	133
30	12-30 **Bombay Express** via Nagpur	15-00	29
141	15-30 **Coromondal (Madras) Express**	11-15	142
51	22-30 **Bangalore Express** Dep—Thurs Arri—Sun	13-45	52
13	17-30 **Tata Steel Express**	10-20	14
11	6-10 **Ispat Express**	21-50	12
5	21-45 **Sambalpur Express**	6-45	6
15	21-15 **Ranchi Hatia Express**	6-00	16
7	22-45 **Puri Express**	7-00	8
9	19-30 **Jagannath (Puri) Express**	8-00	10
21	6-45 **Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express**	22-30	22
979	20-00 **Tirupati Express**	5-30	980
45	11-30 **East Coast (Hyderabad) Express**	14-45	46
317	16-45 **Purulia Express** Dep—Except Saturday Arri—Except Sunday	11-30	318
902	22-30 **Guwahati-Howrah-Trivandrum Central Express** Monday only	22-15	—
—	14-10 **Trivandrum Central-Howrah-Guwahati Express** Saturday only	13-45	901
—	14-10 **Cochin Harbour-Guwahati Superfast Weekly Express (via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)** Thursday only	13-45	939
940	22-30 **Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Superfast Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)** Saturday only	22-15	—
952	22-30 **Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)** Dep—Tues, Fri & Sun Arri—Tues, Wed & Fri	13-45	951
976	22-30 **Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Wednesday only	22-15	—
—	14-05 **Bangalore City-Guwahati Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)** Monday only	13-45	975

ENQUIRIES: For round the clock information of Eastern Railway trains, please dia 203838-44 for all other information. For ... tion about reservations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways trains, dial 200370 (from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm on Sundays and ...



DUCK SOUP! Our artist says there are 20 ducks facing one way, three facing another, above How many do you find?

• **BEAMED IN!** I've seen you where you never were, and where you'll never be And yet within that very place, you can be seen by me Where's that?



CENT WORDS TO PONDER

Starting with the word CENT, above, find words progressively longer (ending in CENT) in accordance with these definitions

Word 1 CENT (given)
Word 2 What a hound picks up with its nose
Word 3 On the up and up and up
Word 4 On the down and down and down
Word 5 Not guilty
Word 6 In a quiet, restful state
Time limit: 2 min

After completing this test, see if you can make up a new list of CENT words

1 Cent 2 Scent 3 Ascent 4 Descent 5 Innocent 6 Quiescent

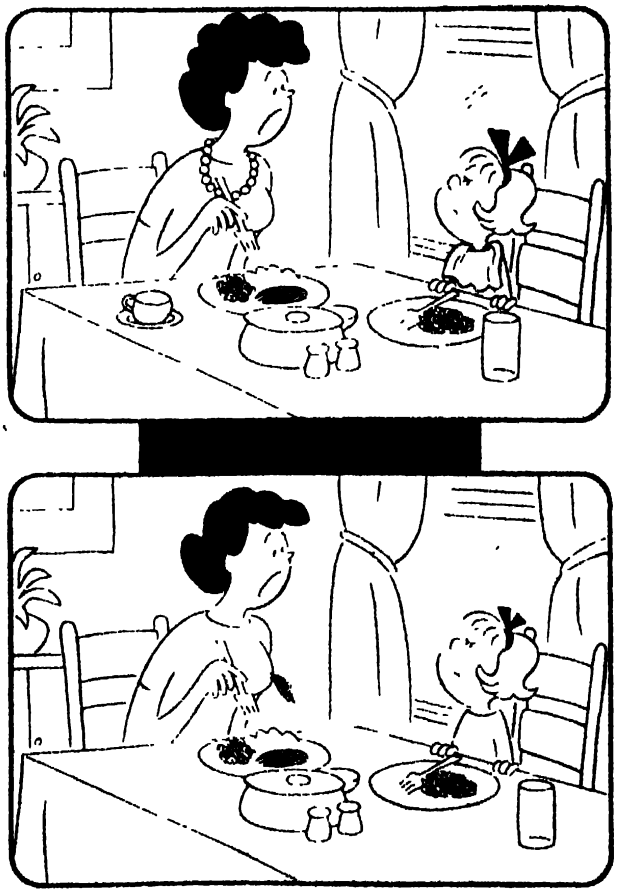
SIX MIX! Arrange three aces, three deuces and three treys in a box formation, as shown below. Note that the total of any three cards in a row is six, except for one diagonal

However, the total of six may be attained in all directions, including both diagonals, simply by moving three of the cards How?

1	2	3
3	1	2
2	3	1

One way Move the bottom row to the top Other answers are possible

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Hair is different 2 Cup and saucer are missing 3 Beads are missing 4 Bow is smaller 5 Bib is missing 6 Glass is moved



TRIM LOOK! 'Tis the season for gathering pine cones, holly, etc Apply these colors neatly above. 1—Red 2--Lt blue 3--Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt. Green 7—Dk brown 8--Dk green

SPELLBINDER

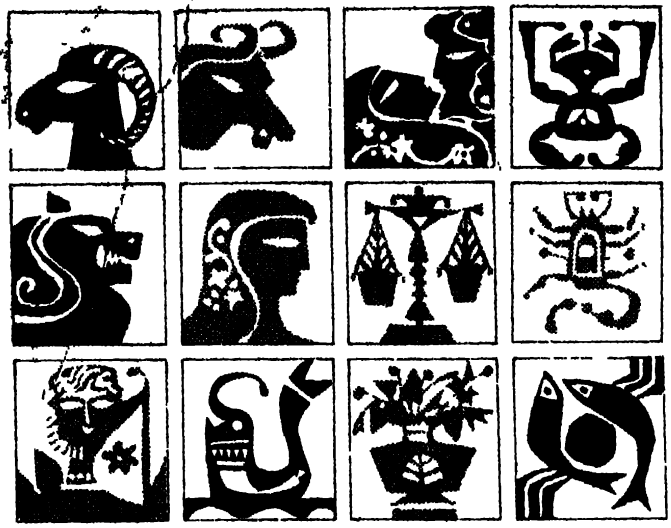
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

TASTEFUL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points

Possible anagram: Flat, suet



ARIES

March 21—April 20

Contracts will be signed, assignments bagged, and socialising and entertaining will be highlighted Creativity is foretold This is the right time to enlist in clubs. Use work with pleasure. Throw caution to the winds and enjoy yourself. Love is around the corner for the fancyfree and eligible

TAURUS

April 21—May 20

Sun Neptune conjunction prods you communication and travel. On the work front you will score with enthusiasm and the right tactics will give you the necessary impetus and resultant success. Expenses are likely to burn holes in your pockets, but it will be worth it The health of family members may cause concern

GEMINI

May 21—June 20

Gains are foretold for Geminis Rewards for services rendered, and in a few cases, a promotion, are foretold It could also be journey time You will be in a generous, forgiving mood. Romance is in the offing Expect gifts and issues of taxes and legacies to be resolved. However, check all contracts thoroughly before signing on the dotted line You are likely to feel depressed this week but accept it as a passing phase

CANCER

June 21—July 20

Moon trine sun formation will inspire you. Creativity will be at a fever pitch Your imagination and intuition will help you in sales, management and distribution Intimate ties are foretold Travel to distant lands cannot be ruled out You may even make large gains in the share market A rich relative may leave you some money

LEO

July 21 - August 21

Moon trine Jupiter will aid you in terms of monetary transactions, collaborations, buying and selling of valuables and goods, refurbishing, decoration and alterations A house warming is on the cards. This is the right time for trips, ties, partnerships, joint ventures and collaborations You will be successful at all levels Health problems may, however, cause worry so it is advisable to go for checkups.

VIRGO

August 22—Sept 22

The full moon indicates hard work and responsibility Surprisingly, you will still find time and have an enjoyable and socially demanding week An engagement, birth of children and grandchildren and romance are distinct possibilities This is the best time to fuse work and play for maximum mileage

LIBRA

Sept 23—Oct 22

A hobby can be profitably converted into a vocation Accolades, rewards and honours will be bestowed on those engaged in sports, teaching, writing, painting, research, handicrafts and sales. The trick is to follow your heart and do what comes naturally Resist all efforts of friends and relatives to push you into projects you are not interested in.

SCORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22

Scorpios will be absorbed with matters pertaining to the house, property, renovation, decoration, alteration, refurbishing, collection of payments or rents, taxes, signing documents and finalising deals Take the initiative and fan out to unknown terrains A job change is possible

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20

Do not hesitate in making yourself heard over others Get out, circulate and communicate The key now lies in your taking the initiative, reaching out and presenting your ideas to people who can be of help Attend scheduled and impromptu meetings and participate actively in social and official functions

CAPRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19

Moon trine Mars spotlights increased business activity on all levels Press ahead with all pending matters as deals may be struck to your advantage now You may find yourself going in for luxury purchases such as vehicles and household gadgets Expenses will mount but they will be for a worthy cause Health problems may worry you

AQUARIUS

Jan 20—Feb 18

The Sun-Neptune conjunction means the untying of the Gordian knot Your wellwishers will definitely help you The happenings over the next few days will be the answer to your prayers The close of the week finds you busier than ever You may have to go on a journey soon

PISCES

Feb 19—March 20

Moon trine Saturn will help you to win rewards and gain recognition. This is the right time to launch a venture. Christmas will be reasonably pleasant However, do not indulge in excesses as they will prove to be detrimental to your health Practise moderation in all things.

BIRTHDAYS

December 25

Moon sextile Jupiter. This sextile helps you in terms of alliances and attachments. Important deeds and documents will be signed You will definitely get a second chance to marry. Children, research and creative pursuits are highlighted

December 26

Sun conjunction Saturn. This conjunction often shows that a chapter of your life will end and a second one will begin. After a period of tension and transition, all should be well. Overseas connections are likely. Health is suspect

December 27

Moon square Jupiter After an initial delay or a slight disappointment, your work will be done. Those in business and commerce should be ready for investment and capital formation. Loans will be available. This is a year of passion and intimacy A shift or transfer is probable.

December 28

Moon trine Neptune. This is an excellent trine for those in travel, trade, commission work, agencies, accounts and marketing. The eligible will find a suitable match. Widowers may remarry. Artists and fashion designers will be in their element You will be optimistic.

December 29

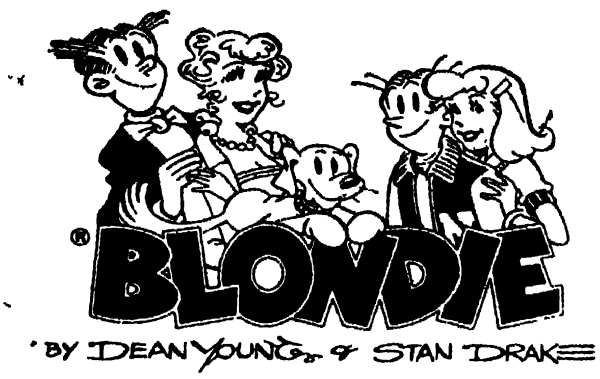
Moon sextile Pluto. This formation makes you sharp and critical. Critics, journalists, copywriters, inspectors, surveyors and doctors will be at their brilliant best Sailors and seamen will win awards It is also possible that you will be going in for renovation and decorations, buying, selling and refurbishing of home and office.

December 30

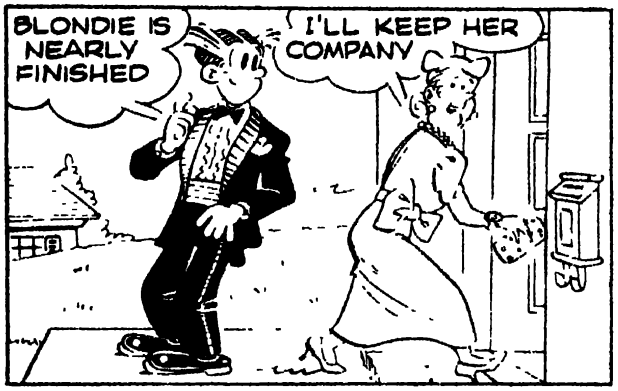
Moon trine Jupiter. This is a particularly favourable formation for industrialists, bankers, lawyers, chartered accountants and editors. Capricornians may come into money. This Jupetarian impact will be beneficial to one and all

December 31

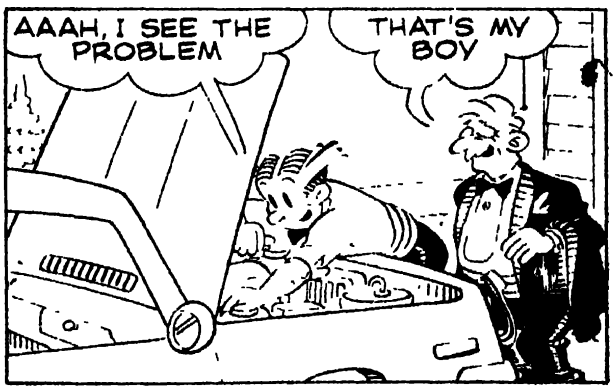
Sun conjunction Neptune: This could well be a year of wish fulfilment. Writers, artists, musicians and those in land building and construction should do remarkably well. There will be many splendid opportunities for you. However, it will require initiative and enthusiasm to grab opportunities.

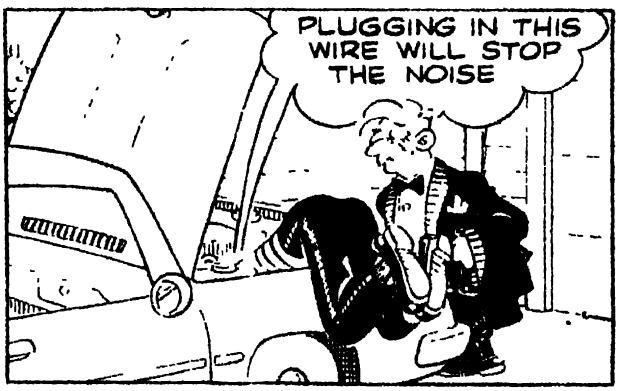

BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & STAN DRAKE


WAS WR
ERE BETT

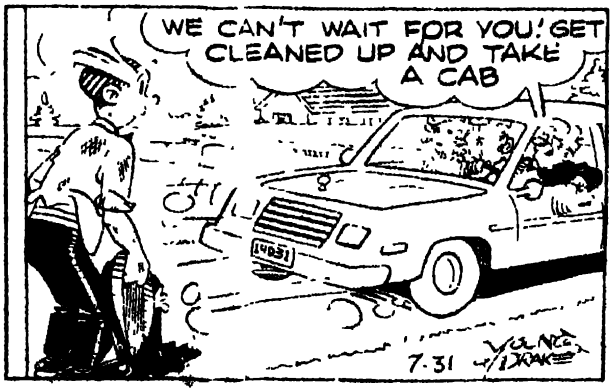

BLONDIE IS NEARLY FINISHED
I'LL KEEP HER COMPANY


I HAVE A FUNNY NOISE UNDER MY HOOD
LET A L

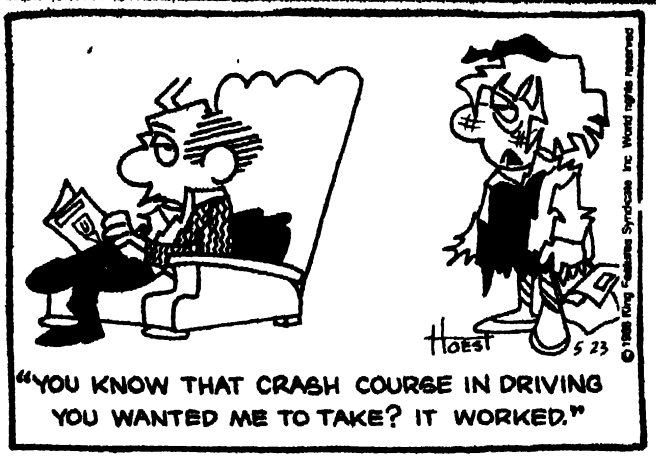

AAAH, I SEE THE PROBLEM
THAT'S MY BOY


PLUGGING IN THIS WIRE WILL STOP THE NOISE

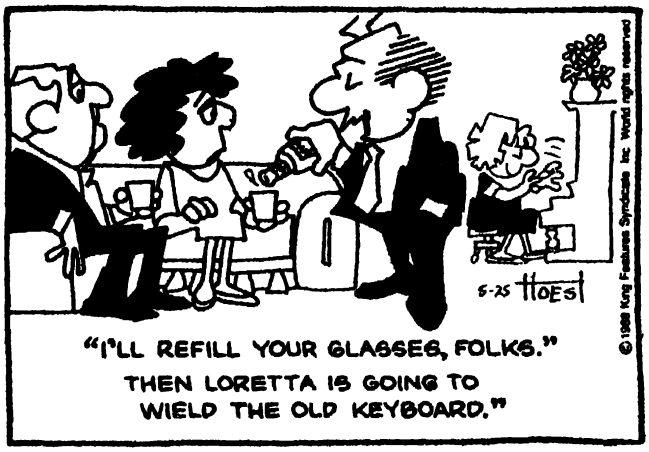

WHAT A MESS YOU'VE MADE OF YOURSELF

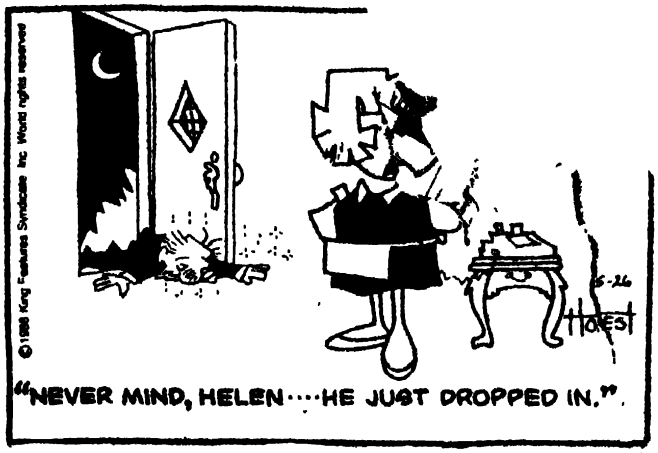

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU! GET CLEANED UP AND TAKE A CAB
7-31

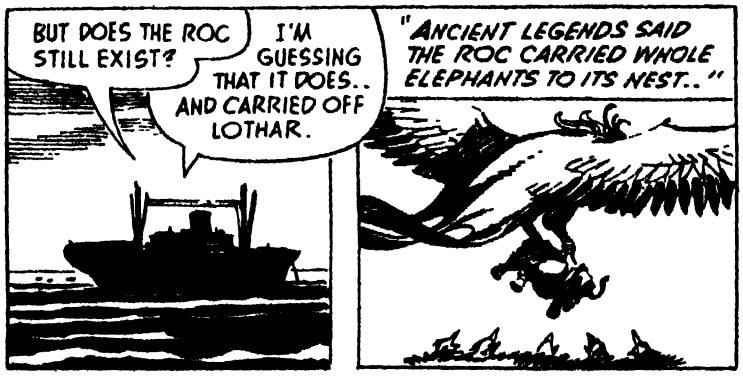

IRS
GEE, I COULD NEVER TELL THAT BY LOOKING AT YOU!
.DLY SERVICE IS THE TO OF THIS STATION, ARCHIE!
EVERY TIME ANYONE PULLS IN FOR GAS, WASH THEIR WINDSHIELD!
NO EXCEPTIONS! CUSTOMERS LIKE THAT KIND OF SERVICE!
YES, SIR!
VA-ROOM!
OH OH! HERE COMES MY FIRST CUSTOMER!
FILL IT UP!
RIGHT, SIR! FIRST, LET ME CLEAN YOUR WINDSHIELD!
SQUIRT SQUIRT
THIS REALLY ISN'T NECESSARY!

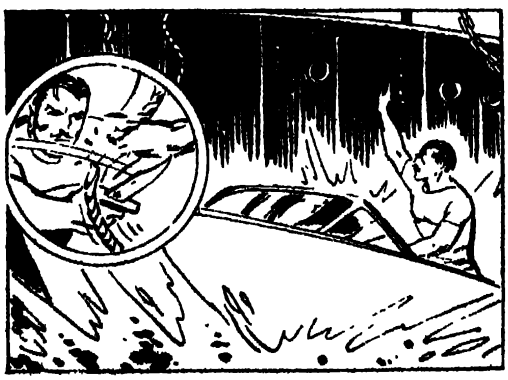

"YOU KNOW THAT CRASH COURSE IN DRIVING YOU WANTED ME TO TAKE? IT WORKED."
HOEST 5-23
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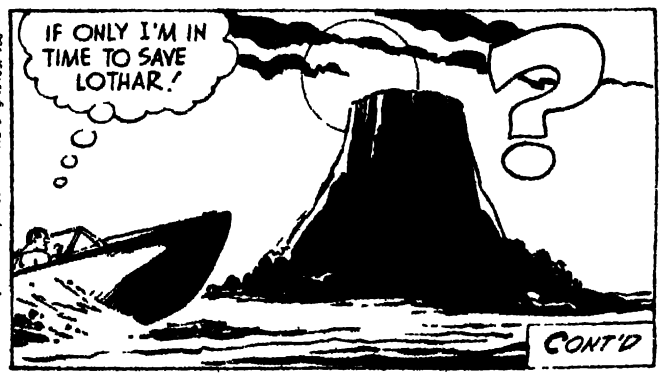

"MY MOTHER WAS WR
SAID YOU WERE BETT.

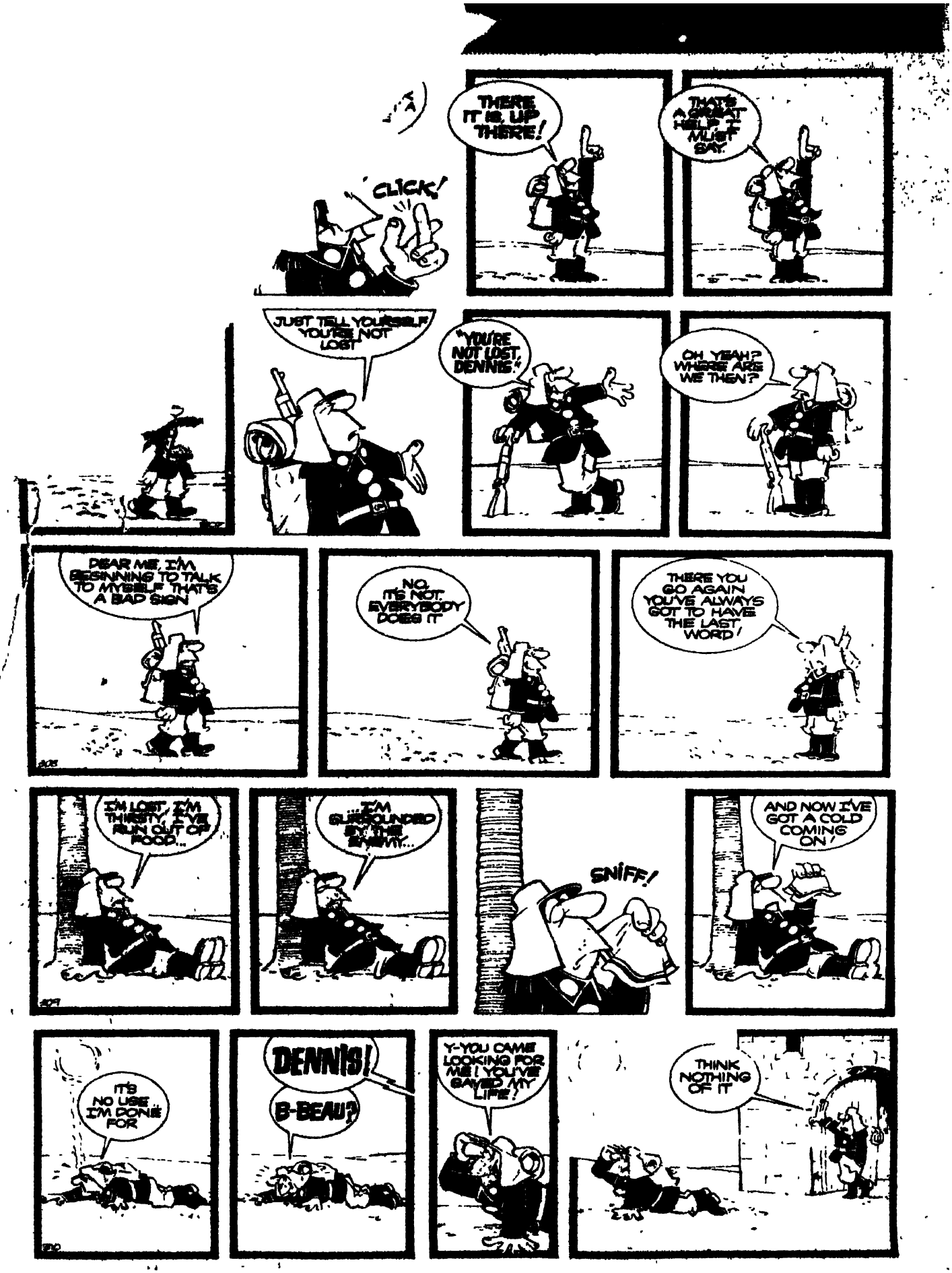

"I'LL REFILL YOUR GLASSES, FOLKS."
THEN LORETTA IS GOING TO WIELD THE OLD KEYBOARD."
5-25 HOEST
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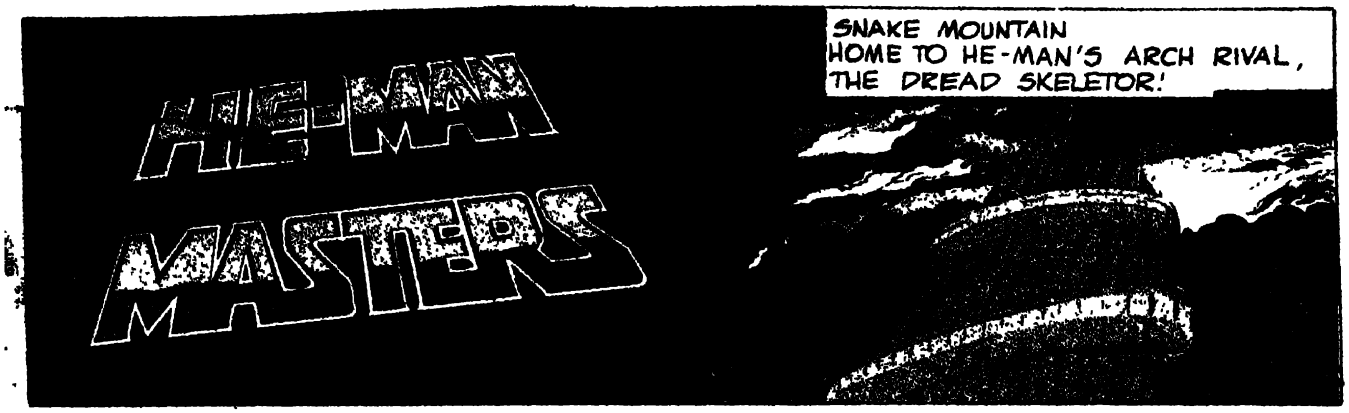

"NEVER MIND, HELEN····HE JUST DROPPED IN."
5-26 HOEST
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BUT DOES THE ROC STILL EXIST?
I'M GUESSING THAT IT DOES.. AND CARRIED OFF LOTHAR.
"ANCIENT LEGENDS SAID THE ROC CARRIED WHOLE ELEPHANTS TO ITS NEST.."
"SINBAD THE SAILOR IN THE ARABIAN NIGHTS — A ROC CARRIED HIM FROM THE VALLEY OF DIAMONDS.."
9-4

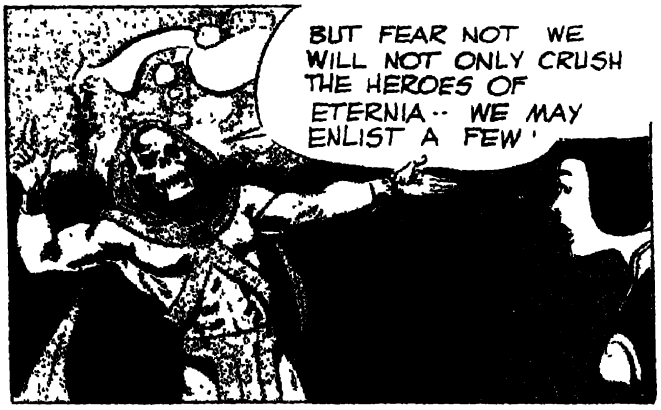


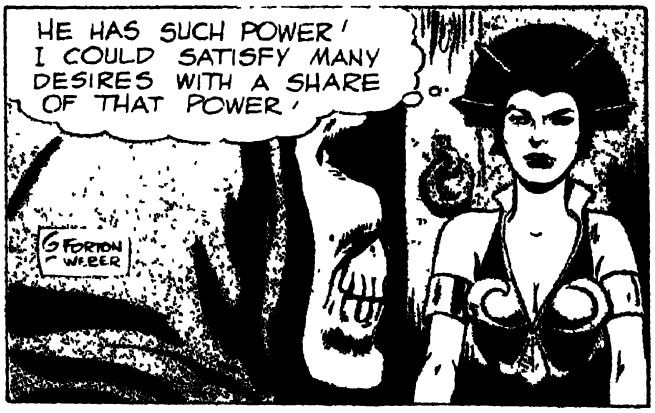

IF ONLY I'M IN TIME TO SAVE LOTHAR!
?
CONT'D


CLICK!
THERE IT IS, UP THERE!
THAT'S A GREAT HELP, I MUST SAY.
JUST TELL YOURSELF YOU'RE NOT LOST
"YOU'RE NOT LOST, DENNIS."
OH, YEAH? WHERE ARE WE THEN?
DEAR ME, I'M BEGINNING TO TALK TO MYSELF. THAT'S A BAD SIGN
NO, IT'S NOT. EVERYBODY DOES IT
THERE YOU GO AGAIN. YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT TO HAVE THE LAST WORD!
I'M LOST, I'M THIRSTY, I'VE RUN OUT OF FOOD...
...I'M SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY...
SNIFF!
AND NOW I'VE GOT A COLD COMING ON!
IT'S NO USE, I'M DONE FOR
DENNIS!
B-BEAU?
Y-YOU CAME LOOKING FOR ME! YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE!
THINK NOTHING OF IT

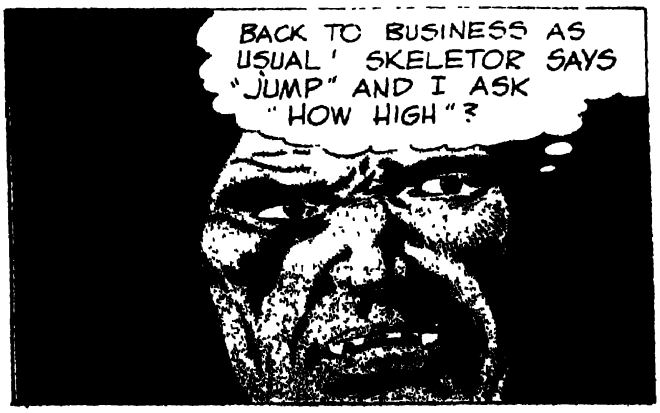

HE-MAN
MASTERS
SNAKE MOUNTAIN
HOME TO HE-MAN'S ARCH RIVAL,
THE DREAD SKELETOR!


IN THE DUNGEONS BELOW SNAKE MOUNTAIN, SKELETOR GLOAT OVER HIS DEFEATED MINIONS
WITHOUT ME, YOU HADN'T A PRAYER OF DEFEATING HE-MAN!


BUT FEAR NOT WE WILL NOT ONLY CRUSH THE HEROES OF ETERNIA -- WE MAY ENLIST A FEW!


HE HAS SUCH POWER! I COULD SATISFY MANY DESIRES WITH A SHARE OF THAT POWER!
S FORTON WEBER


THE THRONE OF ETERNIA IS SURELY WIDE ENOUGH FOR TWO!


BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL! SKELETOR SAYS "JUMP" AND I ASK "HOW HIGH"?


FOLLOW ME! TIME FLIES WHEN WORLD CONQUEST IS ON THE AGENDA!

THE STICK AND THE STETHOSCOPE

Vece Paes is still having a field day, but now, in the area of medicine

"In the medical field the whole day is so full," said Dr Vece Paes (43), "that there is no time at all to think about those empty spaces." Paes describes himself as a general physician who has specialised in general surgery and corporate medicine. Paes is also one of the partners (the other being Dr Pronab Dasgupta) of the under-one-roof Vital Medical Services. "There is less and less time in which to work out more avenues in medical services." And the fact that his reading has suffered speaks volumes. "I've stopped reading novels totally and with most other books, I can only manage to glance through certain chapters and mark out paras."

Paes is currently also one of the national selectors of the hockey team. He played cricket and football in the first division, but hockey was his call. He represented India in the Hamburg internationals (1966), the Barcelona World Cup (1971) and the Munich Olympics (1972). But Paes, in time, was compelled to give up the stick for the stethoscope. Was that a sporting decision, we asked. "Hockey was the first love, really," he laughed, "but at that time there was no future in professional sport. It was my dream to represent my country in the Olympics and I did. But one also realised that one had to build a career. One had seen enough of players being neglected afterwards. Nobody wants an ex-player around," said Paes in his quietly measured tone which is layered with all the gentle warmth of a patient doctor.

"I was a medical student and each time I went to a hockey camp, dad stopped my allowances. Although both parents were encouraging, they also put the pressure on when it came to selecting a profession." Paes was earning a bit from Mohun Bagan, the club for which he played and, he recalled, "In Bengal, even the teachers encouraged one in sport. They would help me in private coaching whenever I missed regular classes. During my pharmacy orals, Mohun Bagan were playing East Bengal and I was doing my exam. One of the examiners happened to be a Mohun Bagan member and asked me what I was doing there when I should be on the field! The other examiner, who was an East Bengal supporter, stopped me and said, 'Okay, but I'll ask you just one question, and you may go.'"

Dr Vece Paes is today putting in everything he can to make his son, Leander (15), a professional sportsman. Leander goes for tennis and is one of the eight from all over India selected for the Britannia Amritraj Tennis (BAT) Foundation at Madras and is, as part of the deal, a student of Madras Christian College. Leander will be in Hong Kong for the Ricebowl Championships by the time this appears in print.

Paes' two elder daughters, Jacqueline (22) and Maria (19) are also sports enthusiasts, but Jacqueline being married has a home to run and Maria is showing signs of taking basketball seriously. Did Paes make a conscious effort to make them sportspeople? "In Leander's case, yes. He has been exposed to sport since he was three. He's been at BAT since he was 12. No doesn't feel any pangs t Leander has taken to tenn instead of hockey because, he reasons systematically, in India, with the implications of team selections, it's better to take up an individual sport where one's own merit counts. Also, a sport that one can make a living out of, or get a job on the strength of. Tenni or hockey, it's great to watch a good sportsman grow. As a parent, one also feels happy that the interest keeps him out of trouble."

Vece Paes was married to Jennifer, but broke up in 198 they have been living separately for the past two-and-a half years. Jennifer herself a hockey player and captained India twice in basketball. What went wrong after 14 years. Always a sensitive question to ask, but Paes takes it with quiet grace expectedly. There might be embarrassment on the other side, he felt, and pushed the ball over the sideline. Both being sportspeople, there should have been a lot more play between them, a lot more tolerance, one prodded. "In the formative years of a sportsman's life, there is so much pressure to practise, then there are social pressures and camps and tours which can keep you away from each other for months at a time. Behind it all is a selfish streak—every sportsman has to have it to make it. He wants to come home and be fussed back, have the world revolve around him. Both were sportspeople here, so the pressures were enormous."

Paes now has Juliana Steensel, an Indian Air hostess, and they have been going steady for some ye now. "One hopes to get t ried to Juliana soon," he s Paes has seen much of already; smacked his lips success and swallowed the ter pills, too. Today, he thinking seriously of corpo health programmes and sp medical setups, something finds vacant areas in. "T way," he said, "one could ma ry both sport and medicine."

Anil Grover



Anil Grover